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COMPOST: **The Quiet Hero**

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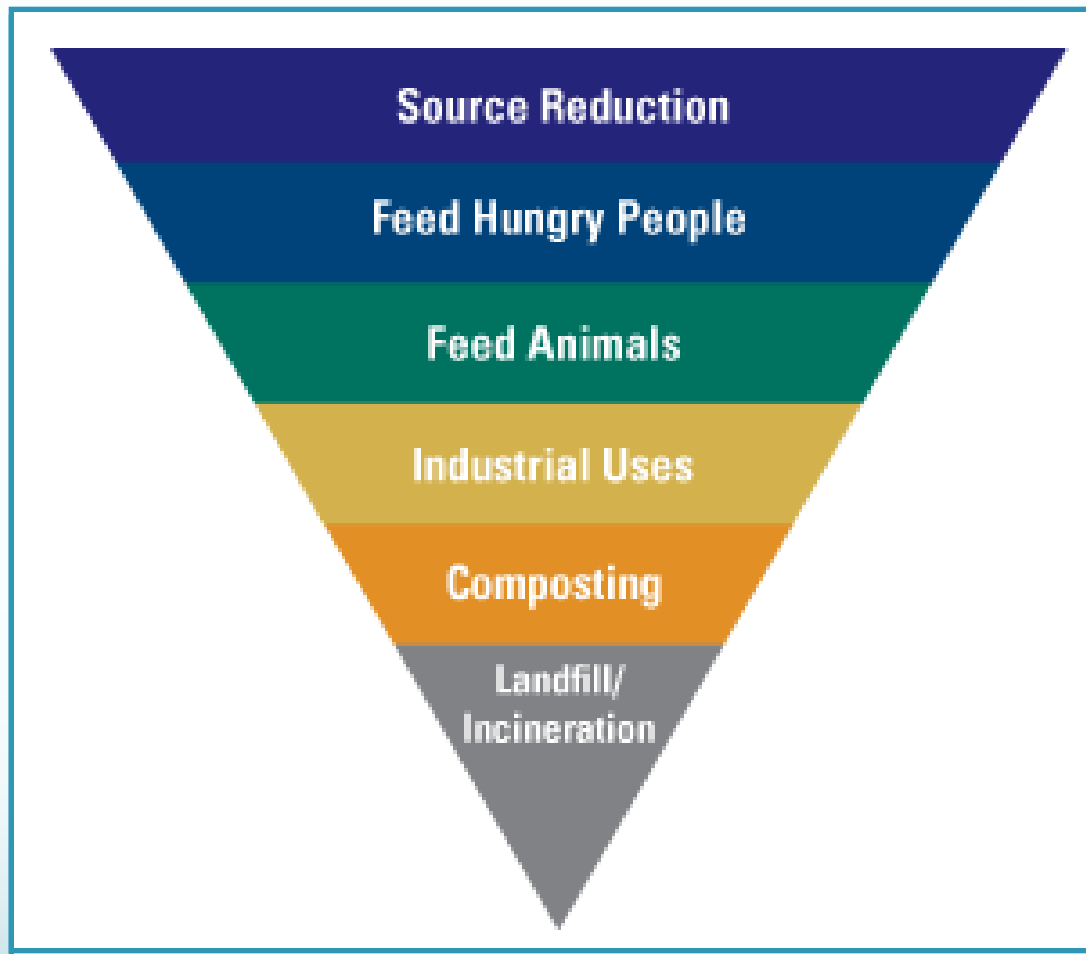
Compost: The Quiet Hero

Welcome & Overview

The Environmental Impact

- According to the EPA, 31.8 million tons of food waste is generated per year, with **97.5% going to landfills.**
- Organic matter in landfills is the number one source of man-made methane gas, which is 20-25 times more potent than naturally occurring carbon dioxide
- The GHG impact of 31 million tons of food waste sent to landfills annually is the equivalent of taking **5.2 million cars** off the road for one year.

Options for Organics



Source: U.S. EPA

Benefits of Compost

- Filters storm water ~ keeps pollutants out of surface water (rivers, streams, lakes)
- Restores soil ecology so it may produce food naturally filled with vitamins, minerals and other nutrients

Benefits of Compost

- Increases water retention ~ generally, soil mixed with compost requires 30% less irrigation
- Assists in erosion control

Sediment is the #1 source of water pollution ~ costs approx. \$44 billion per year



Compost 101

Recipe: 1 part nitrogen (food) + 3-5 parts carbon
(yard trimmings) = 2 parts compost

Commercial versus home composting

Uses: parks & recreation, department of
transportation, landscaping, agriculture

Soil Rejuvenation

Soil is a living, breathing eco system

Compost provides the soil with organic matter and carbon:

- Food for the microbe community
- Provides structure and aerates the soil ~ important for healthy microbes & plants

MICROBES ROCK!

Basic Human Survival

Humans must:

1. Breathe Air
2. Drink Water
3. Eat nutrition

Without all three of the above

A HUMAN DIES!



Basic Human Survival

Compost:

- Cleans the air by food residuals NOT producing methane gas in landfills
- Filters storm water and prevents sediment from polluting surface water
- Creates & maintains healthy soil that produces nutritious food

Challenges for Composting

- Only approx. 300 permitted food composting facilities
- Classified as a MSW landfill
- Permits can take up to 18 months
- Zoning issues
- Counties can closed down composting facilities meeting state regulations



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Collection Challenges

- Weight
- Wet Material
- Frequent Collection
- Limited Organic Collection Infrastructure



Types of Food Residual

- Pre-consumer
- Prep
- Post-consumer
- Curbside (residential)

Very different feedstocks



Contamination

- Training key for clean organic stream
- Management commitment to program
- Common contaminants

What do we do?

- Mobilize the foodservice industry to demand alternatives to landfills for organics
- Engage corporate and community leaders
- Use the power of consumer demand

Composting: The Business Case

Cost Savings:

- Reduced hauling costs, especially when coupled with common recycling
- Reduced purchasing when focus on amount/what is disposed of in operations

Customer Demands:

- Revenue Retention
- Revenue Generation

Composting: The Business Case

Employee Morale

- Employees are excited and proud to work for a company who operates with environmental integrity
- Time will come when a major component in career/employment decisions

Marketing and Public Relations

- The media loves to report on companies who are the pioneers trailblazing sustainable best practices

Composting: The Business Case

The End Product: Compost

- Develop a strong demand for end product
- Quality product depends on recipe and consistency of the food residual & carbon stream

The Golden Key

Our Quiet Hero opens the doors to expanding sustainable practices in corporate America.

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