

Western Michigan Food Recovery Council

September 11, 2018

Midwest Food Recovery Summit



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Executive Director

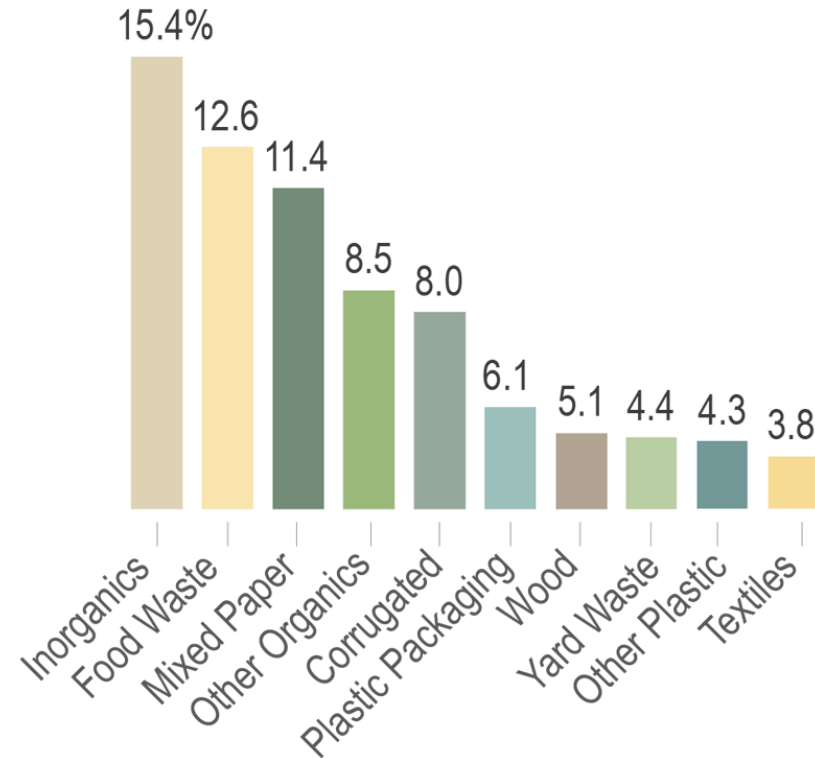
West Michigan Sustainable
Business Forum



Economic Impact Potential and Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in Michigan



Top Materials in W. Michigan MSW Composition (mean % by weight - 5% or greater)



Source: West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum
2016 Michigan MSW Valuation Study. wmsbf.org/msw



Why A Food Recovery Council?



West Michigan =
132,000 tons

Southwest Michigan =
106,000 tons



Why A Council?



Michigan disposes of an estimated **1.1 million tons of food waste** through its municipal waste stream each year, the single largest source of material disposed in the state's landfills and waste-to-energy facilities.

Why A Council?



Grocery operations and commercial and institutional food service account for an estimated 48% of food waste (FWRA, 2015).

Why A Council?



Need for:

- Peer-to-peer education
- Multidisciplinary networking
- Technical resources
- Opportunities for collaboration

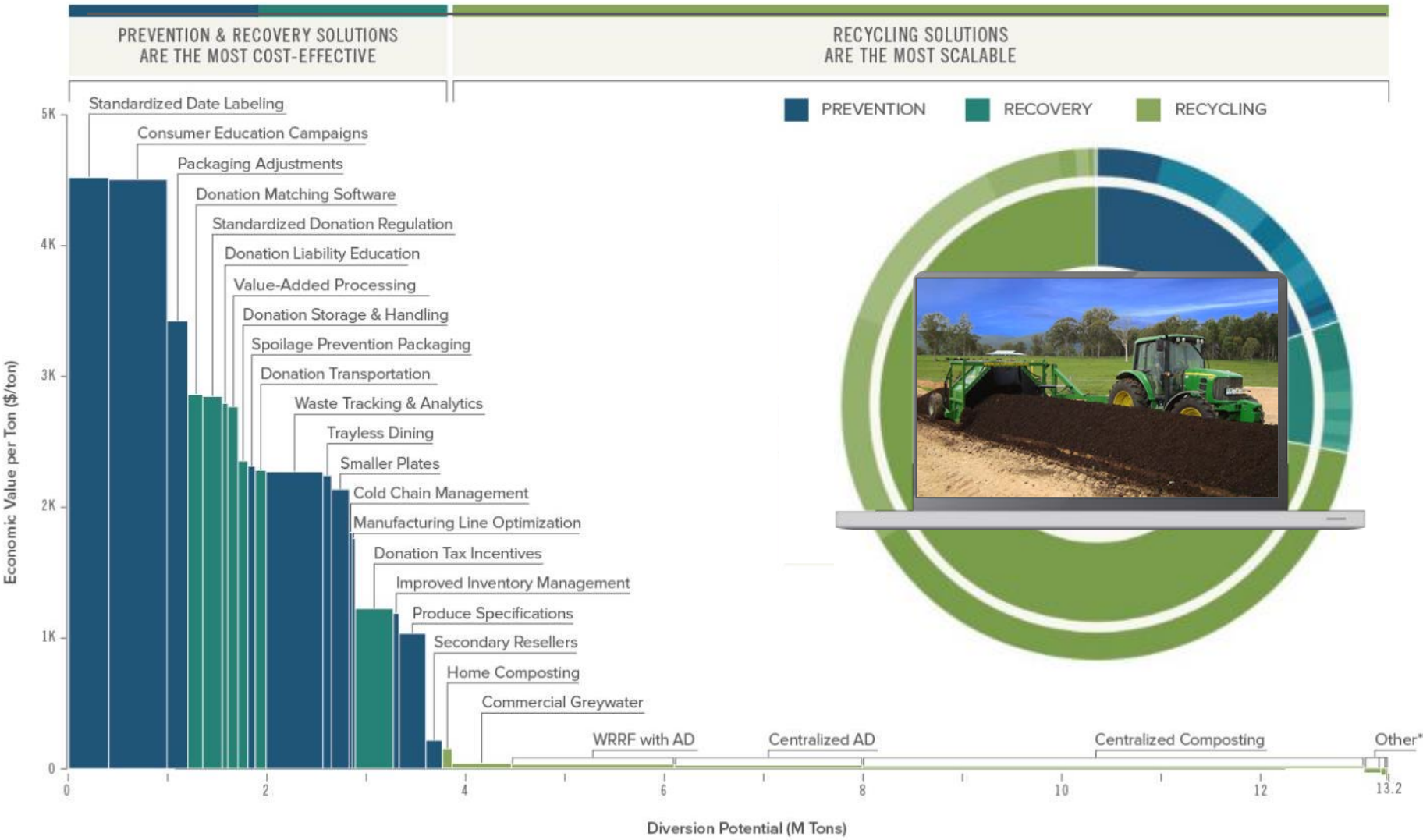


Objectives



- Improve food recovery in Western Michigan (promoting hierarchy)
- Define barriers to food recovery
- Establish a community of practice
- Higher value recovery options.
- Facilitate collaboration
 - Municipal and corporate food waste management
 - Complementary food systems and community health initiatives.

Marginal Food Waste Abatement Cost Curve



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

- Quarterly meetings
- Annual or semiannual forums
- Email newsletter monthly
- Shared capacity projects
- Research
- Training opportunities

STRUCTURE

- Leadership Committee
- Council Membership
 - Organizational stakeholders
 - One representative plus guests
- E-mail list
- Collaboration with local food councils
- As Needed: Subcommittees

CREATIVE
DINING
SERVICES



Inspired Brewing®



CENTRAL MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY



THE CULINARY INSTITUTE OF MICHIGAN®



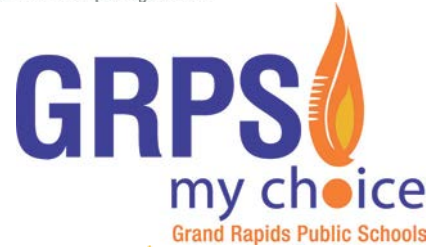
KENT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS



MY GREEN MICHIGAN
Full-circle composting solutions



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



State of the State Report



- 24 Generators of Food Waste
 - Mix of small/large, industries, regions
 - Few food processing/manufacturing. No farms
- 16 Resources and Other Stakeholders
 - Including 3 waste management firms
- 9 Users of Food Waste (6 Hunger, 3 Compost)
 - More data needed

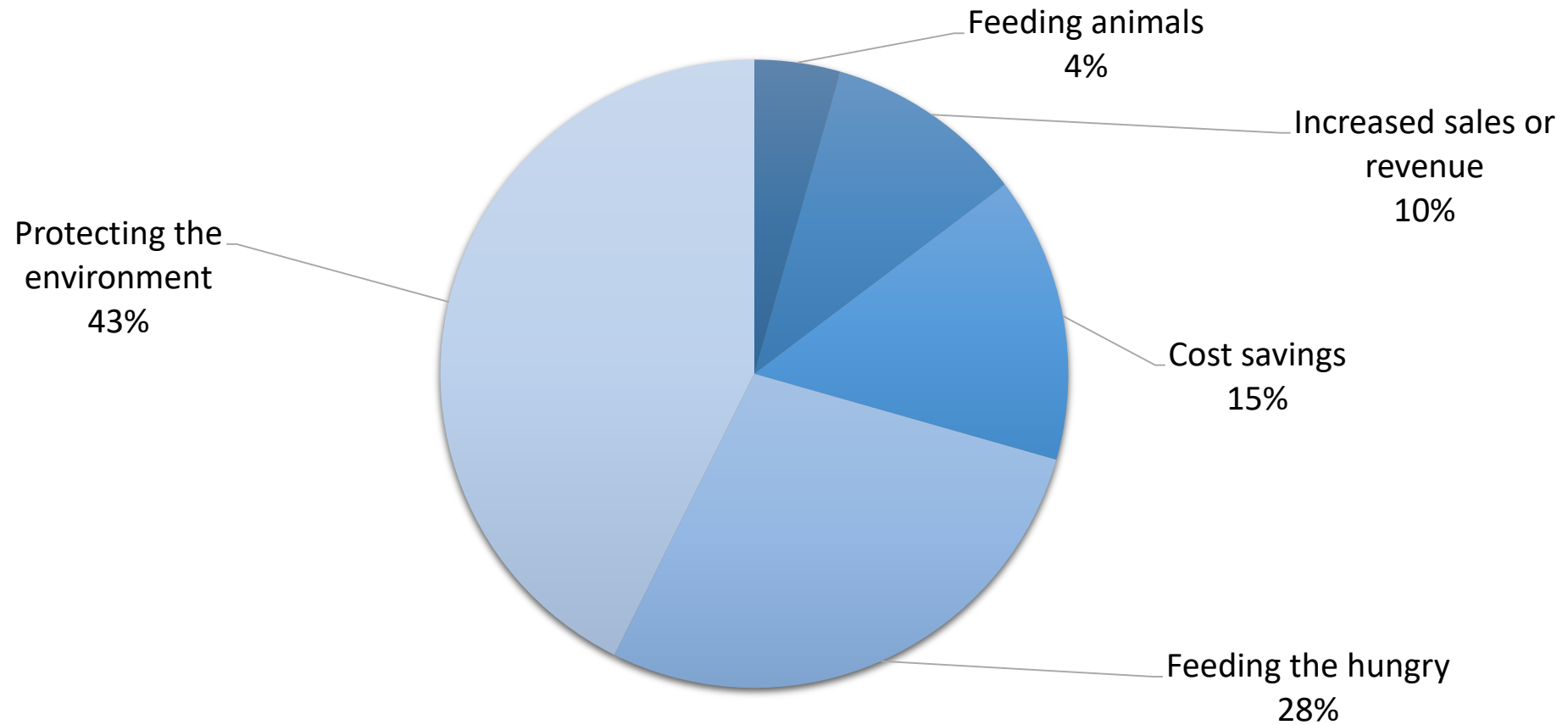


General Takeaways



- Different scales = different barriers, solutions
- "Language barriers" and political spectrum
- Capacity available for organics recycling, though inconvenient
- Undesired impacts from donation (baked goods especially)

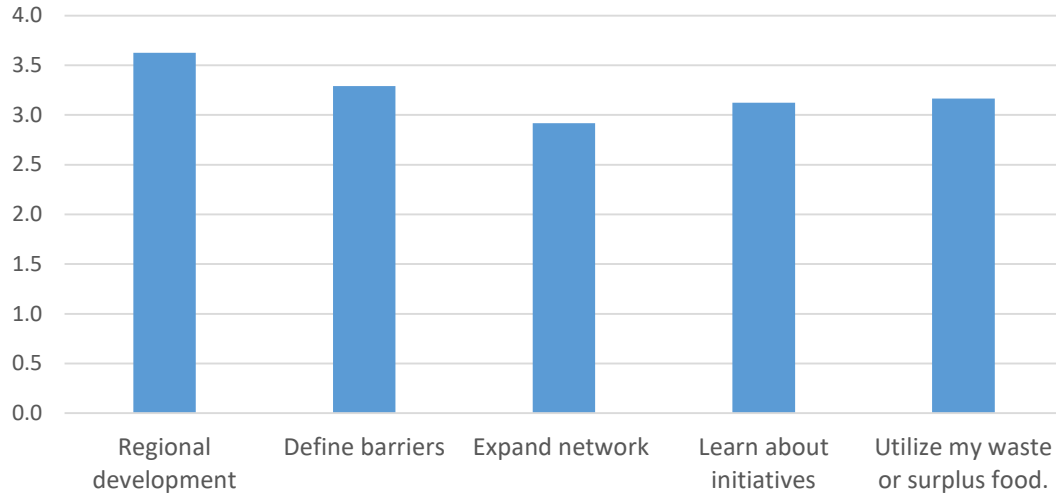
Most Important?



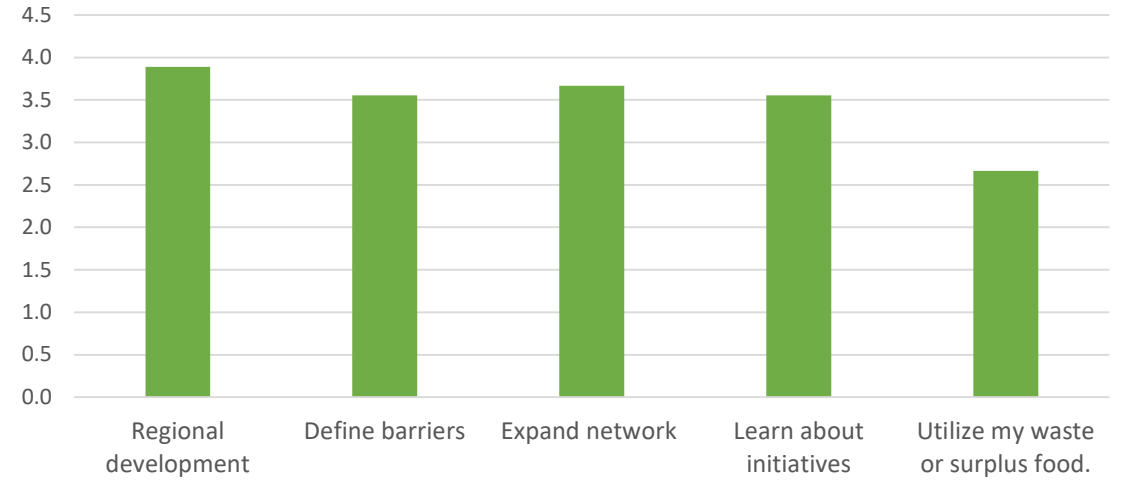
Priorities



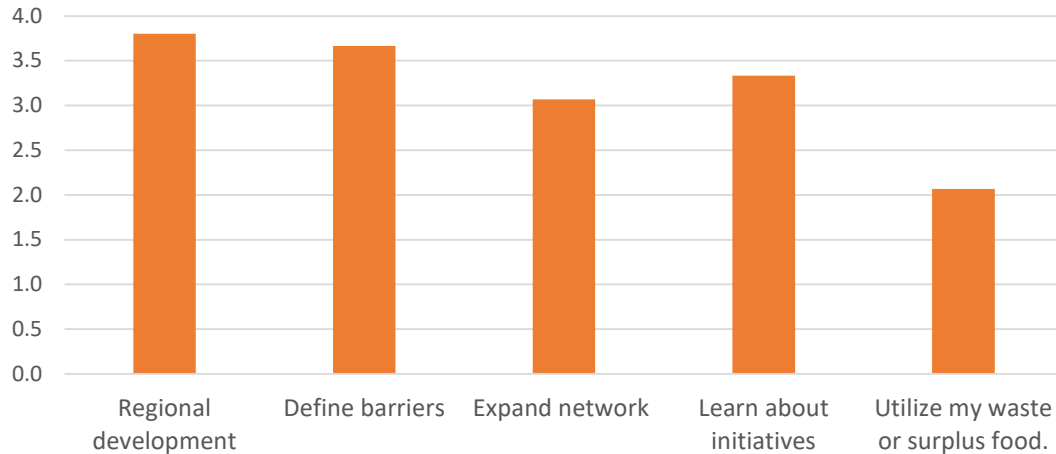
Generator



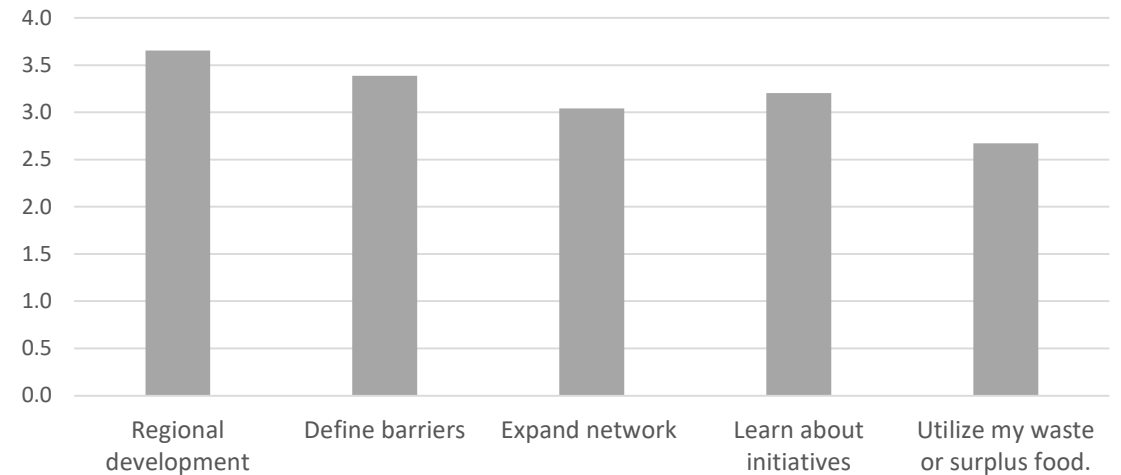
User



Resource



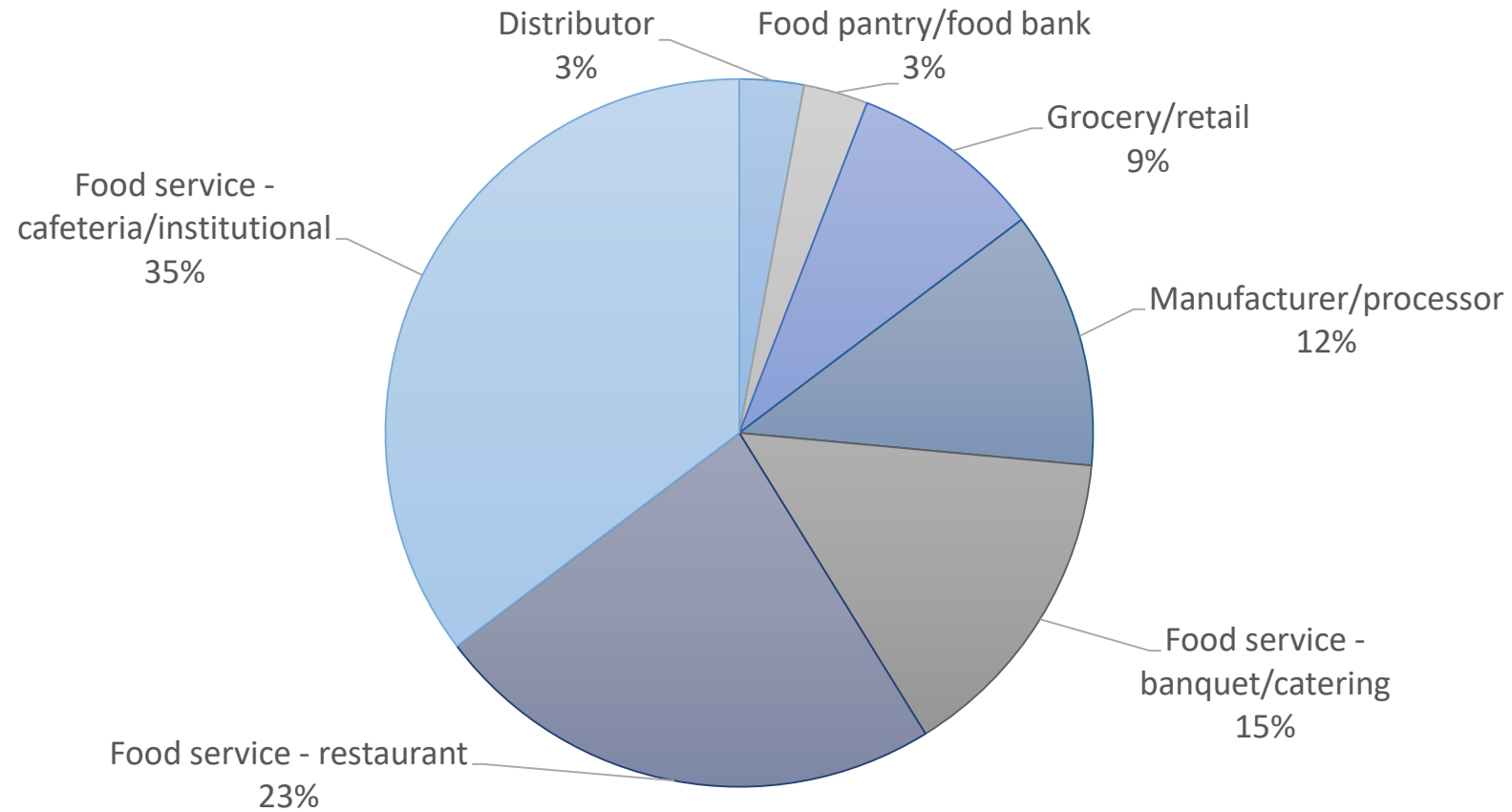
Total



Generators of Food Waste



Respondents



Source Reduction



Most Popular

- Strategic Purchasing (7)
- Menu Best Practice (7)
- Training (4)
- Documentation (4)
- Recovery First (4)

Less Popular

- Staff feedback
- Strategic delivery
- Inventory practice
- Forecasting software
- Sales
- Waste audits
- Waste tracking software

Waste Diversion Practices



Diversion Practices: 21 of 24

- Donation Hunger (11)
 - Share tables (1)
- Animal feed (8)
- Composting (17)
- Energy (3)

18 of 21 incur costs for diversion or recovery

- No organization receives payment for product.

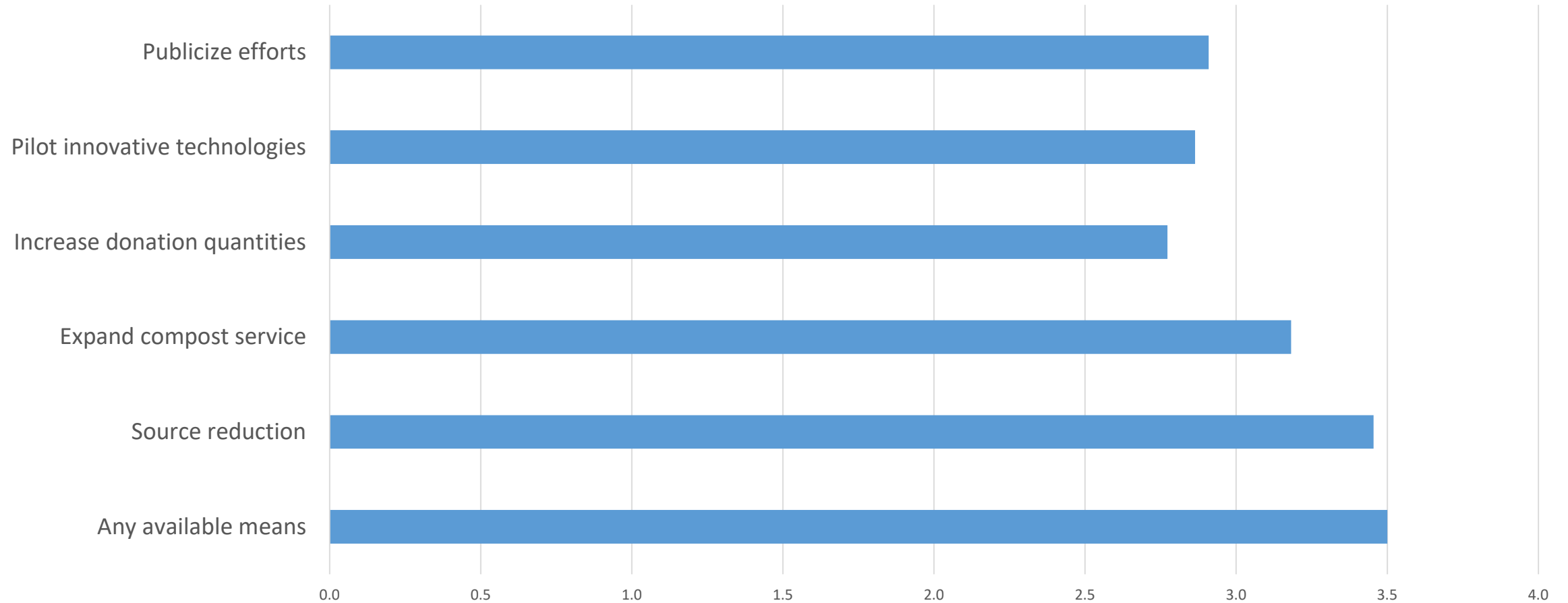
Barriers

- Cost (13) • Lack connections (10)
- Resources, knowledge, staff (10)
- Packaging (5) • Liability (4)
- Company Policy (2)
- Vendors (1) • Health Dept. (1)

Have Food Would Like to Divert But Can't: 3

- Recalled food products
- Unused prepared food

Most Interested



Key Takeaways



- Employee satisfaction was most commonly cited benefit of practice.
- Less than half of organizations publicize efforts.
- Diversity of organizations creates quantification barrier
- “Not sure what end product is”

Whirlpool Zera In-Home Food Waste Composter



The Livery Brewery in Benton Harbor, MI





Users of Food Waste



Current State



Hunger-Relief

- Hundreds of organizations
- Limitations vary
 - Prepared food (0)
- Requires more research

Barriers: Storage and Access

Compost / Energy

- Compost: 7+
 - Range of limitations
 - Pre-packaged (3)
 - Other (1): Meat, dairy, foods cooked in oil, standing oil, bones
 - Location & cost barriers
 - Less than 1% of local waste stream
- Energy: 4+

Barriers: Funds and staff

Material Sources



Hunger-Relief (7)

- Grocery (4) • Food bank* (5)
- Community donors (4)
- Also: Manufacturing, Farms, Distributors

Pay for Material? (4)

Charge to Take Material? (0)

Generates surplus (3)

Compost (3)

- Grocery, Manufacturing, Farms, Distributor, Food service

Pay for Material? (0)

Charge to Take Material (3)

Summit



- Culminating summit May 2018
- 140 multidisciplinary stakeholders
- No barrier to entry
- Facilitated discussion
- Strong outcomes



Thank You!

