

**Important Note:** This activity was developed for the original Green Lunchroom Challenge program, a voluntary pledge program for K-12 schools to improve the sustainability of their food service



operations. The project was coordinated by the [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center Technical Assistance Program](#) with funding from US EPA Region 5.

The following page(s) represent the content of this activity as it appeared on the original project web site, complete with available points and instructions for submitting documentation. **The project is no longer funded and as of June 2018 schools may no longer submit activity documentation to earn points and recognition as described.** The activity is presented for your information to guide your organization's sustainability efforts.

If your school or district implements the suggested activity and wishes to share its experiences, please email [Joy Scrogum](#). Your story may be incorporated into a blog post on this web site, the main ISTC site, or shared on social media to foster networking and inspiration among peer institutions.

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# Set Goals and targets for your organization

**Activity Category:** Establish Your Baseline

**Activity:** Set Goals and targets for your organization

**Rationale:** It's important to decide what the priorities are for your organization before you embark on waste reduction and prevention efforts. Setting goals or establishing targets to work toward helps guide which strategies you'll employ, helps you measure progress and stay motivated to continuously improve, and can help you justify desired changes to various stakeholder groups (e.g. "We want to cut waste hauling costs by 25% by 2017.")



**Activity Description:** Think about short term (i.e. within 1 calendar or school year) and long term food waste prevention and reduction goals for your organization. You may wish to brainstorm with administrators, food service personnel, PTA/PTO representatives, etc. While practical matters such as budget cuts and staffing are appropriate to consider for your short term goals, consider an "ideal world" when thinking about long term goals rather than focusing on being realistic. If you limit your long term vision too much, you may limit creativity, innovation, and openness to trying new things. Your long term goals should reflect what you truly would like to see happen, rather than what you think is likely to happen. Think of this as conceiving a vision for your organization, with your short term goals being the first steps toward achieving that vision. Don't worry about whether that vision is ultimately realized-just have the vision for now.

**Earn Challenge Points (100 points):** Submit a 2-3 page document in Word or PDF format listing:

 **At least 2 short term food waste prevention or reduction goals or targets you would like to achieve within a year.** (Specify whether your goals will be met within a calendar year or school year. There will be no penalty if you don't achieve these goals, as participation in the Challenge is voluntary, and whether you achieve the goals has no bearing on the points earned for this activity.) **For each goal, list any potential barriers to achievement you perceive and how you might address those barriers. Also indicate which Challenge "Activities"  might help you achieve these goals.**

 **At least three long term food waste prevention or reduction goals or targets for your organization.** Define the time frame you have in mind when phrasing these goals (e.g. "In 3 years we will.." "By 2020 we will.."). **For each goal, list at least one thing you'll need to achieve it** (e.g. "We'll need to expand our food service staff to

accomplish this.” “We’ll need at least \$X in additional funds,” etc.). Don’t be concerned if the stated need seems like an insurmountable obstacle. Once a need has been verbalized, you’ll be surprised at the ability of stakeholders to innovate in order to obtain what is needed to achieve your goal.

Send your completed document as an email attachment to Joy Scrogum at [jscrogum@illinois.edu](mailto:jscrogum@illinois.edu).

Resources:

 [Green Lunchroom Challenge Activities](#)

 [USDA and EPA Join with Private Sector, Charitable Organizations to Set Nation's First Food Waste Reduction Goals](#)

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