

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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US EPA Food Recovery Challenge Baseline data

Activity Category: Participate in the US EPA Food Recovery Challenge

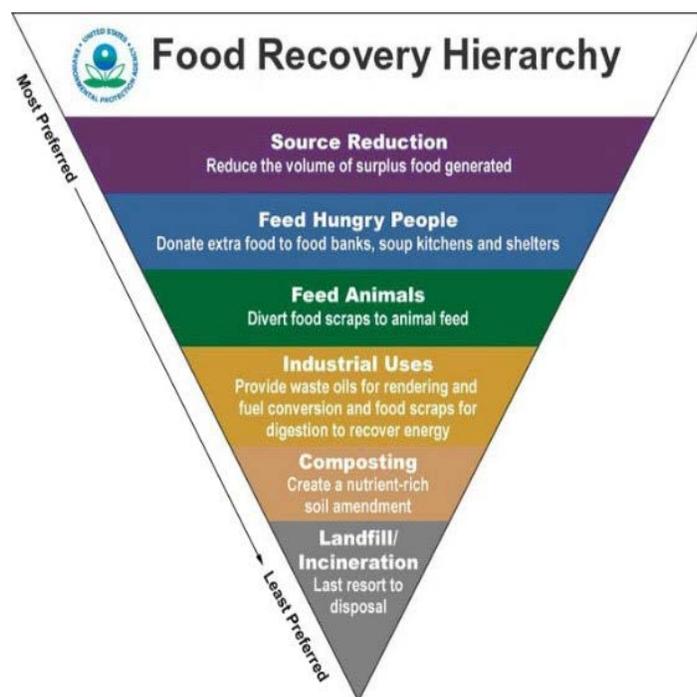
Activity: Sign up for the US EPA Food Recovery Challenge and submit baseline data

Rationale: Joining the Food Recovery Challenge can help you become aware of several free food waste assessment tools available from US EPA that help measure and track the amount, type of, and source of food and packaging waste generated at your school. Participants also have access to the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Data Management System, which provides the ability to effectively and easily record data and track progress toward your food waste reduction goals. Participation can help you better understand the Food Recovery Hierarchy, so you can prioritize potential food waste prevention and reduction activities. Participants in the Food Recovery Challenge are also able to apply for recognition from the EPA for their efforts through the FRC Award program

(applications are submitted in the spring). Finally, participation in the Green Lunchroom Challenge means you're already working on activities to contribute to success in the Food Recovery Challenge-our Green Lunchroom Challenge Baseline Form was developed to help you gather the information you'll need to enter into EPA's SMM Data Management System.

Activity Description: Go to the SMM Data Management System to register to participate in the Food Recovery Challenge. Once your account has been activated, choose the "Food Recovery Challenge (FRC)" and sign the participation agreement. Conduct an inventory of food waste (baseline data collection) as outlined on the FRC website and submit your baseline data through the SMM Data Management System within 90 days of registering for the Challenge. Choose from three food diversion categories: food waste prevention (e.g. source reduction), donation, and/or recycling (e.g. composting and anaerobic digestion). Don't forget to click the "submit" button in the database.

Earn Challenge Points (200 points): To earn points for this activity you must have completed both the Food Recovery Challenge registration process and the



submission of the FRC Baseline Data Form within 90 days of registration for the FRC. Please submit a brief description (1 page or less) of this process, in a PDF or Word document, as an email attachment sent to Joy Scrogum at jscrogum@illinois.edu. Include the following:

1. the date your organization registered **(required)**
2. the date your organization submitted its baseline data via the SMM Data Management System **(required)**
3. your feedback, comments, or suggestions regarding use of the SMM Data Management System to complete these steps **(optional)**

Green Lunchroom Challenge staff will consult with the US EPA Sustainable Materials Management branch to verify your reported dates and status as an FRC participant before Challenge points are awarded.

Resources:

-  [US EPA Food Recovery Challenge-Main Page](#)
-  [US EPA Food Waste Assessment Tools](#)
-  [SMM Data Management System](#)
-  [Example Participation Agreement](#)
-  [SMM Data Management System User's Manual: Food Recovery Challenge](#)
-  [Food Recovery Challenge \(FRC\) Awards](#)

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