

# Retailers and food waste in Canada

**Cut Waste**  
**GROW PROFIT™**  
Second Annual  
Food Waste Forum – 2013

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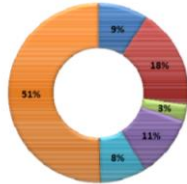
## About RCC

- Since 1963
- Not-for-profit, industry-funded association representing more than 43,000 store fronts of all retail formats across Canada
- Represent about 85% of grocery retailers in Canada



## The context – globally

■ Field 9%                      ■ Packaging / Processing 18%  
 ■ Transportation / Distribution 3%    ■ Retail Stores 11%  
 ■ Food Service / HRI 8%                ■ Home 51%



**Reducing Food Waste Is Key To Ending Hunger:**  
UN

**New standard aims to take a bite out of global food waste**

**Tesco food waste: Why half of your shopping basket may end up in the bin**

**UN report: one-third of world's food wasted annually, at great economic, environmental cost**



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## The context – regulatory

- Nova Scotia ban on organic waste since 1998
- Metro Vancouver organic waste ban 2015
- Quebec organic waste ban 2020
- Ontario discussion as part of Bill 91



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## The approach members are taking

1. Reduce food waste at source
2. Divert edible food to other sources
3. Dispose of residual food waste responsibly



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## Reduce food waste at source



Better forecasting, false bottom displays/smaller display containers, smaller portion size options, etc.



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## Divert edible food to other sources



Food Banks of Canada – Retail Program

Loblaw – Second Harvest donation of 716,000 pounds of fresh perishable food items in Toronto area

Walmart Canada – Salvation Army partnership



Perishable food donation nearing sell-by dates to local food banks, from distribution centres – 250,000 kg in 2012



Partnership with La Tablée des Chefs – pilot in Greater Montreal



Zoo, food bank collection for perishable products 6X/week



## Dispose of residual food waste responsibly



Conversion of organic waste into biogas through anaerobic digestion



Pilot project at 22 of Metro and Super C stores for collection of compostable organic waste



Tower composter and other pilots for scaling up diversion



Anaerobic Digestion



## As an industry association, our four pillars

Contain and reduce  
direct and indirect  
operating costs

Government policy  
that promotes  
sector growth

Promote and  
protect the  
reputation of retail

Identify  
opportunities for  
harmonization

## Principles for organic waste

- Operational efficiencies
- Appropriate standards and equipment
- Harmonization
- Realistic targets
- Implementation

## We're at the beginning of our journey....our next steps

- Inventory of landfill bans and regulatory actions across the country- organics
- Industry strategy on organic waste, with focus on diversion
- Advocacy position on waste to energy
- Collaboration with FCPC and CRFA to tackle food waste proactively
- Unsaleables, sell-by dates
- Organic waste best practices



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## Thank you! Questions?

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