Retailers and food waste in Canada

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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

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

Reducing Food Waste Is Key To Ending Hunger:

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

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
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

Reduce food waste at source

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

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<th>Contain and reduce direct and indirect operating costs</th>
<th>Government policy that promotes sector growth</th>
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<td>Promote and protect the reputation of retail</td>
<td>Identify opportunities for harmonization</td>
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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

Thank you! Questions?