

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Food Waste: Aligning Government and Industry Within Value Chain Solutions

OAKVILLE, CANADA, October 4, 2016 — VCMI issues its latest report on food waste. The report can be accessed [here](#).

This report highlights the issue of food loss and waste (FLW) in Canada and, drawing on global comparisons, puts forward proposals to more effectively tackle food and associated wastes. It proposes how interactions within government and between government and industry be improved to enable the creation of an objective pragmatic roadmap for reducing FLW in Canada.

Seven Key Takeaways from the Report

1. Thirty-one percent of the total food available for consumption in retail (10%) and household (21%) is estimated to have been wasted in Canada during 2010. Weighing six billion kilos, it would fill 60,000 rail cars, stretching 1000 kilometres.
2. Most efforts introduced to reduce FLW are waste diversion, not waste prevention. Reasons for this include the fact that waste diversion a) does not require fundamental change, b) requires limited investment to appear effective, and c) poses limited risk to government and industry.
3. No two food chains are alike, with the unnecessary FLW that occurs along each chain differing in location, type and cause. FLW mitigation efforts need to occur within individual value chains and the businesses which they comprise.
4. Government policies and legislation that are not transparently congruent have the potential to increase rather than decrease unnecessary FLW that occurs along the value chain.
5. The deeply rooted structural, cultural and institutional barriers that create unnecessary FLW would be best addressed through industry / government partnerships.
6. The development of effective government policies and legislation is hindered due to the fact that insufficient information exists on what, where, why and how FLW is created along the value chain.
7. Effective and sustainable FLW solutions could be achieved by voluntary agreements between industry and government versus forcing change through policies and regulations.

Value Chain Management International (VCMi) is dedicated to improving the profitability and competitiveness of commercial businesses through promoting and enabling the management of the value chains in which they operate. VCMi achieves this by assisting businesses to develop closer strategic relationships with their customers and suppliers. VCMi's global consulting team is located in North America, Europe and Australasia.

In addition to working with businesses, VCMi also consults with governments to improve the effectiveness of policies and programs to motivate and enable increased industry competitiveness.

VCMi has authored/co-authored several [publications on food waste](#) and founded the **“Cut Waste, GROW PROFIT™”**¹ initiative in 2012. VCMi is a leading public and industry voice in bringing awareness to the opportunities and solutions surrounding food waste reduction, traceability and the environment. VCMi applies specialized value chain diagnostic tools to detect where waste occurs, how to eliminate it, and then participates in the elimination implementation to ensure successful outcomes.

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¹ **Cut Waste GROW PROFIT™** is a VCMi program, which enables farmers and food businesses to profit by eliminating as much waste as possible from within their operations from a whole of chain perspective.