

# State Efforts to Reduce and Divert Food Waste

Paige Wilson

*Waste Reduction & Diversion Planner*



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# Presentation Overview



- Why food waste is an issue
- Relation to (2) New Hampshire state plans
- Commercial food waste disposal ban
  - Who does it apply to?
  - Next steps
  - EPA SWIFR grant
- NHDES education and outreach efforts

# A snippet of the problem...

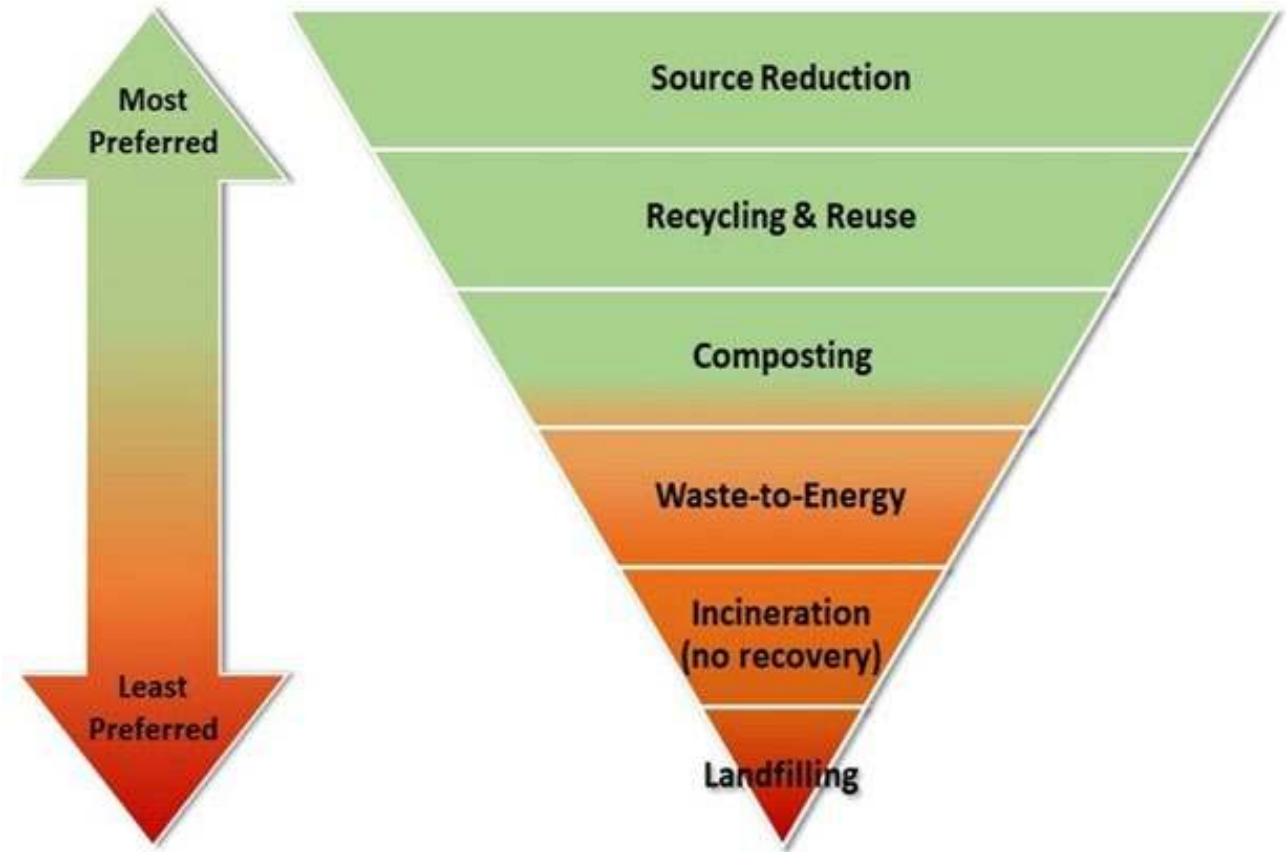


- **1/3** of food produced in U.S is **never eaten**.
- Hunger and **food insecurity** issues.
- Food makes up **24% of our trash**.
- Wasted food is primary source of **methane emissions** from landfills (58%).



Source of Statistics: U.S EPA

# New Hampshire's 2022 Solid Waste Management Plan



New Hampshire Waste Management Hierarchy ([RSA 149-M:3](#))



# 2022 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)



- 10-year plan
- 8 Goals, 76 Actions
- Largely focused on achieving state's disposal reduction goal
  - Reduce disposal of MSW & C&D – 25% by 2030, 45% by 2050
- Actions are grouped into 5 “strategies”
  - 1) Education/Outreach
  - 2) Data Collection/Research
  - 3) Incentives
  - 4) Regulations & Permitting
  - 5) Legislation



# Goals

1. Reduce **quantity** of solid waste generated
2. Reduce **toxicity** of the solid waste stream
3. Maximize **diversion** from disposal
4. Ensure adequate **capacity** for management of NH's waste
5. Develop local **markets** for diversion
6. Support state & federal **climate change** initiatives
7. Support state & federal **environmental justice** initiatives
8. Ensure sustainable **funding** sources to support solid waste initiatives

# New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan



# CH. 8 – Waste & Materials Management Measure



Expand programs for waste reduction, diversion and recycling.

Lower GHG emissions from waste combustion and landfills.

Focus on **food waste** and **construction & demolition debris**

- Decrease methane emissions
- Reserve landfill capacity
- Save resources
- Heavyweight materials – help with NH's disposal reduction goal





# New Hampshire's Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban (RSA 149 - M:27)

Takes effect February 1, 2025



## Background/Intent

- Aligns with Action 3.13 in 2022 SWMP
- Build supply and demand
- Encourage infrastructure in NH
- Initially targets large generators – like bans in VT, MA, CT, RI
- Any incremental phases would need to go through NH legislature



# What is the ban?



Anyone generating **1+ ton of food waste/week** cannot dispose of such waste in a landfill or incinerator provided that:

1. An alternative facility is located **within 20 miles**

AND

2. The alternative facility has **capacity** to accept the food waste



# What is the ban?



Preferred methods to manage excess food:

1. Source reduction
2. Feeding people
3. Feeding animals
4. Composting/digestion
5. Energy recovery not involving combustion





# Who will be impacted?

## Generators

- Targets large businesses/institutions – hospitals, grocers, universities and colleges, prisons, hotels, event venues, restaurants, etc.

## Management Outlets

- Food pantries
- Farms
- Composting facilities
- Anerobic digestors

## Towns and Cities (indirect impacts)



# Waste ban details



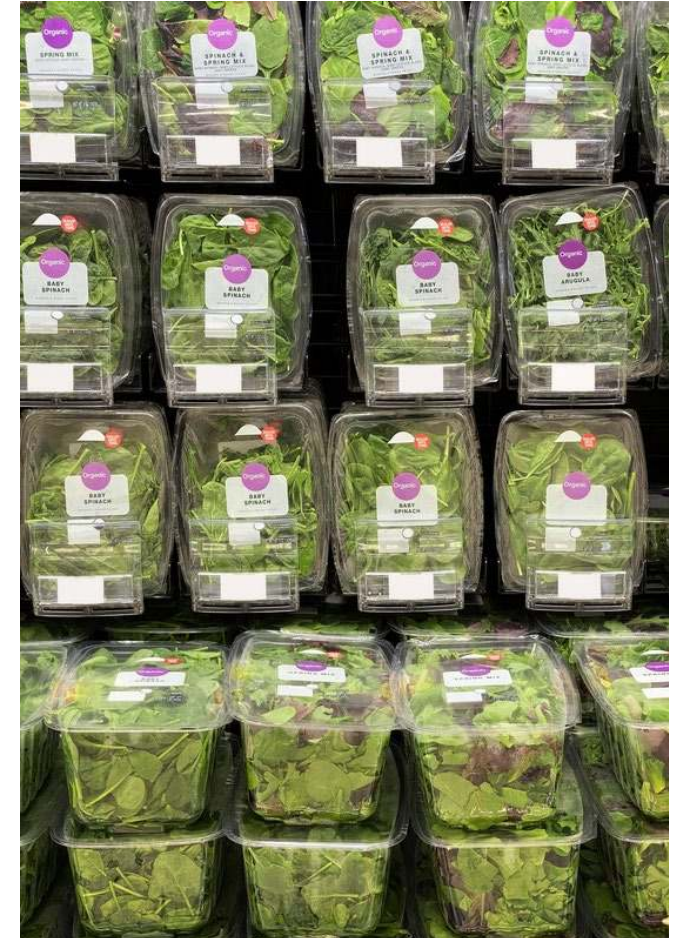
**Effective February 1, 2025**

## **Will the ban include packaged food waste?**

Yes. The law is not specific to unpackaged or packaged food waste.

## **Does food need to be depackaged?**

Decision between the generator and the receiver.  
Packaging is not food waste.



# Waste ban details



## How will NHDES identify generators and alternative facilities (diversion outlets)?

- Use EPA SWIFR grant for a food waste generator study.
- Work with other entities like NH Food Bank, UNH Cooperative Extension, NH Grocers Association, etc.



## Will alternative facilities in neighboring states be acceptable diversion outlets?

Unknown. Needs to be established during rulemaking.



# Waste ban details



**Would a collective restaurant chain be considered a generator?**

No. It will be based on each individual restaurant location.

**Will certain generators be excluded from having to comply with the ban?**

Unknown. Needs to be established during rulemaking.





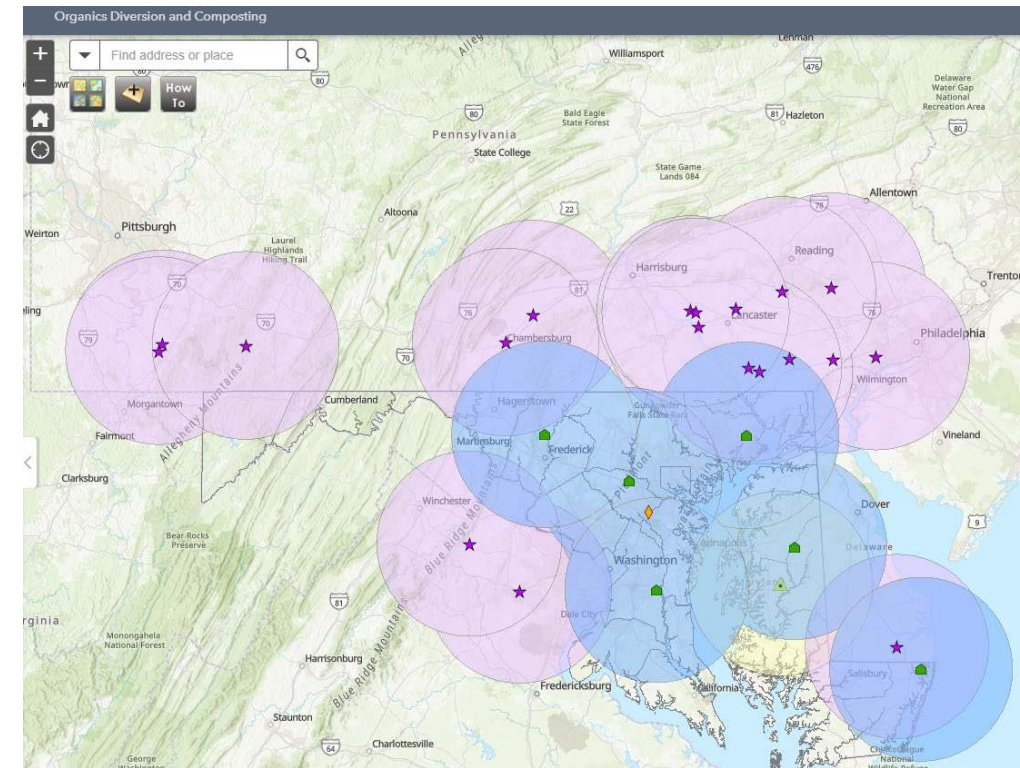
# NHDES Implementation Plan



- ✓ Hired Jenny Mitchell – *Food Waste Diversion Specialist*
- ✓ Shared information on website

NHDES needs to...

- Research
- Write regulations to implement the ban
- Create interactive ArcGIS map



State of Maryland Organics Diversion and Composting Map

# NHDES Implementation Plan



Initial focus on education and outreach

Businesses and institutions need to learn then adjust accordingly

Enforcement will come later

- Follow SWMB Compliance Assurance Program Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)



# State Funding Support



## **\*NEW\*** matching state [grant program](#) – **IN PROGRESS**

- For public and private entities
- \$500,000 devoted to food waste projects
- Need to write rules to set program boundaries

## Potential projects

- Bins and supplies to separate food waste
- One-time equipment purchases
- Facility upgrades



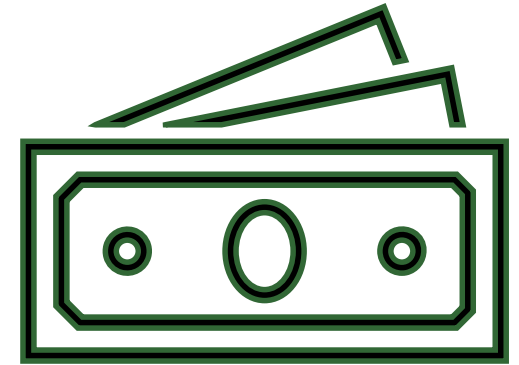
# Federal Funding Support



U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA)

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

U.S Department of Energy (DOE)



Northeast Resources Recovery Association (NRRRA) Funding Opportunities List

[www.nrrarecycles.org/grant-opportunities](http://www.nrrarecycles.org/grant-opportunities)



# NHDES Education & Outreach Efforts



## Recycling and Disposal

Recycling saves resources and tax dollars! Proper management of household waste also protects public health and the environment.

[HOW TO MANAGE YOUR HOUSEHOLD WASTE](#) ➔

# Food Waste Diversion Workshops



- Hosted in April 2024 (2-days, in person)
- Collaborated with NRRA and MaineDEP
- Focused on municipal options
- Recordings available on [SWOT Channel](#)



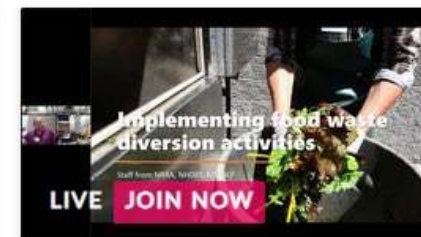
**REPLICABLE  
&  
ADAPTABLE!**



Food Waste Diversion (1 of 4): What's the Big Deal About



Food Waste Diversion (2 of 4): Composting Basics: Don't



Food Waste Diversion (3 of 4): Implementing Food Waste



Food Waste Diversion (4 of 4): Education, Outreach, and



# Technical Assistance Site Visits & Presentations



- Materials Management, Education and Planning (MMEPS) Staff
- **Discuss planning and best practices**
- Share resources
- Educate facility staff and the public





## Managing My Waste Webpage

Resource for households – “what do I do with this?”  
**Info may also help businesses.**

Covers over 35 different waste items.

Continually edited and updated.

[www.des.nh.gov/waste/solid-waste/managing-my-waste](http://www.des.nh.gov/waste/solid-waste/managing-my-waste)



▼ **A-G**

[Aerosol cans](#)

[Ammunition, explosives, fireworks, flares](#)

[Appliances](#)

[Asbestos](#)

[Automotive antifreeze](#)

[Batteries](#)

[Biosolids](#)

[Cathode Ray Tubes \(CRTs\)](#)

[Construction and demolition debris \(C&D\)](#)

[E-cigarettes and vape devices](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Fluorescent light bulbs and lamps](#)

["Flushable" items](#) 

[Food](#)

[Furniture, mattresses, carpet \(bulky waste\)](#)

► **H-P**

► **Q-Z**

## Types of Waste

Use the A-Z list or blog posts below to learn how to manage different wastes that may be generated in your home, business or an institution.

► **A-G**

► **H-P**

► **Q-Z**



### MANAGING MY WASTE

#### [Food](#)

Posted: October 26, 2023



### MANAGING MY WASTE

#### [Household Hazardous Waste \(HHW\)](#)

Posted: October 26, 2023



### MANAGING MY WASTE

#### [Furniture, Mattresses, Carpet \(Bulky Waste\)](#)

Posted: October 26, 2023



### MANAGING MY WASTE

#### [Invasive Plants \(Aquatic and Upland\)](#)

Posted: October 26, 2023



### MANAGING MY WASTE

#### [Household Ash](#)

Posted: October 26, 2023



### MANAGING MY WASTE

#### [Leaf and Yard Waste](#)

Posted: October 26, 2023

## Waste Disposal Bans

In New Hampshire, there are 5 types of waste that are banned from disposal in landfills and incinerators. These disposal bans are established by law in [RSA 149-M:27](#) and [RSA 149-M:58 \(mercury-added products\)](#). Click through the tabs below to learn more.

Electronic Devices

**Food Waste**

Leaf and Yard Waste

Mercury-Added  
Products

Wet-Cell Batteries

### **At this time, this ban does not apply to households.**

Effective February 1, 2025, certain entities will be prohibited from disposing of food waste in a landfill and incinerator. This ban applies to entities (institutions, restaurants, grocery stores, etc.) that generate 1+ tons of food waste per week **and** are located within 20 miles of a facility with the capacity to manage excess food.

Food waste prohibited from disposal must be separated and managed through one or more of the following methods, in order of preference:

1. Source reduction.
2. Feeding people.
3. Feeding animals.
4. Composting, digestion, or land application (as appropriate).
5. Energy recovery not involving combustion.



**NHDES  
Waste Reduction  
&  
Diversion  
Webpage**

[www.des.nh.gov/waste/solid-waste/waste-reduction-and-diversion](http://www.des.nh.gov/waste/solid-waste/waste-reduction-and-diversion)





# Questions?

**Paige Wilson**

Waste Reduction & Diversion Planner

[paige.a.wilson@des.nh.gov](mailto:paige.a.wilson@des.nh.gov)

(603) 271-0964

Managing My Waste webpage →

