

# BEST PRACTICES IN FOOD SCRAPS RECOVERY

---



*A National Study*

*Skumatz Economic  
Research Associates Inc.  
Superior CO*

*Juri Freeman*  
[freeman@serainc.com](mailto:freeman@serainc.com)

© SERA 2012, All Rights reserved

Information may be used if properly Cited

# ***TOPICS***

---

- Background
- National survey
- Barriers
- Best practices
- Program trends
- Summary /conclusions

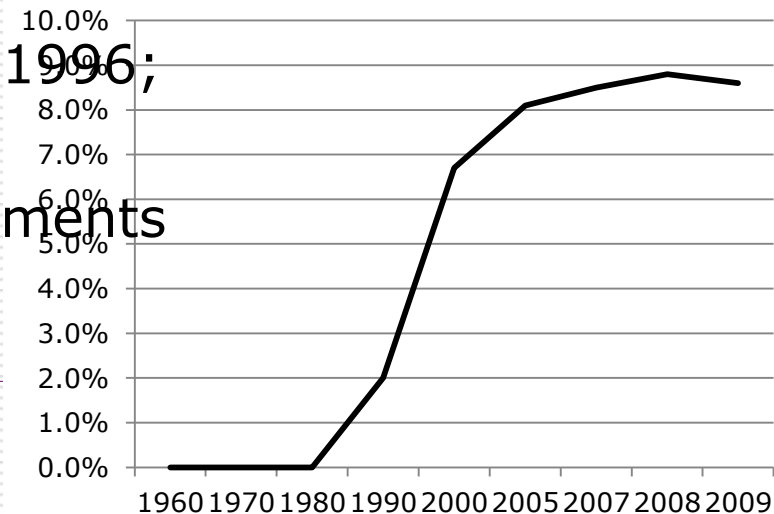
---

# ***RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL SURVEY***

# ***SURVEY OF EXISTING FOOD-WASTE PROGRAMS***

---

- Over 200 programs identified in US
  - Both Res. and Commercial
- Locations concentrated:
  - **WA, MN, CA**, OH, VT, IA, MA, OR, ME, etc
  - Mostly suburban, then urban, rural; also college & tourist; some only at schools / university campus; isolated,
- Most curbside; Some drop-off
  - Implementation dates – few pre-1996; many 2005+
  - Private hauler and town arrangements
  - Sizes range from 170 to nearly 900K residents



# ***RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES***

---

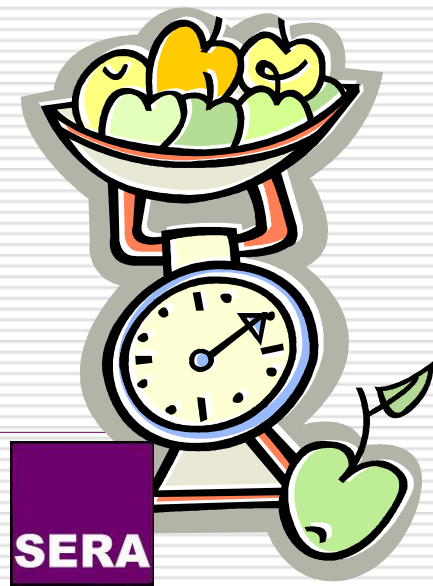
- Drop-off Only
- Containers
  - 32-96 carts, some bags
- Materials in stream
  - Include food scraps with YW
  - Includes meat and dairy
- Payments and enrolment
  - Voluntary added fee
  - Rates are about 1/3 of MSW Rates (Collection)
- Collection Frequency and Containers
  - Weekly in most, EOW available
- Presence of PAYT
  - Majority have PAYT

***Each program is  
modified/adapted to fit  
community resources  
and needs***

# ***DIVERSION/PARTICIPATION***

---

- ❑ Examined average diversion rates-not the whole story
- ❑ Next looked at lbs per household total
- ❑ Uncovered lbs per household food only
- ❑ Wide range of participation depending on program set-up



# COMMERCIAL ATTRIBUTES

---

- The “typical” commercial program (if such a thing really existed)
  - Only targets a portion of the businesses
  - Voluntary participation for an added fee
  - Rates are lower than MSW rates
  - Collected in 64-gallon poly carts
  - Options for collection at least 3x/week
  - Includes staff education and outreach (often by the hauler)





# ***TIPS, BMPS, AND BARRIERS***



# ***SURVEY – BARRIERS?***

---

- Political Will
- Facility issues
- Costs
- Contamination
- Yuck Factor, pests and vectors



# ***BARRIERS? – POLITICAL WILL & COST***

---

## **□ Political Will**

- Approach on jobs, goals, business – what THEY care about
- Waste characterizations helpful to “make case”
- A few motivated individuals can be effective



# ***BARRIERS - SITE CERTIFICATION ISSUE***

---

- Uncertainty is killer / chicken and egg / national issue
  - Either NOT classified / undefined (not sure process), OR classified as MSW (and stringent application process)
  - Has stopped investment / facilities in many places that are “ripe”



# ***BARRIERS - SITE CERTIFICATION ISSUE***

---

- Progress? What we've seen...
  - Defining Food Scraps
  - Tiered regulatory structure
  - Giving some allowance to already-permitted sites (up to 50TPD in one state)
  - Lowering permit fees;
  - Removing regs or adding regs in different states
  - Native American tribal siting ('following laws...')

# ***BARRIERS? – CONTAMINATION & YUCK***

---

## Contamination

- Bags in stream (bio and plastic); local decision
- Education, staff training, have seen bans of bags / others it is fine

## Yuck & pests

- BMPs suggestions; more perception
- Just a change in containers(!); education, persistent message, clarify meat/dairy helps (freeze, layers, paper towels, boxes, etc.)

# ***PROGRAM CATEGORIES***

---

Educational / Outreach / Informational

Hauler Programs

Less Aggressive Strategies

Most Aggressive Strategies

Other

# ***PROGRAM CATEGORIES***

Program Class	Education / outreach / informational	Hauler programs
Example program: Residential	Social marketing, classroom curriculum, cooperative campaigns, targeting market segments, focusing on food-soiled paper, in-sink garbage disposals	Hauler incentives, contract or franchise requirements, ordinances, tip fee surcharges, licensing fees, shared outreach and audits
Example program: Commercial	Targeted marketing for generators, staff education, signs, city / hauler partnerships for outreach, waste audits	Same as residential

Source: SERA 2011

# PROGRAM CATEGORIES

Program Class	Less aggressive strategies	Most aggressive strategies	Other
Example program: Residential	Requirement to offer organics service, private / public partnerships, drop-offs, voluntary service for added fee	Every-other-week MSW collection, embedded rates for all, disposal ban, mandatory source separation	Mixed-material MRF, compostable to-go container requirements, incentives / rebates for generators, alternative funding options
Example program: Commercial	Waste audits, starter grants for schools and/or businesses, rebates on bills, shared / coordinated services, requirement to offer service, targeted routes, private / public partnerships.	Embedded rates, mandatory for certain generators, mandatory source separation for all generators, disposal ban	Mixed-material MRF, on-site / in-vessel options

Source: SERA 2011



# ***SUMMARY***

---

- Over 200 active programs in the US alone with significant growth in the last 5 years
- There is no “average” program
  - Programs are adapted to fit community needs and resources
- Barriers exist but all can be overcome with proper planning, permitting, information sharing, and BMPs
  - Cost may be the exception
- Mandatory, embedded fees, and Every Other Week programs are high achievers
  - But political will / public support is the barrier

# ***THANK YOU!***

---

***Juri Freeman and Lisa A Skumatz Ph.D.***

*SERA Inc*

*Phone: 303/494-1178; Tollfree: 866-758-6289*

*email: [skumatz@serainc.com](mailto:skumatz@serainc.com)*

*[Freeman@serainc.com](mailto:Freeman@serainc.com)*