



Food Waste Factoids:

- Roughly 50% of all produce in the US is thrown away. Some 6 million tons (or \$160 billion) annually. This constitutes 1/3 of all food stuffs.
- Wasted food is THE SINGLE BIGGEST occupant of American Landfills per the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- An American family of 4 discards an average of \$1600 of produce annually
- Individually Americans average 20lbs/month/person in food waste
- Globally, the United Nations of Food & Agriculture organization estimates that 1/3 of all food grown is lost or wasted; an amount valued at nearly \$3 TRILLION
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) estimates more than 25% of the waste stream in Mass. AFTER recycling is food waste; equal to more than 1 million tons/year
- US EPA & Mass. DEP estimate <10% of food waste is diverted
- Mass DEP Ban went into effect, October 1 2014. Massachusetts' plan was to reduce waste stream by 80% (5 million tons) by 2050.
- By implementing the ban, the initial goal of Mass DEP (which affects producers of >1 ton of food waste weekly) was to divert 35% (2 million tons) by 2020
- Mass disposed of 4.9 million tons of solid waste in 2011 (17% or 830,000 tons of which were food)
- In 2010, 100,000 tons of organic waste was diverted in Mass. In 2016, that number rose to 270,000 tons.

Got questions about food waste diversion strategies? Contact Frankie Stavrianopoulos at frankie@vanguardrenewables.com

