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1-888-254-5525

WasteWise Forum Spring 2017

Food Waste Cost Considerations

**\*\*See accompanying presentation, "Food Recovery Cost Analysis," for more information\*\***

Assumptions:

4.33 weeks/month

201 gallons/yard

Straight Food waste weighs about 6#/gallon

Mixed food and compostable waste can vary dramatically

64 gallon cart filled  $\frac{3}{4}$  full weighs about 275 lbs

1 ton of food waste will fill about 7-8 64 gallon carts.

RecyclingWorks Estimating Tool

\_\_\_\_\_ meals/week \* \_\_\_\_\_ #/meal = \_\_\_\_\_ #/week

Reduction:

- Observation of prep techniques and overage/spoilage disposal
- Measurement/Recording of prep and plate waste
- Rotation/Use First labeling
- Menu planning
- Just in time cooking
- Stem to Root/Nose to Tail techniques
- Other

Donation:

- Review Harvard Food Law and Policy fact sheets
  - Liability Protection
  - Date Labeling
  - Tax Incentives
- Talk with a food rescue organization and local food pantry or shelter about matching your excess and their needs.
- Calculate basis value and fair market value of donated foods
- Keep records of each donation event for tax purposes



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Calculations:

- Revise Estimation of food waste #/meal

\_\_\_\_\_meals/week \* \_\_\_\_\_#/meal = \_\_\_\_\_#/week

- Locate trash cost/ton and haul charge

- Food waste diversion is typically priced by container. Determine equivalent cost/ton

\_\_\_\_\_Cost/(3/4)cart \*1 cart/64 gallons\*1gallon/6#\*2000#/ton= \_\_\_\_\_\$/ton

Example: \$13/cart filled  $\frac{3}{4}$  full = \$90/ton

You may have different pricing structure. The assumptions can help with calculating the equivalent cost/ton. Clarify any questions with service provider.

- Once you have common units, subtract the estimated monthly diverted food waste tonnage from the current waste tonnage to determine the potential savings.
- Review reduced trash service for container size and pickup frequency needs
- Recycling participation tends to increase when implementing a food waste diversion program. Review recycling container size and pickup frequency needs.
- Now that you know your baseline trash, recycling and food waste numbers, join WasteWise!

For more WasteWise information: <https://recyclingworksma.com/wastewise/>