Food Waste

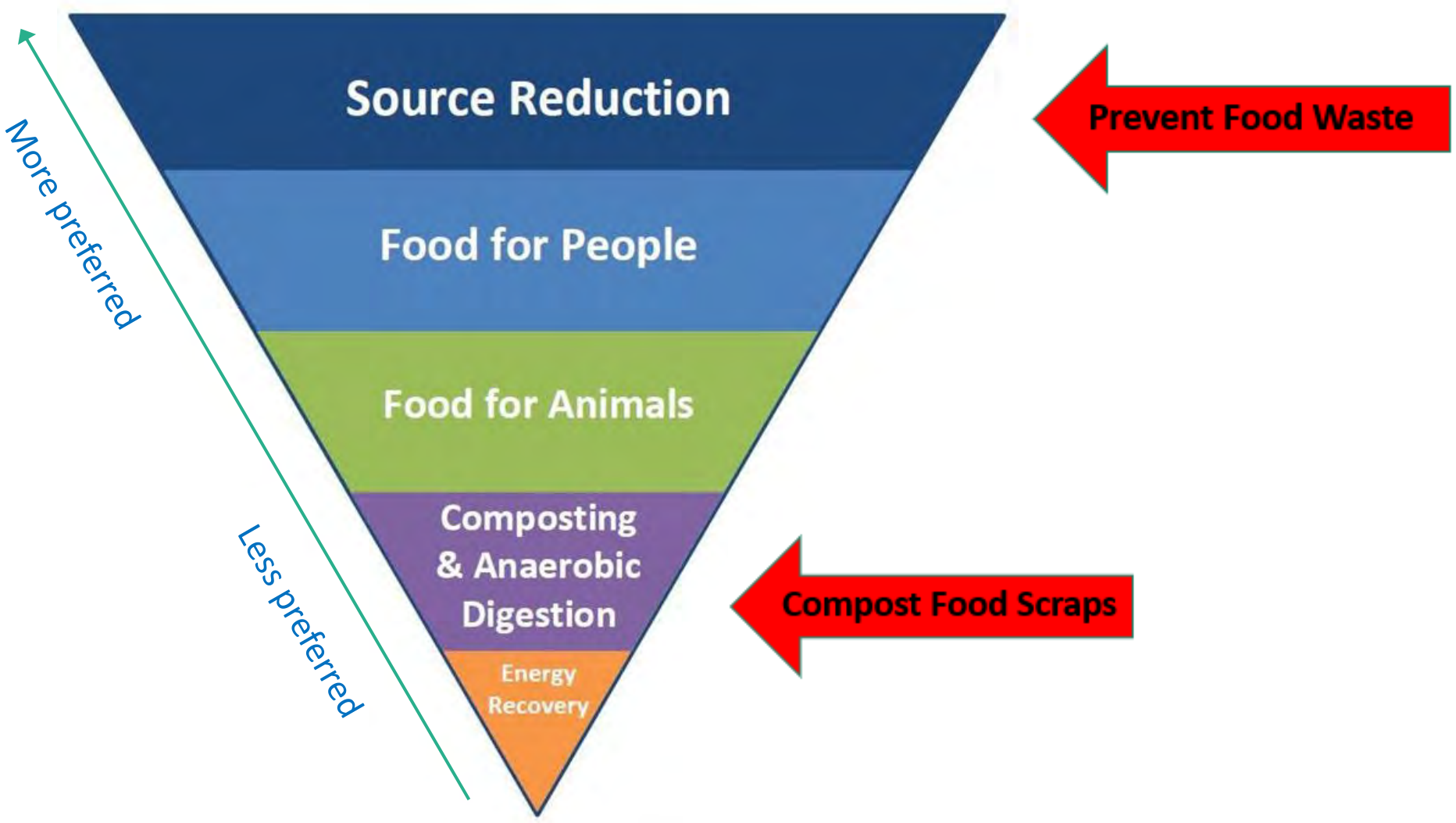
Prevention: Use Food Well

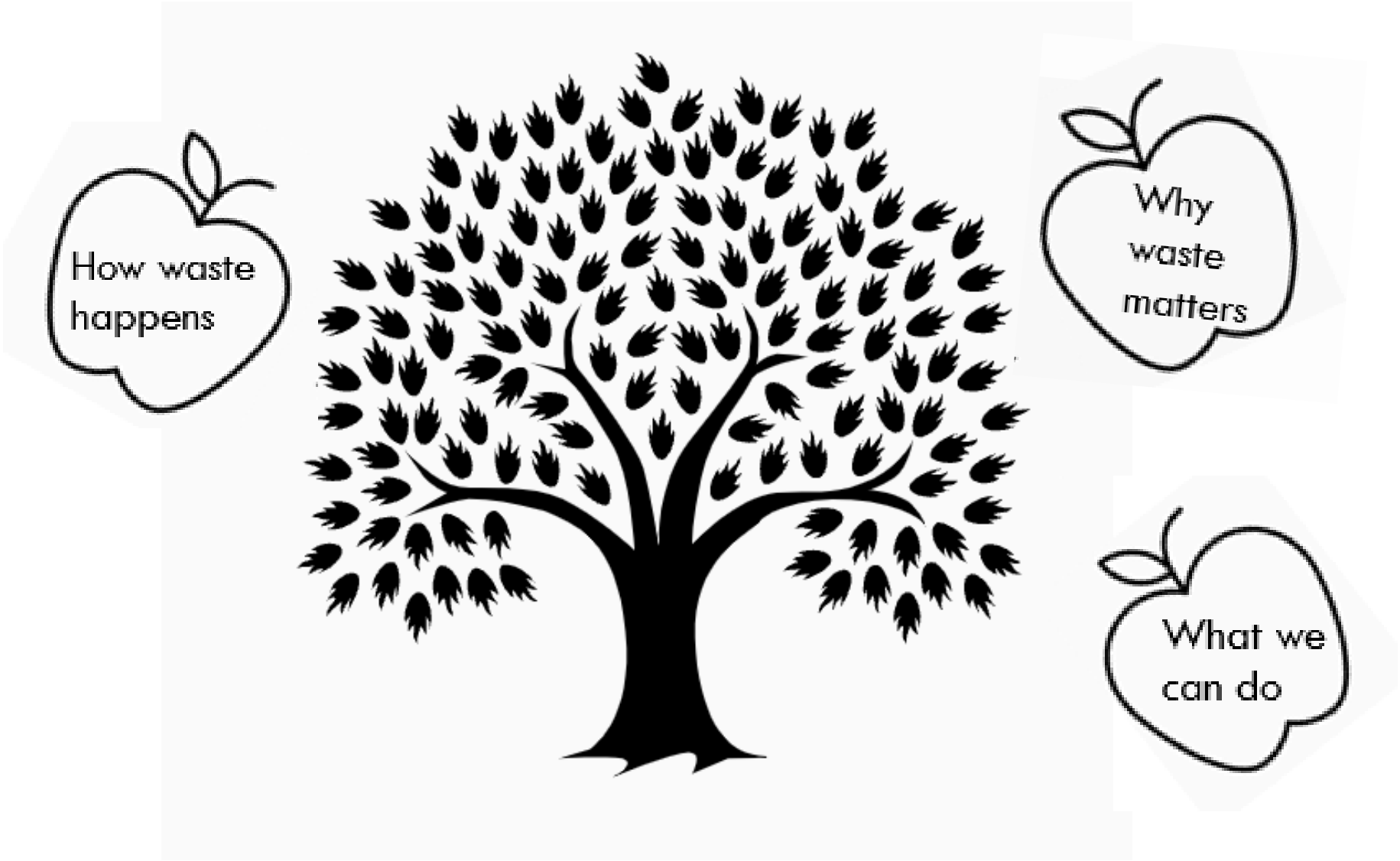
CITY OF Vancouver WASHINGTON

CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

WASTE CONNECTIONS of WASHINGTON, INC.
Connect with the Future

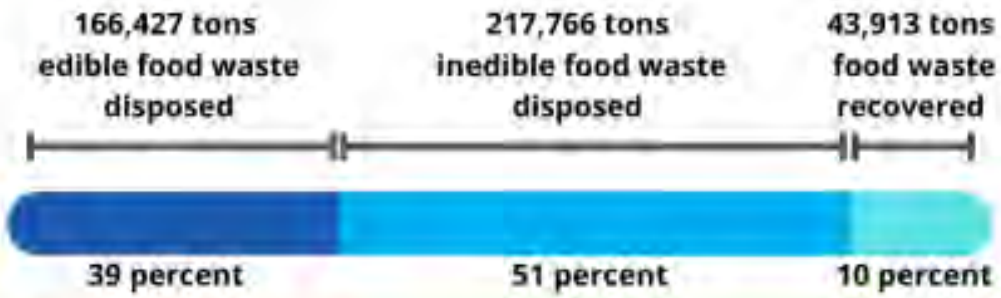
Food Recovery Hierarchy




How waste happens
Why waste matters
What we can do

FOOD WASTE IS A SOLVABLE PROBLEM

Residential food waste generation equaled **37 percent** of total annual food waste generation.



Residential Food Waste

Use Food Well Washington Plan 2022, Dept of Ecology

Average Household* Wastes

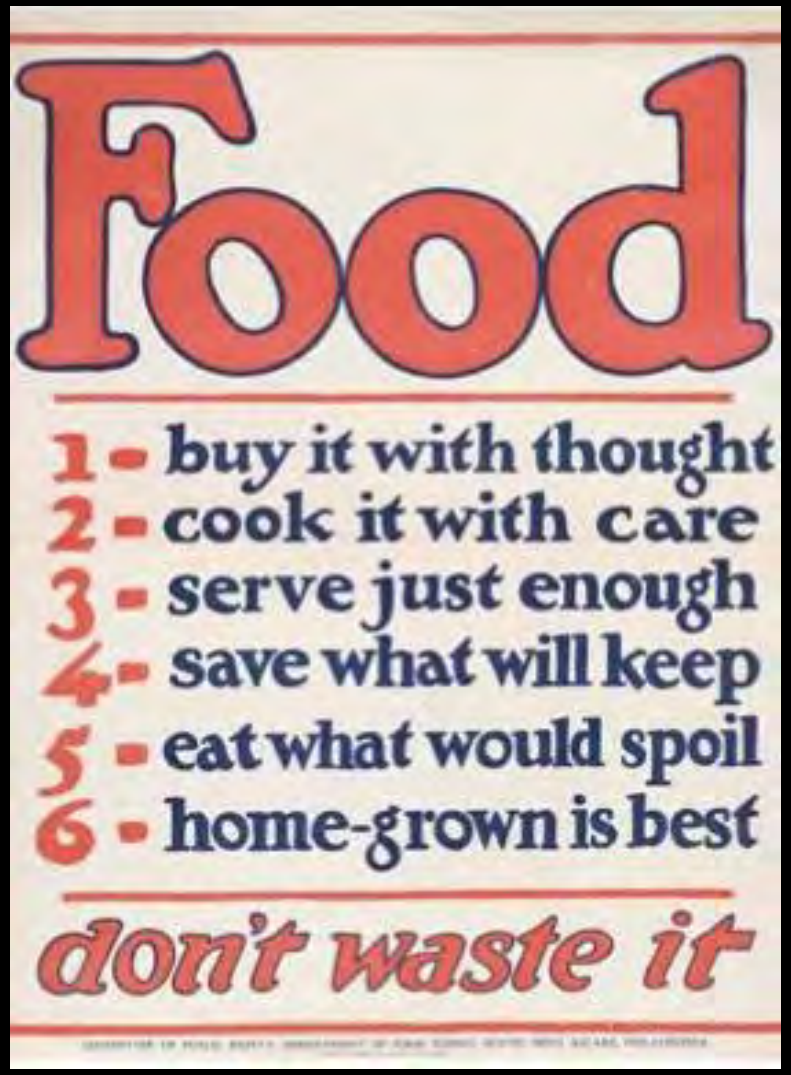
WHY WASTE MATTERS

Environmentally
Economically
Socially

TooGoodToToss

WHY WASTE HAPPENS

Timeless Strategies to Reduce Wasted Food

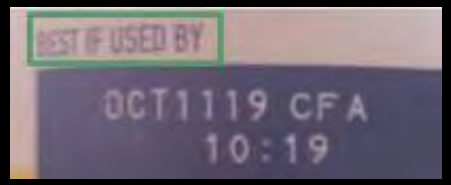


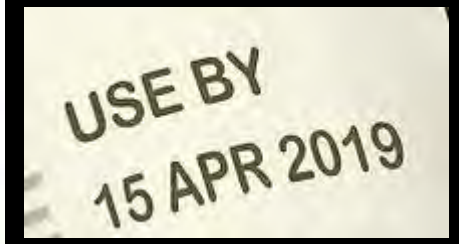
- Shopping and Planning
- Eat Me First!
- Creative Cooking
- Proper Food Storage

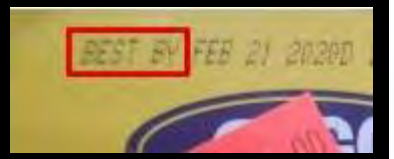
SMART SHOPPING & PLANNING: Buy What You Need

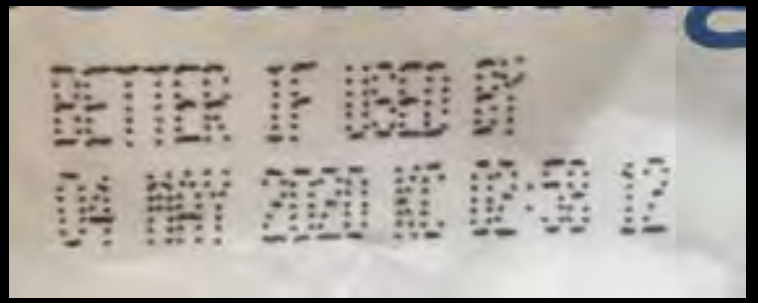
SMART SAVING: Eat What You Buy

SMART SAVING: Understand Expiration Dates









Understanding Spoilage

Be a hero…rescue food!

Food	Spoilage Issue	Safe to Use?	Why or Why Not?	Safe Preparation	Ideas for Use?
Block of cheese	White and green mold spots	Yes!	White or green mold is mostly harmless. Toss if there's black or pink mold!	Cut away mold at least ½ inch in all directions.	Use as you normally would.
Strawberries	Fuzzy green spots	Yes!	Toss if more than 50% rotten. Rinse fruit.	Cook them!	Jam, pie, sauces
Ground meat	Slightly brown in color	Yes!	If no odor, it's OK. Color change is from oxidation.	Cook thoroughly. Older meat not best for hamburgers.	Chili, shepherd's pie, tacos

Using Up Leftovers

CREATIVE COOKING: No-Recipe, Batch, and Scrap-Based Cooking

- Revive older foods
- Make new combinations
- Try substitutions

- Cook leaf-to-root & nose-to-tail
- Look it up
- Cutting and trimming skills

SMART STORAGE:
Where and how
to store your
food

INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE FRIDGE?

Storing fruits & vegetables for maximum freshness

SMART STORAGE: Where and how to store your food

SMART STORAGE:
Use Your Freezer

SMART STORAGE: Food Preservation

- Pickle
- Dehydrate
- Ferment
- Can
- Salt
- Smoke

Digital Resources

Clark County Green Neighbors “Food Too Good to Waste” tips

https://clarkgreenneighbors.org/food

Fridge and pantry organization phone apps

https://learn.compactappliance.com/apps-for-your-fridge/

Guest-imator food calculator and meal planning, shopping and storage tips

https://savethefood.com/

Seattle Public Utilities Storage Guide

http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/protecting-our-environment/sustainability-tips/waste-prevention/at-home/stop-food-waste

WSU Extension Master Food Preserver Program resources

https://extension.wsu.edu/clark/healthwellness/foodpreservation/masterfoodpreserverprogram/

USDA FoodKeeper app and guide on safe storage

https://www.foodsafety.gov/keep-food-safe/foodkeeper-app

Foodprint.org expiration dates and “safe spoilage”

https://foodprint.org/blog/should-you-follow-expiration-dates-and-sell-by-dates/

UK Love Food Hate Waste leftovers recipes, portion planner and phone app

https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/

Oregon DEQ

www.dontletgoodfoodgobad.org

Vancouver Free Fridge Project

www.facebook.com/VancouverFreeFridge/

What can I do with my food scraps?

- Worm bins
- Backyard composting
- Lasagna Garden
- ShareWaste/MakeSoil
- **Organics service in Vancouver and Ridgefield**

Organics: Curbside Composting

What is organics?

Yard debris

+

Food scraps

What are my cart options?

The four cart sizes:

20 gallon

$4.80/month

32 gallon

$5.88/month

64 gallon

$6.97/month

96 gallon

$8.05/month

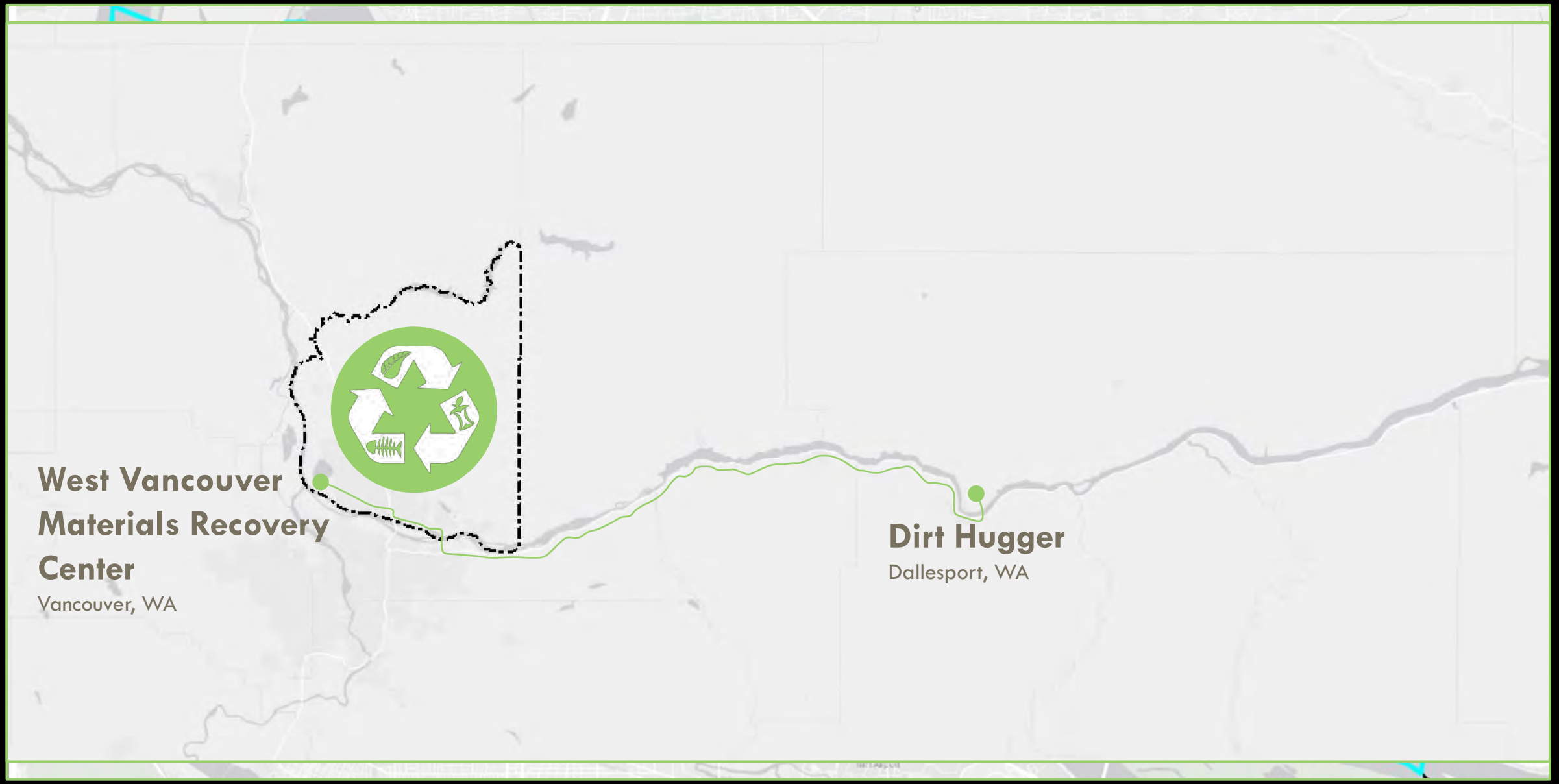
What happens to my organics?

Collection Curbside

Reprocessing Dirt Hugger

End Products Compost

Where does it go?



What is Dirt Hugger?

- Local startup that began in 2010 with a Kickstarter campaign.
- Processes 60,000 tons of material annually.
- Produces certified organic compost

What happens at Dirt Hugger?

Sorting

Mixing

Composting

Curing

Screening

Distribution

True or false?

You can put all the same things in your organics cart as you can in a home compost pile or bin.

FALSE

Yard debris

Yes

Leaves

Flowers

Yard Trimmings

Sticks

Houseplants

Grass Clippings

Food waste

Yes

Fruit Scraps

Fruit Peels

Vegetable Scraps

Baked Goods

Eggs and Shells

Tea Bags or Loose Tea

Coffee Grounds

Grains

Food waste

And....

Raw Meat

Cheese

Cooked Meat

Leftovers

Bones

Not yard debris

NO

Plastic Bags

Rocks

Soil

Treated Wood

Garbage or recycling

NO

Produce and Bread Bags

Oils and Liquids

Twist Ties, Bands, and Clips

Compostable Plastics

Plastic

Paper

Produce Stickers

Cardboard

Pet Waste

What about compostable bags?

"Compostable" bags, plastic or paper, are acceptable in your organics cart.

Note that:

- Bags will be cut open and thrown away at Dirt Hugger
- Bags can be expensive
- Kitchen pail does not need a bag

Why can't we compost paper/compostables?

Our partner Dirt Hugger wants to produce high quality, nutrient rich compost.

Paper and 'compostable' plastic:

- Paper often contaminated with plastics
- Difficult to distinguish from regular plastics
- Can prevent Dirt Hugger from producing certified organic compost

Who Subscribes?

- 29,256 Vancouver and 2,260 Ridgefield residents have Organics service.
- Average household sets out 93 pounds of material each month. Range is 54 lbs (January) to 160 lbs (May)
- 30% of all material going to Dirt Hugger is food.

wcnorthwest.com/organics

www.cityofvancouver.us/organics

Thank You!

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