

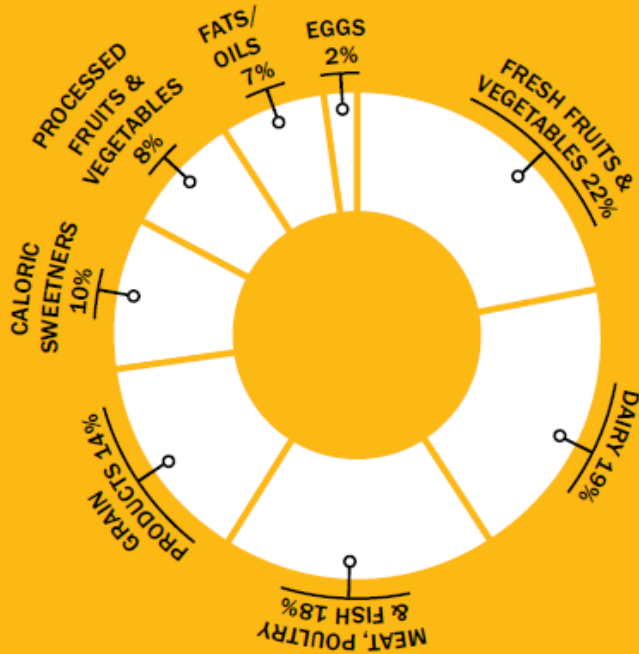


ONE INDUSTRY CONSULTANT ESTIMATES THAT UP TO ONE IN SEVEN TRUCKLOADS OF PERISHABLES DELIVERED TO SUPERMARKETS IS THROWN AWAY.

Source: Beswick, P. et al, "A Retailer's Recipe for Fresher Food and Far Less Shrink," Oliver Wyman, Boston. ergoeditorial.biz/worksamples/OW%20grocery%20shrinkage.pdf.

TOTAL FOOD LOSS FROM RETAIL, FOOD SERVICE AND HOUSEHOLDS

(BREAKDOWN AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FOOD LOSS)



Source: *Journal of Consumer Affairs*, Fall 2011: 492-515.

THE FOOD WASTE CHALLENGE

Claremont does quite well in diverting solid waste from landfills, with about 65% now being recycled or composted (as from our blue and green waste containers), but we should do more. The goal in Claremont's Sustainable City Plan is 70% diversion by 2015. Of the waste that does go to landfills about 30% is food waste, and there would be several benefits if we used it more wisely. Environmental problems related to landfills would be reduced. Food waste is a valuable resource that could be used in preparation of compost or for producing methane fuel in an anaerobic digester. The City could save money as it currently costs about \$32 per ton for disposal in landfills.

Unfortunately the City does not have the staff to develop plans for long-range solid waste use and disposal policy. But that creates a huge opportunity for someone to volunteer – to take the lead and help make it happen.

It won't be simple. If food waste is to be composted locally, where is the space to do it? Who would use the compost? Restaurants are a major source of food waste so they would have to agree on how to collect and save it for pickup. How is that best done? Will restaurants agree? Anaerobic digesters are big expensive facilities, so a regional facility is implied. Would that be practical? Food dehydrators can reduce the weight by 90% (CMC uses them to handle their dining hall waste) but they are expensive and the resulting dry waste is best used in compost. Should they be used more widely? There is much to consider.

Please don't hesitate to contact Sustainable Claremont if you would like more information -- perhaps even take on that lead role!

Freeman Allen