

Food Waste Solutions for Schools

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**30 - 40% of the
nation's food supply
is wasted**



School Food Waste

Estimated food waste in major metropolitan school districts:

Boston: 40% of all lunches

Los Angeles: \$100,000 a day

(LA Times, 2014.)

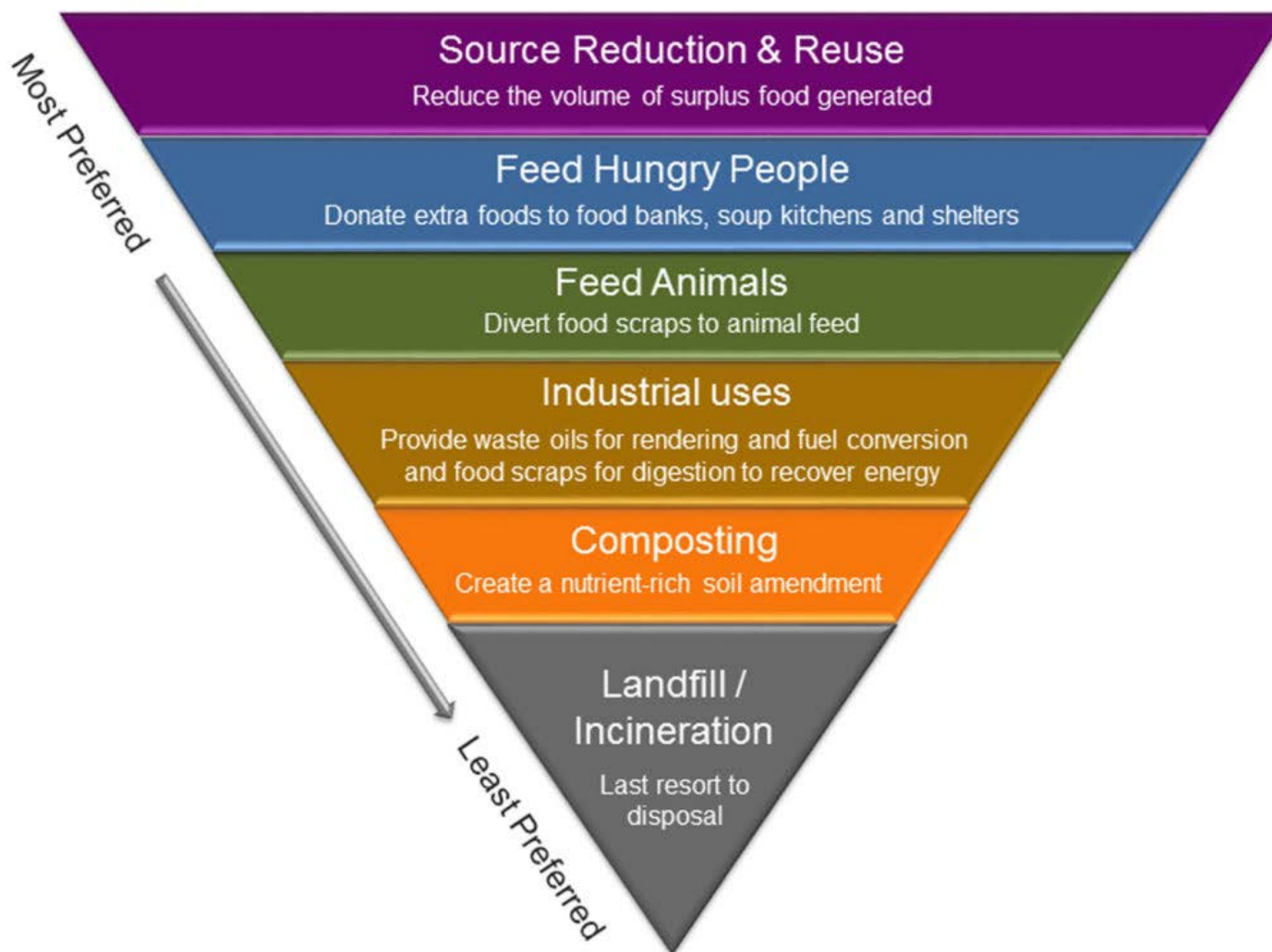
**21.9% of youth
in Ohio have
experienced
limited access
to enough food**

(Feeding America, 2017)





Food Recovery Hierarchy



Source Reduction

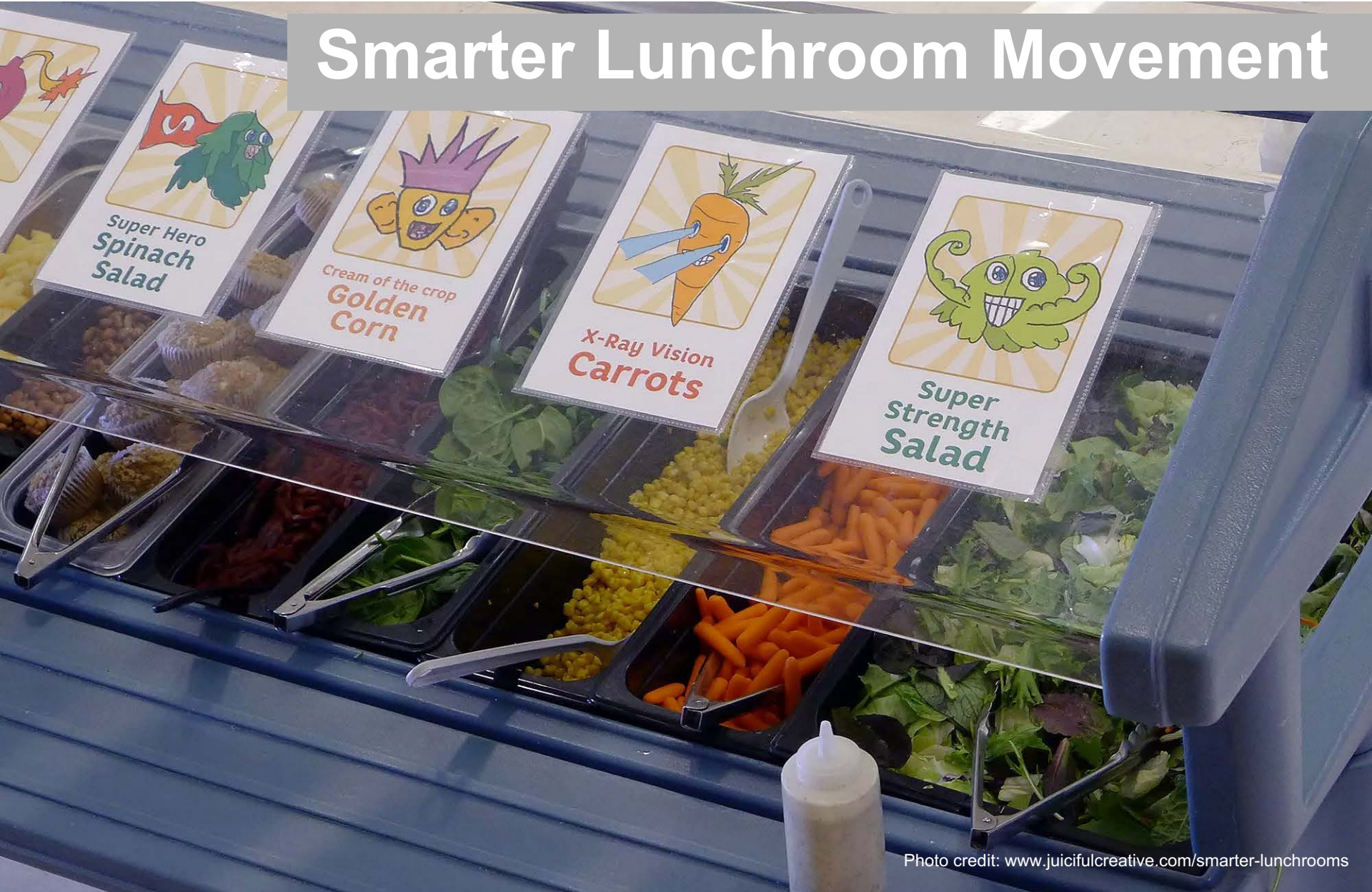
- Use production records and USDA Food Buying Guide
- Order fresh product deliveries at shorter intervals
- Maintain a First In, First Out (FIFO) or Just In Time (JIT) inventory system



Consider student appetites and taste preferences



Smarter Lunchroom Movement





When Smarter Lunchroom strategies were implemented, fruit consumption increased by 18% and vegetable consumption increased by 25% (Hanks, Just, and Wansink, 2013).



Farm to School



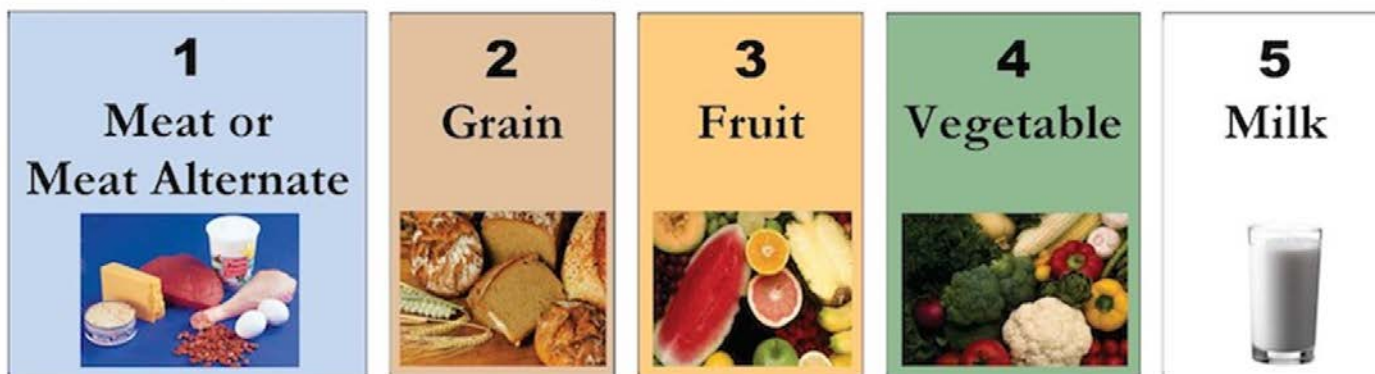
Farm to School benefits

Farm to School activities can have significant impact on improved nutrition behaviors within the school lunchroom, leading to decreased plate waste (Yoder, et al., 2014).



Offer versus Serve

The **5 Meal Components** for School Lunch



You choose **at least 3** including

- 1/2 cup of fruit or vegetable
- at least two other full components

For best nutrition, **choose all 5!**

Meal and Recess Timing





Share Tables

FOOD TABLE

Milk and other cold items go in cooler!



Food Donation



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Animal Feed

Composting



What can schools do in Ohio?

- Contact federal and state resources for guidance on food waste reduction – USDA, EPA, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education
- Know your local resources for food recovery and donation- food pantries, food banks, shelters, etc.
- Contact your local OSU Extension office or County Soil & Water District office about locations that will accept food waste for composting



Extension Involvement

- Leverage relationships with schools, social service agencies, local farmers and producers
- EFNEP, SNAP-Ed promotion of Smarter Lunchrooms and Farm to School
- FCS, 4-H, ANR, CD- create awareness, develop programs, forge partnerships in your community



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Thank you!



To learn more, visit:

OSU Food Waste Collaborative: u.osu.edu/foodwaste

EPA Sustainable Management of Food:
www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food

US Food Waste Challenge:
www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste/Challenge/index.htm