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Virtual Roundtable – Strategies to reduce avoidable food waste in Canada

Environment and Climate Change Canada

May 2018

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Matthew Hamilton, ECCC
- Taking Stock of Canadian Action on Food Loss and Waste
 - Sue Fraser, ECCC
- A Food Loss and Waste Strategy for Canada
 - Denise Philippe, National Zero Waste Council
- Collaborative Approaches to Reducing Food Loss and Waste
 - David Rogers, WRAP
- Discussion



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Taking Stock of Canadian Action on Food Loss and Waste

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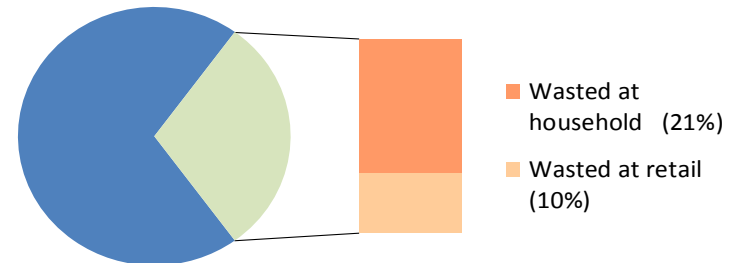
Food Loss and Waste in Canada - Overview

- Although data is sparse, it is estimated that approximately 13 Mt of food is lost or wasted in Canada each year (NAFTA CEC estimate)
- Food losses and waste (FLW) occur at all stages of the food supply chain

- Main causes of FLW:

- Supply and demand imbalance
- Storage, transportation and waste management infrastructure
- Processing equipment and operation
- Consumer preferences, attitudes and decision making

Food Wasted (6 million tonnes - 31% of total)



Food Consumed (13.4 million tonnes - 69% of total)

Source: Agriculture Canada, 2015

- Food waste contributes significantly to the generation of methane at Canada's landfills, which contribute almost 2% (13 Mt CO_{2e}) of national GHG emissions

Actions to reduce Canada's Food Loss & Waste

Policies, Targets and Strategies

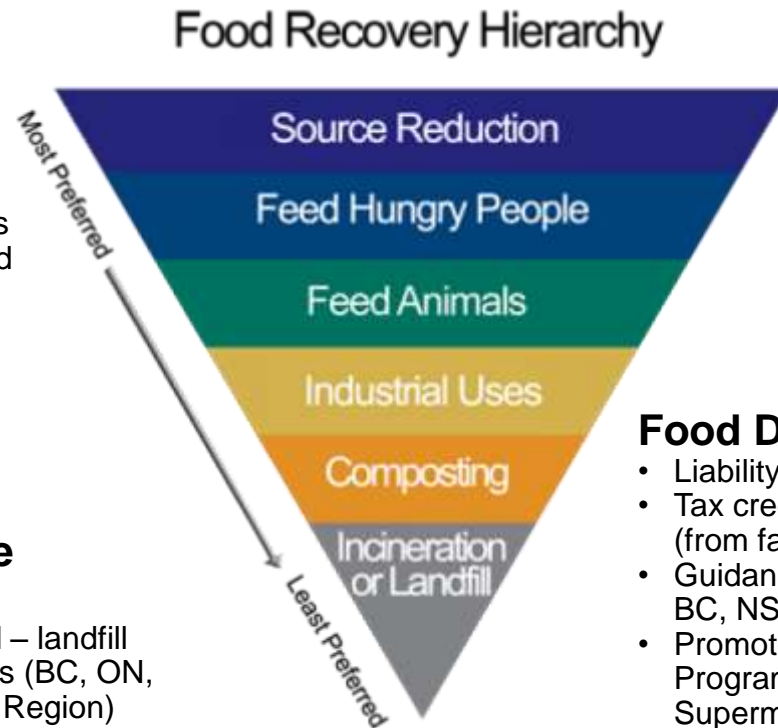
- **National** - Food Waste Reduction Strategy (National Zero Waste Council)
- **Provincial** - Food waste reduction or diversion targets (BC, ON) and strategies (ON)
- **Municipal** - Metro Vancouver, Toronto, York Region

Consumer Awareness and Education

- Love Food Hate Waste campaign (NZWC), provinces, municipalities, recycling councils
- Food Labelling – Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Food and Organic Waste Management

- Organics Diversion from Landfill – landfill bans (NS, PEI), diversion targets (BC, ON, Metro Vancouver, Calgary, York Region)
- Source separated organics requirements – bylaws, programs, services



Reducing Losses in the Food Supply Chain

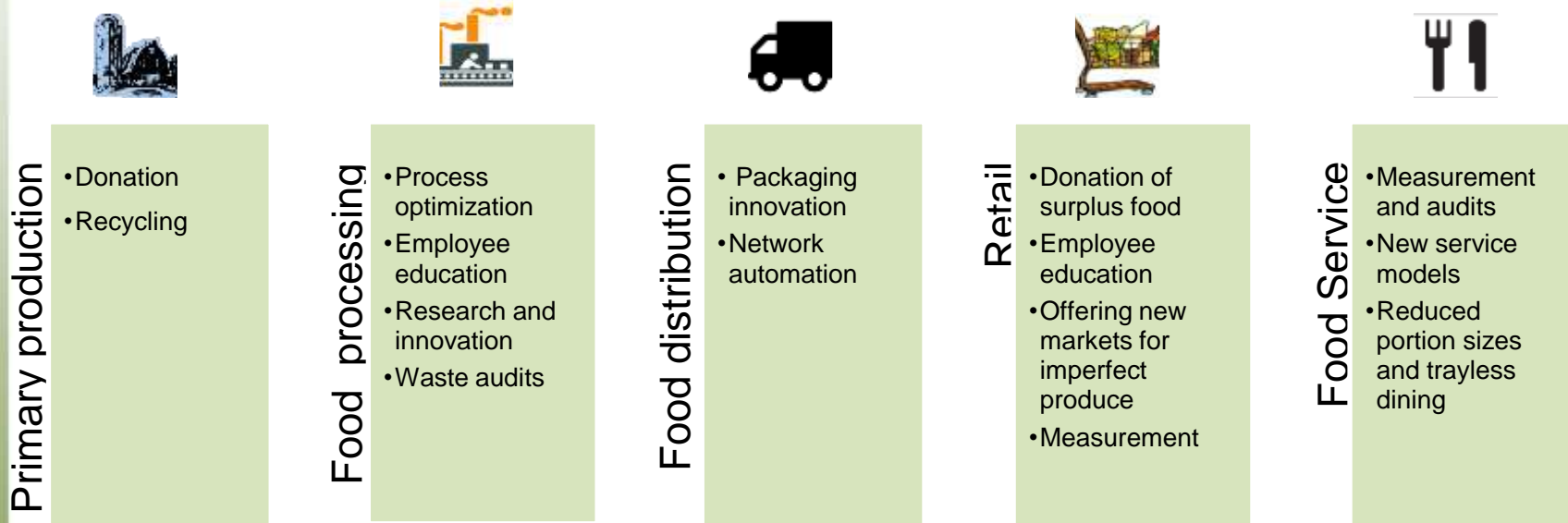
- Guidance for audits and reduction strategies - Provision Coalition, BC

Food Donation

- Liability protection laws (all P/T)
- Tax credits for donated surplus food (from farms) - BC, ON, QC, NS
- Guidance to assist food donation – BC, NS
- Promotion and logistics - Programme de Récupération en Supermarchés (Quebec), Second Harvest

Taking Stock of Existing Actions within the Food Supply Chain

Existing actions



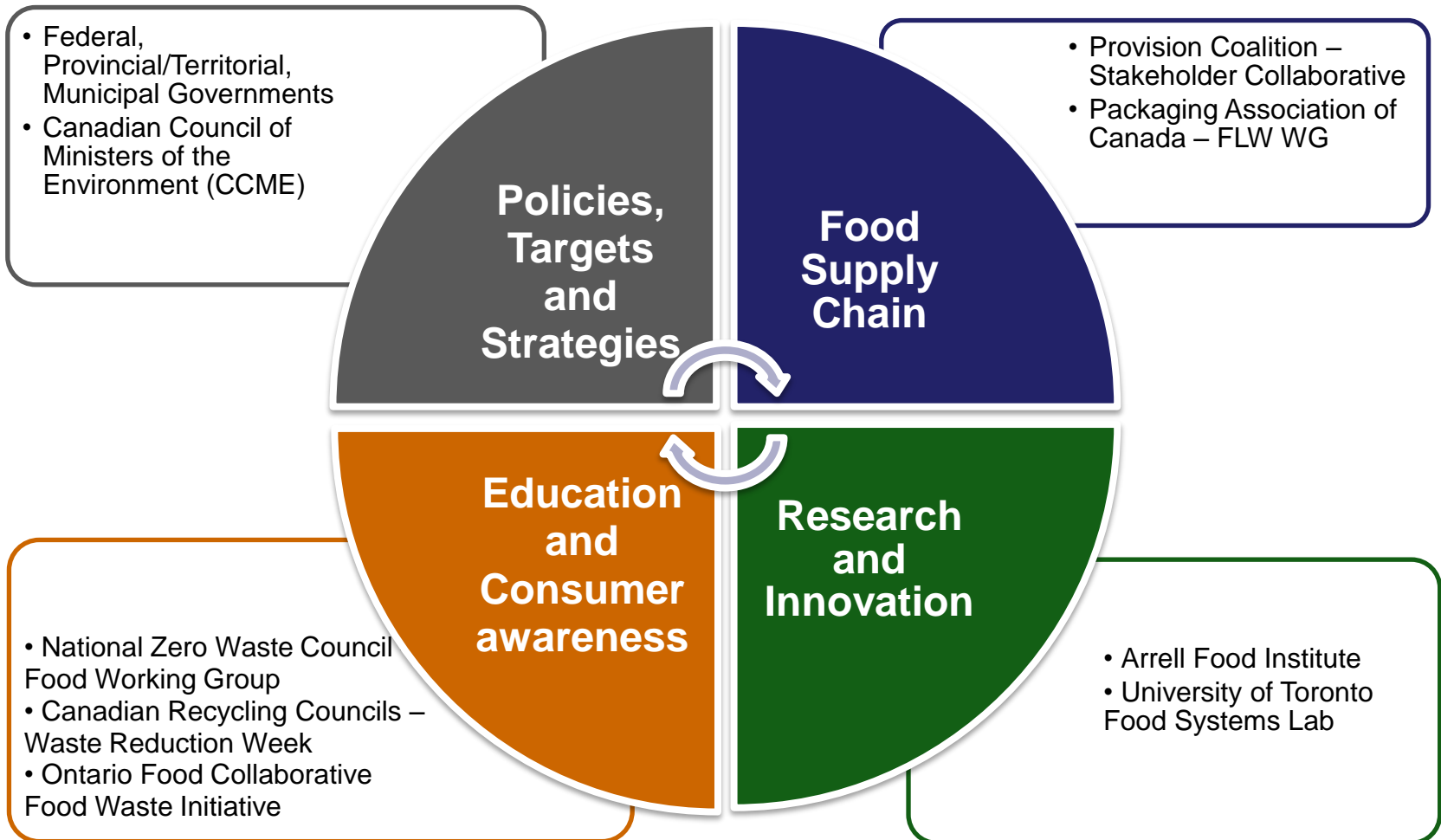
Collaboration

- Identifying solutions:**
- e.g. Provision Coalition Stakeholders Collaborative, Packaging Association of Canada (PAC) FLW working group

- Education and Awareness:**
- Tools and guidance materials (BC, ON, QC, Montreal and Metro Vancouver)

- Research:**
- e.g. Second Harvest/ Value Chain Management, Recycling Council of Ontario studies

Existing Networks on Food Loss and Waste



Opportunities for Canadian action

- Coordinated and collaborative approach to reducing food loss and waste
 - Between governments and across food supply chain
 - Strategy with specific objectives/targets
- Measurement and reporting
 - Lack of framework to consolidate data to measure progress and identify priorities for action; No standardized methodologies
- Knowledge of issue and widespread commitment to action
 - Government – Action by several jurisdictions
 - Industry – Leadership by several large national and multinational companies
 - Consumers – Early education campaigns
- Infrastructure, technology and research
 - Organics diversion/processing, surplus food recovery, innovations in processing and packaging

Ongoing work at ECCC

- Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) North American Initiative on Food Waste Reduction and Recovery:
<http://www3.cec.org/fw/>. Current phase of CEC work is focused on:
 - Measurement
 - Guidance for facility level measurement of food loss and approaches to quantify system wide loss and waste
 - Youth Engagement/Awareness
 - Creating tools and resources to enable youth focused organizations to promote the reduction of food waste
- Measurement Framework for FLW – In collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Statistics Canada, developing a proposed approach for quantifying Canada's food loss and waste.
 - Medium term objective to identify a baseline and be able to measure progress over time.

Questions for discussion

- Have we missed anything significant in terms of existing actions being undertaken in Canada?
- Do you agree with the opportunities that have been identified?
- What are your views on the elements presented by WRAP in terms of their potential to contribute to achieving FLW reduction in Canada?
- Are voluntary agreements something that you think could be helpful in the Canadian context?
- Are you aware of other approaches to address FLW that could be relevant in Canada?