

I Sort; Therefore, I Am

Connecticut Materials Management Summit

March 22, 2012





Who We Are

- World's largest retailer of natural and organic foods. 317 locations in North America and U.K.
- Mission-driven. Our motto is "Whole Foods, Whole People, Whole Planet."
- Leaders in the movement to sustainability, in all aspects of our business.



Why We Are (Our Mission)



- We believe companies, like individuals, must assume their share of responsibility as tenants of Earth.
- We are a grocery store. Within that context, we act on our vision of the future by working within the constraints of what a grocery store can do.
- We believe it is our duty to work towards a goal of “zero waste”.

3 Organizing Principles:

Everything we will ever have, is here already. We're not getting anything more. Make use of current solar income.



There is no such thing as “away”...

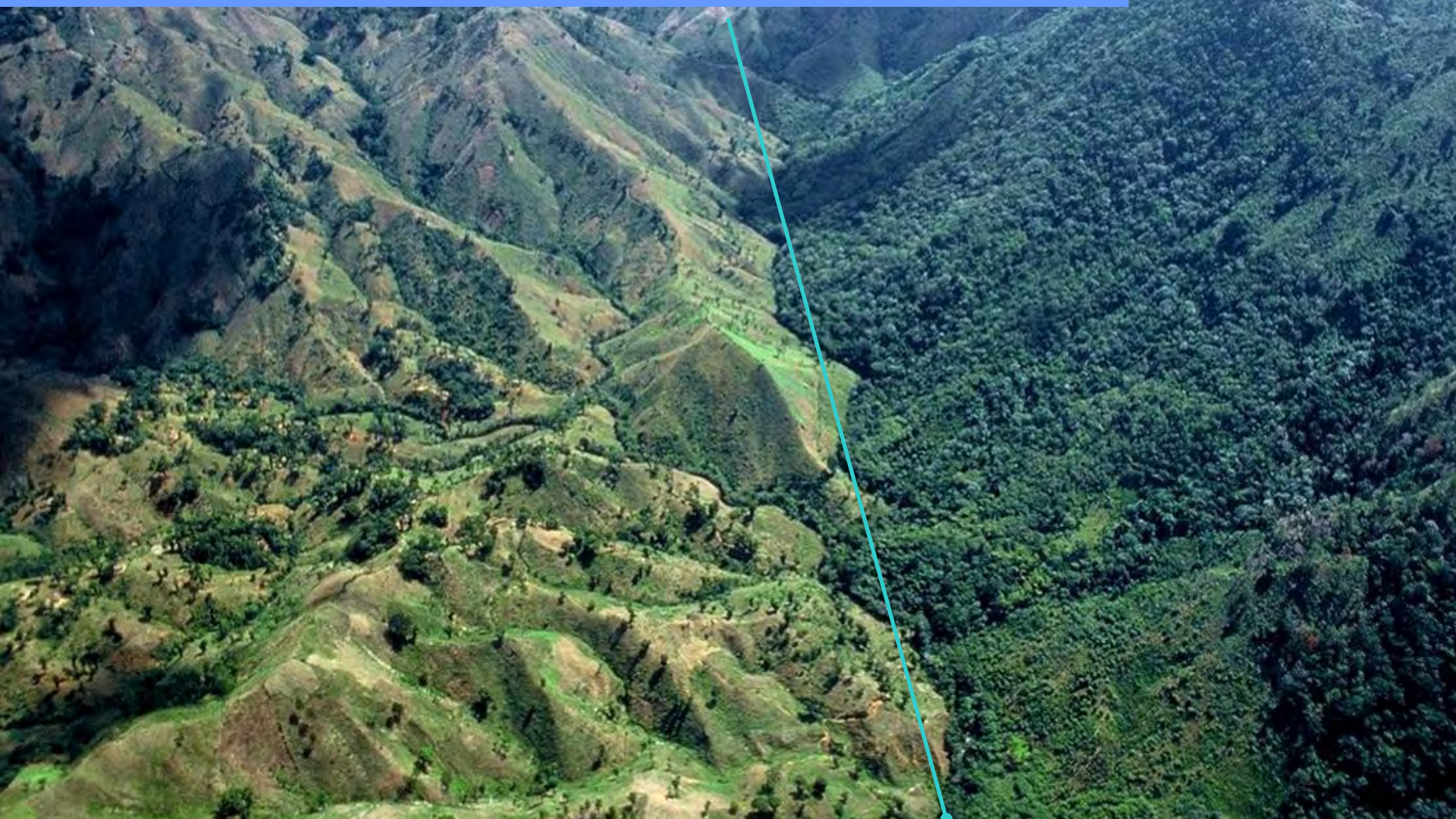


Everything that is “waste” is food for something else.





This is the border between Haiti (left) and the Dominican Republic (right)!
One country has policies that protect the environment
and the other does not!
WFM has policies that mandate diverting everything that
we possibly can from the “waste” stream.



Core Value #5: We Care About Our Community and Our Environment



Our stores generate, on average, about 15 tons of “stuff” a week that goes out the back door.

Based on “waste” audits done across the company, 65% by volume is compostable, 25% is recyclable or reusable. We are left with 10% that is still challenging to divert.



Waste Sort: The EcoCzar ponders his four years of college and two years of graduate school...



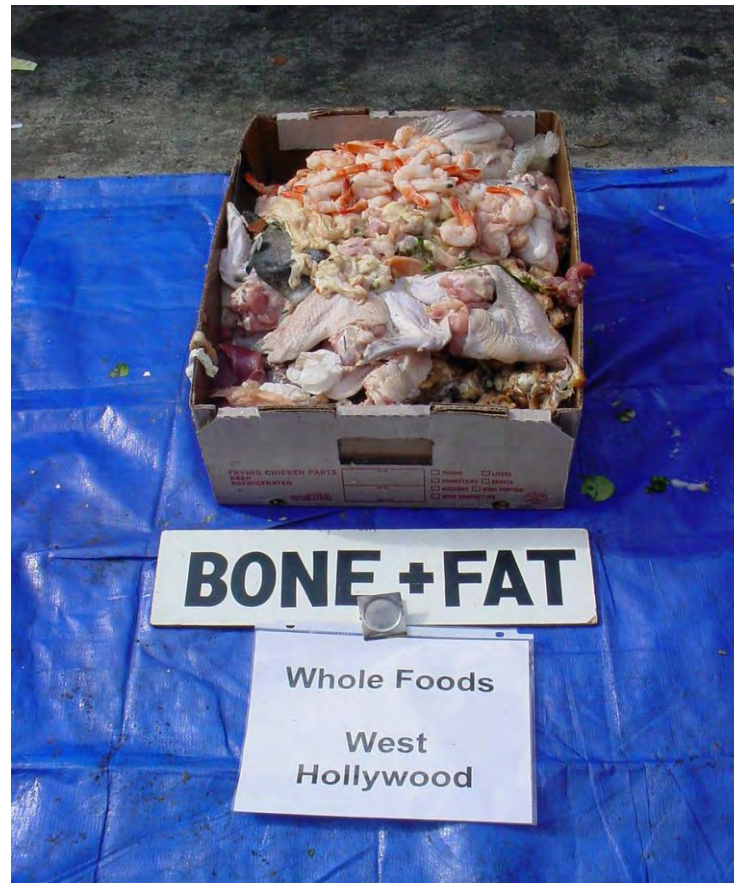
There's always a percentage that
can and should be “food banked”...



There's always a percentage of “silly stuff” that sneaks through...





















Lest anyone get the wrong idea...here's our hierarchy for food:

Buy smart.

Feed people (sell food).

Feed people (transfer culls and sell food).

Feed people (food banks and other donations).

Feed animals.

Compost.

Landfill/incinerate.

So, like Michelangelo, we view the whole and begin to divert everything that we possibly can...

All food "waste", waxed cardboard, soiled paper,



Dry cardboard, paper and stretch plastics (which become "cash for trash" on the market...)





Commingled Materials...





Everything we can possibly use in reusable form for packing and shipping...



Wooden pallets...

Bakery and Produce trays



- Milk crates...



- ...and Seafood lugs





We run quarterly
collections of unused
fixtures, equipment
and electronics.



We recycle light bulbs...





And we collect a bunch more “stuff” from our customers and team members...



We do everything possible to get our team members “fired up”...





Finally, we count and weigh everything that goes out the back door



- Landfill/Incinerator
- Compost
- Recycling/Reuse
- Pallets and other reusable packaging
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Donations and food bank

Calculating our diversion rate!

- Add all of the tons together
- Add all of the “stuff” that is diverted from the landfill/incinerator and then divide.
- Cedar Center/Monthly Averages for 2009
- Landfill 8-Recycling-7-Compost-33
- Corrugated-25-Pallets-18-
- Donations-2
- Monthly Total=93 tons
- Total Diverted =85 tons
- 85 Divided by 93 = 91% Diverted

Costs and savings

Average 40,000 s.f supermarket
employing 150 full and part time staff:

- ▶ Generates 400 – 600 tons of “waste” annually
- ▶ 75% of waste stream (by weight) is organic
- ▶ Trash disposal rate = \$90/ton
- ▶ Recycling organics rate = \$60/ton
- ▶ **Annual savings of \$11,250/year**



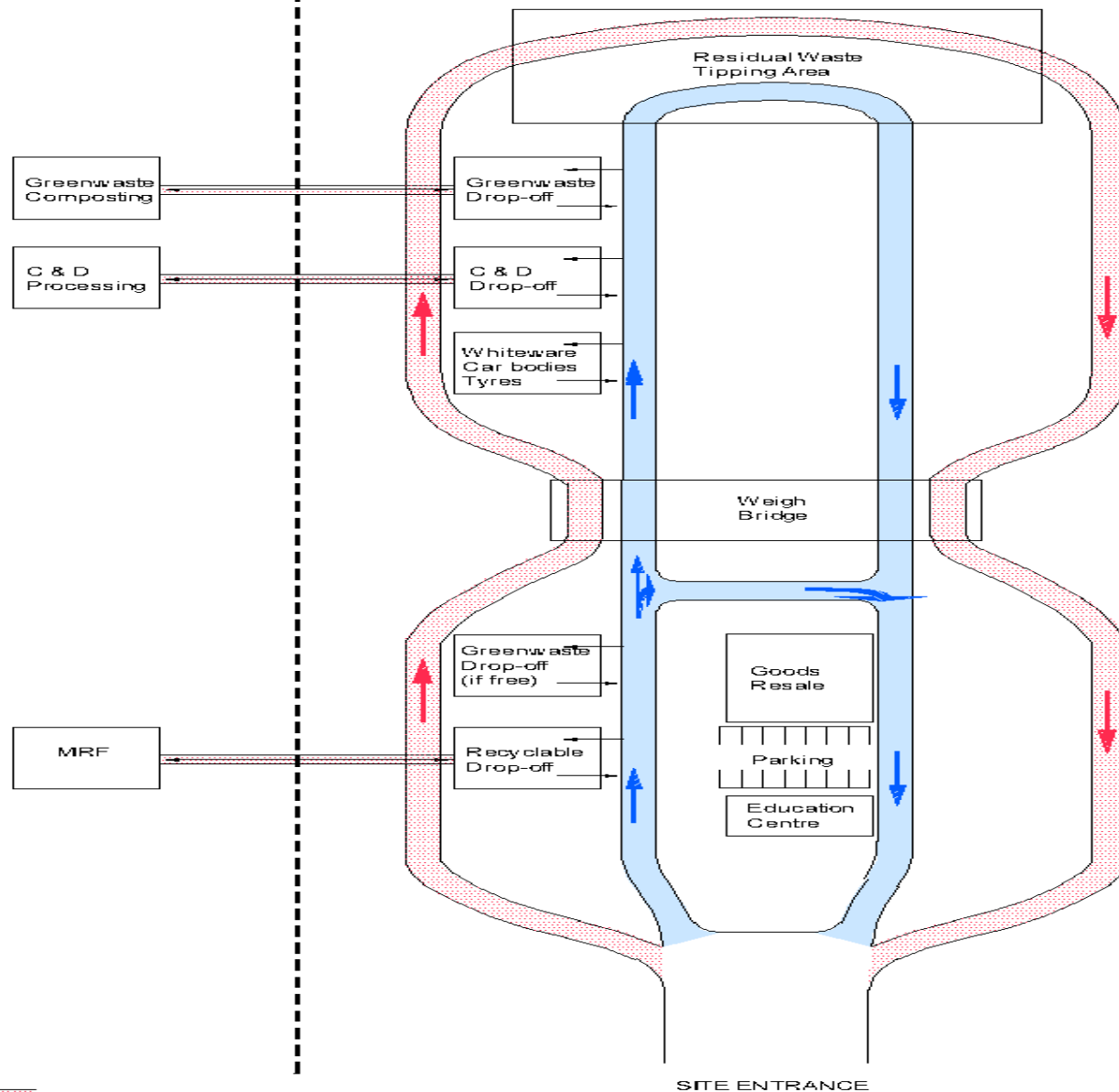
Thank you!



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OFF-SITE OR
ON-SITE FACILITIES

ON-SITE FACILITIES



LEGEND

- Service/Transfer vehicles
- Public/Customer vehicles

FIGURE 3.1 SCHEMATIC SITE LAYOUT