



# CET

Resilient climate solutions



## JONNYCAKE CENTER FOR HOPE - PEACE DALE:

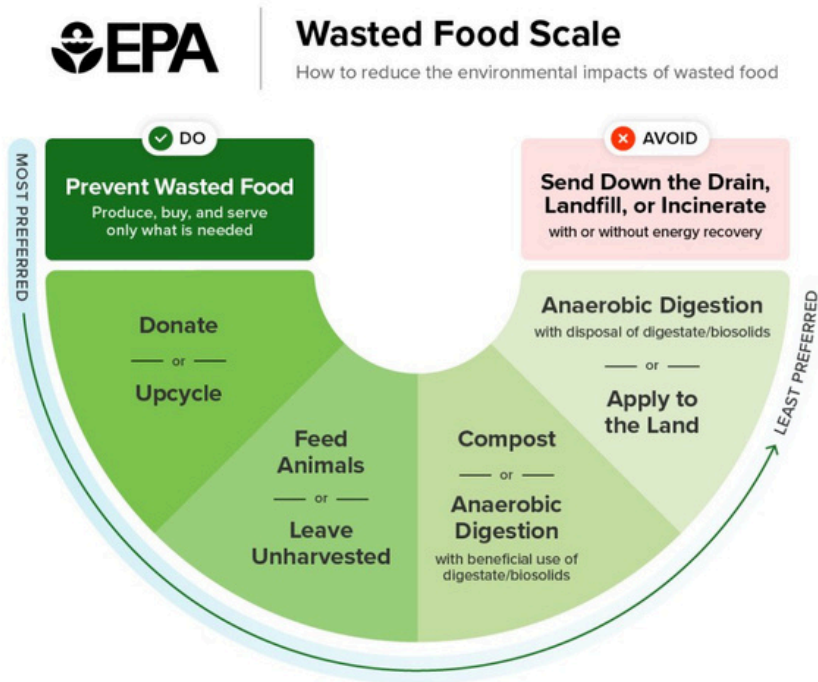
### A FOOD RESCUE ORGANIZATION'S APPROACH TO REDUCING WASTED FOOD

[Jonnycake Center for Hope](#) in Peace Dale, Rhode Island, shines as a powerful example of how community-based organizations can reduce wasted food while providing essential food pantry services. In addition to offering economic assistance, health education, and after-school enrichment programs for children, Jonnycake is deeply committed to nutrition security. In 2024 alone, **almost 1,950 individuals made 19,770 visits** to the food pantry, which provides a mix of pantry staples from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and community donations, rescued goods/products from local bakeries, quality produce, meat, eggs, and dairy products, and fresh produce from local farms during the summer months. Jonnycake Market offered **30 cooking and nutrition classes and food demos** for participants to learn how to make the most of the healthy food they receive.



# SOLUTIONS ACROSS THE EPA WASTED FOOD SCALE

Through the support of community partners and CET, operations at Jonnycake integrate a combination of solutions across the EPA Wasted Food Scale. Jonnycake and Food Recovery for RI's Kristi Maresco were exploring ways to divert food scraps to animal feed and contacted CET for technical support.



After conducting a site-wide waste assessment, CET provided tailored recommendations and resources on how to improve recycling, best management practices for source separation, and prevention strategies to reduce the amount of damaged or expired donations they received. For example, the report included a donation giving guide and template letter to send to prospective or current donors.

The solutions aligned with the preferred actions on the EPA Wasted Food Scale.

## Prevention

How can a community center like Jonnycake prevent wasted food?

Jonnycake, following recommendations from CET, implemented efforts to reduce the amount of unusable or expired food donations it receives. Current and future donors receive [A Donation Giving Guide](#) that outlines what food items are most desirable and acceptable, and a donor letter to encourage contributions that can be used by their program.

These tools help reduce the amount of expired or damaged goods that are donated, improving efficiency and reducing waste before it even enters the pantry.

## Food Rescue & Donation

The most preferred solution on the EPA Wasted Food Scale is to prevent waste from happening in the first place, but surplus food, when it happens, should be used for its intended purpose, to nourish people.

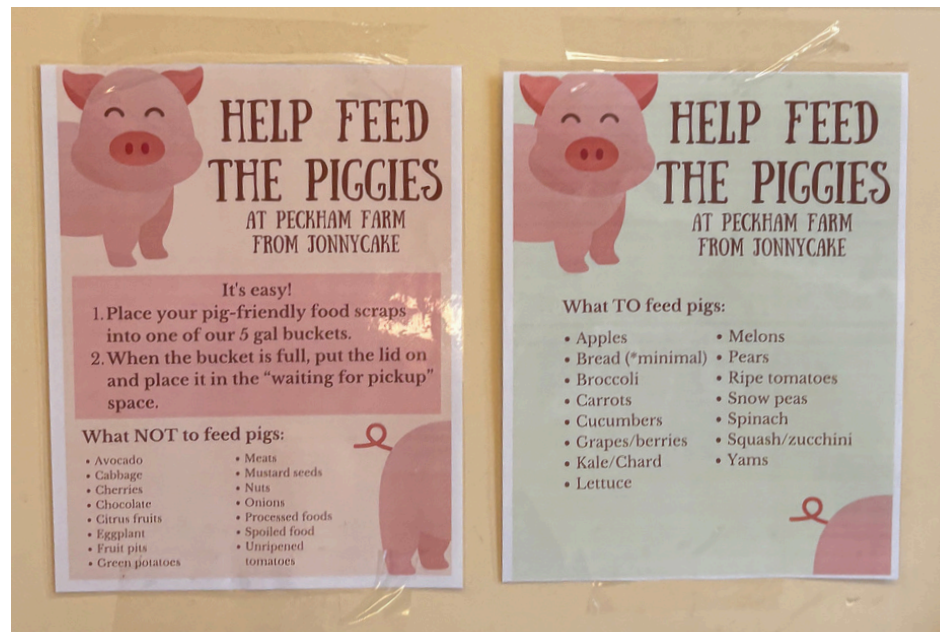
Jonnycake Market distributes excess and recovered food to local families in need. They work with local farms, grocery stores, and businesses to rescue healthy food that would otherwise go to waste.

By redirecting this food to families, Jonnycake ensures that safe, nutritious food nourishes people.



## Animal Feed

After feeding the community, Jonnycake made the impactful decision to feed local animals. In 2025, with support from Food Recovery for RI alum Kristi Maresco, Jonnycake launched the new animal feed program to keep food scraps out of the trash and put them to better use. URI's Peckham Farm can accept the fruit and vegetable scraps from the Jonnycake market. Working in partnership with URI's Peckham Farm, Jonnycake now diverts **1.95 tons of food scraps annually to animal feed**. CET assisted by supporting employee training efforts to reduce the amount of contamination and confusion on what goes into the animal feed bin. When staff and volunteers properly separate these scraps that still hold nutritional value, Jonnycake can maintain a successful, long-lasting animal feed program.





## Anaerobic Digestion

Moving across the EPA Wasted Food Scale, Jonnycake is now also using the process of depackaging and anaerobic digestion to divert wasted food in packaging from disposal. CET connected Jonnycake with Remix Organics to collect food that is past date, damaged, or unfit for human or animal consumption, diverting nearly **two additional tons of food scraps** from the landfill annually. CET also assisted by reviewing and creating customized waste bin signage to make it clear which items are intended for anaerobic digestion vs trash and recycling.

These packaged food items are converted into renewable energy and nutrient-rich soil amendments at the anaerobic digestion facility — instead of breaking down in the landfill and producing methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

By embracing the full spectrum of food recovery from prevention to animal feed to anaerobic digestion, Jonnycake Center for Hope has built a powerful model of food system resilience. They're not only meeting the short-term needs of families in southern Rhode Island but also long-term community and environmental health.

## Food Scraps for AD



**Damaged or Expired Food  
CAN INCLUDE PACKAGING**



Items will go through a depackaging process and be turned into energy by anaerobic digestion



If your business or institution is looking for free wasted food assistance and solutions, CET is here to help! Contact us at (886) 306-0911, [wastedfood@cetonline.org](mailto:wastedfood@cetonline.org), or [cetonline.org](http://cetonline.org).

