R.6 Establish a plan for reducing food waste

The senior housing waste stream often includes significant amounts of food waste that contribute to resource inefficiency. At the same time, operators of senior housing communities must ensure that residents receive healthy and nutritious meals without cutting corners. Careful planning is necessary to achieve a balance between resource efficiency and resident health and wellness. Food costs are typically one of the top expenses in senior housing, so optimizing food purchasing and production can also have significant financial benefits.

Use the template on the next page to create a plan for preventing and reducing food waste at the community. You may also create this plan in your own format or demonstrate that the community uses menu planning or purchasing software to provide nutritious meals and minimize food waste.

Submit the community's plan with your application.

The U.S. EPA has a number of resources and tools on preventing and diverting food waste, including:

- *Reducing Wasted Food & Packaging: A Guide for Food Services and Restaurants*
- *Spreadsheet Food Waste Audit Tool (this tool can help you establish food waste metrics)*
- *Food Waste Log (for staff to record instances of food waste as they occur)*
- *ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager® (includes ability to track wet waste)*

Alternative Documentation

Instead of this form, you may submit one of the the following to IREM®:

- Copy of plan
- Report or screenshot from menu planning or purchasing software

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION PLAN	
PART I: COMMUNITY INFORMATION	
Basic information	
Community name	
Address	
Age	
Size	
Contact	
Food suppliers	
PART II: MEAL SERVICE INFORMATION	
Dining options available at community (e.g., central dining room, room service, bistro, snack bar)	
Total # of residents receiving regular meals	
Total # of meals served (per week, month, or year)	
Total food expense (per meal or consistent with metric used above)	
Name of meal planning software used	

PART III: ACTION PLAN		
Action Item	***Description***	***Timeline***
Example: Establish composting services at the community	*Inquire with current waste management company or other service provider to implement composting*	*Six months*
Example: Implement new menu planning software	*Evaluate, select, and implement new menu planning software in conjunction with nutritionist and procurement team*	*One year*