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NARA is Disappointed Rendering is Omitted in Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss & Waste

ALEXANDRIA, VA, February 9, 2024 – The North American Renderers Association (NARA) has [submitted comments](#) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the *Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics*. The draft strategy was jointly developed by the EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In its comments, NARA encouraged the three agencies to recognize the critical role the rendering industry plays in preventing food loss and waste and reducing our overall food production footprint.

NARA President & CEO Kent Swisher said, “Given renderers are the largest recycler of organic food loss and waste (FLW), we were surprised and disappointed that rendering was not mentioned in the plan. The North American Rendering industry has been upcycling FLW since the 1800’s.” Swisher continued, “We are the original recyclers and were a part of the circular economy even before the term was coined. The Final Strategy must acknowledge the integral contributions of rendering to reduce FLW by reducing what is sent to a landfill and promoting a circular economy. We urge the EPA and USDA to acknowledge rendering’s important role in FLW and how it can assist in reaching their reduction targets. We don’t see a path to meet the stated goal of reducing food loss and waste in the U.S. by 50% by 2030 without rendering, the largest FLW recycler.”

In its comments, NARA also encouraged the three agencies to take a technology neutral approach to avoid subsidizing newer technologies that collect raw materials traditionally used by the rendering industry. Measurement of progress towards the national FLW goal should be built on sound science that recognizes the concept of additionality.

NARA welcomes further cooperation and collaboration with the EPA, USDA, and FDA in expanding the organic recycling market through research at the [Fats and Proteins Research Foundation \(FPRF\)](#) and [The Animal Co-Products Research & Education Center \(ACREC\)](#).

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About the North American Renderers Association

The North American Renderers Association (NARA) represents the interests of the North American rendering industry to regulatory and other governmental agencies, promotes the greater use of animal byproducts, and fosters the opening and expansion of trade between foreign buyers and North American exporters. In addition to its U.S.-based headquarters, the association maintains offices in Mexico and Hong Kong, and has market consultants in strategic locations around the world. NARA publishes a bi-monthly trade magazine, *Render*. For more information, visit www.nara.org.