

Food Waste Audit

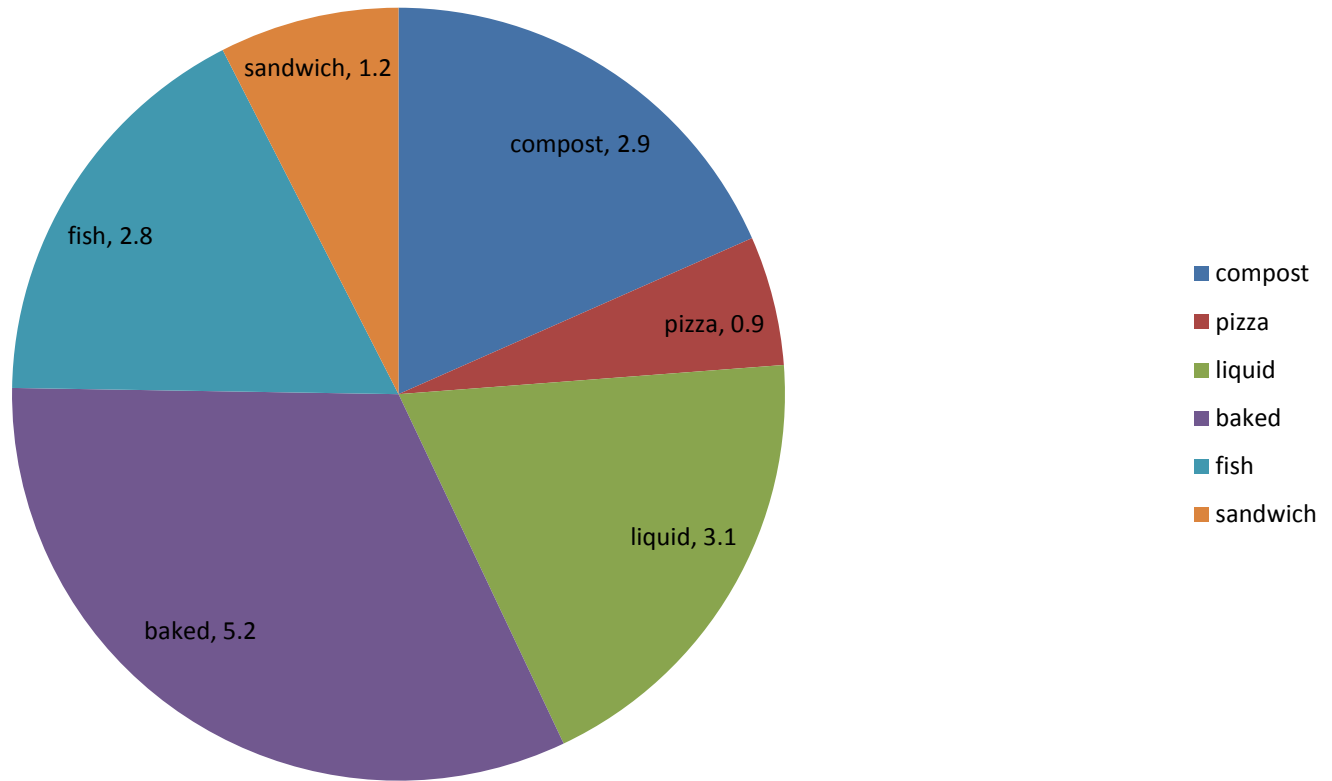
- Veteran's Hill Elementary did a food waste audit.
- This is where students divide all the food that students throw away into categories and measure them.
- The students also take a survey of their peers to find the reasons for the waste.



Results

- At Veteran's Hill we found some interesting results.
- Children are required to take a minimum of 4 oz of fruits and/or vegetables but were throwing away nearly 4 oz of fruits and/or vegetables.
- One elementary school in one day was creating 90 lbs of compostable waste. This exploded to roughly 2000 lbs a week of compostable waste created by just the 5 elementary schools.

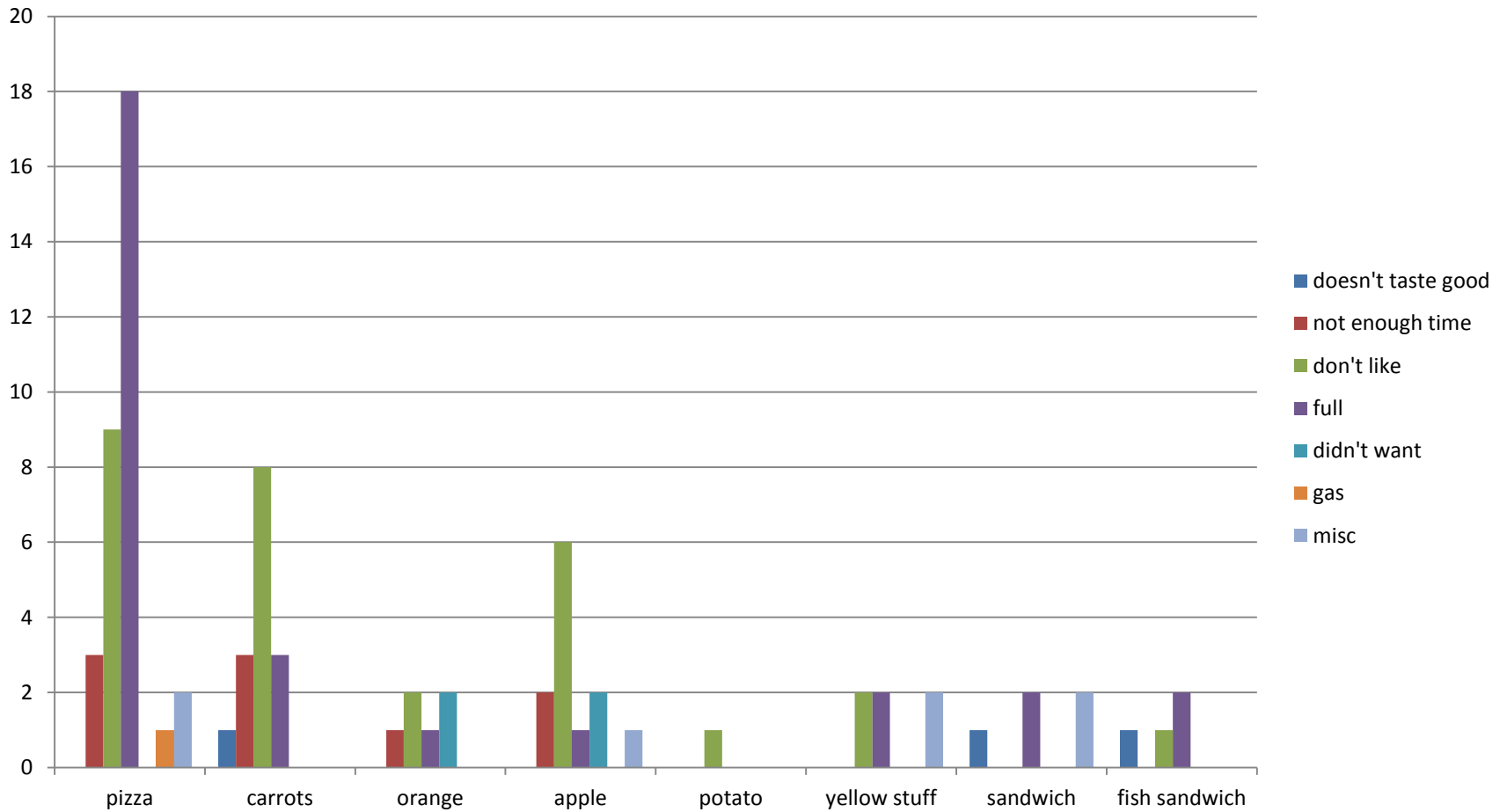
Amount of Waste Per Child per Order in Ounces



We Also Had Telling Results From the Interviews



Interview Results



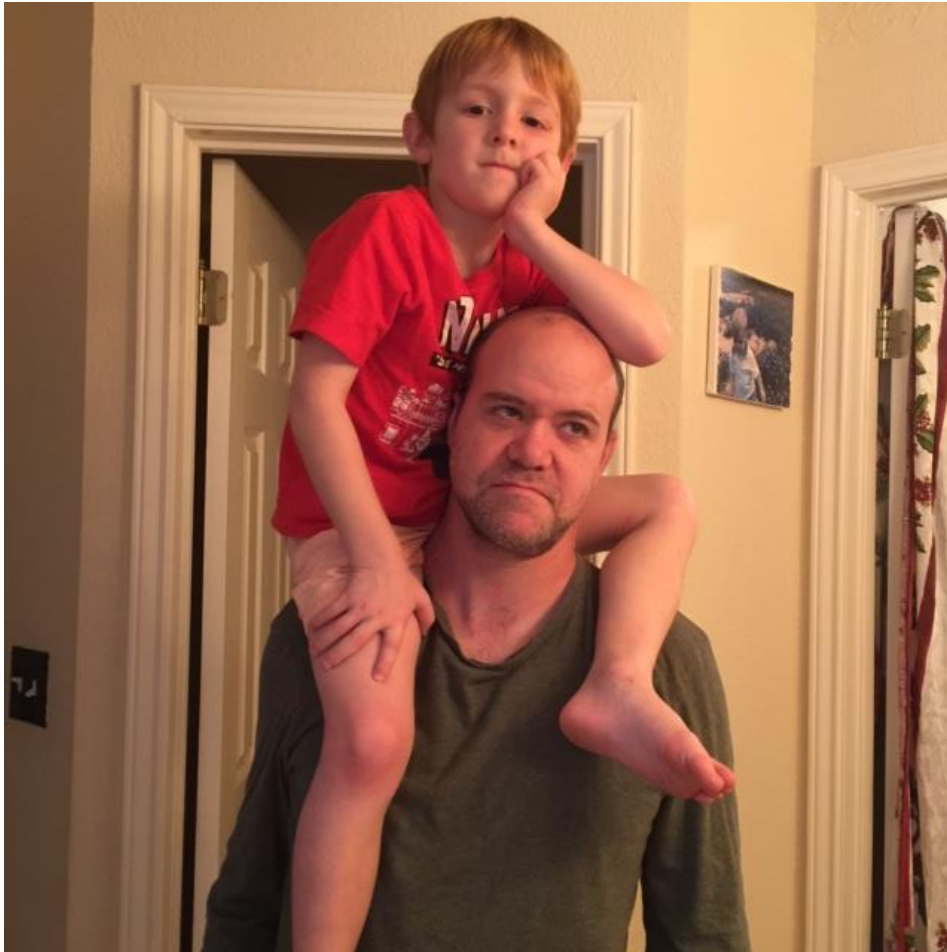
Where to Go From Here

- As you can see we have a lot of “full” and “don’t like”
- The “don’t like” is especially interesting because the kids choose everything they eat.
- The “full” is an issue too.

A look at some trays are very telling.



So How Do We Attack This?
Let's Think.



Action Plan

- **ACTION PLAN FOR FOOD WASTE CHALLENGE**
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- Create education piece for teachers on snap shot of “what makes a plate”.
 - Get buy-in from principals. Ask that teachers take a moment to educate classes on what is required for them to take at lunch and why.
 - Use as an opportunity to educate on not taking more than you can eat beyond requirements.
 - Use as an opportunity to educate on slow, woe and go.
 - Pilot with one school that already has buy-in before full implementation.
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- Contact compost retrieval.
 - Create compost program at 1 school as pilot program.
 - Check with Region representative about programs.
 - Check with EPA about grants.
 - Contact local community garden about compost needs.
 - Create program with community garden and school district to add magnet gardening program.
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- Contact farmers or petting zoo on adopting an animal with use of thrown out fruits.
 - Use donation of food as an unofficial trade for livestock or discounted events.
 - Create separate trash bin dedicated to discarded fruit. Create signage for adopting an animal with pictures around bin.
 - No meat is allowed to be mixed with fruit. Ask for some help from school to supervise the area so that the right food is discarded in bin. Custodial is a good place to start.
 - Contact Region representative to see if there any programs in place.
 - If there are no programs in place discuss with region representative about plan. The rules can be interpreted differently by different people. Must get sign off by Region representative.
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- Educate students on not taking more than you can eat.
 - Refer back to education piece for classrooms.
 - Create simple verbiage for servers to use as education throughout service.
 - “You only have to take that orange, but you can have as much fruit and vegetable as you like as long as you will eat it.”
 - “Now don’t take that if you’re just going to throw it away.”
 - “It’s so great that you’re taking so much fruits and vegetables but make sure you not taking more than you can eat.”
 - “Get food to feed you, not feed the trashcan.”
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- Talk with SHAC about changing recess times to before lunch.
 - Have studies showing the effects of recess before lunch vs. after.
 - Found through EPA.
 - Show results of food waste audit.

