

# Sustainable Organic Food Processing Challenges & Solutions

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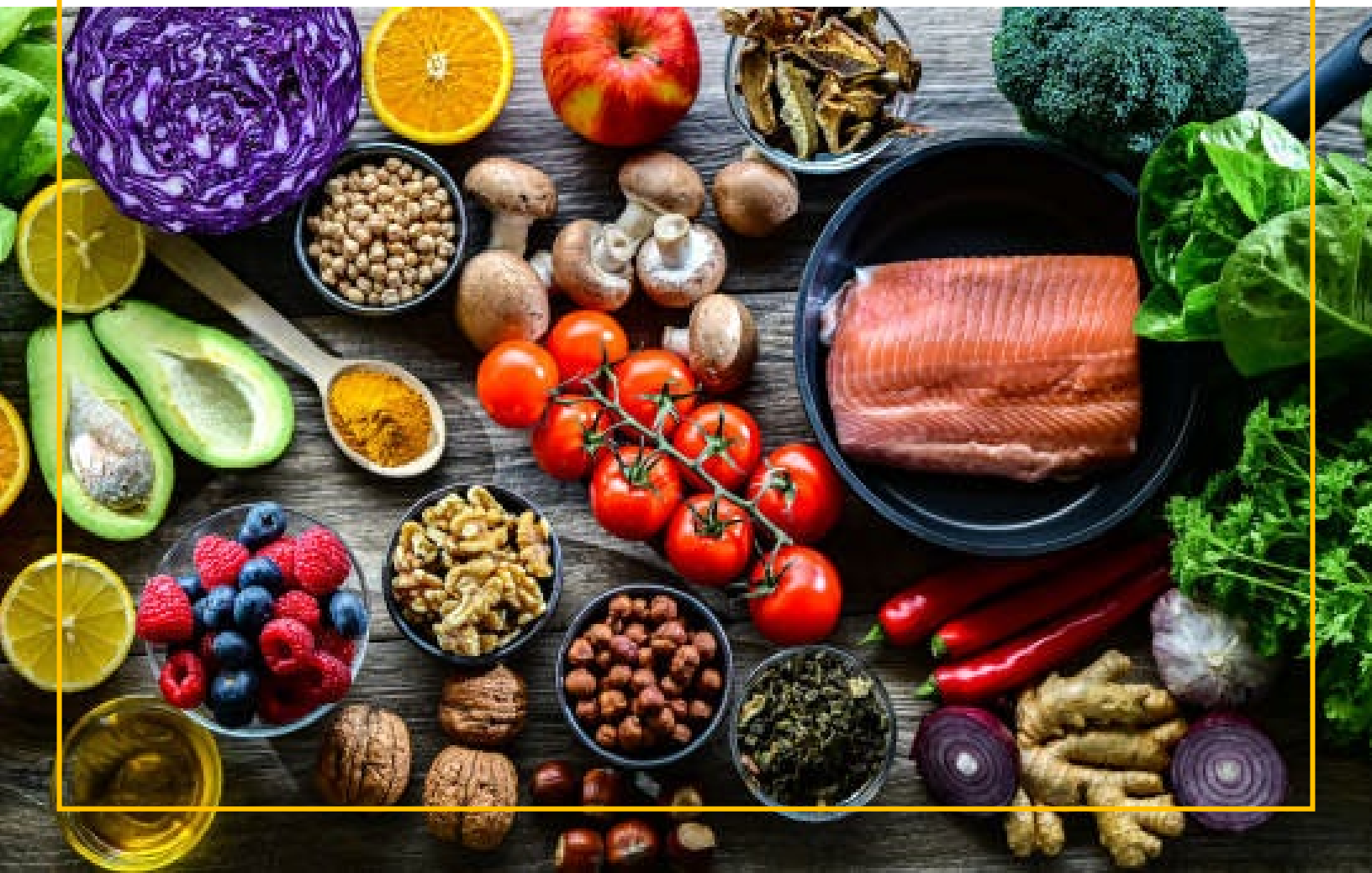


The food processing industry faces challenges, including labor shortages, rising costs for materials and operations, supply chain disruptions, increasingly stringent regulations and safety standards, evolving consumer preferences, and the urgent need for greater sustainability and waste reduction. Companies must also navigate intense competition, integrate new technologies for automation and efficiency, and manage risks related to economic uncertainty and cybersecurity.

### **Food Waste in the US**

In the United States, it is estimated that 30% to 40% of the entire food supply is wasted. This food waste occurs across the entire food system, from farms and manufacturing to retail and homes, with a significant portion ending up in landfills, contributing to environmental problems.

**> 92 billion lbs. of food go to waste annually**







## **Challenge: Landfill Diversion**

Challenges in meeting company food processing landfill diversion goals include significant data gaps, the high cost of alternative solutions, logistical complications for donation and recycling, and a lack of consistent employee engagement. While many companies set ambitious targets, numerous internal and external barriers prevent effective, company-wide implementation.

## **Solution: Re-purposing For Good**

Every customer's needs are unique, as are the needed solutions. Innovative and leading-edge partners provide alternatives solutions that take pre-consumer unused human and pet food, including bagged, canned, wet, dry by-products, including manufacturing ingredients plus packaging destined for landfill, and efficiently repurpose them through systems such as rotary drum dryers and like equipment into high-quality, useful end products such as monogastric livestock feed, repurposed packaging, and crop nutrition.

**ZERO%**  
to the landfill  
for your  
organic waste

This process preserves and maintains our environment, representing the best sustainable practice now and for future generations. By recycling unavoidable food waste and diverting it from landfills, we reduce landfill waste and enhance our ecological footprint.



**Rotary Drum Dryer** <https://www.shurgreen.net/rotary-dryer>



## **Challenge: Food Processor Headwinds**

Food Processors are continually monitoring and seeking the best food safety paths between industry and the market, as well as between the market and the consumer. A key component of delivering food safely to consumers is the proper care for repurposing or destruction of by-products.

## **Solution: Safety & Logistics**

In today's world of avian influenza, African swine fever, and other diseases, many view the "ingredient supplier waste removal trucking to pet food plant interface" as the next critical care standard within the human and pet food industries. A primary component of the critical logistics strategy is a dedicated and customized tote program that includes washing, cleaning, and sanitizing system each time a tote container is returned to its production facility. Effective programs also include washing with chlorine, disinfecting, and sanitizing the trailers, inside and out.



**Open Tote System** <https://www.shurgreen.net/tote-cleaning>





## **Challenge: Product/Packaging Separation**

Separating organic material from its packaging presents significant challenges throughout the waste management process, especially concerning recycling. Contamination by food residue degrades the quality of recyclable materials, while the physical design of modern packaging makes effective separation difficult. The rise of indistinguishable bioplastics also complicates sorting efforts, requiring advanced technology and more transparent labeling.

## **Solution: Efficient De-packaging and Certification**

There are recycling companies, and there are organic recycling partners who deliver additional value through the ability to separate organic products, including non-hazardous, organic liquids, solids, frozen foods, and more, from packaging safely and efficiently.

It is also critical to ensure that your brand is protected while limiting your liability in the marketplace. Your chosen partner must have in place a system that proves a chain of custody and certification of product destruction, along with a video recording of the process for your records at the conclusion of the process.



### **Certified Product Destruction**

<https://www.shurgreen.net/certified-product-destruction>



## **Challenge: Reaching Sustainability Goals Cost Effectively**

Commercial recycling of organic products, such as food, faces significant cost challenges due to processing expenses, transportation costs, low landfill fees, and the risk of contamination. While technologies like anaerobic digestion offer environmentally valuable solutions, their economic viability is often hindered by these factors.

## **Solution: Sustainability, Rebates, & Value-Adds**

Partners who offer a rebate program often provide a new revenue stream. They offer a value-added rebate on recycled products, based on several factors, including volume, quality of the by-product ingredients, contract length, and other relevant criteria. Ideally, they do this while customizing a waste management program that aligns with your sustainability goals, company needs, and budget.



### **Sustainability, Rebates, & Value-Adds**

<https://www.shurgreen.net/rebate-program>





## **Challenge: Finding An Experienced Holistic Partner**

Strategically creating a waste stream logistics program that is efficient, compliant, secure, and adds to your bottom line is a challenge.

## **Solution: Strategy To Execution**

Partners driven by strong business acumen, innovative spirit, and expertise in food-based organic recycling. They have a proven track record, with a deep understanding of the industry, compared to players solely focused on waste management. Finally, finding a partner that has a true passion for crafting cutting-edge organic recycling solutions that empower your businesses to pursue a sustainable and greener future.

### **Primary value points:**

- **Compliance** with the Department of Agriculture, the Tax & Trade Bureau, EPA, and other regulatory agencies.
- **Consulting** will help uncover new ways to optimize your waste stream treatment with turnkey organic waste recycling solutions.
- **Transparency** is critical in all that your partner does, for our communities and their clients.
- **Innovation** is in their DNA and is critical to evolving and exceeding your corporate sustainability goals.



### **Strategy To Execution**

<https://www.shurgreen.net/total-logistics-services>