Food Waste Decision Lens

The Race for Less Food Waste

The Food Waste Decision Lens is a series of four questions to help you decide what to do with extra food.

How to use it: Start with Question 1 and work down the list. Choose the first option that is safe and realistic. The questions follow the same order as the EPA Wasted Food Scale: prevent waste first, feed people next, and throw food away last.

STEP	LENS	QUESTION
1	**Safe**	Is the food safe to eat, share, store, or repurpose? What information is needed?
2	**Prevent**	Could planning, storage, portions, or preparation have kept the food from becoming surplus?
3	**Keep in Use**	Can safe, edible food feed people or be upcycled? Can approved pathways recover value?
4	**Dispose Last**	If the food can't be eaten or recovered, is composting or another local pathway available before landfill disposal?

Explain your choice:

The best available response is _____ because _____. It is

preferable to _____ because _____.

Before you decide, list anything you are assuming or still need to know.