Scenario-Ranking Activity

The Race for Less Food Waste

Group Members: _____ Assigned Food: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Use the EPA Wasted Food Scale and Food Waste Decision Lens. Rank each set of responses, identify information that could change the decision, and justify your first choice. More than one ranking may be defensible when it is supported by evidence and local conditions.

Scenario 1: School Cafeteria	**Students leave several whole, uneaten apples on their trays after lunch. This happens most days.**

Rank the responses from 1 (most preferred) to 4 (least preferred). Use each rank once.

- Rank: ____ Throw the apples away.
- Rank: ____ Adjust future ordering.
- Rank: ____ Compost the apples.
- Rank: ____ Place the apples on a share table if local policy allows.

Information or assumptions that could change the ranking:

_____

One-sentence justification for your first choice:

_____

Scenario 2: Household	**Fresh spinach is repeatedly forgotten until it spoils.**

Rank the responses from 1 (most preferred) to 4 (least preferred). Use each rank once.

- Rank: ____ Place the spoiled spinach in the trash.
- Rank: ____ Freeze or cook the spinach before spoilage.
- Rank: ____ Plan meals and buy a smaller amount.
- Rank: ____ Compost the spinach after it is no longer edible.

Information or assumptions that could change the ranking:

_____

One-sentence justification for your first choice:

_____

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Scenario 3: Restaurant	**At closing time, the restaurant has cooked food that was never served. It was kept at safe temperatures. This happens most nights.**

Rank the responses from 1 (most preferred) to 4 (least preferred). Use each rank once.

- Rank: ____ Use an approved organics-recovery pathway.
- Rank: ____ Dispose of the food.
- Rank: ____ Donate the food through an approved partner.
- Rank: ____ Improve forecasting to reduce future surplus.

Information or assumptions that could change the ranking:

_____

One-sentence justification for your first choice:

_____

Scenario 4: Class Event	**Only plate scraps and inedible peels remain.**

Rank the responses from 1 (most preferred) to 3 (least preferred). Use each rank once.

- Rank: ____ Landfill the scraps.
- Rank: ____ Compost the scraps where accepted.
- Rank: ____ Use another approved organics program.

Information or assumptions that could change the ranking:

_____

One-sentence justification for your first choice:

_____

Compare your reasoning

Where did your group disagree? What evidence, missing information, or assumption caused the difference?

_____

_____