



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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StopWaste is the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board, and the Energy Council operating as one public agency.

## NEWS RELEASE

### ***Spectra by Comcast Spectacor Takes Lead in Reducing Food Waste at Oakland Coliseum and Alameda County Fairgrounds with StopWaste's Smart Kitchen Initiative***

**Oakland, CA – October 21, 2015**

Spectra by Comcast Spectacor, the provider of Food Services & Hospitality to both Oakland’s O.co Coliseum and the Alameda County Fairgrounds, today kicked off their participation in the Smart Kitchen Initiative, a voluntary program to reduce food waste. Smart Kitchen measures pre-consumer food waste generated in the kitchen and uses the results to adjust kitchen routines such as food prep, ordering, and production. A key component of the Initiative is LeanPath’s specialized food waste tracking equipment consisting of a table or terminal with built-in scale, camera and customized touchscreen interface for data entry.

“Across many of our Spectra properties we make proactive efforts to maintain sustainability practices in food, lighting, waste, etc.,” said Spectra’s Jay Satenspiel, Regional Vice President. “The Smart Kitchen Initiative will augment our ability to identify and reduce food waste in a focused and data-driven way.”

“Smart Kitchen enables us to analyze and implement the best management practices for reducing food waste,” added Spectra’s Michelle Burrencia, General Manager for Spectra Food Services & Hospitality at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. “Through this initiative we are able to reduce food and other inputs to the solid waste stream by more than 25 percent.”

“At Spectra, we have a proud tradition of local partnerships that fuel our business,” said Spectra’s Glen Brandeburg, President Venue Management and Food Services & Hospitality. “This initiative resonates perfectly with our commitment to our clients to always strive for new levels of operational excellence.”

Launched with a series of pilot sites in 2014, StopWaste’s Smart Kitchen Initiative funds the provision of specialized food waste tracking equipment and training to medium and large-scale institutional kitchens and food service providers in Alameda County. The goal is to help reduce the amount of edible food going to landfill. Besides environmental impacts, wasted food is also a source of significant revenue loss. Pre-consumer food waste alone is estimated to cost the U.S. out-of home restaurant and food service industry \$9-23 billion annually.

The overall goal of the program is a 25 percent reduction in pre-consumer food waste, in addition to participating businesses saving money on food purchases and improving operational efficiency.

*Member Agencies:*

- Alameda County
- Alameda
- Albany
- Berkeley
- Dublin
- Emeryville
- Fremont
- Hayward
- Livermore
- Newark
- Oakland
- Piedmont
- Pleasanton
- San Leandro
- Union City
- Castro Valley Sanitary District
- Oro Loma Sanitary District

The Smart Kitchen initiative is just one way Spectra works towards more sustainable living in every city in which the company operates. In Philadelphia at the Wells Fargo Center, Spectra's flagship arena, the company increased the percentage of all recyclable items that were kept from landfills from nine percent in 2012 to 68 percent in 2014. Separately, in a nationwide initiative converting to LED Sports Lighting, Spectra saved over 1.75 million watts per year, enough to power 320 homes for one year.

Spectra's Food Services & Hospitality division delivers the industry's most innovative and profitable solutions through its Everything's Fresh™ philosophy at sports arenas, stadiums, casinos, convention centers, cultural attractions, fairgrounds, and other specialty venues. Spectra Food Services & Hospitality serves over 250,000 events and 40 million guests each year.

Spectra by Comcast Spectacor is the expert in hosting and entertainment, partnering with over 300 clients and 400 global properties to create memorable experiences for millions of visitors every year. Spectra's expertise is embodied within three divisions: Venue Management (formerly Global Spectrum), Food Services & Hospitality (formerly Ovations Food Services), and Ticketing & Fan Engagement (formerly Paciolan). Learn more at [SpectraExperiences.com](http://SpectraExperiences.com). Comcast Spectacor is a part of Comcast Corporation, a Fortune 50 media and technology company that operates Comcast Cable and NBCUniversal. Headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, in addition to Spectra, Comcast Spectacor owns and operates the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers and the Wells Fargo Center venue. Visit us at [ComcastSpectacor.com](http://ComcastSpectacor.com), [PhiladelphiaFlyers.com](http://PhiladelphiaFlyers.com), and [WellsFargoCenterPhilly.com](http://WellsFargoCenterPhilly.com) for more information.