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Question 1 - What are the key issues facing the NSW waste system?

Lack of product design (for reuse, fix-ability, durability) and for thought to limiting packaging Lack of high quality products produced from recycling systems (UNSW appear to have many solutions to this problem - needs more investment). Food waste solutions keep failing in Sydney. Need a closed loop system similar to Feedback Organics. Space needs to be provided on the outskirts of Sydney so food miles can be reduced and food waste can be used where it is most needed - in our agricultural soils. Noted: contamination a major hurdle but not insurmountable.

Question 2 - What are the main barriers to improving the NSW waste system?

Healthy environments to grow food near Sydney and having our food waste cycled back as outlined above. In a nutshell suitable space, contamination and start up cost.

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

Bring back areas just outside of Sydney to grow food so our food waste has a more local and useful outcome. Look to larger roof spaces for food to be grown, to increase local demand for compost. Encourage high quality products from recycling and once the product and process has been deemed safe reduce regulations. Could have a decreasing scale of regulation as a new recycled product and process develops. Eventually, business is on an even playing field with products made from Virgin material. Off course it would be on the company to proof they can meet the required standards.

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

Residents need to have faith that recycling is worth their while. Currently, this is at an all-time low. Firstly we need to fix the problems associated with recycling including making the solutions more locally based. Once this is achieved we need to allow the public to visit areas of innovation where practical, advertise the good stories and then start re-educating how to recycle right.

Question 5 - What are the main opportunities for improving the NSW waste system?

Food waste is liquid gold waiting to be discovered. Encouraging fix-ability in product design Encouraging the share economy like the Tool Shed Increasing the quality of recycled goods and the number of resources we choose to recycle - more engagement with UNSW style innovation Perhaps creating more recycling/reuse hubs where resources are collected and re imagined e.g. Men's Shed.

Question 6 - Any other information that you would like to contribute to the waste strategy initiative?