



FAST FACTS ON FOOD WASTE

WHY SHOULD WE FAST FROM WASTING FOOD?

- Approximately 1/3 of food produced is wasted across the global food supply chain in one year. Around 40% is wasted in the United States annually. ([Yale Climate Connections](#))
- Food waste is responsible for 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions annually. ([U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization](#))
- If food waste were a country, it would come in third after the United States and China in terms of impact on global warming. ([World Resources Institute](#))
- Food waste that decomposes in landfills releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is at least 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide. ([The Washington Post](#))
- 94% of food thrown away in the U.S. ends up in the landfill. ([United States Environmental Protection Agency](#))
- Global food waste is not equal. 95-115 kg a year is wasted in Europe and North America, while in sub-Saharan Africa, south and south-eastern Asia, consumers throw away only 6-11 kg a year. ([Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations](#))
- Currently, enough food is being grown to feed every person, but more than 821 million people remain undernourished through a lack of equitable distribution and food waste. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), enough food could be preserved to feed 2 billion people by reversing this trend. That's more than twice the number of undernourished people across the globe. ([World Food Program USA](#))
- As a result of the 1.3 billion tons of food wasted every year worldwide, 45 trillion gallons of water are also wasted. This is 24 percent of all water used for agriculture. When we throw food in the trash, we're throwing away all of the resources that went into growing, harvesting, packaging, and shipping the food such as water, gasoline, land, and pesticides. ([NPR](#))
- "We know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and 'whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor.'" *Laudato Si'* 50
- Food waste is an issue with a big impact on carbon emissions that is within your control. We may not be able to directly influence energy or industry in our daily lives, but we have the power to avoid food waste three times a day.