

Living in Wasteland: Effective Practice and Advocacy Strategies

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Agriculture is

1. The biggest contributor to the loss of global biodiversity ¹
2. The leading cause of deforestation²
3. Causing up to one-third of our greenhouse gas emissions ³

Wasted Food Fast Facts

- America wastes nearly 40% of all food produced
- the equivalent of throwing 320,000 jumbo jets worth of food directly into the landfill each year⁴
- The average American tosses 300 pounds of food each year⁵
- Wasted Food has doubled since the 1970's⁶
- If land used to grow food that isn't eaten were a country, it would be the second largest country in the world behind Russia ⁷



Why do we waste so much food? ⁸

- Purchasing too much food
- Label confusion (best by, use by, sell by, etc.)
- Lack of knowledge when preparing foods
- Confusion over when food is ripe
- Seasonal factors
- Uneaten leftovers

Why is wasting food an issue?

- **Environmental** – Rotting food in landfills creates Methane gas – 28x more potent than CO₂ ⁹
- **Missed Opportunity to Feed Hungry Neighbors** – 1 in 7 Americans are food insecure. Don't know where their next meal is coming from ¹⁰
- **Economic** - -estimated that the average American throws out 23 lbs. of food each month = \$190 for a family of four ¹¹

Resources: Reports

- Wasted: How America is losing up to 40 percent of its food from farm to fork to landfill - Natural Resources Defense Council <http://www.nrdc.org/food/files/wasted-food-ip.pdf>
- The State of America's Wasted Food, and Opportunities to Make a Difference. <http://www.eatrightfoundation.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442486865&libID=6442486841>
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Food wastage foodprint: impacts on natural resources: summary report <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3347e/i3347e.pdf>

Resource: Websites

- Your ultimate shelf life guide - <http://www.stilltasty.com/>
- USDA Food Waste Challenge - <http://www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste/>
- Feeding America - www.feedingamerica.org
- Waste No Food - www.wastenofood.org
- Ample Harvest - www.ampleharvest.org
- Food Cowboy - www.foodcowboy.com

Resources: Apps

- Is My Food Safe? – answers food safety questions
- Love Food Hate Waste - www.lovefoodhatewaste.com
- Green Egg Shopper - helps shoppers reduce food waste



Resources: Other

- Food: Too Good to Waste Starter Kits www.westcoastclimateforum.com/food
- USDA Let's Talk Trash www.choosemyplate.gov/lets-talk-trash
- National Resources Defense Council Web site. The Refrigerator Demystified - <http://www.nrdc.org/food/wastefreekitchen/files/refrigerator-demystified.pdf>. Accessed January 1, 2016
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Infographics - <http://www.eatright.org/resource/homefoodsafety/multimedia/infographics/reducing-food-waste-infographic>
- Use the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation toolkit, "Tossed Treasures. How We All Can Waste Less Food." to educate adults and/or mature teens. www.kidseatright.org/volunteer

1 <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity>

2 <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/deforestation-overview/>

3 <https://ccafs.cgiar.org/bigfacts/#theme=food-emissions&subtheme=direct-agriculture>

4 Kearney AT. Save the planet, feed the planet.

https://www.atkearney.com/documents/10192/471472/EAXII_2_Save_the_Planet_Feed_the_Planet.pdf/3537625f-024b-4197-b54f-0a85aef53019. Accessed August 21, 2015.

5 Gunders D. Wasted: How America is losing up to 40 percent of its food from farm to fork to landfill. Natural Resources Defense Council website. <http://www.nrdc.org/food/files/wasted-food-ip.pdf>. Published August 2012. Accessed August 12 2015.

6 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Global food losses and food waste-Extent, causes and prevention. Rome. 2011.

7 Gunders D. Wasted: How America is losing up to 40 percent of its food from farm to fork to landfill. Natural Resources Defense Council website. <http://www.nrdc.org/food/files/wasted-food-ip.pdf>. Published August 2012. Accessed August 12 2015.

8 Buzby JC, Farah-Wells H, Hyman J. The estimated amount, value, and calories of postharvest food losses at the retail and consumer levels in the United States. US Department of Agriculture website. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1282296/eib121.pdf>. Published February 2014. Accessed December 8, 2015.

9 Hall KD, Guo J, Dore M, et al. The progressive increase of food waste in America and its environmental impact. PloS one. 2009;4(11):e7940.

10 <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/>

11 Venkat K. The climate change and economic impacts of food waste in the United States. International Journal on Food System Dynamics. 2012; 2(4):431-446.