



The U.S. Food Waste Challenge



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U.S. Food Waste Challenge

In June, 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched the U.S. Food Waste Challenge, calling on producers, processors, manufacturers, retailers, counties, and other government agencies to

Reduce food loss and waste

Recover wholesome food for human consumption

Recycle discards to other uses

REDUCE

Food waste in the United States is estimated at around 30 percent of the food supply.* In 2010, this corresponded to approximately

133 billion pounds of food

\$161 billion worth of food

All of the resources that went into producing that wasted food – including the land, labor, water, pesticides, and fertilizers – could have been saved or gone to uses of higher value for society

*Estimates are from USDA's estimate of food loss at the retail and consumer level, where food loss is defined as the edible amount of food that is available for consumption but is not consumed for any reason

RECOVER

In 2010, the amount of uneaten food in homes and restaurants was valued at roughly \$371 per U.S. consumer

Wholesome excess food could help feed people through donations to food pantries and soup kitchens

- Feeding America, a leading domestic hunger-relief charity, estimates that food donations supplied 2.7 billion meals to its clientele in 2010
- Rock and Wrap it Up!, a national hunger relief program, provides 100,000 meals every week from the leftovers from sporting events, rock concerts, film shoots and other venues
- The Society of St. Andrew, a grassroots, faith-based, hunger relief nonprofit organization, has gleaned 6.4 million pounds of nutritious excess produce from fields and orchards already this year

RECYCLE

By reducing the amount of food we toss into the trash, we can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

EPA estimates that in the United States:

- Food is the single largest component of municipal solid waste going to landfills
- Food waste generates methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide
- Landfills are the third largest source of methane in the U.S.



U.S. Food Waste Challenge

Lead a fundamental shift in how we think about and manage food and food waste in this country

400 participants by 2015
1,000 by 2020

We need your participation! Let us highlight your good efforts to reduce, recover or recycle food waste in your operations

**For more information and
the membership form**

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste>

