



Reducing food waste

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#EUGreenDeal
#EUFarm2Fork

WHY DO WE NEED TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE?

Food waste puts an unnecessary burden on limited natural resources, such as land and water. It is bad for the environment and has negative consequences for climate and food security



Tackling food waste is a triple win:

- 1 Saving food for human consumption;
- 2 Helping businesses and consumers to save money;
- 3 Lowering the environmental impact of food production and consumption.



How to make more progress?

The EU and its Member States are committed to the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** to **halve per capita global food waste at retail and consumer level by 2030**.

To make more progress, and in comparison to 2020, Member States should, by 2030, reduce food waste at national level:



by 10% in processing and manufacturing



by 30% (per capita) in retail, restaurants food services and households.



How are we helping the Member States reduce food waste?



- **Sharing best practices:** EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste
- **Concrete tools and solutions:** [best practice compendium](#) (European Consumer Food Waste Forum)
- **EU research and innovation** (Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe).
- **Other funding** (LIFE environmental programme, Interreg Europe, Single Market Programme)



FOOD WASTE IN NUMBERS



58.4 million tonnes (131 kg/person/year) are generated annually in the EU (ESTAT, 2023)

Approximately **10%** of all food supplied to retail, food services and households is wasted



Over half of food waste is generated in **households** (54%)



2nd largest share (20%) is the processing and manufacturing sector

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



GHG emissions of 254 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents (16% of the total GHG impact resulting from the EU food system)



16% of impacts on soil caused by land use linked to the food supply chain



342 bn m³ water equivalents used to produce food that is wasted

ECONOMIC IMPACT



132 bn EUR associated market value of food waste

9.3 bn EUR cost of collection and treatment of food waste

SOCIAL IMPACT



Unnecessary spending on food that is ultimately wasted

A 4-person household would save on average **400 EUR per year** if food waste is reduced in line with the Commission's proposal.

Missed opportunities to save surplus food and redistribute it to those in need **37.1 million people in the EU** cannot afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish, or vegetarian equivalent every **second day** (ESTAT, 2023)