



# 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



**58.5 million tonnes**  
(131 kg/person/year)  
are generated annually  
in the EU ([ESTAT, 2022](#))

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



**Over half**   
of food waste is generated in  
**households** (53%)



**2<sup>nd</sup>** largest share  
(20%) is the processing  
and manufacturing  
sector

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



**GHG emissions of  
252 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>**  
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 m<sup>3</sup>** 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  
**32.6 million people in the EU**  
cannot afford a meal with meat, chicken,  
fish, or vegetarian equivalent every  
second day ([ESTAT, 2021](#))