



FOOD WASTE



LEARNING GOALS

- To understand the primary causes and impacts of food waste
- To analyze initiatives tackling food waste abroad and consider their potential for Hawaii
- To reflect on your own food consumption and waste habits

ASSIGNMENT

Estimated Time: ~30 min

The Problem:

- Watch: "[Why Does Almost Half of America's Food Go to Waste?](#)" (9:05)
- Read: "[In Hawaii, We Waste More Than A Fourth Of All Our Food](#)" (~7 mins)

Countermeasures:

- Watch: "[Canadians Gets Creative in Solving the Food Waste Problem](#)" (5:38)
- Watch: "[Is France's Groundbreaking Food Law Working?](#)" (8:14)

TERMINOLOGY

- **Food Waste** - Refers to food that is not consumed by humans. It can occur at any stage of the food supply chain: production, processing, retail, and consumption.
- **Compost** - Organic material that can be added to soil to help plants grow.
- **Food Bank** - A place where stocks of food, typically basic provisions and nonperishable items, are supplied free of charge to people in need.

KAHOOT QUIZ

- Go to [Kahoot.it](https://kahoot.it) or use the Kahoot mobile app and enter the pin 0614951
- Or, use [this link](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- After watching "Why Does Almost Half of America's Food Go to Waste?", what are the common causes of food waste?
- According to the Civil Beat article, how does food waste affect the environment?
- What are individuals and organizations doing to reduce food waste? Out of all the solutions you've seen, which were your favorite?
- After watching the videos, do you believe initiatives like Food Rescue and France's food waste law would be successful in the U.S? In Hawaii? Why or why not?
- Do you believe Hawaii is doing enough to tackle food waste? Why or why not?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (continued)

- According to the Civil Beat article, tourism also contributes to food waste in Hawaii. How do you think the tourism industry can or should address food waste?
- What can you do to be more conscious about the food waste in your home?
- Looking at the examples, there is this idea that “people shop with their eyes”. Personally, would you buy produce that wasn’t conventionally “perfect”? Why or why not?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Hawaii Food Waste Policy](#)
Overview of Hawaii’s policy of food waste and how it compares the to other states in the U.S
- [Love Food Hate Waste – Make Food Matter: for young people aged 4–17yrs:](#)
Activity worksheets for students
- [Love Food Hate Waste](#)
Information about why being conscious about your food habits are important (includes recipes that use food that would otherwise go to waste)

National Organizations related to food waste:

- [Food Recovery Network](#)
- [#freshfoodmatters](#)
- [Fighting Food Waste in Los Angeles](#) (2:38) - highlights the work of Food Forward
- [Fighting Food Waste at the Border](#) (2:54) - highlights the work of Borderlands Food Bank
- [Penn State Student Campaign](#)

Local Organizations related to food waste:

- [Kupu’s Meal Distribution Program](#)
- [Kauai Food Compost Bins](#)
- [UH Manoa Food Recovery Chapter](#)
- [Aloha Harvest](#)
- Article: [Oahu’s \\$4 Million Food Fight](#) - touches on various individual and institutional efforts statewide
- Other [Links and Resources about Food Recovery in Honolulu](#) - from the Environmental Protection Agency
- [National Center for Food Preservation](#)
- [EPA’s Tips on Sustainable Food Management](#)



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IDEAS FOR ACTION

Easier

- Challenge yourself and your peers: take a photo of all the food you throw out every day for a week. Compare it to your classmates. Calculate out how much food you waste in a month.
 - Bonus: get your family in on it too! Share your findings with them and make a plan to collectively reduce your food waste.
- Educate yourself: research creative solutions individuals/groups around the world are implementing and find ways to apply your findings in your daily life.
- Find out if your local grocery stores currently have initiatives in place that tackle food waste. If they don't, share ideas from your research on how to tackle the problem.

Moderate

- Start a compost bin to turn food scraps to fertilizer for your garden.
- Educate your peers: make a presentation for your class about this issue and how it is being combatted on a local, national, and international level.
- Volunteer with a local organization that is fighting food waste (links listed above).

Hard

- Talk to your school administration: ask about how the cafeteria handles excess food. Work with your club or peers to make your school more sustainable with food.
- Research bills in city councils and the state legislature that relate to food waste and advocate for them by writing to your legislators or testifying in support.

HAWAII CORE STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (HCSSS) LINKS

- Content Standard [SS.WH.8.12.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.US.12.8.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.PID.4.10.2](#)
- Action Projects link to [SS.PID.5.7.1](#)

This lesson was created by Janelle Mateo.