



# 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 01517715
- 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.