What’s the Problem with Wasted Food?

Wasting food is expensive...

$1600 per year
The amount of money the average family of four spends on food that goes uneaten every year.

$750 Million
The cost of landfilling all of the wasted food in America each year.

That’s the same as leaving 1 out of every 4 bags of groceries at the store.

Wasting food wastes significant amounts of natural resources...

25% of all the freshwater supplies in America are used to produce food that is wasted.

2.5 Billion
The number of acres it takes to grow just the food we waste world-wide.

That’s slightly larger than all 50 states.

Wasting 1 lb. of beef wastes 2,500 gallons of water.

Wasted food contributes to climate change...

When wasted food rots in landfills it produces methane, a greenhouse gas 21x more powerful than CO₂. In the U.S., wasted food produces 25% of methane emissions.

If all the wasted food in the world were compiled into one country, it would be the 3rd largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world.

50 million Americans are currently food insecure.

1/6 Adults
1/5 Children

Reducing food loss in the U.S. by just 15% could help feed more than 25 million Americans.

Statistic Sources - please see reverse

www.cityoftacoma.org/PreventingWastedFood
Sources:


“Total and Per Capita Value of Food Loss in the United States.” USDA. Buzby and Hyman. 2012.

