



## Top 10 Reasons Why Food Waste is THE Socio-Environmental Challenge AND Opportunity of Our Time

### Food Waste

1. Almost half of all food grown and produced in the United States is not eaten, becoming wasted food ([Jonathan Bloom](#)).
2. It has been found that 20% of wasted food is due to confusion over date labeling and 90% of consumers, at least sometimes, throw away food too soon due to confusion over “expiration” dates ([NRDC and Harvard Food and Law Policy Clinic](#)). Most dates on products are, however, only an indicator of peak freshness and not edibility.
3. Approximately 50% of all food waste happens at the farm and in transit and distribution before the food even reaches store/restaurant shelves and our plates ([Sustainable America](#)). Most of this is due to retailers’ strict cosmetic standards for produce.

### Hunger

4. At least 15% of people are food insecure or “hungry” in the United States ([Feeding America](#)). Not only could the extra, and then wasted food, from the U.S. feed all 50 million hungry Americans their entire diet, but it could feed the almost 1 billion hungry around the entire world ([Tristram Stuart](#)).
5. Only 10% of surplus edible food is recovered in the U.S. the rest is mostly landfilled ([Dana Gunders](#)). This is despite [tax benefits](#) and the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act, which has protected donors since 1996 ([University of Arkansas School of Law](#)).
6. An estimated 9 billion+ people in the world by 2050 with more and more soil becoming unusable means 70% more food will be needed ([FAO Report](#)).

### Climate Change

7. Approximately 10% of human-made greenhouse gas emissions come from producing, transporting, storing, and preparing food that is never eaten ([Tristram Stuart](#)).
8. If we planted trees on the land we use to grow food we waste, we could theoretically offset a maximum 50-100% of the world's human-made greenhouse gas emissions ([Tristram Stuart](#)).
9. Only 5% of all U.S. food scraps (edible and inedible) are recovered ([The Institute for Local Self-Reliance](#)). The largest component of what’s going to landfills is food waste which also carries with it the largest greenhouse gas impact with methane which is 21 times more powerful than CO2. ([The Environmental Protection Agency](#))
10. And lastly, as GRACE Communications Foundation aptly points out, there is a very strong nexus where “food, water, and energy intersect” thereby severely impacting our resources and environment due to the food we waste. [Click here for more](#) on their findings.

Bringing the 3 issues of food waste, hunger, and climate change together provides greater awareness and inspiration as they are well connected in problem and in solution. **To find solutions to fight food waste as THE socio-environmental challenge AND opportunity of our time, click on the links above or visit [www.EndFoodWaste.org](http://www.EndFoodWaste.org) and follow @EndFoodWaste.**