



Food Waste The ESG Issue on Your Plate

Every meal wasted has a cost.
Not just for your wallet — but for the planet.



The Scale of Global Food Waste

1.05 Bn

Tonnes

of food wasted globally in 2022
— nearly 1 in 5 meals produced

783 M

People

face hunger daily while enough
food exists for everyone

8–10%

of GHG

emissions linked to food waste
— more than aviation



A social and environmental challenge — food rotting in landfills releases methane, while millions go hungry. The UN calls this a 'global tragedy'.

19%

of food available to consumers is wasted at retail, food service & household levels (UNEP, 2024). That is in addition to 13% lost before it even reaches retail (FAO).

1 billion+ meals wasted every single day

More Than Just Waste

When food is wasted, multiple resources are lost.



Water Wasted

70% of global freshwater goes to agriculture. Wasted food means wasted irrigation, rivers, and rainfall — a critical resource squandered forever.



Land & Resources Lost

Food waste occupies 1.4 billion hectares of land annually — nearly 30% of global agricultural area — producing food that is simply thrown away.



Greenhouse Emissions

Food loss and waste account for 8–10% of global greenhouse gas emissions — almost 5× the total emissions from the entire aviation sector (UNEP 2024).

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8–10% of global GHG emissions come from food that is never eaten

An ESG Risk Businesses Can't Ignore

Restaurants, retailers & supply chains lose real value when food goes to waste.

\$1 Trillion
Annual global economic cost of food loss & waste
(World Resources Institute)

14 : 1
ROI on food waste reduction investment
(Champions 12.3 Report)

60%
of food waste comes from households
(UNEP Food Waste Index 2024)

SDG 12.3
UN goal: halve global food waste by 2030
(UN Sustainable Dev. Goals)


Less Waste




Efficiency




Sustainability

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THE SOLUTION

Small Changes, Big Impact

Sustainability starts with everyday choices.

01



Buy Only What You Need

Plan meals, check your fridge first. Impulse buying is the top cause of household food waste globally.

02



Store Food Properly

Correct refrigeration and labelling can extend food life by days. The UK cut household waste by 22% with this alone.

03



Donate Surplus Food

Partner with food banks and NGOs. One business's surplus is another family's meal — and a tax benefit.

04



Reduce Waste in Supply Chains

Track waste data, set reduction targets, and integrate circularity into procurement and logistics processes.

*"The most sustainable food
is the food that is never wasted."*

YOUR TURN TO ACT



What's on Your Plate Matters

Reducing food waste is one of the simplest ways to create meaningful environmental and social impact — starting today.



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8–10% GHG

from food waste
(UNEP 2024)



1 Billion

meals wasted daily



14:1 ROI

on waste reduction

 **Be honest: How often do you throw away leftover food?**

Drop your answer in the comments 

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