

GOOD COP BAD COP2 Briefing notes

Resolution 5 - Food Waste– all developed countries reduce their current food waste by 50% by 2030 and support less developed countries to cut global food waste by 50% by 2035

Reducing food losses and waste is essential in a world where the number of people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise since 2014, and tons and tons of edible food are lost and/or wasted every day.

Globally, around **14 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail**, while an estimated **17 percent of total global food production is wasted** (11 percent in households, 5 percent in the food service and 2 percent in retail).

Food that is lost and wasted accounts for 38 percent of total energy usage in the global food system.

The amount of food waste varies between countries, being influenced by level of income, urbanization and economic growth.

See <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6723314/>

In less-developed countries, waste occurs in the post-harvest and processing stage which accounts for approximately 44% of global food waste. This is caused by poor practices, technical and technological limitations, labour and financial restrictions, and lack of proper infrastructure for transportation and storage. The developed countries, including European, North American, and Oceanian countries, and the industrialized nations of Japan, South Korea, and China produce 56% of the world food waste. Of this, 40% of waste in developed countries occurs in the consumption stage, which is driven mostly by consumer behaviour, values, and attitudes. A large portion of the food waste occurs after preparation, cooking, or serving, as well as from not consuming before the expiration date as a result of over-shopping, which might be associated with poor planning and bulk purchasing.

Food Security

Waste is a critical concern in terms of nutritional insecurity, as it decreases the availability of food for human consumption. It also has environmental, economic, poverty and natural resource impacts.

Landfill & Greenhouse Gases.

A substantial proportion of food waste thrown into landfill is converted into Greenhouse gas and methane. Methane has 25 times the warming potential of CO₂ and decomposes faster than other landfilled materials.

Solutions-

- Several studies also showed that food waste reduction initiatives in developed countries could decrease food prices in developing countries, boost efficiency in their supply chain, and conserve resources that might be used to feed the hungry. Such changes could lead to improved access to nutritious foods for vulnerable households
- Improve market access and distribution mechanisms
- Improve awareness and knowledge about the impact of food waste and help with knowledge about improved dietary habits and culture.

Resource Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-food-waste-day>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6723314/>

<https://www.closedlooppartners.com/to-reduce-food-waste-investors-and-community-organizations-need-to-be-at-the-table/>

<https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/world-making-little-progress-food-waste-big-climate-problem-2022-11-15/>

<https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/FAO-UNEP-agriculture-environment-food-loss-waste-day-2022/en>

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/food/news/why-is-one-third-our-ood-wasted-worldwide>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652620337628>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0960852419317857>

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/why-global-fight-tackle-food-waste-has-only-just-begun>

<https://www.ifpri.org/blog/measuring-and-reducing-food-loss-developing-countries>

For more information & enquiries about Good Cop2, please contact:

Re Schools / Media / Mentors

'H-J' Colston-Inge (Mrs)
Director – Engage with China
+44 (0)7881 935412
hjcolston@engagewithchina.org
WeChat: HJ20131

Re Resolutions / Sponsors / Foundations

Theresa Booth
Director – Engage with China
+44 (0)7469 848897
theresabooth@engagewithchina.org
WeChat: theresabooth