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At my school, one of my club's goals is to reduce food waste. We have a cafeteria that provides food, but I've noticed that they often have extra food, and no one really knows what happens to the leftovers. Food insecurity disproportionately affects marginalized communities, showing how undernourishment is not only an issue of waste on the part of restaurants, but also one of justice and ensuring that everyone has access to a nutritious diet. I feel fortunate that I have access to food.

One of the organizations that my school works with is Three Square, a food bank that takes donated food, and gives them to homeless individuals. While us students volunteer there occasionally, the organization is not directly reducing our school's food waste. In fact, when I was researching about reducing food waste, most solutions regarded composting, which our school is already in the process of conducting our food waste audit.

Instead, I hope to start a new movement with food waste: encouraging others to incorporate learning about food waste in honors science and economic classes. Students could actually learn about how food waste impacts the climate crisis, increases costs due to waste management, etc. To start, I will reach out to the economics teacher and biology/chemistry teachers to ask them to incorporate food waste education into their curriculum, and relate it to the climate crisis. In this way, climate change could also be effectively introduced into school lectures! Education is always the first step.

Educate about Food Waste!

Let's start a movement to incorporate food waste education into our curriculum!

Over 800 million people are undernourished - restaurants and schools produce tons of food waste

Education within your community is the first step. Here's a comprehensive guide on how to go about the food waste education movement

Annual food waste by region (kg/person)

| Region | Annual food waste (kg/person) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand | ~100 |
| Europe | ~80 |
| China, Japan and Korea | ~70 |
| North America | ~40 |
| Latin America | ~30 |
| South and Southeast Asia | ~20 |
| South and Sub-Saharan Africa | ~10 |

The equivalent to over 164 billion worth of food is thrown away each year, according to FeedingAmerica.org

46% of this waste comes from restaurants, schools, and other food services.

45% comes from people's homes.

Reach out to your teachers

Economics Wasting food wastes money. Reduce the food waste crisis to cost and demand - and education is at the core of climate change.

Chemistry Food waste is landfill's worst methane, or CH₄. You could further explain why CH₄ is a greenhouse gas, more specifically, how it vibrates to get that dipole moment.

Biology Climate change affects ecosystems, a huge component of biology. Investigating one of the causes of climate change, food waste, adds nuance to the lesson!

Stay in contact with them!

Make the transitions for your teachers easier - it'll increase the likelihood of them implementing your lesson!

Go big or go home!

Contact your dean, headmaster, or whoever runs your school's assembly.

Prepare a presentation on food waste (feel free to use some of the facts or charts from the 3rd slide)



amychoi.pgc Food donations can be difficult during the pandemic, but the climate change stops for no one, and neither should we! While schools implement composting programs or host food drives, it's just as crucial for the students to know WHY they should compost or WHY they should donate. I'm proposing that we start a movement - Educate on Food Waste!

@threesquarelv @foodtank @foodprintorg @turninggreenorg #pgc2021

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