

Reducing food waste: EU action plan – and state-of-play on revision of the Waste Framework Directive

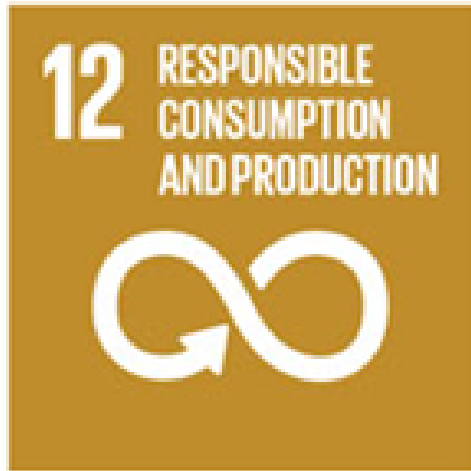
Market Advisory Council
WG 3 EU control and sanitary issues, consumer rules
30 November 2023

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Directorate-General for Health and
Food Safety

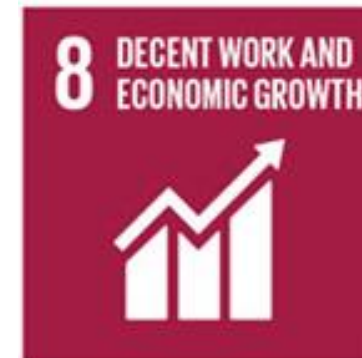




SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.





Annual Strategy meeting

STATEMENT: World Lagging Woefully Behind on Ambition to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

NEW YORK (September 18, 2023)— Today, the United Nations General Assembly convenes the 2023 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Summit, marking the halfway point to the deadline set for achieving the SDGs by 2030. The Summit will serve as a reality check and reset for global ambition on sustainable development.

Sustainable Development Goal 12 seeks to “ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.” The third target under this goal (Target 12.3) calls for cutting in half per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reducing food losses along production and supply chains (including post-harvest losses) by 2030.

Inspiring examples show that achieving SDG 12.3 is possible, and change can happen quickly. But, at this moment, the world is woefully lagging in progress overall.

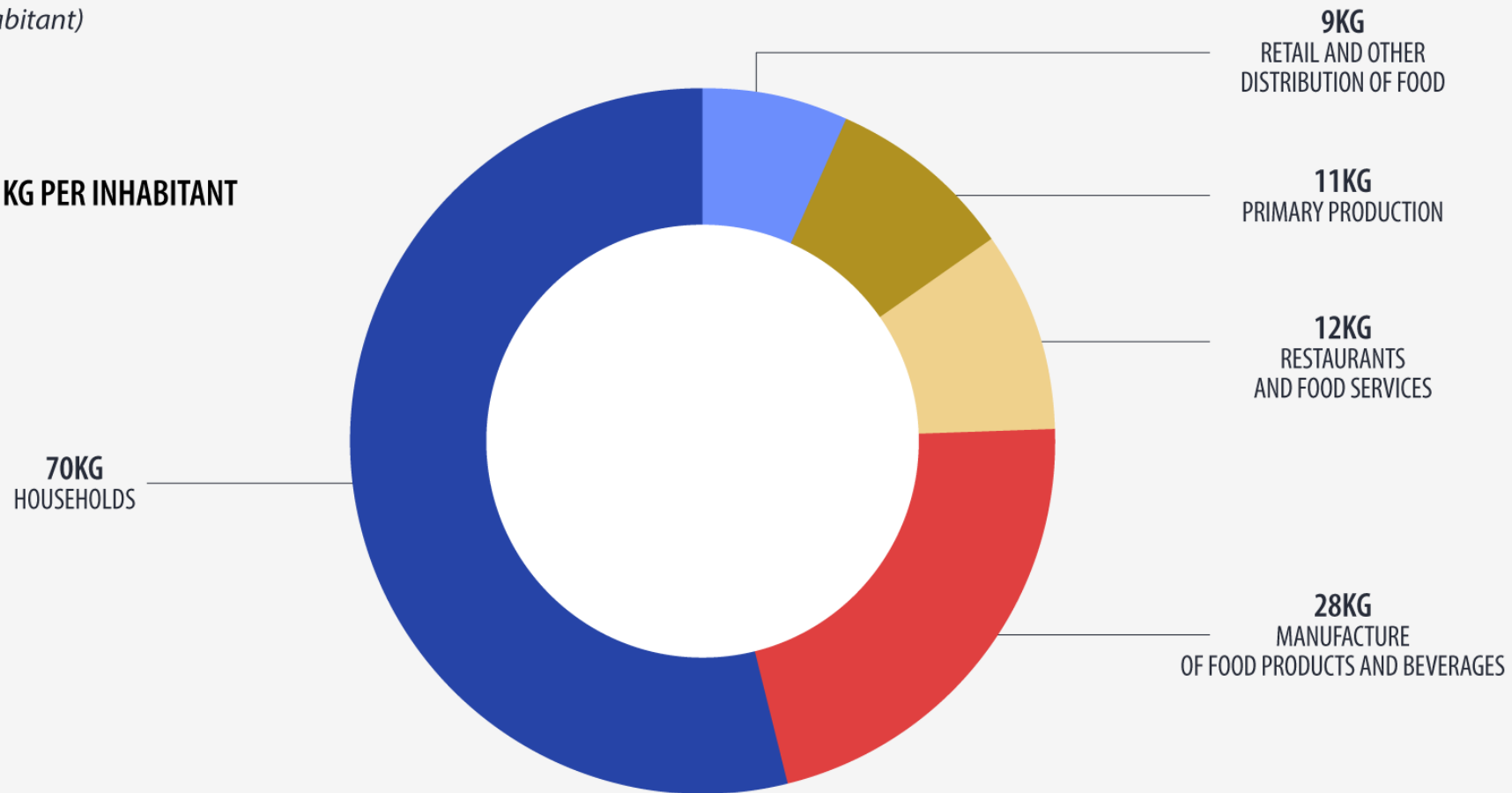


Insufficient reduction of food waste across the EU

Food waste in the EU by main economic sectors, 2021

(kg per inhabitant)

TOTAL: 131 KG PER INHABITANT



Data not available: Czechia, Germany, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, Romania.
Due to roundings, the sum of the values for the categories does not match the total.



Food waste in the EU: key numbers and impacts

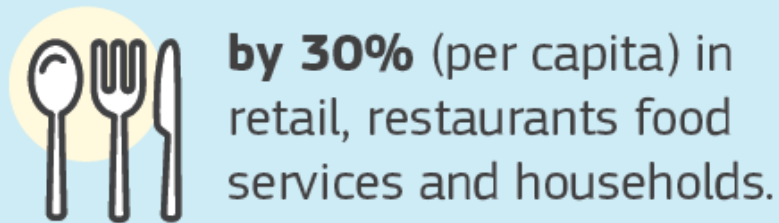
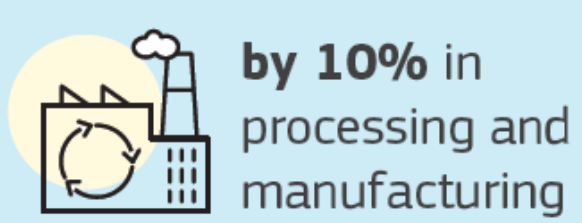
- **16% of total GHG** from EU food system (254 million tonnes of CO₂)
- **132 bn EUR** in associated market value; **9.3 bn EUR** for waste collection and treatment
- **Unnecessary spending:** 4-person household could save about 400 EUR/year
- **Ethical dimension:** over 37 million EU citizens cannot afford a high-quality meal every second day



How to make more progress in the EU?

The EU and its Member States are committed to the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** to **halve per capita global food waste at retail and consumer level by 2030**.

To make more progress, and in comparison to 2020, Member States should, by 2030, reduce food waste at national level:



Step-by-step approach: Review progress, adapt objectives (also beyond 2030), and reward early achievers



Legal text

Content of the proposal – food waste part

- Article 1 – Amendments of the WFD – food waste

	Article 9a	Prevention of food waste generation (1) General provisions (2-3) Monitoring (same provisions as in 2018) Targets (4) Target levels (5-6) Earlier baseline (7) Revision clause
	Article 29a	Food waste prevention programmes (1) Review of FWPP (2) Designation of competent authority

Food waste – general provisions

Article 9a

Prevention of food waste generation

1. *Member States shall take appropriate measures to prevent generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households. Those measures shall include the following:*

- (a) **developing and supporting behavioural change interventions** to reduce food waste, and information campaigns to raise awareness about food waste prevention;
- (b) **identifying and addressing inefficiencies in the functioning of the food supply chain** and support cooperation amongst all actors, **while ensuring a fair distribution of costs and benefits of prevention measures;**
- (c) *encouraging food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products;*
- (d) **supporting training and skills development as well as facilitating access to funding opportunities,** in particular for small and medium sized enterprises and social economy actors.

Food waste – targets

Article 9a

4. Member States shall take the necessary and appropriate measures to achieve, by 31 December 2030, the following food waste reduction targets at national level:
 - (a) reduce the generation of food waste in **processing and manufacturing by 10 %** in comparison to the amount generated in 2020;
 - (b) reduce the generation of food waste per capita, **jointly in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services and in households, by 30 %** in comparison to the amount generated in 2020.

Food waste – prevention programmes

‘Article 29a

Food waste prevention programmes

1. By [*P.O. insert date of two years after entry into force of this amending Directive*], Member States shall **review and adapt their food waste prevention programmes**, with a view of attaining the targets provided for in Article 9a(4). Those programmes shall at least contain the measures laid down in Article 9(1) and 9a(1)) and, where relevant, the measures listed in Annexes IV and IVa.
2. Each Member State shall **designate the competent authorities responsible for the coordination** of the food waste reduction measures implemented in order to reach the target set out in Article 9a(4) and inform accordingly the Commission by [*P.O. insert the date of within three months after the entry into force of this amending Directive*]. The Commission shall subsequently publish that information on the relevant EU website.’;

views of co-legislators

Opinions – EESC and COR

- **EESC:**
 - Opinion adopted on 25 October
 - Key change: the reduction of food waste should only apply to avoidable waste
 - <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/revision-eu-waste-framework-directive>
- **COR – no opinion**

Views of co-legislators – European Parliament

- **Rapporteur: Anna Zalewska (ECR/PL)**
- **Draft report available – key amendment: postpone targets by 5 years (to 2035)**
- **discussed in ENVI Cttee on 24 October (morning)**
https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/committee-on-environment-public-health-and-food-safety_20231024-0845-COMMITTEE-ENVI
- **and COMAGRI on 25 October and 28 November (morning).**
Rapporteur COMAGRI: Clara Aguilera (S&D/ES)
https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/agri-committee-meeting_20231025-0900-COMMITTEE-AGRI
https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/agri-committee-meeting_20231128-0900-COMMITTEE-AGRI
- **521 amendments tabled (both for food and textile parts)**

European Parliament - Main items discussed

- **Why not 50% reduction target?**
- **Pertinence of joint target (retail and consumption)**
- **Need to focus on avoidable food waste**
- **Need to support consumer behavioural change (including date marking)**
- **How to deal with primary production?**
- **2020 as a baseline and data quality**
- **Ensure coherence with revision of Packaging Directive**

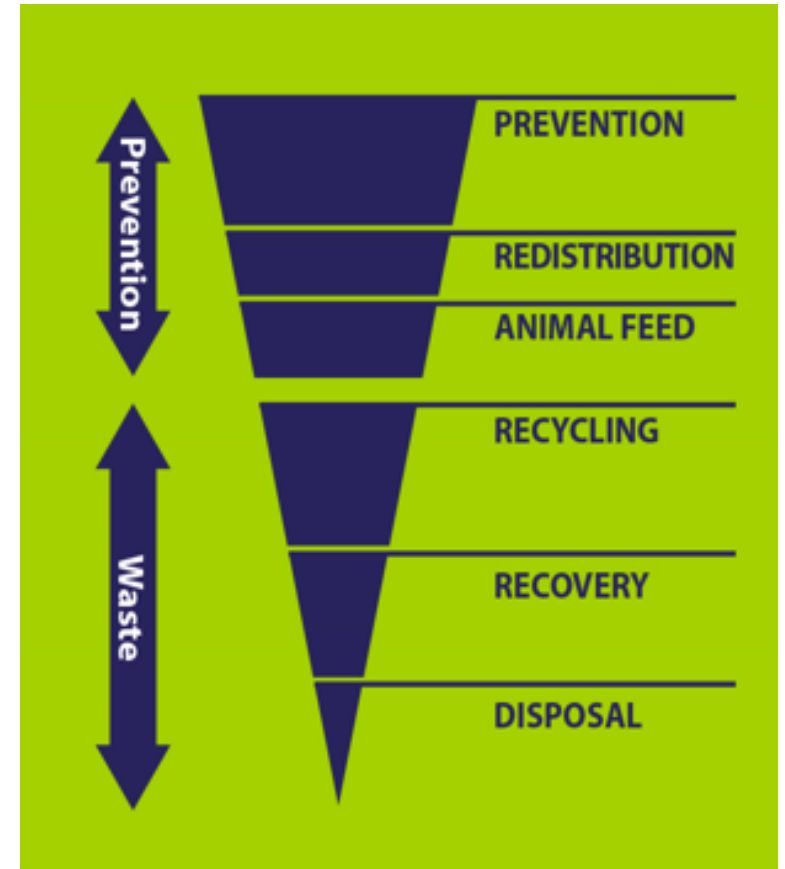
- **[Procedure File: 2023/0234\(COD\) | Legislative Observatory | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)**

Views of co-legislators - Council

- **Led by ENV Council but also discussed in AGRIFISH Council.**
- **Views generally positive, but no details available yet**
 - **Discussion ENV (short) of 16 October**
<https://video.consilium.europa.eu/event/en/27112>
 - **Discussion AGRIFISH (long) of 23 October**
<https://video.consilium.europa.eu/event/en/27120>
- **Main items discussed:**
 - **2020 as a baseline year**
 - **Data comparability**
 - **Focus on total food waste vs edible parts of food**
 - **Mixed views re target levels (for some, need to align with SDG)**
 - **Some question absence of target for primary production**

Food waste prevention: building on the EU toolbox

- Legal obligations for Member States to reduce, measure and monitor food waste
- Common EU methodology to measure food waste consistently
- EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste
- Facilitate food donation
 - EU food donation guidelines
- Optimise safe use of food in feed
 - EU guidelines on feed use of food no longer intended for human consumption
- Promote better understanding and use of date marking



Tackling consumer food waste:

European Consumer Food Waste forum

Tackling consumer food waste: European Consumer Food Waste Forum (ECWF)

European Commission

JRC TECHNICAL REPORT

Tools, best practices, and recommendations to reduce consumer food waste – A compendium

Candeal, T., Brüggemann, N., Bruns, H., Casonato, C., Dierckxens, C., García-Herrero, L., Gil, J.M., Haglund, Y., Kapitan, G., Kasza, G., Mikkelsen, B.E., Obersteiner, G., Pires, I.M., Swainell, R., Vainioranta, J., van Herpen, E., Vittuari, M., Watanabe, K., Sala, S.

2023
Joint Research Centre
EUR 31572 EN

European Commission

Reducing consumer food waste: recommendations for schools

Food waste is a pressing issue with significant environmental, social and economic consequences. In the EU, nearly 59 million tonnes of food waste (131 kg/inhabitant) are generated each year. The largest share of food waste is generated in households and food services. The food groups that are most commonly wasted are vegetables, fruits and cereals.

Consumers can change many behaviours that lead to food waste (e.g. cooking too much), but their capacity to prevent food waste is influenced by a number of factors (e.g. related policies, lifestyle factors). Reducing consumer food waste requires collaboration between all actors in the food system, in which educational establishments play a key role.

53 % of EU food waste is generated in households (70 kg/person/year).

9 % of EU food waste arises in restaurants and food services, including school canteens (12 kg/person/year).

The role of schools

Educating young children and adolescents about food waste is essential to raise awareness of the importance of preventing and reducing it. Schools play a key role in sharing information about healthy and sustainable food habits that can help shape the behaviours of new generations, including in relation to food waste. Addressing food waste in school canteens can also set a positive example for children and young people and inspire them to take similar action at home.

Taking action against food waste in schools

1 Classroom education programmes

Primary and secondary school pupils can be educated through classroom activities to reduce food waste arising from meals at school and at home. A programme could consist of one or two lessons or be implemented over the entire school year. Monitoring the effectiveness of such programmes is highly recommended, either by measuring food waste before and after the programme or by conducting interviews to get pupils' feedback. Involving teachers, catering staff and parents will contribute to the success of the initiative.

Teaching pupils how to reduce food waste

- Check if educational materials (e.g. those provided by [the Wasteless project](#) in Hungary) are available in your country from the Ministry of Education or other organisations (e.g. non-governmental organisations, public institutions).
- Coordinate with other teachers, educators and canteen staff in your

Some successful examples:

- An [educational package on food waste](#), available in several languages, for primary and secondary school pupils. The package is freely available online and includes a manual with lessons and activities, instructions for teachers, posters and food waste reduction tools for school canteens.
- A [food literacy programme](#) about food and eating for 4- to 12-year-

- 15 Researchers and practitioners working together to address consumer food waste
- Compendium of tools, best practices and recommendations

Public event (ECWF) - 5 June 2024



Working on progress

- In person in Brussels, 5 June 2024
- Key stakeholders invited to learn from each other
- **We will be presenting the tools** as well as providing training and advice to better intervention design, performance, and evaluation
- We expect interaction, flow of information, and sharing best practices while exchanging how to deal with challenges
- **We will keep you posted!**

Online event at COP28: JRC and DG SANTE



- Dec 8 morning: 11.30-12.30CET.
- We will focus on **consumer food waste**
- **Under the Youth, Education and Skills thematic area European Union Side events**
- Event programme:
<https://www.cop28eusideevents.eu/e/programme?session=1837488>
- You are welcome to join, please register here:



<https://www.cop28eusideevents.eu/e/register-now>

Support actions by key players: action grants for stakeholders

Single Market Programme – grants for stakeholders to support food waste measurement and prevention



Let's reduce #FoodWaste

Grants to support restaurants, canteens, hotels in taking action against food waste

#EUFarm2Fork
#FoodWasteEU



European Commission

2022 – 14 projects funded, total of €2,159,757

Let's reduce #FoodWaste

Grants to support actions reducing consumer food waste

Apply now!



European Commission | #FoodWasteEU

2023 – 20 proposals received, total budget €3 million

Engaging citizens: recommendations of European Citizens' panel on food waste



- Around 150 citizens from across the EU
- 1/3 of the panel young people aged 16-25
- 3 meetings (December, January, 10-12 February 2023)
- **Final outcome: 23 recommendations to step up action against food waste**



EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub



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Let's fight food waste together!

#FoodWasteEU
#FLWDay



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https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu-food-loss-waste-prevention-hub/



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