The Richest Starving Country in the World

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(“Here’s How Food Waste at UCI, Some Supermarkets Is Being Converted into Electricity”)
“Throwing away food is like stealing from the table of those who are poor and hungry.”

-Pope Francis
Food Waste is an Issue. Food Insecurity is an Issue. Let's Bridge this Gap
What is Food Waste?
Food Waste-

Discarding/alternative use of food that is safe and nutritious for human consumption

- 50% of U.S. land invested in food production
  - 10% of U.S. energy budget
  - 80% U.S. freshwater consumption
- 40% of food in the U.S. is wasted

Jaw-Dropping Food Loss

- 33% Seafood
- 28% Fruits and Vegetables
- 27% Grain
- 17% Milk
- 12% Meat

Effect on the Environment

- Food is largest contributor to solid waste
- Leading source of methane emissions
  - 16% methane emissions (2017)
  - 25x More potent than $CO_2$
- Accelerates the rate of Climate Change


History of Food Waste

Prior to 1950s
- food considered a **scarcity** for most people
- Cook books stressed frugality

1950s
- Post WWII, change in behavior in food industry
- Farmers maxed out yield without regard to surplus

Post 1950s
- **Surplus** of food in U.S.
- Population becomes desensitized to food waste

2008-Today
- Global Food Crisis
- Cultural and policy shift that acknowledges food waste

Benefitters

- Landfills
- Composting investors
- Companies in food industry who ignore food waste*

Sufferers

- Long term: increased total cost
- Damages Environment
- Low-income consumers
- Everyone

*Short-term benefits, long-term consequences
Video!

Food Waste Exists on Campus
Low-Income Consumers Face the Most Adversity

- \( \frac{1}{8} \) Americans currently struggle to feed themselves/family

- Projected increase in prices of food will burden the lower class

- ~40% college students face chronic hunger

- In a class of 100 students, 40 of them do not know where their next meal is coming from

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URI Food Services Calculation

- Almost **9 tons** of food waste are sent to the landfill **every week**.

- **324 tons** of food waste **each school year**!

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Step 1. A.m. Shift place all organic waste/scrape for morning in designated barrel. Weigh at end of shift. Multiply answer times 1.5

Total = all organic from prep waste/day Amount: \(35\times 1.5=53\)lbs/day

Step 2. Weigh somat waste for duration of busiest 30 minute period. Multiply amount out for length of meal time (4hrs or 8/30min periods) 15, 17, 13, 10, 10.5 lbs bags. Multiply answer times 2

Total= all customer waste during meal period per day Amount:

\[70\times 560 = 1120\]lbs/day

Step 3. At end of lunch, weigh all food destined for the disposal or garbage can. Note this also includes bakery items. Multiply answer times 2

Total= all kitchen cooked waste. Amount:

\[114\times 228 = 25828\]lbs/day

Step 4. Combine weight of prep, customer waste, and cooked waste

Total= amount of organic waste from Hope Mainfare per one day. Amount:

\[53+1120=1173\]lbs/day

Hope Mainfare amount times 1.75. Total= Combined for Butterfield and Hope per one Day. Amount: \(2452\times 7 = 17164\)lbs weekly
What Can We Do About This?
Action Plan

- Donate to Rhody Outpost
- Donate a Meal Pass
- Conscious Portion Control
  - Only put on your plate what you know you will eat
  - You can always go for 2nds
- Eat Perishable Foods Before Processed Foods
- Tell your Friends and Family About This Action Plan

“The Time to Take Action Is NOW: CALL to ACTION!”
To Help with the Hunger Struggle Off Campus
You can support local food banks and pantries!

- Rhode Island Community Food Bank
  - (401) 942-6325
- RICAN
  - (401) 364-9412
- Food Recovery Network
  - development@foodrecoverynetwork.org
- McAuley House
  - (401) 941-9013
- Johnnycake Center of Peace Dale
  - (401) 284-0303
Rhody Outpost

- St. Augustine Church (15 Lower College Road)
- Monday/Friday 3-5 pm
- Memorial Union Rm 302
  - Drop off Gift Cards/
    Monetary Donations
- 401.874.5633
- dsooutreach@etal.uri.edu

Issues With Rhody Outpost/URI Dining Hall Collaboration

Obstacles

- Lack of volunteers
- Restrictive Time Availability
- Poor Locations

Solution

- **Volunteer** at Rhody Outpost!
  - Solves lack of volunteers, and time availability.

“Rhody Outpost.” St Augustine’s—Episcopal Center at URI, 19 Nov. 2014, [https://staugustineuri.org/rhody-outpost/](https://staugustineuri.org/rhody-outpost/).
# Items Currently Needed

## Food Items
- Mac and Cheese
- Ramen Noodles
- Soup
- Bread
- Gluten-Free items
- Cereal (Full-size and individual size)
- Snacks like Granola Bars, Crackers, etc.
- Fruit – canned and fresh
- Rice/Grains
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Tuna/Sardines

## Non-Food Items
- Hygiene items
- Disposable plates, bowls, cutlery
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Soap
Consequences of Inaction

Pros
● More time to do... homework!

Cons
● More food goes to landfill
● Increases methane emissions
● Increases rate of climate change
● Total cost of food will increase
● Food Prices Increase for everyone
● Also, someone on your dorm floor will go to sleep hungry...

Leib, Emily, et al. *Keeping Food Out of the Landfill: Policy Ideas for States and Localities*. Toolkit, p. 84,

Consequences of Action

Pros
● We make a dent in local food waste and food insecurity
● Our friends on campus can go to sleep with full bellies

Cons
● One less guest swipe

Leib, Emily, et al. *Keeping Food Out of the Landfill: Policy Ideas for States and Localities*. Toolkit, p. 84,
“Vote with your fork and vote with your vote!”

- Marion Nestle


https://create.kahoot.it/kahoots/my-kahoots

https://forms.gle/o8CsEm18guugutxQA