

# THE FOOD WASTE PROBLEM



## DID YOU KNOW...

- About 1.3 billion tonnes or one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain, from production to consumption.
- More people are reported to die from hunger every day than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. But at the same time, nearly one-third of the food that is produced in the world is lost or wasted due to one reason or the other.
- Food waste has environmental, financial and social impacts
- Food production use energy, fuel and water that let off greenhouse gases contributing to climate change. This energy, fuel and water is wasted if the food is wasted, not only needlessly contributing to climate change, but more so through processes involved in waste.
- The irrigation water used globally to grow food that is wasted would be enough for the domestic needs (at 200 litres per person per day) of 9 billion people

## WHAT IS THE COST OF WASTING FOOD?

- We need 100 buckets of water to produce just one loaf of bread, 54 buckets of water to rear one chicken breast, six buckets of water to grow one potato, one bucket of water to grow one tomato.
- Throwing out one kilogram of beef is wasting 50,000 litres of water that were used to produce that meat. Throwing one glass of milk down the drain is wasting 1000 litres of water.
- Food waste uses more water than any country in the world.
- If we stopped throwing good food away it would save the equivalent of at least 17m tonnes of carbon dioxide. That's the environmental equivalent of taking one in five cars off UK roads.
- Food wasted could be used to feed the poor and the nearly one billion malnourished people in the world - if we saved just one-quarter of all the food that's wasted across the world each year, it would be enough to feed all of the people on the planet who are hungry, malnourished, or starving.

### SOURCES

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