iSEE TED Talk: Eco-Edition Food Waste

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About Me

- Senior in Environmental Economics & Policy
- Minors in Spanish and Sustainability, Energy, and Environment
- iSEE Sustainability Intern
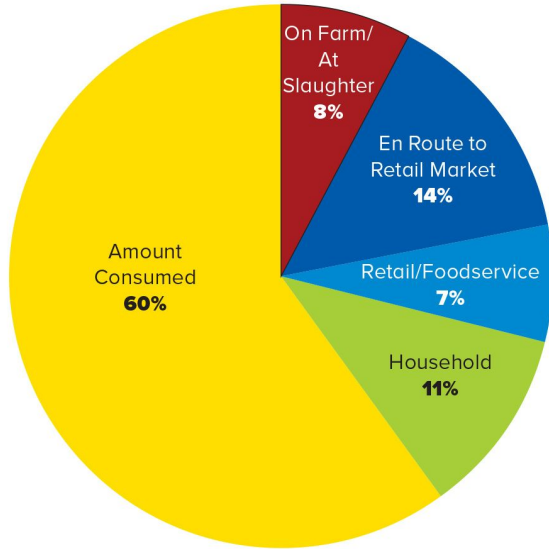- Project 4 Less President
- Zero Waste iCAP Team Member

The Global Food Waste Scandal (Tristram Stuart)

Food Waste Statistics

Figure 1. **Where Food Is Lost and Wasted**
(as a percentage of global food production)

Pie chart:
- On Farm/At Slaughter **8%**
- En Route to Retail Market **14%**
- Retail/Foodservice **7%**
- Household **11%**
- Amount Consumed **60%**

Sources: FAO, UNEP, WWF

Global food losses and waste per year

IFCO

around **1/3** of the world's food is squandered, that is

1.3 billion tons of wasted food at

approx. **1** trillion USD costs

- **45%** of all fruit and vegetables
- **35%** of all fish and seafood
- **30%** of all cereals
- **20%** of all dairy products
- **20%** of all meat and poultry

Source | www.fao.org/save-food/resources/infographic/en/

A better supply chain serves us all. **Let's eat.**

Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste: EPA
What resources go into a year of food loss and waste in the U.S.?
excluding impacts of waste management, such as landfill methane emissions

- **Greenhouse gas emissions** of more than 42 coal-fired power plants
- **Enough water and energy** to supply more than 50 million homes
- The **amount of fertilizer** used in the U.S. to grow all plant-based foods for U.S. human consumption
- An **area of agricultural land** equal to California and New York

Learn more: www.epa.gov/land-research/farm-kitchen-environmental-impacts-us-food-waste

Food Waste Reduction @ UIUC

Project 4 Less

- Tackling food waste and food insecurity
- Connecting excess dining hall food to people in need at food pantries
- Recovering 150-200 pounds of pre-consumer food waste per week (untouched, perfectly good food!)

Food Waste Reduction @ UIUC

Grind2Energy

- Food scraps are ground up and water is added, forming a slurry
- This slurry is pumped into and stored in a tank and transported to the Sanitary District
- Through anaerobic digestion, methane and fertilizer are produced
- Five of these systems are found across campus!

Discussion

- Do you think food waste is a big issue in your life? If so, what kinds of food get wasted the most?
- How can we change social norms surrounding "bad" food? (i.e., misshapen fruits and vegetables, etc.)
- What steps should the government and businesses take to reduce food waste?
- Do you have any tips to reduce personal food waste?