

**Freshman #12**

TOPIC:Reducing food Waste



# SOCOMUN XXVIII

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Reducing Food Waste

Hello, my name is Alex Georgiou, and I will be one of the co-chairs for the SOCOMUN 2019 conference! Currently, I am a Junior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and this will be my 3rd consecutive year participating in Model United Nations. The program has helped me tremendously in a multitude of ways, including enhancing my public speaking skills, my ability to conduct research, and my critical thinking. I feel privileged to be part of Model United Nations, partly due to the social aspect, in which I have made many new friends, but mainly in the sector of debate, where I can convey my point in an environment that cultivates it. I enjoy debating topics regarding the environment, such as climate change or deforestation, and even committees that discuss issues in the Middle East! With all the conferences I have attended, I learn something new each time, regardless of winning an award. To elaborate a little more on my extracurricular activities, I am the team captain of the SMCHS wrestling team, and I enjoy doing public service and am involved in a variety of community programs.

Hi, my name is Shane Townsend and I am currently a junior at SMCHS. This is my third year participating in MUN, and I am excited to be your vice chair. I play on the SMCHS Girls’ Varsity Volleyball team, am a student ambassador, and am a member of various SM Clubs.

Hi, my name is Morgan Davies and I will be your rapporteur. Currently I am a sophomore at SMCHS, this will be my second year participating in the MUN program. Since starting MUN as a freshman I have learned so much about many different global issues taking place. The MUN program has bettered many of my skills including writing, public speaking, and researching.

To give a brief explanation of what this learning conference will entail, we will begin with ice breakers to ease the tension in the room. It is normal for delegates to be anxious! After ice breakers, delegates will give speeches regarding the topic of “reducing food waste,” explaining the background of the topic and their solutions to the committee, and after, the audience will give comments regarding the speaker’s solutions. After several speeches have been given, a delegate may motion for a caucus, where delegates can discourse with each other in an informal setting – as in discussing solutions in small or large groups- and later implement the discussed solutions in a resolution. Prior to the conference, it is crucial that you research the topic sufficiently and come prepared with knowledge pertaining to your country’s policy and possible solutions to the issue at hand. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [socomunfresh12@gmail.com](mailto:socomunfresh12@gmail.com) I look forward to seeing all of you at the conference and listening to your intuitive solutions!

**Background:**

On a yearly basis, 33-50 percent of all globally produced food items are not eaten. Instead, they are thrown away and discarded into landfills. Collectively, these food items are worth over $1 trillion. It is not only an environmental issue, but it also illuminates the massive market inefficiency prevalent today. While the issue of food waste remains predominant in more developed societies, there are countries whose citizens face starvation each night. More than 800 million people around the globe go to sleep hungry, which roughly equals one in nine people on the planet. Ironically, each one of those people could be sufficiently fed on less than twenty-five percent of all food waste in the U.S, UK, and Europe each year. Due to the globalized food supply system, which means that another country’s food market can dictate the price of a food item, demand for food in western countries can augment the price of food grown for export in developing countries. Increasing the price of food in an underdeveloped nation could mean catastrophe since the local population may not be able to afford it, as well as displace the growth of crops, fundamentally starving native populations and accelerating the destruction of natural habitats. Furthermore, the culprit of food waste in developing countries is primarily unintentional; loses in the early stages of food production and shipping results from limitations in harvesting techniques, packaging, and marketing systems. In more developed countries, such as the U.S and China, food waste occurs due to public indulgence. Consumers are accustomed to throwing away food due to over-buying, inadequate storage facilities, and most notably, making meals that are too large. Food manufacturers produce waste through inefficient practices and quality control standards that overemphasize appearance. Capitalizing on the environmental damages that food waste causes, growing food requires a large land mass, greater than China, in order to feed the globe. Growing the crops caused this land to be deforested, drove animals to become extinct, moved indigenous populations away from their homeland, and most unfortunately, degraded the land’s soil and deprived it of any nutrients. The resources put into growing the food, and the consequences that are endured, are wasted since most of the food grown is discarded. When waste goes to the landfill, it decomposes without oxygen to produce methane, a gas that is 23 times more hostile to the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. The United Nations has enacted a plethora of organizations and committees to battle the issue of food waste. Established in 2013 by the UNEP, “Think, Eat, Save, Reduce Your Foodprint” seeks to hasten efforts to eliminate harmful and wasteful practices by aiding countries. The program establishes successful initiatives on these issues, targeting consumers, retailers, and the hospitality industry. In addition, the UN Environment Assembly issued a report entitled “Waste Not, Want Not: Reducing Food Loss and Waste in North America Through Life Cycle-Based Approaches,” which was published in March of 2019. The study scrutinizes the effects of life cycle thinking and related tools, such as life cycle assessment, to inform policymakers about the consequences of food waste. The UN Environment Assembly also established a coalition of governments, businesses, and civilians solely dedicated to reducing food waste. The Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard launched the first set of reporting requirements for entities, such as businesses and countries, to adhere to. They must report on food loss and waste, and are also required to invent new strategies to reduce that number. Congruously, the EPA, or the U. S’s Environmental Protection Agency, has worked with the international community to reduce the food waste in not only the U.S, but around the world. In 2015, the EPA successfully established food waste as one of the priorities for the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. The CEC’s Operational Plan approved an initiative on food waste recovery and reduction, which enhances the capacity in multiple countries for reducing the disposal of food waste by allocating funds and educational opportunities for policymakers and organizations working in those countries.

**Possible Solutions:**

The following information pertains to possible solutions that delegates may elaborate on. Although I am listing these, it is vital that each delegate creates their own solutions based off their own research. This is crucial since delegates will be debating their solutions with each other, as well as give speeches about them. While you are researching solutions, remember that you are assigned a country. This means that each solution you come up with should relate to your country’s policy. Another thing to note is this; money is not an issue in this committee. You should not worry about how you will fund your expenditures; the World Bank will cover it! It is necessary that you focus on the implementation of your solutions instead.

To solve the issue of food waste, it is necessary that delegates focus on all aspects of the food production chain: Cultivation, packaging, distribution, retail, and consumers. For example, implementing a solution that relates to the farming of food, such as new sustainable methods of cultivation, is a plausible solution, but it is important to elaborate on each aspect of it, like how you will supply farmers with new equipment, what type of equipment, and how you would educate farmers to use them efficiently. Furthermore, you could identify possible ways to improve the distribution system, which entails the transporting of goods. To find great solutions, it requires good research. You should use you research to find holes in the current system, and your solutions will fill those voids. You could also research already implemented solutions and attempt to alter and fix them. Just remember to have enough solutions for debate and ensure that they are relating to your country policy!

**Questions to Consider:**

Please note that you are not required to answer these questions and turn them in, they are intended for you to apply them into your solutions. They will help you formulate more solutions or points that will help you in committee, but it is encouraged that you answer them during your speeches or debate.

1. For the issue of food waste, what is your country policy? Has your country implemented any solutions to reduce food waste?
2. Are there any non-profits or NGOs that could aid you in your planned solutions?
3. How will you lower the amount of food waste in the common household?
4. How could sustainable agriculture lower food waste?
5. What are the main differences in food preservation for developed countries compared to underdeveloped countries?
6. How will you alter consumers’ perception of food waste to solve the issue?
7. How could the UN interfere with the food production chain of a sovereign nation?

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| **Goal 12 Targets. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns** |
| 12.1 Implement the 10‑Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries |
| 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources |
| 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 |
| 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment |
| 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse |
| 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle |
| 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities |
| 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature |
| 12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production |
| 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products |
| 12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities  **MUN Impact**  We hope that you learn a lot about Model UN at our conference. We also hope that you learn about the world we live in and want to make that world a better place for everyone. Consider taking the next step and becoming a part of the MUN Impact Program <http://munimpact.org/>  To see what MUN Impact is doing related to SDG #12 look here <http://munimpact.org/sdg-12/>  Works Cited:  “Reducing Wasted Food At Home.” *EPA*, Environmental Protection Agency, 2 Aug. 2018, [www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-wasted-food-home](http://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-wasted-food-home).  This article discusses how families can reduce food waste in their own homes, giving insight on storage and preparation tips that could ultimately help reduce food waste. It provides key information on how to identify food that would be going to waste as well as an alternative option for homes that cannot achieve this decrease. This source is not biased as it provides a surplus of information on possible ways for homeowners to better their own waste management, by understanding the benefits of the topic. It is useful because it will allow the reader to really get a grasp on the topic and relate it to specific needs, looking past a broad view of the issue. This source provides a basic background information to possible solutions to reducing food waste. In the paper, it could be used to show how action can begin immediately if implemented properly.  “The Problem of Food Waste.” *OLIO*, [www.olioex.com/food-waste/the-problem-of-food-waste/](http://www.olioex.com/food-waste/the-problem-of-food-waste/).  To accommodate for a rapidly increasing world population, it has become apparent that food waste be reduced; this article provides several definitions and statistics that prove the urgency of this topic. It discusses the issue on an international scale, showing the detrimental environmental crisis that is a result. This website allows the reader to view unbiased information that can help them understand direct facts that relate to the problem. They will be able to grow in their understanding of the topic through being exposed to international progress. This article can be used in developing the paper on reducing food waste, because it is vital to be aware of the goal on a large scale. After reading this, it is clear that the piece is helpful in seeing the issue in both developing and developed nations, to better create solutions to assisting this process.  “About Food Waste.” *Move For Hunger*, www.moveforhunger.org/about-food-waste/.  This website highlights the positive outcomes of reducing food waste. It talks about how there are opportunities to better this system on various levels, ultimately helping food waste decrease in coming years. Although this article is not extensive in length, it is influential in showing where the food is being wasted and how this can be combatted. It gives pros and cons to several solutions in place, proving it to be unbiased information. This article is vital in having read, because it will help the reader develop more industrial solutions to ultimately reduce food waste. It gives a few interactive links that can give a new perspective in seeing environmental cost, economic cost, and simply how these translate into homes.  “Solutions & Best Practices.” *FWRA - Food Waste Reduction Alliance*, foodwastealliance.org/about-our-work/solutions-best-practices/.  This article talks about how reducing food waste is directly correlated to other world issues. By working with name brands, the source shows that there are modern solutions to reducing food waste in shops and stores across the world. This article is important to take note of, because it puts the topic of reducing food waste into a positive outlook, showing them work that has already been accomplished in various food industries. This article is not biased because the text shows that there is a main focus on reducing food waste, through practical solutions that have the potential to be further developed. This is a good source to take note of because the organization that runs it is reliable and is collaborative in their recent efforts to understanding this issue. The article is updated and has insightful, textual information, that will be further important in the paper when writing the background and solution sections.  “The Food Waste Problem and What's Being Done to Fix It.” *World Agriculture Network*, 19 Apr. 2017, worldagnetwork.com/the-food-waste-problem-and-whats-being-done-to-fix- it/.  This website provides information on the United Nations and international steps that have been taken in order to reduce food waste. The article discusses how globally nations need to follow agreements that are set in place, take direct action in their countries, and how new technology will be able to reduce more food waste. This is a reliable source because it has direct information that demonstrates a new path to food waste reduction. It is unbiased as it deals with the past and future actions of countries, leaving no room to influence solutions with opinion, but rather facts. When creating the position paper, this article can be used in including data to support claims of urgency on the topic. This explains important components such as new technology that includes websites that have been developed to better reduce food waste across the globe.  “Ugly Vegetables Are a Major Cause of Food Waste.” The Independent, Independent Digital News and Media, 30 Mar. 2019, www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/ugly-vegetable-food-waste-fruit-vegetable-a8825311.html.  This is a newspaper article from the UK that talks about “ugly” fruits and vegetables. It explains how a lot of food is wasted because it’s not up to grocery stores requirements or standards, leading a great amount of perfectly good produce to be thrown out. Overall, I think this article has some good points even though it is talking about the UK because this problem takes place in many different countries especially developed ones.  “How Reducing Food Waste Fights Climate Change.” The Christian Science Monitor, The Christian Science Monitor, 7 Apr. 2016, www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2016/0407/How-reducing-food-waste-fights-climate-change.  This article was published in 2016 and talks about how food waste affects the climate and mentions good statistics about the percentage of food waste for each type of food group. It also talks about how developed countries have shown a pattern of greater food waste, highlighting China and the US. Towards the bottom of the article it points out that the consumer process and food supply chain have things that need to e fix to reduce food waste. I thought this article was credible and provided good facts and information about the topic. Overall, I think this article is useful and covers multiple different aspects of food waste that could be used.  “Minimizing Food Waste.” UN Environment, www.unenvironment.org/regions/north-america/regional-initiatives/minimizing-food-waste.  This source is from the UN Environment website and mainly talks about the organization’s involvement, it also mentions some statistics about greenhouse gas emissions. It talks about some of the target goals of sustainable development goal 12, it mentions the launch of, Waste Not, Want Not: Reducing Food Loss and Waste in North America Through Life Cycle-Based Approaches. In addition to that talks about how the UN Environment leads the coalition of government businesses that works to reduce food waste. This article is credible and has some good information of UN involvement that is up to date.  “UN and Partners Launch Global Campaign to Reduce Food Waste | UN News.” United Nations, United Nations, news.un.org/en/story/2013/01/430352  This article focuses on the consumer chain and where as well as how food is lost. It also  mentions towards the end some regions waste per year. This article isn’t up to date because it  was published in 2003, however it has information such as how food is lost throughout the food  chain that is still credible.  “Reducing Food Loss and Waste.” Reducing Food Loss and Waste | World Resources Institute, www.wri.org/publication/reducing-food-loss-and-waste.  This article talks about some of the harmful impacts that reducing food waste has on the environment and economy. It also mentions some statistics about how reducing intake of food can save a great amount of money. Overall this article is very brief but it mentions some good aspects of reducing food waste. |