

**Freshman #12**

TOPIC:Reducing food Waste


# SOCOMUN XXVII

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Reducing Food Waste

 Hi, my name is Casi Roque, and I will be one of your co-chairs at SOCOMUN this year! I am a senior at SMCHS, and I have been in MUN for 4 years. I enjoy being a part of the MUN program because it has helped me excel in my skills at collaborating, and I have also become more aware of the different problems faced globally. Throughout my 4 years I have been given the opportunity to travel to Georgetown, London, and I will be going to Prague this upcoming winter. At these conferences, and also local ones, I enjoy debating different topics in regard to environment such as reducing food waste, driverless vehicles, and committees such as the UNEP, UN Environment, and many more. Aside from being a part of the MUN program, I also play soccer, and I am in the theatre program here at SMCHS. My hope for this conference is that it becomes an extraordinary experience for all of you, so that you may continue your career in MUN in the future! The committee sessions flow in a very specific manner. Do not stress about the process, we are here to help! At the beginning of the conference we will open debate. In debate, delegates will be encouraged to give speeches explaining your solutions on the topic of “reducing food waste.” After these speeches, delegates will also be encouraged to make comments on the speech presented. After several speeches, delegates may motion for a caucus which will allow for interaction with other delegates in order to discuss solutions that may be later implemented in resolutions. Prior to the conference it’s important that you are well researched on the topic, your country’s policy, and feasible solutions. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email me at socomunfresh12@gmail.com. See you all at the conference, and I look forward to hearing all of your creative ideas and listening to fruitful debate!

**Background:**

It is estimated that by 2050, the population will rise to about 9.6 billion. Therefore, there will be a larger demand for food causing different challenges for governments worldwide. Yearly, about 30% of food that is produced or consumed is lost or wasted. Food loss or waste is defined as the decrease of food in different stages of the food supply chain. In order to address this issue, the United Nations has announced that the answer to this issue is to reduce food waste, rather than produce more. Estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, about 1.3 billion tons of food will either be lost or wasted. Specifics include the following: 25 percent of fruit and vegetables, 35 percent of seafood, 30 percent of cereals, 20 percent of dairy products, and 20 percent of meat. As expected, most wastage comes from more developed nations such as Europe and North America. In Europe and North America about 95-115kg of food is wasted per year. On the other hand, nations such Africa and Asia only 6-11kg of food is wasted per year. The food loss results from different reasons and varies by region. These reasons may range from the following: harvest, storage, package, transportation, infrastructure, and consumption. In North America about, 33 percent of food is wasted on agriculture, 11 percent on postharvest, 10 percent processing, 8 percent in retail, and 39 percent in consumption. In Asia, about 30 percent is wasted in agriculture, 22 percent on postharvest, 17 percent in processing, 15 percent in retail, and 31 percent in consumption. Finally, in the African region, about 35 percent is wasted on agriculture, 26 percent on postharvest, 13 percent on processing, 13 percent retail, and 4 percent in consumption. However, the cause of waste varies. In developing nations, large amounts are lost during food production and transportation due to lack of infrastructure and equipment. Therefore, there are rising issues during shipping and packaging because a great deal of food is lost. Because of food waste, the environment has been greatly affected. A carbon footprint has been made due to the huge loss in food. Sewage systems have been affected, thus potentially exposing sea life to the waste. Aside from harming sea life, there have been several causes of food waste in the consumer aspect of the food chain. Customers often strive to obtain “cosmetic perfection” and expect to have products that are perfectly produced in shape, size, and color. Also, sell-by dates are known to be a large culprit in food waste. Stores typically pull items out of the market even before the sell-by date, and consumers believe in disposing a product when it is nearing, or the actual sell-by date even if the quality of the product is still in proper condition. The Food and Agriculture Organization has attempted to take action in order to reduce food waste. Firstly, they have highlighted the importance of utilizing sustainable food systems for all. Also, they have recognized all parts of the food supply chain which ranges from producing to consuming. Aside from this they have also supported local and global policies while also working with public and private sectors through the Global Initiative to resolve the issue of food loss and waste. The Food and Agriculture Organization, or the FAO, has played the neutral and independent facilitator in the issues of food waste. Specific countries have also taken action these last years. For example, in France they require retailers to donate food that could be thrown out but is still in good condition. By 2030, the European Union lawmakers are striving to reduce food waste by 50 percent. Because hunger is still a very urgent challenge, assistance is required in all aspects of the food chain. As an international community, collaboration must take place in order to accomplish the sustainable development goal of reducing food waste.

**Possible Solutions:**

 Please note that the following solutions are suggestions, and while delegates are encouraged to implement these, it is crucial that you formulate your own solutions. This is highly important because you will debate your solutions with other delegates to create a resolution. While you are creating these solutions, keep in mind that you each are assigned a country. Therefore, it is important that you research your country’s policy because you must keep your country’s policy throughout the entire conference, meaning that your country should support all of the solutions that you propose. Another important point is, money is not an issue in this committee, and rather we must focus on more concrete solutions that will directly address the issue. To resolve the problem of food waste, all aspects of the food chain should be focused on. For instance, delegates may suggest addressing the agricultural sector by improving the agricultural methods that improve the reduction of food waste. To elaborate you can introduce methods such as crop rotation to ensure that crops stay in good condition but expand on this solution by describing how you would teach these methods, how materials would be provided, and how beneficial would this be for the environment. You can also touch base on the processing and transporting of goods and how to improve that aspect of the chain. Also, as stated in the background, grocery stores face issues with disposing an excessive amount of food when unnecessary. France has addressed this by donating excess food that is left over in stores before its sell-by date. Another point that would bring about interesting debate is how you would resolve the waste issue with sustainable methods considering you are in a sustainable development committee. Some specifics could include the sustainable agricultural methods, or simply how you can create creative ways to reuse food as a source of energy, etcetera. Also, another thing to consider is you may utilize different organizations and facilities to aid your proposed solutions. However, again, as mentioned earlier, it is important that you do not utilize these organizations as a means of financial aid because that is not the focus of the committee. Rather, we would like to see that you utilize these programs and organizations to either provide supplies that assist your solution, provide volunteers, etcetera. Finally, since the causes of food waste vary from each nation or region, it is important that different measures are taken specific to each nation. For instance, areas such as North America or Europe would focus on targeting consumers. On the other hand, the African bloc would most likely focus on improving the condition in which they harvest in, while also improving the packaging and transportation of goods. As a country, you may propose similar ideas, but elaborate and expand because this is another important global issue that nations face. Delegates ensure that you maintain your country’s policy throughout the committee sessions especially when proposing your own personal solutions, or simply when commenting on another delegate’s solutions. Don’t forget to be creative with your solutions!

**Questions to Consider:**

These questions are simply just for you to consider and also add to your research. They are provided to encourage more ideas that will enable you to formulate more solutions or points that will aid you in the committee session. However, it is not required to answer these questions at the conference, but it would be beneficial if you answered most of them in debate or your speech.

1. What is your country’s policy on the issue of food waste? Has your country taken any specific actions to reduce food waste?
2. Can other organizations aid in creating a more sustainable future by reducing food waste?
3. What are the most important aspects of the food chain that affect food waste?
4. Is there any way consumers can change their own diets to cut down on waste, and how could these remain consistent?
5. How could the government take part in the process of reducing waste?
6. What non-profit organizations can assist you in your proposed solutions?
7. How will preserving food differ in developed nations versus underdeveloped nations?

Works Cited

Chainey, Ross, and Digital Media Specialist. “Which Countries Waste the Most Food?” *World Economic Forum*, [www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/08/which-countries-waste-the-most-food/](http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/08/which-countries-waste-the-most-food/).

The first article talks of the countries that have wasted the most food. The article goes further in depth, by showing the pollution the wasting of food creates, and the regions that waste the most. The source was useful, because it gives an in-depth view of which countries the topic is mainly trying to deal with. The source does not appear to be biased in any way, and only shows the facts as they are presented. The source is very helpful, because it gives a summary of the regions that are most involved in the topic. The article provides key details and facts on food waste and shows who wastes the most food.

“EU & UN Agriculture Organisation Join Forces to Tackle Food Waste.” *« Markets & Policy « Waste Management World*, 4 Oct. 2017, waste-management-world.com/a/eu-un-agriculture-organisation-join-forces-to-tackle-food-waste.

The article states that the European Union and FAO have banded together to halve the amount of food waste by 2030. The EU and FAO share health concerns that come with food waste, and want to help stop the problem. This is not one of the most reliable sources in the list given, but it keys in on committees and organizations that are working together to help end food waste. The source focuses in on the common goals that the EU and FAO has, and how they are trying to halve wasting of food. This can, once again, be used as evidence of committees and organizations working to end the problem, but it can also be used to gauge how big the problem is, due to the fact that the EU is involved.

“FAO.org.” *Food Loss and Food Waste | Policy Support and Governance | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | Policy Support and Governance | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, [www.fao.org/policy-support/policy-themes/food-loss-food-waste/en/](http://www.fao.org/policy-support/policy-themes/food-loss-food-waste/en/).

The FAO gives and estimate on how much money (USD) is being wasted in cleaning up food waste and provides messages that it intends to spread. FAO is the most reliable source, because it is one of the committees that deals with the problem first-hand, and is actively trying to solve it. FAO aims to spread the message of not wasting food, and help the problem, and don’t be it. The FAO can be used as an example of one of the committees actively trying to solve the wasting of food, with their facts and their involvement with the UN.

 “Food Loss and Food Waste.” *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, FAO, [www.fao.org/food-loss-and-food-waste/en/](http://www.fao.org/food-loss-and-food-waste/en/).

This article, by the FAO, gives some background to reducing food waste, but also talks about the UN's role in reducing food waste. The FAO organizes events, activities, and meetings with big companies who waste food to help reduce food waste all around the world. This is a good source because it comes straight from the FAO, which is a part of the UN. It may be biased because they are trying to promote their organization, but it doesn’t mean the information is faulty. You could use this article in the UN Involvement and background. This article provides what the UN has done and is doing to help with the issue.

 “Global Food Waste: The Numbers Behind The Problem.” *Insinkerator*, Insinkerator, insinkerator.co.uk/uk/page/global-food-waste-stats.

Food waste has a dramatic impact on our world through its affect on poorer countries, on the environment, and people receiving food. Food waste would be reduced by 25% if food was available to all malnourished and impoverished people. This information is reliable because a lot of the facts are tested and don’t lie. The goal of the source was to show people the problems with global food waste. You can use this for background because it provides a lot of facts about global  food waste, but also specific country food waste. You can also use the bottom of the article to form a question for possible solutions where you could ask them what people could do in their household (day-to-day lives) to fix the issue.

 Jacobs, Harrison. “Why Grocery Stores Like Trader Joe's Throw Out So Much Perfectly Good Food.” *Business Insider*, Business Insider, 15 Oct. 2014, [www.businessinsider.com/why-grocery-stores-throw-out-so-much-food-2014-10](http://www.businessinsider.com/why-grocery-stores-throw-out-so-much-food-2014-10).

This article explains why so many grocery stores waste food each and everyday. One example of why they waste food is that they overstock, so their stores look more pleasing to people, making them want to buy food. You could use this article to talk about the subcategory of grocery stores, and how they are making this issue hard to resolve. You could also use the many different examples in this article about how food is wasted. This is a reliable source because it is from business insider and is very thorough in their explanation of how food is wasted through grocery stores.

Perrone, Tommaso. “Food Waste in the World.” *LifeGate*, 28 Mar. 2018, [www.lifegate.com/people/lifestyle/food-waste](http://www.lifegate.com/people/lifestyle/food-waste).

The article discusses how even though a large amount of the food is edible, it is still being wasted, and the main culprit is household waste. The source aims to inform the reader on the problem in their own household of the waste of food, and the quantity that is wasted. The source does not appear to e biased in any way, as it only gives the picture and statistics. The source can be used in research as it points out the main culprit of food waste, and that can be used as ground zero for trying to come up with a solution. The statistics as well help with the research.

“Reducing Food Loss, Waste Key to Fighting Hunger, UN Official Stresses at Global Forum | UN News.” *United Nations*, United Nations, news.un.org/en/story/2013/10/453382-reducing-food-loss-waste-key-fighting-hunger-un-official-stresses-global-forum.

This article focuses on how reducing food waste can help with other issues such as hunger and poverty. A UN official, Director-General José Graziano da Silva, stressed the importance of reducing food waste in his speech at the Global Green Growth Forum. This article helps to show what specific members of the UN are doing in their sub committees to help with this issue, which leads to fixing other issues. This article can be used in UN Involvement to show what individual members are doing. You could also explain the Global Green Growth Forum and the SAVE FOOD initiative by using this article and other articles linked to it.

Sengupta, Somini. “How Much Food Do We Waste? Probably More Than You Think.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 12 Dec. 2017, [www.nytimes.com/2017/12/12/climate/food-waste-emissions.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/12/climate/food-waste-emissions.html).

The article talks about how, globally, people waste 1.3 billion tons of food, and that the food is mainly wasted in developed countries. The food effects the pollution occurring around the world and cutting food waste could help diets. The source goes in-depth in how people can change their diets, if they cut down on food waste, and that developed countries are mostly to blame for wasting the food. The source is more reliable than most of the others, given that it was written by a very well-known newspaper company. The source is helps give an idea of how much food the UN is dealing with, and how carbon is affected when the people waste food. The article gives staggering statistics, and really shows how important the situation is.

“The Global Food Waste Scandal.” *Feedback*, Feedback, feedbackglobal.org/food-waste-scandal/

Food waste is the food that goes unused/uneaten and is discarded. 1/3 of the world's food goes to waste, affecting many other things such as water supply, green house gas emission, and deforestation. This is reliable because most of the facts in this article come from the FAO or a committee in the UN. The goal of this article is to give you the facts of global food waste, but summarize the specifics for each type of food (ie. Meat, dairy, grain, water). You can use this in your topic synopsis for your background because it provides you with tons of facts about global food waste, not just food waste in the US. You can also use it to look at the specific issues for each type of food.