

Young Reporters

Food waste in the UK

Over 30% of the food produced for human consumption, worldwide, goes to waste. [6]

In the UK alone, 2,900,000,000 kg of food goes to waste each year! [1]



[6]

If the UK population is 66,850,000, then that would imply that the average person wastes 28.42kg of food each year and 70g every day! [1, 2]

Food bins are filling up; so much perfectly edible food is being put to waste. And as far as food that has expired goes, by not using it in certain ways, it is being put to waste as well.

Food waste isn't a good thing; food is a blessing we should remember and be thankful for because several people are not able to enjoy the thrills of a full stomach. Furthermore, food waste releases a large amount of greenhouse gasses that are not environmentally

friendly, and contribute toward the whole new problems of global warming and climate change.



[7]

Starvation Population

Roughly 12.57% (8,400,000 people) of the UK population is sadly suffering from starvation. [1, 2]

They are struggling to eat and are deprived of the very same food that we so willingly and thoughtlessly waste every day.

The world will never get to see their true potential or what they can do because they are food deprived and therefore, can't show their true talent.

Perhaps some of those who are starving are in fact far more capable than some of us. Maybe they would have done extraordinary things, done so much for planet Earth, for mankind and given us all a better future.

But the terrible truth is we'll never know.



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[10]

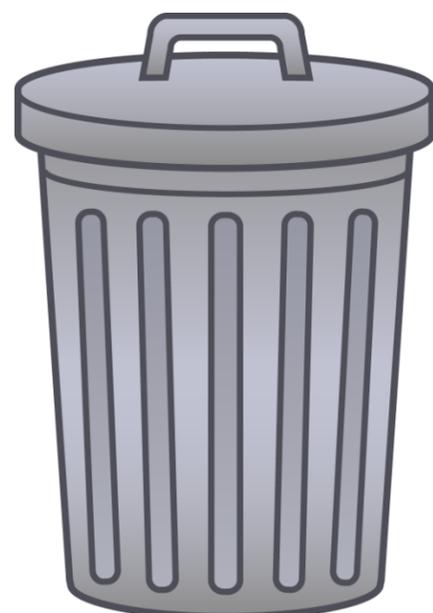
Pointless Waste

8.62% (250,000,000kg) of the wasted in the UK each year is still edible. [1] Perfectly good food is being dumped down the trash can for no good reason.

This surplus food is enough to feed 3.26% (273,972 people) of the starving population in the UK, for an entire year! But instead, it end up in the landfill and not in anyone's stomach. [1, 5]



[8]



[9]

Wasted Energy

Have you ever heard of food wastage, wastage? Well you're about to, because why should we let food wastage rot in landfills when it could be serving our energy requirements?

The energy requirements for the UK are currently floating around 60GW, [3] and with a growing industry and population; soon we will need a lot more energy to serve our everyday needs.

Many non-renewable energy sources are sure to run out in a few generations and we will have to find more sustainable ways to make energy.

Food waste isn't a very green thing but scientist have been looking for a solution and at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, researchers think they've found a way to turn food waste into environmentally friendly biofuel. [4]

This involves the process of hydrothermal liquefaction and anaerobic digestion. [4]

Hydrothermal Liquefaction incorporates heating food waste under high pressure – primarily pressure cooking it. This process creates oil that can be refined into fuel. [4]

After undergoing hydrothermal liquefaction, the watery food waste left over goes through anaerobic digestion. This means microbes break down the waste into biogas that is basically composed of methane and carbon dioxide. [4]

According to the researchers this gas can be used to create electricity and heat; powering our electronics and helping us to continue our modernised way of life. [4]



[11]

Conclusion

In the end there is no reason we should be wasting food. We should be extremely thankful we are able to enjoy food every day. We shouldn't look for its flaws and waste it.

There are several people in the world who are suffering greatly because they can't afford food. And their character and talent will remain a secret because they couldn't nourish themselves enough to show it clearly.

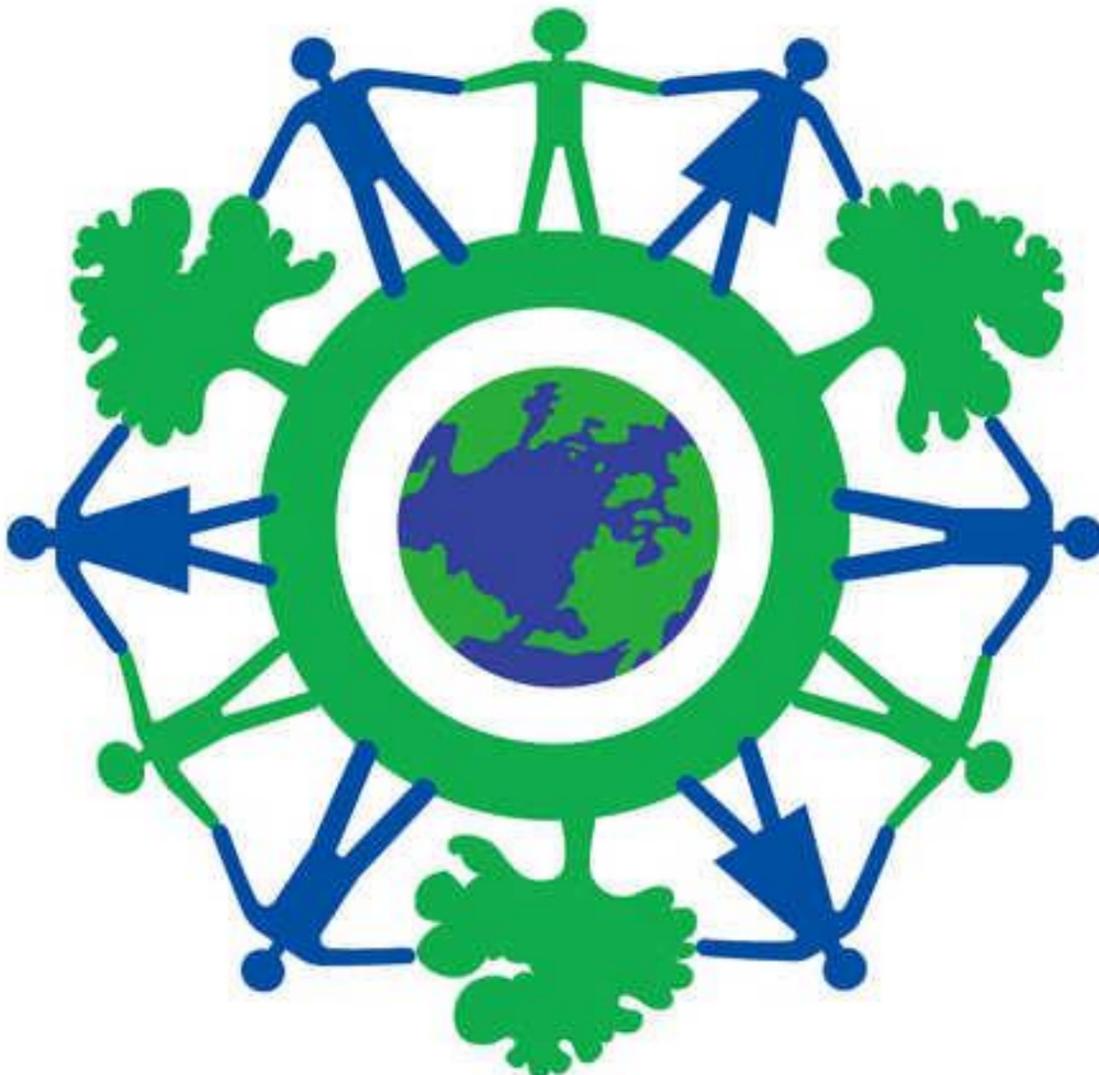
In reality there is enough food to go around; we just waste enough so that only half of the world can eat freely. It is everyone's right to eat fresh, safe, food, and as citizens of this world it is our duty to ensure that everyone gets that right.

Food waste also contributes towards global warming and climate change, two big worldwide problems that need to be taken care of.

You don't need to be in authority to help the planet and play your part; in fact only through the collective acts of us all can we look forward to a future that has all the luxuries of today.

We can't ignore all these problems for long. There is a way to turn food waste into energy so we need to start acting on it. We need to make noise about this and make sure these things aren't overlooked.

We weren't exactly off to a good start and the way we are going we will destroy our beloved planet. We can't go back in time and make a brand new beginning, but we can start now and unite to make a brand new – and better - ending, for all of us.



[12]

References

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