

International Day of Awareness for Food Loss and Waste

The sixth International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste will be observed on **29 September 2025**

Ensuring a food secure world, where current and future populations have access to sufficient nutritious food, requires new ways of working, and concerted efforts to improve the sustainability and resilience of agrifood systems globally.

Reducing food loss and waste (FLW) helps to protect natural resources and biodiversity, reduce pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and maximize the use of food produced.

To understand the extent of the problem here are a few facts. An estimated 13 percent of food was lost globally after harvest and prior to reaching retail shelves in 2021. Another estimated 19 percent of food was wasted in households, food service and retail in 2022. Households account for 60 percent of global food waste. Approximately 28.9 percent of the global population – 2.33 billion people – were moderately or severely food insecure in 2023. Food loss and waste generate 8 to 10 percent of global Green House Gas emissions. All numbers are from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

As individuals we can take action by:

- Reviewing CWL resolution 2022.01 [Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste](#) and working on the action plan
- Holding a food drive for the local food bank
- Planning food purchases and meal preparation, shop mindfully, and store food properly to maintain its quality and shelf-life.
- Paying attention to the “use-by” date on food labels, especially when purchasing highly perishable foods.
- Measuring portion sizes for meal preparation and preserve, share or donate surplus food.
- Participating in community efforts to recover surplus food and support food redistribution.
- Composting food waste or explore options for local food waste collection.

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