



## Food: Waste Less and Enjoy! It's Good for All of Us

### Make it Happen Checklist!

#### WHAT IS IT?

Did you know nearly 30-40% of food in the U.S. is wasted every year?

Doing this Play can help your school cut down on wasted food, which can help have an impact on your local food banks, help reduce environmental impacts, and help you learn more about what goes into producing the food you eat.

#### WHY?

Reducing food waste by just 20% could double donations to food banks across the nation, providing 1.8 billion meals each year to help nourish our food-insecure neighbors. Implementing a food waste reduction plan also means that you can work with school nutrition staff and administration to make meals and snacks less wasteful and more exciting.



#### Huddle Up

[Learn more](#)

Get key people to support your plan

- Principal
- School Nutrition Team
- Parents, Teachers, and Community Volunteers
- Local Farmers and your local Dairy Council



#### Get Organized

[Learn more](#)

Create a Food Waste Reduction Committee to

- Set goals for food waste reduction
- Contact local farmers and food banks for help
- Learn how to measure food waste



#### Build Awareness

[Learn more](#)

Start an awareness campaign by holding events in the cafeteria and at school events

- Create flyers and posters highlighting the Play
- Create slide shows or show videos (see Play) to make it real
- Meet with your local parent organizations to mobilize helpers



#### Take Action

[Learn more](#)

Start small and build

- Enlist students and other volunteers to help measure waste
- Learn about the three Rs of tackling food waste:
  - o Reduce (stop it before it happens)
  - o Recover (save what you can for sharing tables or food banks)
  - o Recycle (work with farmers to see about putting waste back into the environment as food or compost)



#### Spread the Word

[Learn more](#)

Highlight your successes and get more help

- Make presentations to your PTA/PTO
- Join the USDA's [U.S. Food Waste Challenge](#)



#### Build Community

[Learn more](#)

Find ways to make this Play last

- Invite farmers to share their experiences
- Work with local stores and other food suppliers to get them involved