

Food Waste

Food waste refers to edible food that is intentionally discarded on the retail and consumption sides of the supply chain, while *food loss* refers to edible food that is rejected or discarded between harvest and sale (Opposing Viewpoints in Context).

According to the United States Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency, 76 billion pounds of edible food is uneaten each year, costing retailers and consumers over \$161 billion a year. Individually, this costs most people about \$370 a year. Food waste is the [single largest component going into municipal landfills](#), leaving wholesome food sent to landfills instead of feeding people in need.

Definitions (from the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service)

- *Best if Used By/Before*: date indicates when a product will be of best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.
- *Sell-By*: date tells the store how long to display the product for sale for inventory management. It is not a safety date.
- *Use-By*: date is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. It is not a safety date except for when used on infant formula as described below.
- *Freeze-By*: date indicates when a product should be frozen to maintain peak quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.
- *Ugly food/produce (Indiana Times)*: "Ugly" foods are those that sellers and buyers frequently reject because of their look, like deformed vegetables and bruised fruits. Farmers dump them, and supermarkets and restaurants discard them

Conversation Questions

- What factors make you throw away food?
- How can your household begin to reduce food waste?
- What would you do with an extra \$370 a year?
- Why do you think so much food is wasted in the United States?
- How would you feel if Colorado Springs implemented city-wide composting?
- Awareness of happening in COS

Read

[Food Waste](#) by David M. Evans

[Waste](#) by Tristram Stuart

[Waste free kitchen handbook : a guide to eating well and saving money by wasting less food](#), by Dana Gunders, Non-fiction, 641.552 GUND

["Food Waste."](#) *Gale Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*, Gale, 2019

Community Conversations at Pikes Peak Library District invites our community to learn from one another and listen to diverse viewpoints. This series of programs encourages discussion around current significant issues impacting our community, with the intent to promote civil dialogue and greater understanding of different perspectives.

[America trashes 40% of its food. A Colorado startup is connecting the discards to dinner tables.](#) Tamara Chuang, The Colorado Sun.

Watch

[Investing in 'ugly food,' Colorado Springs startup gains national attention,](#) KRDO

[Americans waste nearly a pound of food each per day, study finds,](#) CBS News

[Food wastage footprint,](#) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[Wasted,](#) 363.7288 WAST 1-DISC

Listen

[Food waste,](#) NPR

[Food Is Wasted](#) - Documenting the issue of food waste (podcast)

Explore

[FoodMaven: A New Way to Source Food](#)

[Colorado Springs Food Rescue](#)

[How Colorado is Reducing Food Waste to Benefit the Climate](#)

[Welcome to MyPlate | ChooseMyPlate](#)

[16 Apps Preventing Food Waste](#)

[Stop Wasting Food - Denmark's largest movement against food waste](#)

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