

We Waste An Insane Amount Of Food

1. Five paragraphs have been removed from the following article. Read and choose the correct paragraph (A-E) for the empty spaces (1-5).



There is something fundamentally wrong when around one-third of all food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted, yet more than 800 million people go to bed hungry each night.

1

The consequences of food waste do not stop there: It annually generates 3.3 billion tons of greenhouse gases worldwide, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, and uses more than a quarter of the world's available agricultural land, leading to the squandering of valuable fresh water and leaving a \$750 billion black hole in the global economy.

2

For all these reasons and more, The Huffington Post is on Tuesday launching a campaign to highlight the scale of food waste, and more importantly, to work in collaboration with you, our audience, to reduce it. The name of our campaign is "Reclaim," which means to recover what has been lost. In this context, it has a double meaning. Reclaiming the power of citizens to drive real change in society and reclaiming our love for food.

3

On a global scale, 193 countries have signed up to the Sustainable Development Goals, which include a commitment to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level within 14 years, and reduce food losses among production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

Introducing HuffPost's Reclaim. **By Jo Confino**
(Adapted)

We are also seeing countries and companies across Europe starting to tackle the issue. Earlier this year, France showed what is possible by becoming the first country in the world to prohibit supermarkets from throwing away unsold food. Instead, they must donate unsold food to charities and food banks.

4

In contrast, the United States is a slumbering giant. We want to change that by asking for your support to help us achieve two key initial goals, which we believe will help unlock bigger changes down the road.

5

A Meanwhile, the U.K.'s largest grocery chain Tesco is publicly disclosing how much of its food goes to waste and in March started selling a range of "ugly" vegetables called Perfectly Imperfect in 200 of its stores. It has also pledged to give all unsold food to charity by the end of 2017.

B The first is to encourage Walmart, the nation's largest supermarket, to follow the lead set in Europe by starting to sell imperfect-looking fruit and vegetables that normally go to waste. Walmart recently began an experiment to sell "ugly" russet potatoes at some stores in the U.S., but activists want to see a broader effort from the retail giant.

C This is not an injustice that is limited to countries in the developing world. In America, up to 40 percent of food goes uneaten, while the United States Department of Agriculture estimates that 15.3 million children live in food insecure households.

D The food we waste also risks exacerbating political tensions across the world. In fact, the World Economic Forum has warned that food shortages represent one of the biggest risks to global stability over the next decade as countries are increasingly affected by climate change.

E We believe this is the time to strike because after years of inaction, governments, institutions and individuals are finally waking up to the challenge and are starting to take action

2. Word check

Check the meaning of the following words from the text.

squandering
launching
commitment
tackle
slumbering

3. Think and discuss

1. Do you think governments should control food waste within households and businesses? Give reasons for your answers.
2. Why do you think supermarkets and chain stores prefer to discard their produce rather than sale it at a reduced price?
3. In some states of USA it is illegal to scavenge in local rubbish bins for food. Do you agree with this law? What reasons do you think are behind this prohibition?
4. Is it reasonable to oblige private business to donate their leftovers to charity? Should they be given any type of compensation for it?

4. Write a formal letter (180 words)

You live in a neighbourhood where there is a large hotel. Every evening you witness dozens of bins outside the premises which are overflowing with food waste.

Apart from the fact that this is very unhygienic, it angers you that so much food should be thrown away.

Write a letter to the hotel manager expressing your concerns, tackfully encouraging the company to become more sustainable.

Include the notes from the list.

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- Current recession
 - Environment issues
 - Food banks