



REDUCING COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE IN IRELAND



Food Waste

Globally, approximately 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted each year. This is a third of all food produced for human consumption.

Food waste is one of the world's largest environmental issues. Every year, 200 times the land mass of Ireland is used to grow food that is thrown out. The energy that goes into producing, harvesting, transporting, and packaging this wasted food generates more than 3.3 billion tonnes of CO₂.

In Ireland, we generate approximately 1 million tonnes of food waste every year. Of this, it is estimated that 300,000 tonnes are wasted in businesses.

The Cost of Food Waste

It is estimated that a tonne of food waste costs €2000 - €5000, when purchasing, preparation, storage and disposal costs are considered. Based on this, food waste is costing Irish businesses between €600 million and €150 billion every year.

While often seen as an inevitable part of modern food businesses, food waste can be reduced by implementing small changes in how food is managed and served.



“THE CURRENT LEVEL OF FOOD WASTE IS
BAD FOR BUSINESS AND ON A LARGER
SCALE, BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AND FOR HUMANITY”



The Project

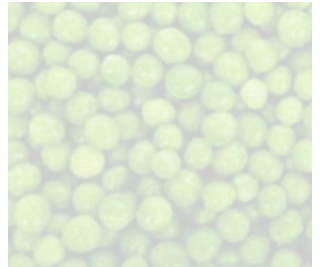
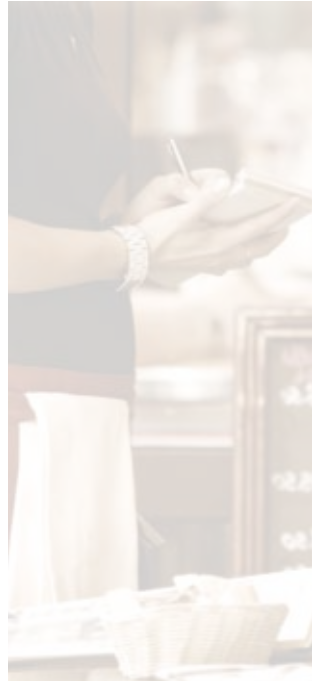
This EPA funded research project aims to:

- determine the main sources of commercial food waste;
- quantify the types of food waste typically generated;
- identify the reasons for the wastage of food in Irish businesses.

A core part of the research involves one-day food waste surveys in food service and retail businesses throughout the country. Participating businesses will receive a report outlining the type and quantity of food waste and, where appropriate, recommendations on how it could be reduced.

Following discussions with key stakeholders and the analysis of food waste survey results, site-specific food waste interventions will be trialled within participating businesses.

THE RESULTS OF THIS PROJECT WILL BE USED TO INFORM FUTURE FOOD WASTE POLICY AND INTERVENTION INITIATIVES.



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