

FOOD WASTE FACTS

Fight food waste

The majority of food waste in Australia comes from our homes.

Australian households waste 2.5 million tonnes of food each year, or more than four kilograms per household per week.

Organic material makes up about half of what Queenslanders throw away in their wheelie bin each week.

Approximately 1.8 million tonnes of food waste were generated in Queensland in 2016–17, with a third of it coming from households. That's millions of dollars' worth of food being wasted.

By the end of the decade, Australia has a national target to halve food waste.

Save money

The Australian economy loses \$36.6 billion per year due to food waste. Households account for around 50 per cent of this.

Food waste is avoidable and can reduce costs for households. Australian households spend between \$2,000–\$2,500 per year on food that is wasted.

Stop spending money on food only to throw it away. Prepare only what you need, store food appropriately and use your leftovers.

Save the climate

When disposed to landfill, organic matter, including food waste, contributes to climate change.

Although organic waste is often seen as 'natural', when it breaks down it releases methane, a greenhouse gas that has a global warming potential between 28 and 36 times that of carbon dioxide.

FAST FACTS



The total estimated greenhouse gas savings from recycling organic waste in Queensland in 2008-19 was 564,708 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This is equivalent to planting 844,096 trees or taking 130,392 cars off the road each year.



In 2020, more than one in three Australians experienced food insecurity, significantly increased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic increasing the demand for food relief.



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Food and garden organic material makes up approximately 50% of the contents of an average household's general waste bin.



In Queensland, approximately 1.8 million tonnes of food waste was generated in 2016-17, with a third of this coming from households.



In 2018-19, the Australian organics recycling industry created over 4,800 direct jobs and contributed \$724 million in industry 'value add' to the Australian economy.



One tonne of composted garden organics can sequester approximately 0.5 tonnes of Co2e (CO2 equivalent) when applied to the land.



Creating healthy soils through the application of composted organics helps reduce water, fertiliser and pesticide use and nutrient leaching, while protecting aquatic environments.