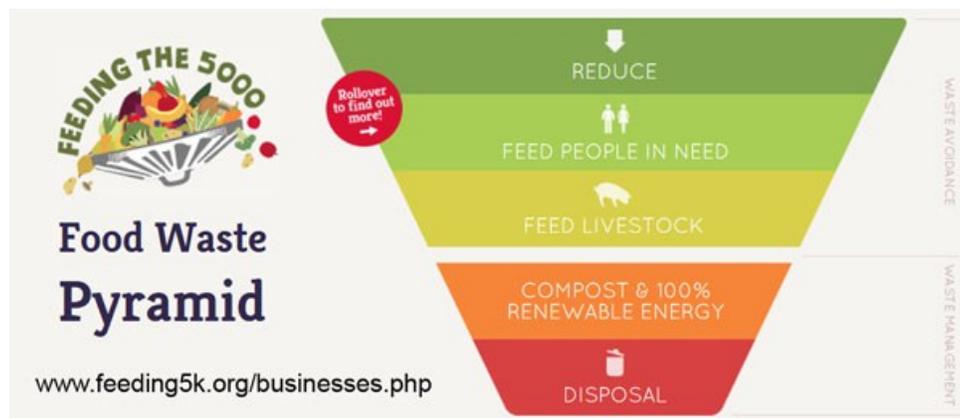


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March 2015 EcoFacts



Food Waste, Landfills & Compost



About 20% of what goes to the landfill is food. Food waste breaks down in landfills and produces large amounts of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. The average American family of 4 loses somewhere between \$1,300 and \$2,300 annually in wasted food. Food waste is particularly problematic in landfills because it is fuel for bacteria that create methane. Methane is the second most prevalent greenhouse gas, and it traps over 70 times as much heat as CO₂ in a 20 year period. Reducing food and paper going to the landfill would have the greatest impact on reducing landfill methane. So how can you reduce wasted food at home?

What you can do to reduce food waste at home:

1. **Make a meal plan** and only buy what you need. Eat before you go shopping!
2. Shop farmer's markets and CSAs for the freshest produce; avoid pre-cut veggies.
3. Rotate older food to the front of the fridge. Use your senses to determine food quality, paying attention to color, texture and odor. **Sell-by, best-by and use-by dates are not regulated and do not relate to food safety.**
4. **Become Storage Savvy.** Not sure the best way to store cooked beans or whether you can freeze dairy? Consult the [A-Z Food Storage Tip Guide](#) to learn how to keep food fresh longer.
5. **Create your own [compost bin](#)** or find out more about your [area's compost program](#). For a complete A-Z guide on composting, go [here](#).

6. [Watch this video!](#) Many more ideas at foodshift.net and on this great [Infographic!](#)

Policy:

Many cities are providing curbside food waste collection, or requiring that waste haulers provide it. Several states and cities have passed landfill bans on organic waste, which make sure that large commercial generators of food waste must donate or compost it.

Visit www.wastecapne.org for all the information you need for recycling in Nebraska.



WasteCap Nebraska
402-436-2384
www.WasteCapNE.org



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