

PATRICK'S ESSAY: PARAGRAPHS

Accessible text

Without paragraphs

In Europe, food waste is considered a major nutritional and environmental problem. It also detrimentally affects the stability of the whole food chain. According to a recent report, 90 million tons of food is wasted every year in European countries, on average, 180 kg per person (Europe Commission, 2011). Food waste has many sources which include households, manufacturing, food service and retail. The European Commission (2011) estimated that the proportion of food waste at the retail stage is about 5% of total food depletion in the EU, accounting for approximately 4.4 million tons of food. Food waste has several extensive yet harmful effects on food security, food quality, and also food safety. Even economic development and the environment can be negatively impacted by food waste (Gustavsson et al, 2011). Although at the retail stage food waste may be considered small in comparison with the amount of food waste overall, it is still an issue which can lead to considerable economic loss as well as environmental problems. However, if this waste can be recycled effectively, it can potentially have huge value economically, environmentally and socially. This project will demonstrate this potential, by explaining the value of food waste and introducing some recycling methods. The causes of food waste are numerous and diverse. They are mostly affected by the local society of a food system in a specific country and of a particular socio-economic background (Cicatiello, 2016). It is claimed that the quantity of food waste relates to crop production choices, and patterns at the retail stage; in fact that the consumer has the greatest impact on food the amount of waste (Gustavsson, 2011; Buzby and Hyman, 2012). There are two kinds of food wasters; 'food loss' and 'food waste'. Some foods are still edible when thrown away, discarded because they have lost all or most nutrient value and it is waste of shelf spaces to keeping save them. This kind of waste can be defined as food loss. Another case of food waste is that which may no longer be eaten by human. Its value is for animal feed and other industries which use food materials as resources of process (Kantor, 1997).

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