



Preventing Food Waste at Home Can Help Tackle Climate Change Food Waste Action Week comes to Canada

March 7, 2022

VANCOUVER, BC – Canadians produce nearly 10 million tonnes of greenhouse gases each year, simply by wasting perfectly edible food at home — however, there are plenty of simple actions everyone can take to help prevent unnecessary food waste.

This year, from March 7 to 13, Canada will join with environmental charity WRAP for the first global Food Waste Action Week, with the goal of driving home the message, “Wasting Food Feeds Climate Change.” The international week of action will be delivered through the National Zero Waste Council, an initiative of Metro Vancouver, and its well-known Love Food Hate Waste Canada campaign.

“Food waste has a devastating impact on the planet, and each of us has an important role to play,” said Jack Froese, Chair of the National Zero Waste Council. “As someone with a lifelong connection to farming, I know full well how hard farmers work to put nutritious and tasty food on Canadian tables. Food Waste Action Week is all about helping people get the most from the food they buy, for the sake of the planet.”

Sixty-three per cent of the food Canadian households throw away is considered avoidable, meaning it could have been eaten. Nationwide, that amounts to almost 2.2 million tonnes of edible food wasted each year, at a cost of more than \$17 billion. The environmental impact of this waste is equivalent to 9.8 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions, or 2.1 million cars on the road.

Globally, around one-third of all food produced is lost or wasted, which accounts for between eight and 10 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions. Fighting food waste at home has a direct impact on these emissions: every tonne of household food waste that is avoided is the equivalent of taking one car off the road each year.

To participate in Food Waste Action Week, Canadians are encouraged to use the food-saving tips shared on the Love Food Hate Waste Canada social channels ([Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)) and through the #foodwasteactionweek hashtag. From storing food correctly, to using up leftovers and making sure none of the food we love goes to waste, every small change can make a big difference.

Food Waste Action Week has the support of Love Food Hate Waste Canada strategic partners and many other business, non-profit, and government organizations and citizens working across

Canada in the fight against food waste. Together, during Canada's first Food Waste Action Week, we will share food-saving tips and strategies and draw attention to the important role food waste prevention can play in fighting climate change.

Partner Quotes:

"When we reduce waste, we also lessen carbon emissions and make a positive impact on the environment. Walmart is proud to support the Love Food Hate Waste campaign in Canada as we work towards becoming a regenerative company and eliminate surplus food as part of this journey. Our associates are passionate about reducing food waste in our stores and throughout our operations. Each Walmart store is paired with a local food bank to maximize surplus food donations," explains **Sam Wankowski, Chief Operations Officer, Walmart Canada**. "The LFHW campaign provides Canadians with practical solutions to save money and prevent surplus food. When we all work together, we can create waves of change in our communities."

"The Winnipeg Food Council is excited to promote Food Waste Action Week along with Love Food Hate Waste Canada. Our goal is to show residents how they can reduce their food waste to help the environment, get more out of their food, and save money." **Councillor Brian Mayes, Chair of the Winnipeg Food Council**.

"Reducing food waste at home means taking concrete action in the fight against climate change. By sharing our zero waste tips on social media during Food Waste Action Week, together we can contribute to the movement and stay the course by reducing food waste at the source." **Sonia Gagné, President and CEO of RECYC-QUÉBEC**.

"As a city we are proud to support the first global Food Waste Action Week and to work towards doing everything possible to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and our carbon footprint. During the week, we can remind one another of the ways we can help reduce food waste and the impacts it has on the climate. Climate action is a priority for Toronto, and reducing our food waste is one of the ways we can all tackle climate change in our everyday lives." **Mayor John Tory, City of Toronto**.

About the National Zero Waste Council:

The National Zero Waste Council, an initiative of Metro Vancouver, is leading Canada's transition to a circular economy by bringing together governments, businesses and NGOs to advance a waste prevention agenda that maximizes economic opportunities for the benefit of all Canadians. The Council has been leading on food loss and waste prevention since 2012, advocating for fiscal incentives, policy change, and the adoption of best practices. Its national [Food Loss and Waste Strategy for Canada](#) prioritizes actions for governments, businesses, and community organizations.

About Love Food Hate Waste Canada:

Love Food Hate Waste Canada is delivered by the National Zero Waste Council in collaboration with seven campaign partners, including the City of Toronto, City of Vancouver, City of Winnipeg, RECYC-QUÉBEC, the Capital Regional District, Metro Vancouver, and major Canadian food retailer, Walmart Canada.

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