



## UNEP'S resources on food waste reduction

The [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) works on a number of different fronts to tackle the issue of food loss and waste. As the custodian of the SDG 12.3b indicator, UNEP and FAO are co-hosts of the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste on 29 September each year. Mandated by United Nations Environment Assembly ([UNEA Resolution 4/2](#)), UNEP builds capacity and advocates improving the enabling conditions to halve food loss and waste.

### Supporting SDG Target 12.3

As custodian of the [SDG 12.3b indicator](#), UNEP publishes the [Food Waste Index](#), which tracks the latest global estimates on food waste occurring at retail and consumer level. As custodian, and mandated by [UNEA Resolution 4/2](#), UNEP builds capacity and advocates to improve the conditions to halve food loss and waste. The Regional Working Groups on Food Waste, launched by UNEP, enable countries in each region to access technical expertise on food waste measurement and reduction, learn from the experiences of neighbouring countries, and develop mechanisms to track their country's progress on SDG 12.3.

[A Guide: Changing behaviour to help more people waste less food](#), by UNEP and Champions 12.3, helps key actors in the food system focus on how they can help consumers reduce food waste through behaviour change.

The UNEP publication, [Reducing consumer food waste using green and digital technologies](#), provides an overview of the causes of consumer food waste and the opportunities for reducing it through technological solutions, behavioural change, and public and private initiatives.

An educational package, "[Kitchen Lessons, Saving the scraps](#)" on reducing food waste in the kitchen was developed by UNEP in collaboration with the Edible Schoolyard Project for children aged 10 to 14.

[The Global Methane Assessment](#) shows that human-caused methane emissions can be reduced by up to 45 percent this decade. Three behavioural changes have been identified: reducing food waste and loss, improving livestock management, and adopting healthy diets that could reduce methane emissions by 65 to 80 tonnes per year over the next few decades. A report by UNEP, [Global Cooling Watch 2023](#), highlights how the lack of a cold chain reduces the income of millions of farmers and drives food loss.

The report, [Sustainable Food Cold Chains: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward](#), by UNEP and FAO, finds that food cold chains are critical to meeting the challenge of feeding an additional two billion people by 2050 and harnessing rural communities' resilience, while avoiding increased greenhouse gas emissions.

