

Why reducing food waste is critical to combatting climate change >>>



The fact that substantial amounts of food is produced but not eaten has a negative impact on the environment. Food waste in landfills is broken down by bacteria which produces methane, a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Estimates suggest that eight to 10 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions are associated with food that is not consumed.

According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), food waste per person per year is 197kg in the UAE and 427kg in Saudi Arabia, compared with 95-115kg in Europe and North America. Reducing food waste at retail, food service and household level can provide multiple benefits for both people and the planet.

UK capability in food waste reduction

The UK is making great strides in food waste reduction and redeployment using a variety of innovative methods. Food waste can be processed to generate energy from waste, anaerobic digestion or animal feed. The UK Government has awarded more than £4 million to four organisations across England to redistribute food currently going to waste. As a result, more than 200 of the UK's large food businesses have reported an impressive 17 per cent average reduction in food waste in the past year.

UK food waste reduction expertise for the Middle East

Winnow

Winnow is helping the food service and hospitality industries in the UAE cut down on food waste by making the kitchen smarter. Winnow's artificial intelligence-enabled tool detects the type and quantity of food items thrown away. The data allows commercial kitchens to pinpoint where waste occurs. Typically kitchens using Winnow see food waste cut in half saving between two and eight per cent on their food purchasing costs. Winnow has been adopted across the UAE by the likes of Hilton, Marriott, IHG, Accor and many others.

WRAP

Global environmental charity WRAP works with governments, businesses and individuals to ensure that the world's natural resources are sourced and used sustainably. WRAP experts have just completed a food waste reduction study in Kuwait with further work planned in the region.

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