Waste 360 Sustainability Talks

Environmental Impact of Food Waste, Textiles & Landfills

FOOD WASTE

For every **POUND OF FOOD** you throw into your trash,

= 1lb

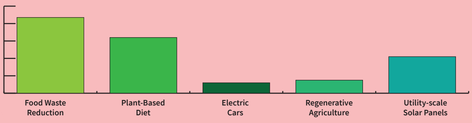
imagine releasing **TWO EXERCISE BALL-SIZED BALLOONS OF CO_2** out your window.

= 2lbs CO_2

Cutting down on food waste could have nearly **THE SAME IMPACT** on reducing emissions over the next three decades **AS ONSHORE WIND TURBINES.**

Reducing food waste is **THE SINGLE GREATEST** solution to bring climate-change-causing carbon out of the atmosphere and draw it down into the ground.

Reducing food waste has the potential to draw **87 GIGATONS OF CO_2** out of the atmosphere way ahead of a global plant-based diet, electric cars, egenerative agriculture, even utility-scale solar panels.



Global food waste **ACCOUNTS FOR 8%** of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

UP TO 40% of food produced for human consumption **IS WASTED,** adding up to billions of tons and hundreds of billions of dollars per year. It's the single largest contributor to municipal landfills.

TEXTILE WASTE

Textiles can take up to **200+ YEARS** to decompose in landfills.

Clothing is one of the leading drivers of climate change, responsible for **8% OF ALL CARBON EMISSIONS.**

The average American now generates **82 POUNDS OF TEXTILE WASTE EACH YEAR.**

That adds up to more than **11 MILLION TONS OF TEXTILE** waste from the U.S. alone.

Clothing is also one of the fastest-growing categories of waste to landfills, with **ONE GARBAGE TRUCK** of clothes dumped every **TWO MINUTES.**

Many people are shocked to learn that **84% OF CLOTHING** ends up in landfills or incinerators.

LANDFILL WASTE

At the landfill, the food and yard waste that trash contains is decomposing and releasing methane, a greenhouse gas that is **28 TIMES MORE POTENT THAN CARBON DIOXIDE.**

Landfill gas also contributes to smog, worsening **HEALTH PROBLEMS LIKE ASTHMA.**

For 20 years, the U.S. EPA has required some landfill operators to control methane emissions by installing gas collection systems. These projects have reduced and avoided the release of more than 380 million tons of CO_2 equivalent, which is approximately equal to **73 MILLION CARS** being taken off the road for a year.