

**Important Note:** This activity was developed for the original Green Lunchroom Challenge program, a voluntary pledge program for K-12 schools to improve the sustainability of their food service



operations. The project was coordinated by the [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center Technical Assistance Program](#) with funding from US EPA Region 5.

The following page(s) represent the content of this activity as it appeared on the original project web site, complete with available points and instructions for submitting documentation. **The project is no longer funded and as of June 2018 schools may no longer submit activity documentation to earn points and recognition as described.** The activity is presented for your information to guide your organization's sustainability efforts.

If your school or district implements the suggested activity and wishes to share its experiences, please email [Joy Scrogum](#). Your story may be incorporated into a blog post on this web site, the main ISTC site, or shared on social media to foster networking and inspiration among peer institutions.

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# Screen a documentary (ies) on food waste issues in a class or community event at your school

**Activity Category:** Raise Awareness and Share Successes







**Activity:** Screen a documentary (ies) on food waste issues in a class or community event at your school

**Rationale:** Although the issue of food waste is being highlighted more and more by the mainstream media, many people still don't fully understand the magnitude of the issue. Food production accounts for 10% of the total US energy budget, 50% of US land use, and 80% of US fresh water consumption, but 40% of food in the US goes uneaten. Americans throw out approximately \$165 billion of food per year. Meanwhile, many people struggle with hunger in America. Such statistics are staggering, but perhaps hard to visualize. By viewing a documentary or television report that includes examples of food waste and inefficiencies in our food system, people not only better understand the issues and their magnitude, but may experience an emotional reaction to the images of waste which could compel them to act to reduce waste.



**Activity Description:** Screen a documentary, educational video, or television report on some aspect of food waste. The video you show may be about food waste in general, or it may focus on one particular aspect of waste within the food production system. The video may also focus on a case study or particular solution to food waste reduction. The video may be shown as part of a class, a community event held at your school/organization, or as part of a student club/organization. **You may show more than one relevant video (e.g. several short videos shown during a class period or multiple documentaries screened as part of a film festival), but only one report should be submitted for Challenge points. In other words, you will not earn extra points for screening multiple videos during the same school year (you may complete this activity up to twice during a calendar year, if the efforts took place in separate school years--i.e. once in spring, once in fall--but in this situation screen different films; you won't get repeated credit for screening the same film each year).** Links to a few relevant films and videos are included in the "Resources" section below, but you may show any relevant film.

**Earn Challenge Points (100 points):** To earn points for this activity, submit a brief description of the screening event, including the following information:

-  The name(s) of the film(s) shown. Provide links to online descriptions if possible.
-  The type of event at which the film was shown (e.g. class period, community movie night, PTO/PTA meeting, etc.)
-  The number of students and adults in attendance.
-  Highlights of audience comments or post-film discussion. If the film was shown as part of a class, include the questions you discussed with students, or a description of any associated assignment.
-  Whether the film inspired students or other audience members to suggest ways to reduce food waste at your school or in your community
-  1-2 photos of the audience watching the film

Your description document should consist of one Word or PDF file (including photos), 2-5 pages in length. Email the document to Joy Scrogum at [jscrogum@illinois.edu](mailto:jscrogum@illinois.edu).

#### Resources:

-  [Wasted: How America is Losing Up to 40 Percent of Its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill](#) 
-  [Hunger in America](#) 
-  [Just Eat It: A Food Waste Movie](#) 
-  [Dive! The Film](#) 
-  [PBS News Hour: Why Does Almost Half of America's Food Go to Waste?](#) 
-  [A Recipe for Cutting Food Waste](#) 
-  [Tristram Stuart: The Global Food Waste Scandal](#) 
-  [Food Forward: Make Food, Not Waste](#) 
-  [Wasted! The Story of Food Waste](#) 

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