



TAKE ACTION ON FOOD WASTE!



Today's farmers have three important roles to play: producing our food, managing the countryside for us and keeping rural communities alive. In the EU we enjoy food security thanks to the abundant, affordable and high-quality food produced by our farmers. However, around 90 million tonnes of food is wasted each year in the EU — from production, distribution and consumption. A staggering 40% of this comes from consumption (retail and households), with the majority of the food thrown away being fresh vegetables, fruit, milk and bread. Why do you think we waste that much food?

1. When we throw away food we are not just wasting the food, but also the work of the farmer and the earth's resources such as the energy, fuel, time and water that went into growing, harvesting, storing, packaging, transporting, marketing and cooking the food.



This short EU video <http://europa.eu/!nu84bb> suggests it's time for us to take action on food waste!



Start by keeping a record for a week of all the food you discard and throw away in your school.



a) Use a chart like this one.

FOOD THROWN OUT — CLASSROOM RECORD			
	TYPE AND AMOUNT OF FOOD WASTE	WHY IT WAS THROWN OUT	WHERE IT WAS THROWN
Mon.	<i>One carton of milk An apple Bread</i>	<i>Out of date Unwanted Mouldy</i>	<i>Down the sink Compost bin Waste bin</i>
Tues.			
Wed.			
Thurs.			
Fri.			

- b) At the end of the week discuss the type and amount of foods discarded.
- c) Discuss better ways to shop for food, ways to avoid food waste and how to deal with the foods we haven't eaten.
- d) Divide the class into two workgroups to create two posters, one to display in school and one at home called '10 tips to reduce food waste'.



You'll find some ideas to help you get started in this flyer: <http://europa.eu/!rh48fT>

2. Food can also be wasted at the processing stage and in supermarkets. As customers we are 'picky' shoppers and won't buy misshapen vegetables. Although fresh and delicious, millions of kilos of fresh vegetables are thrown away before they even reach the vegetable shelf in supermarkets because they are irregular or have an unusual shape.

Imagine you work in the marketing department of a large supermarket chain. Write an article for the food section of the company's free magazine explaining why the company is going to trial the sale of misshapen or 'wonky' vegetables in the store for the next 6 months.

