

Sustainable development 12.3

What is substantiable development 12.3 And what can we do to work towards the goal?

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Sustainable development

Means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. We also need to focus on how the development will affect the society, the environment, and the economics of the country (how much it will cost). If these criteria are met, we could call this a sustainable development.

The UN (United Nations)'s Sustainable development goals are the blueprints to achieving a better and more sustainable future. The UN has 17 goals that address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation and justice.

Sustainable goal 12 and companies

Companies today are a driving force of the global economy. They also rest on the use of the natural environment and resources in a way that continues to have destructive impacts on the planet. The economic and social progress during the last century has been accompanied by environmental degradation that is endangering the very last systems concerning our future development. If we don't make a change to this, our survival will become more different.

Consequences

We already have many consequences today regarding our global food waste:

- The EU has estimated that there are over 88 million tons of food waste every year.
- Because of that, we lose over 143 billion euros a year.
- If food companies aren't able to sell their products to people, the products will probably become waste and the energy that was used for the production will pollute the earth in vain
- Methane emissions will be caused if the food waste ends up on the landfill.

This crisis will only continue if we don't do anything about it, and it's not benefiting the earth, and the people. It's a pity to throw away so much food, so how we can reduce our food waste?

How can we reduce our own waste?

Here are some tips for reducing your food waste:

- Do not overbuy. Plan what to buy, and do not buy food if you aren't going to eat it.
- Do not throw away food right after the "best before" date. And even if you do not want to eat it directly, you can use it for cooking.
- Do not throw away leftovers, eat them later or freeze them and use them later for cooking.



UNITED NATIONS

The UN (United Nations) is an international organization founded in 1945. Currently made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.



Sustainable goal 12.3

The UN say that an estimated one third of all produced food \approx 1.3 billion tons worth around 1 trillion dollars is thrown away every year. The big amount of food waste was the main reason why we decided to focus more on the goal 12.3.

Goal 12.3 focuses on global food waste per person at the retail and consumer levels. We should reduce food loss in the food production and in the supply chains, including post-harvest losses. This should be done by 2030.

- Another thing could be to try to prevent leftovers all together. Do not make more food than you are going to eat. A lot of the food waste produced is from leftovers. If storing them for later usage doesn't work, then it might be smart not to cook more than you can eat.
- Get yourself a compost! And you help the environment. A compost enriches the soil, helps retaining moisture and suppresses plant diseases and pests. You can also recycle kitchen and yard waste. Composting keeps as much as 30% of waste from going to the trashcan. This reduces the amount of trash at your home. By diverting some waste, there won't be a need to buy as many trash bags.

How can big companies like restaurants and supermarkets reduce waste?

- Start to inform companies of the damage caused of food waste.
- Put lower prizes on products that are expiring.
- If the company has by-products, they can give them to the other companies that could have a better use of them.

How can the food companies reduce waste.

- Keep count of sales numbers and produce only what is needed.

If we make this goal

If we can solve the food waste problem by 2030 (or earlier) we would save lots of money and energy. The food waste in the retail market and among consumers would also be reduced by half per capita worldwide.

