

Food Waste Discussion



Read the following:

Information A: An extract from a news report on June 4th, 2013

June 5 is World Environment Day, this year's theme is to promote against food wastage and loss, therefore: Think. Eat. Save. According to the statistics, 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted yearly, which is equivalent to 40% of the global food production. When we waste food, we waste all of the water and resources that goes into the process. For example: throwing out a kilogram of beef implies wasting hundreds of thousands of litres of water and feed. Food wasting also wastes the energy used in the transportation process, as well as the time and efforts of farmers, fishermen and food processors.

The European Parliament designated 2014 as the "European Year against Food Waste" and passed the resolution to cut its food waste in half by 2020. The world population may reach 9 billion people by 2050. If we were to feed everyone, we will need to produce 70% more food. Therefore, if we can stop food waste, our work will be much easier.

A netizen said, "This is funny, if I don't waste food, would children in Africa not suffer? Cherishing food only helps your conscience but doesn't solve the problem at hand."

- (a) As the paragon of animals, do we have the rights to waste food? What impacts will that carry? Please elaborate.
- (b) Do you agree with the netizen's position? Explain your answer.





Information B: An extract from a news report on August 18th, 2012

Secretary for the Environment Wong Kam-sing said there will be a blueprint for the treatment of solid waste, including food waste recycling. Wong Kam-sing pointed out that Hong Kong sends over 2,000 tonnes of food waste to landfills daily. A third of this comes from the commercial sector, including hotel, restaurants, etc. The Department will soon release the blueprints for the treatment of solid waste, including facilities for handling food waste. The Government plans to subsidize food waste recycling in estates. Details of the blueprint will be released when the Legislative Council resumes and in the policy address next year. He added that the reasons for the increase in commercial food waste are complex, but in the recent months, the business sector cooperated with environmental groups and has shown evident improvement. This includes supermarkets willing to donate leftover, unexpired food. He believed both sides are willing to cooperate because they are concerned of the environmental problems and the needs of low-income families. As for the planned organic waste treatment facility at Siu Ho Wan on Lantau Island, Wong Kam-sing mentioned they are now working on the site selection and will soon apply for funding from the new Legislative Council. He hoped it will be implemented by 2015. The center is expected to handle 200 tonnes of food waste.

(c) What sort of difficulties could the Government encounter when they implement the estate food waste recycling scheme? How can they solve this problem? Discuss.

(d) Apart from recycling food waste, are there any other methods to reduce food waste? Amongst those, which do you think is the most effective?

