

DID YOU KNOW?



U.S. FOOD WASTE STATISTICS

- In the US, about **120 BILLION POUNDS** of food waste is discarded or uneaten every year. This amount represents about **30 to 40%** of the country's total food supply and **\$1.3 BILLION PER YEAR**.
- To put this into perspective, total food waste in America is estimated to be about **325 POUNDS** per person each year.
- Furthermore, in US landfills, food takes up the **LARGEST COMPONENT** of space.
- In addition, over **11 MILLION TONS** of food waste is generated annually in the food service sector, where up to **10%** of the food that is purchased is wasted.



U.S. SCHOOL FOOD WASTE STATISTICS

- Plate waste in our schools equates to about **1.9 MILLION METRIC TONS** of greenhouse gases. The leading causes are spoilage, over production, and plate waste.
- Recent studies show that approximately **21% OF CALORIES** from school meals get wasted.
- According to the Journal of Cleaner Production, **VEGETABLES AND FRUIT ARE WASTED MOST** often on a student's tray. It was also found that eggs and poultry were the least wasted out of all categories.
- **THE BILL EMERSON GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD DONATION ACT** grants protection from liability when making food donations to repurpose food. While this can help to make a measurable difference, it is argued that reducing food waste at the school level can be more effective.



For more information, please contact Denise Menza
Area Supervisor, Sustainability Coordinator
dmenza@maschiofood.com