



Too precious for the bin – How to mobilize potentials for the reduction of food waste

Workshop Thursday, 16.10., 11:15 – 12:55, Roald Amundsen Hall

Introductory Presentations:

Garrette Clark, UNEP: Think.Eat.Save – Global Food Waste Prevention & Food Sharing

Maria Kalleitner-Huber, Austrian Inst. of Ecology: Reasons & strategies against food waste

Food waste presents a major environmental and social impact on global level. The share of total waste produced is distributed almost equally amongst the parties along the whole value chain. In lower developed countries the main part arises in agriculture and transport whereas in industrial countries the main part arises in retailing, gastronomy and private households.

The reduction of food waste offers benefits in all three dimensions of sustainability, e.g. saving CO₂ emissions and resources in agriculture or reducing waste deposit costs via food sharing in the retail sector and economic benefit when donated to charitable institutions. Social responsibility becomes a clear and very practical connotation when addressing the topic of food waste.



National examples of initiatives for the reduction

of food waste opened the discussion on promising opportunities on various levels of action and widening the individual scope. The vivid discussion brought up similarities like the fading value of food or the changing consumer patterns. Individual examples on national basis, like the policy in one country where supermarkets need to pay VAT in case of passing on groceries, so for them it is cheaper to dispose them. Hygienic aspects and corresponding regulations present structural barriers to the making use of already offered but still eatable food e.g. from buffets.

Agreement could be found on the rethinking of the rigid concept of the best-before-date. Alternatives for quick testing the quality and the reinforced use of our natural senses present ways to prevent still eatable good from dumping.

Structure of the Workshop:

- Introduction on food waste on global scale, impact, reasons & strategies, reasons for production of food waste along the production chain
- Expert discussion on individual possibilities and scope and possible stakeholder involvement and reduction potentials

Contact:

Maria Kalleitner-Huber, Austrian Institute of Ecology, www.ecology.at,
kalleitner-huber@ecology.at

Garrette Clark, UNEP, www.thinkeatsave.org, Garrette.Clark@unep.org