



MOTION:

‘Fines should be implemented for households wasting food’

Most of the food that we consume is grown, produced and travels many miles to end up on our plates – after all of this, it often ends up in landfills. Globally we waste 1.3 billion tonnes of food each year, which is astonishing when 828 million people are food insecure. This waste of food also contributes greatly to climate change as well as global hunger.

There are many ways to deal with food waste in both the commercial and household realms, but one idea gaining traction is to put the onus on all of us. Would we waste less food if we were charged for wasting food?

PROPOSITION (Agree) ✓	OPPOSITION (Disagree) X
World hunger is one of the greatest problems we face globally, with many people still dying from starvation – when so many people go hungry, shouldn't it be unacceptable to waste food?	Supermarkets should take responsibility for excessive food waste – aren't overbuying and special offers where the problem starts?
Decaying food waste produces methane gas – fines will reduce this waste and surely help in the fight against climate change?	Education is more important in fighting the battle against food waste than fines – shouldn't we be teaching people ways to tackle it?
Has been implanted in cities and towns to great success – why can't Ireland follow their example?	Instead of fining food waste, shouldn't we make more conscious choices about the food we're consuming?

Research Links:

- <https://trello.com/b/ligsgZ1J/concern-primary-debates>
- <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> - noted links to SDGs 2, 12, 13
- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/wasting-food-itll-cost-you-180956224/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/07/spain-fights-food-waste-with-supermarket-fines-and-doggy-bags>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRBLHaBNQh4&list=PL4tBipLLVyfE-hI9gwMNulk-zlPoGf7rs&index=5>
- <https://stopfoodwaste.ie/>
- <https://www.concern.net/schools-and-youth/educational-resources>
- <https://www.ecoandbeyond.co/articles/supermarket-food-waste/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0g-W6Rpijw&list=PL4tBipLLVyfE-hI9gwMNulk-zlPoGf7rs&index=9>