



The Missing Food Mystery

Workshop Activity 4

This Workshop was funded in part by a WRRED grant from the Department of Ecology

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How to read the notes:

1. Teacher script is indicated by **T: and is bolded.**
2. Teacher actions are shown in (*parenthesis and italics*)
3. Opportunities for ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES or written student responses in the MYSTERY DATA LOG are shown in ALL CAPS.

Missing Food Mystery Workshop
Activity 4: Where is away?

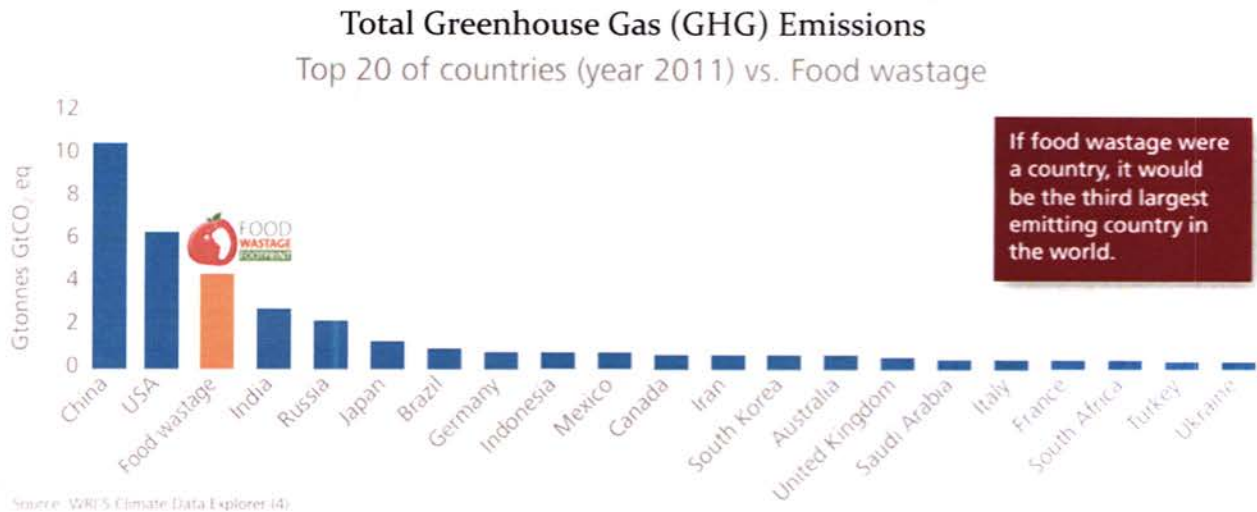


T: Where food goes when it is thrown away? At the end of Activity 3 you wrote ideas about this question in your MYSTERY DATA LOG . Who would like to share one of your ideas about where food goes when it is thrown away.

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES FROM THEIR MYSTERY FOOD LOGS.

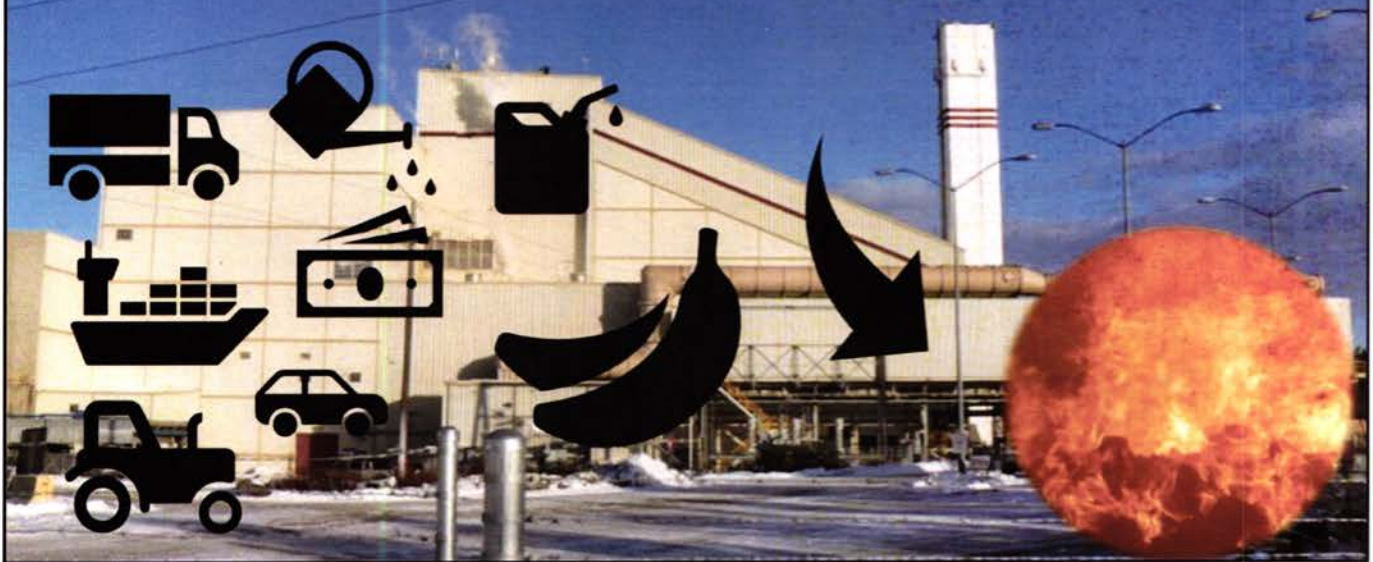
T: Thanks for sharing your great ideas. In most of Spokane County, when food is thrown away in the garbage it is taken to the Spokane Waste to Energy Facility where all the trash is burned and creates electricity. In other areas like the City of Spokane Valley, garbage is hauled in trucks to a be buried in a landfill.

Rotting food in landfills creates a gas called methane which is 26 times more damaging than carbon dioxide.



T: On average, 22% of landfill waste is food. Food in landfills cannot organically decompose, leading to methane emissions. Methane is 26 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas and is a significant contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions.

The Spokane Waste to Energy Facility



T: The Waste to Energy Plant is what's called an incinerator. Does anyone know what an incinerator is?

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES

T: An incinerator is a place where food is burned along with other garbage-the reason it's called a waste to energy plant is that we capture some of the energy from burning garbage and use it to generate electricity. Remember how we learned that up to a quarter of our food is wasted every week? (Teacher shows the Waste to Energy Tour video)

T: If food is thrown in the garbage-it will be burned up. Burning creates less methane than a landfill but it is still a problem.

T: Through our investigations/research we learned about the resources it takes to grow, ship and market a simple banana. So, when you think about it, it's not only the banana that's being incinerated or burned up, but also all the oil, water, and labor that it took to get that banana to your house!

(Teacher references the "RESOURCES" bin with props for the banana activity.)

T: That seems like an enormous waste of all those resources. Can anyone think of other alternatives to burning up all that food in an incinerator?

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES

T: Yes, composting is a great way to dispose of food waste.

Commercial Composting



The City of Spokane and Waste Management take yard and food waste to Barr-Tech for composting.



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T: When you put food in the Green Yard Waste bin it is taken to Barr-Tech for commercial composting and sold as fertilizer. The good news is that composting is an aerobic process that reduces or prevents the release of methane during organic matter breakdown.

T: How many of you have a green compost bin at your home?

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES

There are many way to compost at home.



including feeding red wiggler worms that love to eat your leftovers.

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T: How many of your families have a home compost bin?

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES

Got Waste?
Want to Recycle?
Put it in the right place!

VISIT
Spokane / Kootenai
Waste & Recycle
Directory

Not sure where it goes?

The Waste and Recycle Directory will help you put your waste in the right place. So much better for our world than just throwing it “away”.

spokanewastedirectory.org

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T: Does your family know where to dispose of things like batteries, oil, paint, old computers, TV or electronic games?

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES

T: These items can't go in the Trash or Recycle bins. The Waste and Recycle Directory can help families find out where to properly dispose of over 300 different wastes.