

[Article – Food waste: the problem in the EU in numbers \[infographic\]](#)

Some 88 million tonnes of food are wasted in the EU every year, equivalent to 173 kilos per person. Not only is this a waste of resources, it also contributes to climate change. Parliament is working on new measures to cut food waste in the EU by 50%. Check out our infographic to find out which sectors and countries waste the most food and read what is being done at EU level and what you can do yourself.

Food is lost and wasted along the whole supply chain from farms to processing and manufacturing to shops, restaurants and at home. However most of the food in the EU is wasted by households with 53% and processing with 19%.

Consumers are often unaware of the issue or its causes. According to a [Eurobarometer](#) survey, date markings on food products is poorly understood, even though nearly six out of 10 Europeans say they always check “best before” and “use by” labels.

Why food waste is a problem

Food waste does not only mean that valuable and often scarce resources such as water, soil, and energy are being lost, it also contributes to climate change. According to the UN’s Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), food waste has a global carbon footprint of about 8% of all global greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans. For every kilo of food produced, 4.5 kilos of CO₂ are released into the atmosphere.

There is also the ethical aspect: FAO says about 793 million people in the world are malnourished. According to Eurostat, 55 million people (9.6% of the EU’s population), were unable to afford a quality meal every second day in 2014,.

What Parliament is doing

On Monday 15 May, MEPs will debate a report by Croatian S&D member [Biljana Borzan](#), which proposes a set of measures to reduce food waste in the EU by 50% by 2030. This objective was already set out in the [waste legislation package](#) adopted in March.

“The European Union, as one of the richest and most prosperous communities in the world, has a moral and political obligation to reduce huge quantities of food wasted every year,” said Borzan before the committee vote in April.

The report also includes several proposals to reduce food waste such as facilitating food donations. The report calls on the European Commission to

propose a change in the current VAT directive to explicitly authorise tax exemptions for food donations. Donations reduce food waste while helping people in need at the same time.

In addition the report lists solutions to end the confusion about “best before” and “use by” labelling on food products.

The report by Borzan will be debated on Monday 15 May and voted on the following day. [Follow the debate live online.](#)

[This cyber-attack is terrible news and a real worry for patients – Jonathan Ashworth](#)

Jonathan Ashworth, Labour’s Shadow Health Secretary, commenting on reports that NHS England has been hit by a cyber-attack, said:

“This cyber-attack is terrible news and a real worry for patients. Our hard-working NHS staff are already operating under unprecedented pressure and should be given every support to help the public in the face of these malicious and disturbing actions.

“This incident highlights the risk to data security within the modern health service and reinforces the need for cyber security to be at the heart of government planning. The digital revolution has transformed the way we live and work but we have to be ready for the vulnerabilities it brings too.

“The Government need to be clear about what’s happened, and what measures they are taking to reduce the threat to patients. The safety of the public must be the priority and the NHS should be given every resource to bring the situation under control as soon as possible.”

[SERA Regional Conference Baltic Nordic](#)

We thank all participants of the Single European Railway Area (SERA) Regional Conference Baltic Nordic on 10 May in Helsinki for their interest and their contributions.

Find all presentations [here](#).

The conference series will reach a conclusion at the SERA Convention on 20 June in Brussels.

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[Green Party uses election broadcast to insist it's 'time to change the game'](#)



12 May 2017

***Spoof ad offers another boundary-pushing film from Green Party**

The Green Party is using its party election broadcast [1], which will be broadcast for the first time today (12 May), to take a satirical swipe at the broken nature of British politics.

The film uses humour to highlight the fact that politicians don't tell the

truth, votes don't count and young people aren't listened to. 'The Race to Number 10' is a spoof advertisement for an imagined board game, rewarding cuts to public spending, lies on battle buses and reshuffles to get rid of Cabinet dissenters.

The film was the work of the independent creative company Creature of London, whose award-winning [2] film for the Greens for last year's local elections, 'The not so secret life of five-year-old politicians', was the most shared broadcast of all the political parties, receiving millions of views online [3].

Green Party head of communications said: "This is the party election broadcast that's worth watching. Creature have again proved that politics doesn't have to be dull, bringing biting satire to the broken state of British politics and helping the Green Party to make its powerful, and serious, case for changing the game."

Stu Outhwaite, Chief Creative Officer of Creature said: "You'd have to have been a raging sadist to be excited when the election was called. Well, either that or the creative agency that gets to make the Green Party's broadcast. The process (all two weeks of it) was a dream: we hope the finished spot might prove to be a bit of a nightmare for the other parties. Let's change the game."

This was Creature's fourth film for the Green Party. 'Change the Tune', a boy band spoof, also went viral [4].

Notes:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPXtN1QW9uY&feature=youtu.be>
2. <http://smugglersite.com/4656/campaign-big-awards-brings-big-wins-for-smuggler-directors/>
3. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2016/04/15/the-greens-partys-%E2%80%98the-not-so-secret-life-of-5-year-old-politicians%E2%80%99-takes-the-internet-by-storm/>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPgS7p40ERg>

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