
Day 15 – Food Waste

Greenest



Ethan Bledsoe
etb1017
etb1017@gmail.com
West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School

Food Waste Responses

Food insecurity is a problem at my school. I know some students who do not have access to food and often do not know where their next meal will be coming from. Most of these students are food insecure because their families are at a low socioeconomic level. My school offers a free lunch program, which is targeted towards families that are at a low socioeconomic status. If your parents earn below a certain amount, you can get free lunch at school. However, there are still two more major meals a day: breakfast and dinner. This is where the backpack program sends home food each weekend and major school breaks to families. It is fully stocked with food that will be used to supplement a family's food they can supply.

There is a connection between demographic and whether someone is food insecure or not. The AAC&U Article states that "Certain groups of students faced a higher risk of basic needs insecurity: students at two-year institutions, African Americans, LGBTQ students, students with prior military service, former foster youth, students with prior criminal convictions, and students listed as "independent from their parents or guardians for financial aid purposes." The study further shows that there is a connection between demographic and food insecurity. This shows that for everyone to have food security, there also needs to change with issues like environmental racism, homophobia, economic discrimination, etc. To fight food insecurity, one must also fight against all of these other issues first, which are the root causes of food insecurity.



Food Finders Food Bank

A food insecurity organization that is very active in Tippecanoe County (the county I live in) is Food Finders Food Bank. Food Finders Food Bank tries to support county residents by supplementing the food stamps program.



Food Waste Responses Continued

A food insecurity organization that is very active in Tippecanoe County (the county I live in) is Food Finders Food Bank. Food Finders Food Bank tries to support county residents by supplementing the food stamps program. In 2017, Food Finders Food Bank distributed more than 9 million pounds of food. The website says that “38% of residents of Tippecanoe County who are food insecure are likely ineligible for federal nutrition assistance under current program requirements just as Congress looks at further restricting eligibility for these programs through the Farm Bill.” Food Finders Food Bank is the organization that offers the backpack program at my school, a mobile pantry program, and a fresh market. The mobile pantry truck travels around North Central Indiana, providing nutritious perishable and non-perishable food. The fresh market is a program where food-insecure people can come to a designated location weekly and pick up fresh produce and other food items they would have likely not had access to.

One of the ways that Food Finders Food Bank mentions that people can help is to volunteer. There are many volunteering opportunities, from delivering food to individual homes to working booths for the fresh market. Even with COVID-19, Food Finders Food Bank is still accepting volunteers because food is even more necessary during times of crisis. Another way to help is by holding food drives or donating. I plan to look into holding a school drive at my school for the beginning of next year. For the donation, I do not have a steady enough income to consistently pay a monthly rate, but I will definitely remember to donate to them in the future