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Script:

Every day, the cafeteria at my high school serves hundreds of meals. However, I never take the time to think about where the food we don't eat ends up. Today, I started paying attention. Perfectly good apples. Unopened cartons. Full servings tossed in the trash. According to the USDA, up to 40% of food in the U.S. is wasted, and schools play a big role in that number. That means wasted money, energy, and water, which are resources that could help our planet and our community. However, it is a challenge to reduce our food waste. In many schools, it is required to put a fruit or vegetable on your plate, but these additions often end up in the trash. Additionally, students may not like the food that was available for lunch that day. In my experience, I am not interested in eating some sides that come with the main meal, especially if they are foods I don't like.

Though we are still facing a food waste problem, students have taken initiative to solve this issue. For example, students created an app called Evergreen that surveys students about their favorite foods served by the cafeteria. This helps the school know what foods will produce less waste and be more sustainable overall. Additionally, student run organizations such as Fork and Spoon tackle issues in the wider community, as they collect leftover food from local restaurants and give it to families who are facing food insecurity. While a lot of progress has been made, food waste is a complex problem that needs to be addressed from different angles.

Today we interviewed several students from Jericho High School, and asked them how they think that the school can address food waste, and what solutions would encourage them to be more mindful.

-Interview Audio Insert-

Hearing these perspectives made me realize that food waste isn't just a cafeteria issue, but a community challenge. Our combined efforts and advocacy can help create significant change, and we need to work with schools to help take action. We urge you to think about what you can do within your community to reduce food waste and build a cleaner planet together.

Podcast Link:

https://open.spotify.com/episode/2KlrpDlvQgwtADVdOLYwWB?si=LRMilzkKSEergYZb_K5rrA

Instagram Post:

Food Waste in Schools

Podcast By What We Grew





Caption: Food waste is a significant problem, especially at schools where trays of food are thrown out every day. This creates greenhouse emissions and wastes resources that were utilized in the production process such as water and energy. Students are stepping up with creative solutions like apps and organizations to address this issue. However, there is still action to be taken, and students have proposed solutions that they want to see implemented in the future. This podcast is a call to action to emphasize sustainability within schools. Let's take only what we

need, share what we can, and make every meal matter. @turninggreenorg @wwf @foodtank
@ukonserve #pgc2025