

Team Name & School: Team Name: Quadruple S (Smart, Sophisticated, Superb Students) .

Teacher Name: Brandi Mather

Green Action Plan

Problem Definition/ Problem Statement

Everyday in our school we see students throwing away uneaten and untouched food. Uneaten food in school cafeterias causes significant environmental pollution by generating roughly 1.9 million tons of emissions annually. So, imagine what it does to our community when we waste food. Not to mention, all of the energy used to grow, package and ship this food is a devastating waste of useful resources if its all just going to end up in the garbage.

Wasting food is a terrible issue, and we'd like to be the ones to change it!

Root Cause of the Problem

The root cause of the problem with food waste in school is due to several issues that many students relate to, especially in our county. Most days the food is unappetizing and there's too much of something many students don't want. Recently, our school has also had the same choices for several weeks in a row. When given the same unappetizing food for weeks, it leads up to pounds and pounds of food waste and pollution in just a few weeks.

- Unappetizing food
- Little to no new choices in entrees
- Too much of something people dont wont
- Not a long enough time to eat

List at Least Three Credible Resources that Support Your Problem Statement

Dumping food in landfills releases methane, a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide. And wasting food indirectly drives extinction; agriculture is the leading cause of biodiversity loss around the world - converting wild lands to cropland, diverting or polluting rivers and lakes, and pesticide use destroys habitats that wildlife need to survive.

<https://thefern.org/2024/06/the-cafeteria-as-classroom/>

School food waste, often unseen and underestimated, presents a significant environmental challenge. It's not just about uneaten lunches ending up in the trash; it's about the resources squandered in producing, transporting, and preparing that food. From an elementary perspective, this waste contributes to a range of environmental problems, starting with overflowing landfills and escalating to [CLIMATE](#) change.

<https://lifestyle.sustainability-directory.com/question/what-are-the-environmental-impacts-of-school-food-waste/>



The COVID-19 pandemic caused [food supply-chain disruptions](https://populationeducation.org/food-waste-and-climate-change-a-critical-connection-for-a-sustainable-future) that allowed schools to adjust meal patterns without complying to nutritional standards; they served less produce and more meats and grains. Despite these shifts towards meals that, stereotypically, kids might be attracted to, food waste continued to increase.

<https://populationeducation.org/food-waste-and-climate-change-a-critical-connection-for-a-sustainable-future>



Proposed Solution

Our solution is to bring the issue of food waste to the attention of our administrators, nutrition workers, and students at our school. We want to work with our administrators and nutrition workers to propose a menu change to include more variety of foods or, at a minimum, more variety in the menu schedule and adjusting portion sizes. If this is more of a county based issue, We would like to reach out to them about our proposition about changing the menu and serving sizes. We shall mention the issue with the current menu and serving size and see if we can help make our menu improved and appetizing for all!

How We Will Measure Our Success

To measure our success we will keep track of the menu to look for repetitiveness and see if less or more food gets thrown away depending on the options of the week.

Who are Decision Makers We Need to Reach

The decision makers we will need and try to reach are first our administration, then OUR school nutrition workers, and then the Clayton County Public Schools Nutrition Department(<https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/school-nutrition>)

Our 3-5 Step Plan for Change

- Conduct a waste survey to identify the amount of wasted food.
- Interview others on foods they enjoy during school lunch and foods they are more likely to throw away.
- Work with nutrition workers to report student feedback and see if we can improve menu variety and scheduling..
- Work with nutrition workers to report student feedback and see if we can modify serving size to give more of what will be eaten and what's needed, and less of what's usually uneaten.
- Educating others on the impact of food waste will also help our community outside of school and should hopefully lead to more cleanliness revolving around waste.

Impact & Equity

The impact of our solution will lead to enjoyable nutrition choices for students and even more importantly less food waste in our community. This is important to limit the amount of waste and pollution in our community so we can help keep it clean. If we have enough impact to help students recognize wastefulness at school with food, it can also be implemented elsewhere, leaning towards less food waste as a whole.



What Help We Need to Be Successful

We need to reach out to the nutrition department for success and an understanding of the current issue with food waste, and then see how we can solve and reason with to result in less food being thrown away and better proportions for an average student. We need support in streamlining our ideas and making an effective plea for change. We do not need money, but we seek guidance and leadership in helping us know how to bring about the change that we seek for our school and our community.

