

Reduce surplus food: Linking corporate donors and food banks

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E.K.H. zu Ermgassen et al. ("Reduce, relegalize, and recycle food waste," Letters, 24 June, p. 1526) suggested that food waste should be relegalized and recycled e.g. into animal feed. Animal feed is only one route for wholesome food to be reused rather than ending up in landfill. Europe does lag behind in terms of efforts to reduce food waste but in early 2016, France passed legislation that bans supermarkets from throwing away or destroying unsold food, and identifies an alternative mechanism of usage through charities and food banks (1). A decade ago, the U.S. Good Samaritan Food Donation Act provided corporate food donors with liability protection to encourage an enabling environment for food donation (2). In the UK, the Food Waste (Reduction) Bill 2015-16 (introduced under the 10 minute rule) requires a 30% reduction in food waste by 2025 and supermarkets, manufacturers and distributors to enter into formal agreements with food redistribution organizations and to disclose levels of food waste in their supply chain (3). Although food redistribution organizations and/or donation based food supply chains (i.e. Feeding America or the Trussell Trust Foodbank Network in the UK) are present in developed countries, more formalised governance of the supply route that links corporate donors and food banks is needed. This can serve as an alternative mechanism to reuse surplus food and echoes zu Ermgassen et al. call to relegalize food waste.

REFERENCES

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