



Food Waste by Sector: Residential

Food waste happens across the entire food system—this is a snapshot of food waste in the residential sector. All estimates come from ReFED and are based on 2024 data (*the most recent year available*). For more facts and figures, visit the [ReFED Insights Engine](#).

1

70 million tons of surplus food* were generated across the entire food system in 2024.

2

23.4 million tons of surplus food were generated in homes, accounting for 33.5% of the total.

- Of that amount, 23.1 million tons became food waste.
- 48.4% of food waste in the residential sector—11.2 million tons—went to landfill.

3

Surplus food from homes accounts for 99.8 million metric tons of CO₂e released into the atmosphere per year.

- That's equivalent to CO₂e emissions from nearly 13 million homes' electricity.
- Methane emissions—which are more potent than other greenhouse gas emissions—generated from the residential sector equal 1.13 million MT.

4

Consumers spent \$141 billion dollars on uneaten food in 2024.

- That's equivalent to 13% of food-at-home spending.
- Food sent to landfill has a valuation of \$70.6 billion.

5

The water required to grow food not eaten in homes was 4.53 trillion gallons in 2024.

- That's equivalent to nearly 800 showers per person in the U.S.

6

The equivalent of 39 billion meals went uneaten as a result of surplus food in the residential sector in 2024.

- The top three food types that go to waste are:
 - *Produce*: 10.5 million tons
 - *Dry Goods*: 3.45 million tons
 - *Dairy & Eggs*: 2.31 million tons

To see solutions for consumers, visit ReFED's [Solutions Database](#). To learn more, visit the [Consumer Food Waste](#) page on the ReFED website.

**Surplus food is all food that goes unsold or unused by a business or that goes uneaten at home or restaurants—including food and inedible parts that are donated, fed to livestock animals, repurposed to produce other products, or go to any of the destinations represented in food waste.*