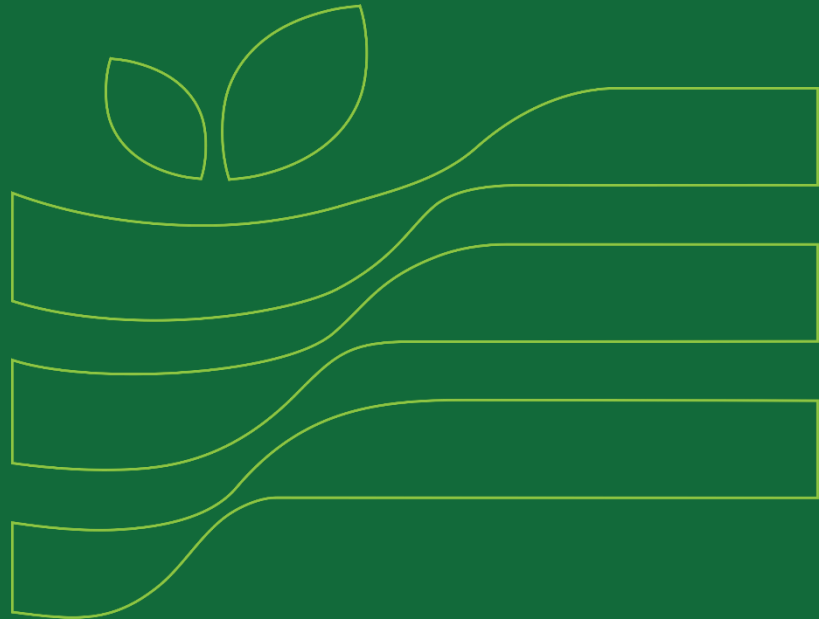




MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

LITHUANIA.

Food loss and waste prevention actions





Research studies:

- ✓ *Capturing, verifying, distributing and making wasted food available to consumers - a model for action (2016)*
- ✓ *Determining the Level and Causes of Food Waste and Food Losses along the Whole Food Supply Chain and Developing Recommendations (2021).*
- ✓ *Development of scientific recommendations for reducing food losses and food waste in primary food production (2023).*



The results are being used to develop other measures to reduce food loss and food waste in all sectors.



OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION

The research studies found that as much as 382,665 tonnes of food is lost per year throughout the food supply chain in Lithuania.

Total	Primary production (agriculture)	Food production	Retail and distribution	Restaurants and catering	Households
382 665	81 202	28 057	27 342	4 495	241 570
100%	21%	7%	7%	1%	63%



OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION

According to the data of the Environment Protection Agency, and the research of the composition of mixed municipal waste, **the amount of food waste generated in Lithuanian households is growing annually:**

- in 2017 – 36 kg of food waste per capita was generated in households.
- in 2018 – 37 kg/capita,
- in 2019 – to 41 kg/capita,
- in 2020 – to 43.7 kg/capita.





THE NATIONAL WASTE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2021-2027

- ✓ **establish a platform** for cooperation;
- ✓ provide **tax deduction and financing measures** to promote **food sharing, food donation** opportunities;
- ✓ provide funding opportunities to continue and expand the initiatives of sustainable food consumption in public catering establishments, school canteens, kindergartens and workplaces, **promoting buffet-based catering**;
- ✓ initiate **educational campaigns for the population** to ensure economical shopping, sustainable food consumption and reducing household food waste;
- ✓ **create conditions for the sustainable transformation** of small and medium-size enterprises: promote the development, demonstration and implementation of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies;
- ✓ promote and support **short food supply chains**;
- ✓ establish requirements for large retail chains, catering establishments and food production companies **to obligatorily donate food** (suitable for humans), ...





POLICIES AND LEGISLATION. FOOD LAW

- **Food that does not comply with the requirements of Food Law and other legislation, but is safe and fit for consumption, may be handed over to charity and/or donation in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Director of the State Food and Veterinary Service**



- **The marketing of food products after the 'best before' date**

From 2024, the Food Law allows retailers to sell to the final consumer food products that have passed their best before date (i.e. "Best before...").

They must be safe and fit for consumption. Responsibility for the safety and quality of such food is imposed on traders.

- **Mandatory agreements between large supermarket chains and food charities**

From 1 November 2024, major supermarket chains (5) are obliged to enter into agreements with charities. The terms and conditions are laid down for the provision of such food to charity.



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POLICIES AND LEGISLATION. LAW ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

Law amending the Law on Waste Management, which **obliges every retailer with significant market power to draw up a food waste prevention plan** specifying the amount of food waste to be reduced per year, with priority given to measures to change consumer behaviour, information campaigns to raise awareness of food waste prevention.



The amendment to the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Waste Management No VIII-787 enters into **force on 1 November 2024**.



POLICIES AND LEGISLATION.

OTHER LEGISLATION

- Description of the procedure for the use of **non-animal food for feeding animals** (The Order of the Director of the State Food and Veterinary Service, 2014)
- Description of handling of **food for charity and support.** (The Order of the Director of the State Food and Veterinary Service, 2016)
- Amendment to the rules on the verification of compliance with **marketing standards** for imported, exported and domestically marketed **fresh fruit and vegetables**, approved by the Minister for Agriculture, 2018



Where products do not meet marketing standards, they may be given to charity, processed or sold for processing, or used as animal feed



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIO-WASTE MANAGEMENT PROVISION OF DIRECTIVE 2008/98/EC ON WASTE IN LITHUANIA:

From 2024, bio-waste from households have started to be separated at source and collected separately or composted in households.

Investments: over 71,000 food waste containers and over 46,000 composters in 2023 (€4.1 million EU funding; €4.2 million national funding). 20,000 composters in 2024-2025 (€2 million); Modernisation, expansion, new installations and installation of infrastructure for food waste treatment and recycling (€24.4 million for 3 regions).



The National Waste Prevention and Management Plan 2021-2027 sets out:

- to **provide households in urbanised areas with more than 2 000 inhabitants with facilities for the collection of bio-waste by 2024**, or to provide composting at the source of this waste, and to ensure, develop and promote a system of composting in community gardens.
- Residents who compost bio-waste may benefit from **discounts** on municipal waste management.



INITIATIVES AND BEST PRACTICES IN LITHUANIA

Companies can take advantage of income tax relief if they donate to charity.

Small producers and farmers registered for VAT can get VAT benefits relief if they donate to charity.

Providing financing measures to promote food sharing, and food donation opportunities. The Ministry of Agriculture approved a financial scheme:

Support for the handling of food for charity from primary production and food industry. The amount of support up to 0.5 EUR per kilogram of food collected from food business operators and donated for charity.



Recommendations for “Swedish buffet” meals to prevent food waste



PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

<https://www.maistobankas.lt/maisto-svaistymas/>

*Every day, Food Bank volunteers and partners go to **514 shops** in **84 cities** and towns in Lithuania to collect unsold, but still safe and fit for human consumption food. **6193 tonnes** of food saved from being thrown away in 2022, worth **€12,779,762**.*

<https://www.linkejimaimaistas.lt/about/>

*Greetings, Food - an innovative and ambitious initiative implemented in 6 EU countries to provide tools and knowledge to help households manage food waste. **706 public events** carried out, reaching **1 259 499 people**.*

<https://www.pienasvaisiai.lt/>

*Preschool and primary school children in the programme are taught not to waste food and to respect it. For children and educators, the **FAO has developed methodological material** and, on the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, **translated and adapted for Lithuania, "Do Well - Save Food!,,** (Gerais daryk – maistą taupyk), which helps to raise awareness of the issue and to save food. This training material is published on the programme's website and is freely available to all.*





FUTURE TARGETS AND CHALLENGES

The proposal to amend the Waste Framework Directive proposes specific targets:

- **30% reduction in per capita food waste generation in retail and consumption (restaurants, food service establishments and households compared to 2020 levels);**
- **10% reduction in food waste generation in the processing and production chain compared to 2020 levels.**



Member States have so far applied different measures to reduce food waste in primary production, processing and manufacturing, retail and other food distribution, restaurants and catering services, and households. Therefore, achieving the proposed food waste reduction targets by 2030 will pose different challenges for Member States.



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**Thank you
for your attention**

