



Fresh Thinking: Strategies for Sustainable Operations in the Food Sector



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Better Earth

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We are on a mission to create compostable packaging that makes sustainability goals accessible and regenerative circularity achievable within the foodservice industry.



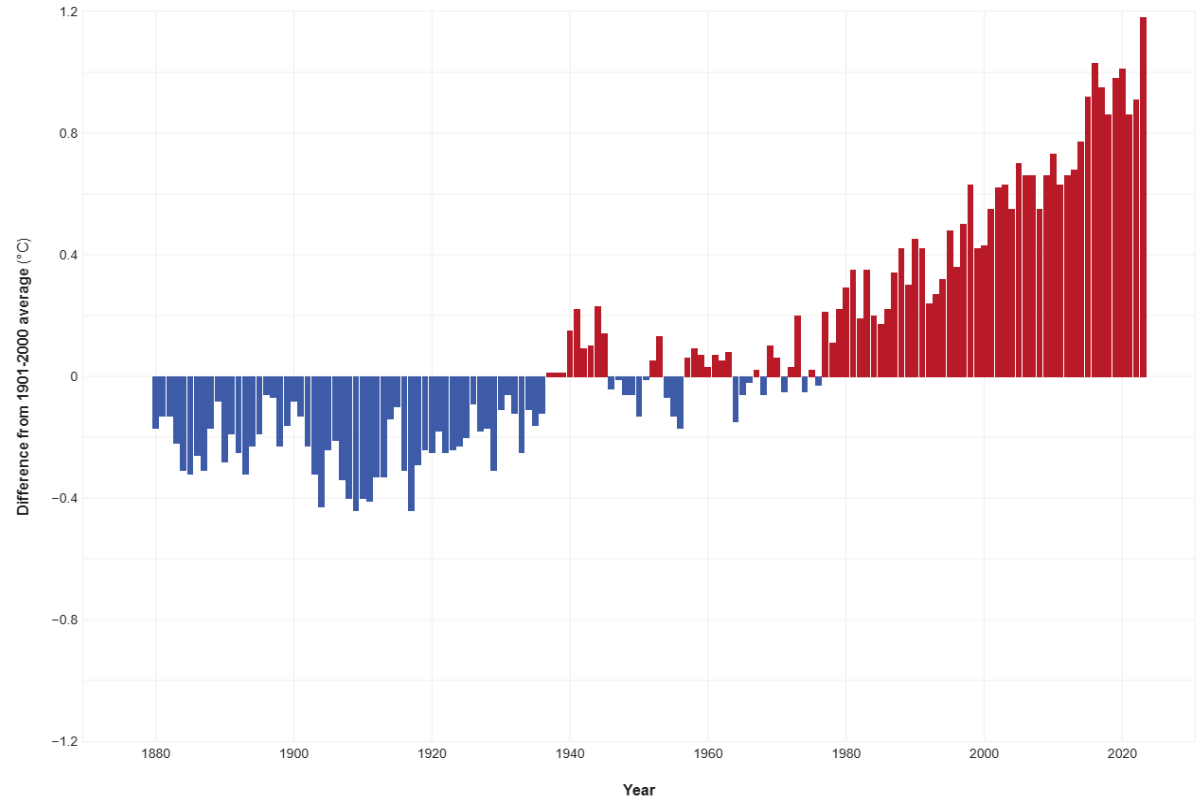
United Nations
Global Compact



Things are Heating Up

The past eight years are confirmed to have been the eight warmest on record.

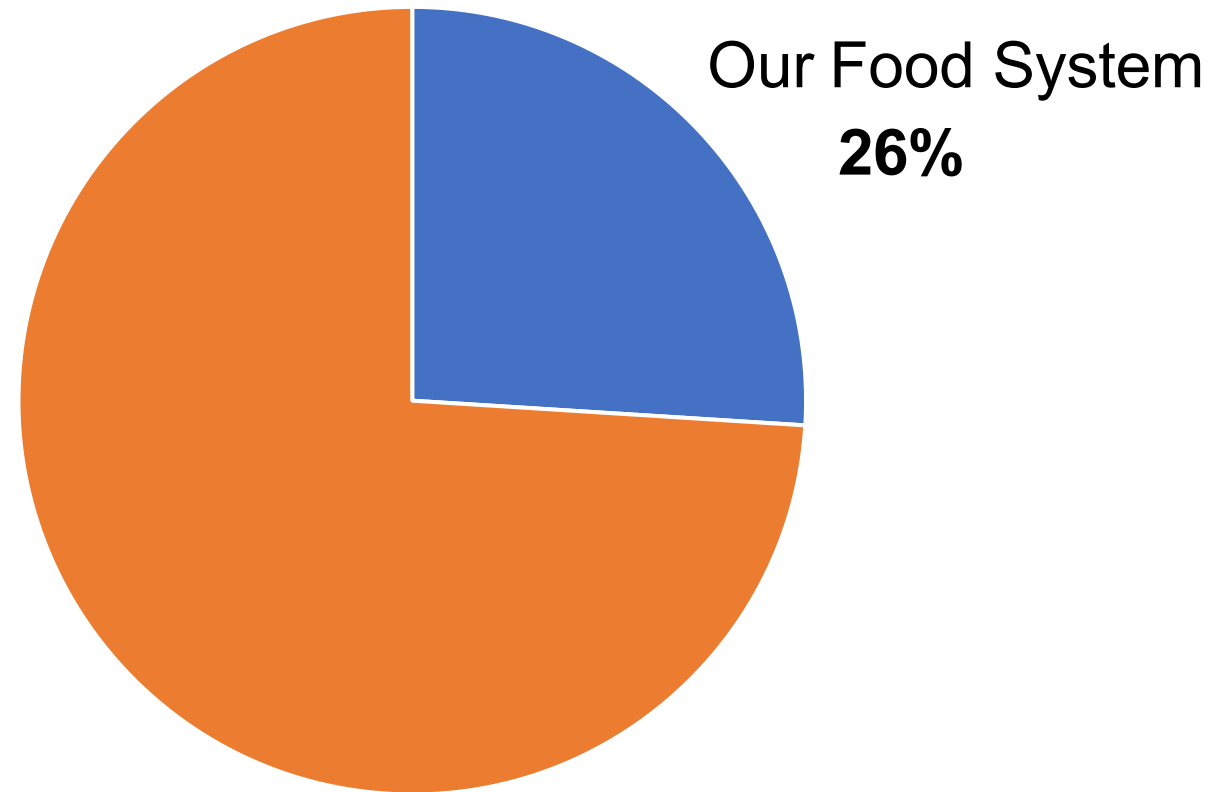
GLOBAL AVERAGE SURFACE TEMPERATURE



Source: climate.gov

The Food Industry's Role

Total Global
Greenhouse Gas
Emissions



Source: [Our World in Data](#)

Consumers are Craving Change

- Globally, **85%** of people indicate that they have shifted their purchase behavior towards being more sustainable in the past five years

Source: [Businesswire](#)



Primary Drivers for Impact

1. Refrigeration
2. Food Recovery & Diversion
3. Reducing Plastic Usage



Refrigeration: The Hidden Giant

- Refrigeration typically accounts for **30-50%** of a grocer's total energy consumption
- Globally, refrigeration systems' **annual energy use is equivalent to Germany**

Source: [The New Yorker](#)



Refrigeration: The Potential

Action

- Switch to low-GWP refrigerants
- Upgrade to energy-efficient systems
- Monitor and maintain existing systems to prevent leaks

Estimated Impact for Mid-Size Grocer

- Annual cost savings of \$20,000+
- Emissions reduction equivalent to removing **250 passenger cars** from the road

Tackling Food Waste

- **One-third** of all food produced is wasted
- Of this food, only approximately **5% is composted**



Sources: [FDA](#) | [EPA](#)

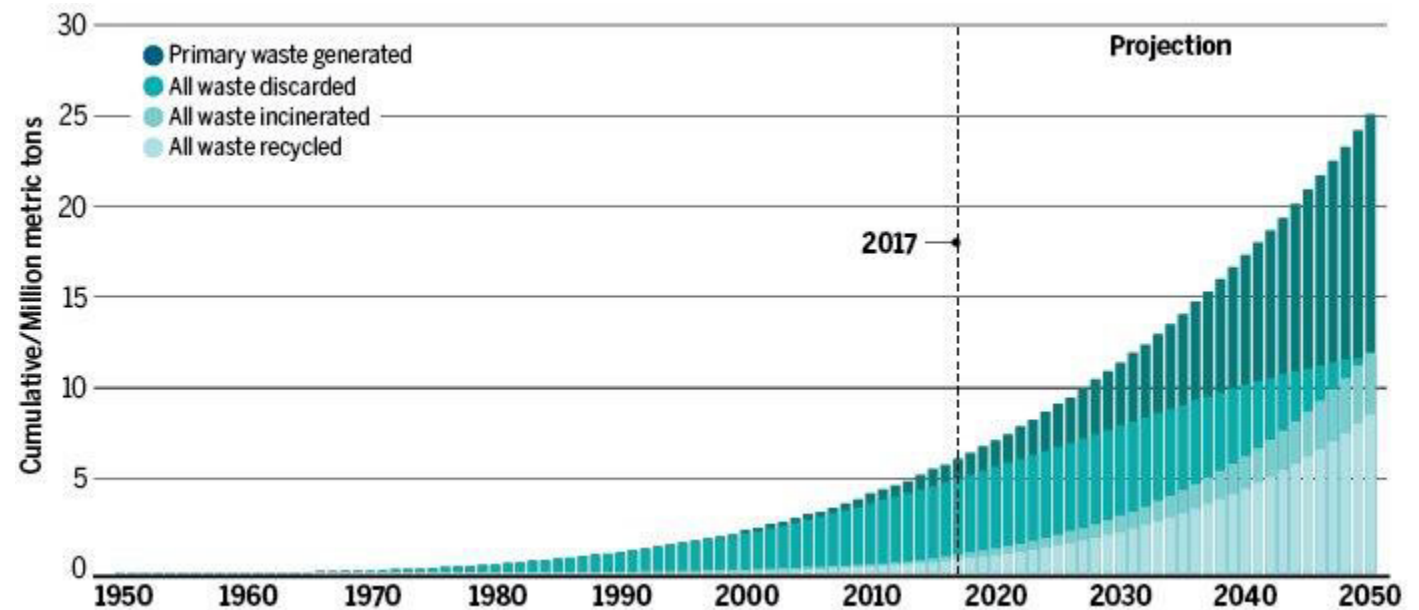
Food Recovery and Diversion

1. Conduct a waste audit
2. Establish organics diversion goals, aligned with your audit results
3. Connect with your local food donation programs and composters



Packaging – The Third Horseman

Plastic production is off the charts



Source: [Science.org](https://www.science.org)

We can't recycle our way out of the plastic problem

Less than 5% of plastic is recycled in America each year

And nearly **one-third** of all municipal solid waste in the United States can be attributed to packaging.

Sources: TIME, EPA





Source: USA today

How might we eliminate packaging wherever we can?



Sources: Eater, Turn Systems

Plus, the Opportunity to Rethink Packaging *When We Need It* —



From **Field** to **Fork** to **Field**.

Compostables are a Catalyst



Rapidly Renewable Materials

- Compostables are made from plant-based, renewable resources that sequester carbon



Builds Operational Efficiencies

- Incorporating compostables streamlines organics diversion and reduces contamination



Creates Compost

- Carbon is sequestered *yet again* when compostable packaging is composted

A Recap: Primary Drivers for Impact

1. Refrigeration
2. Food Recovery & Diversion
3. Reducing Plastic Usage



Where Do We Go From Here?

1. **Start small:** audit your operations
2. **Build partnerships** with local composters, food banks and grant providers
3. **Educate your team:** make sustainability a shared goal



Questions?

- Better Earth is here to help!



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