



# Fresh Thinking: Strategies for Sustainable Operations in the Food Sector



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Better Earth

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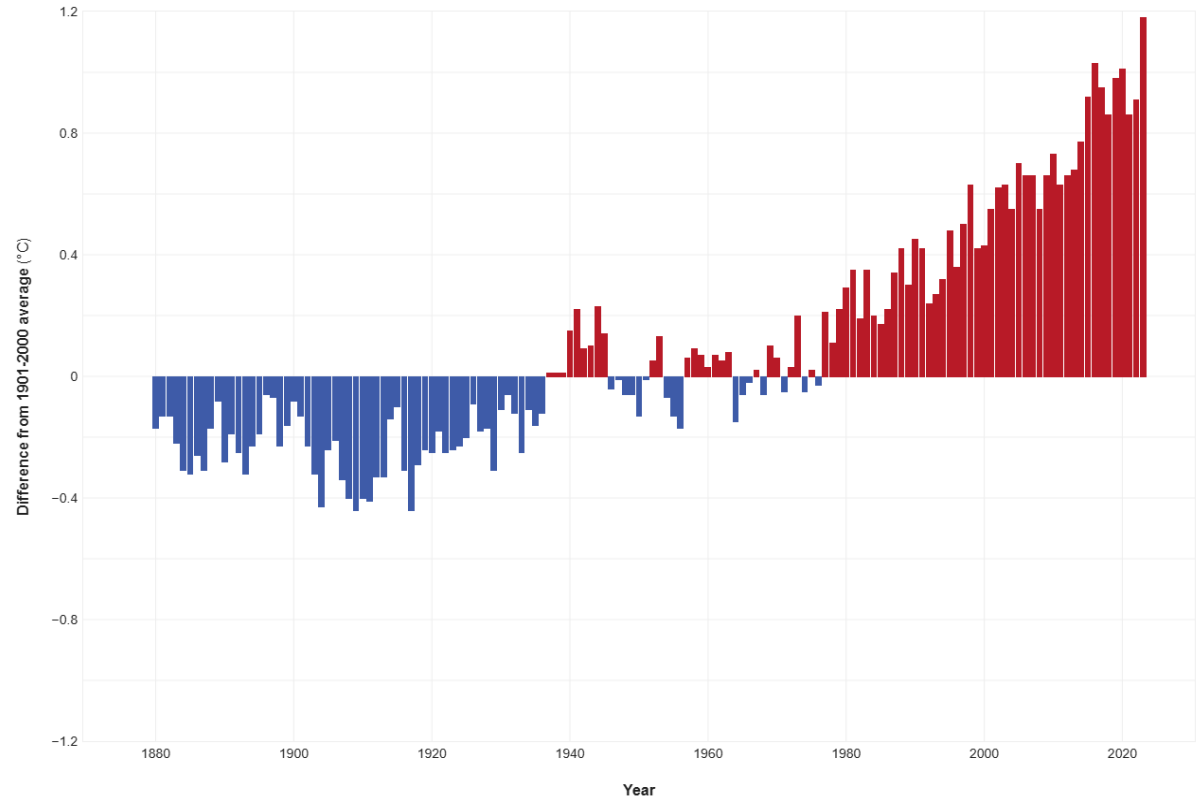
We are on a mission to create compostable packaging that makes sustainability goals accessible and regenerative circularity achievable within the foodservice industry.



# Things are Heating Up

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

GLOBAL AVERAGE SURFACE TEMPERATURE

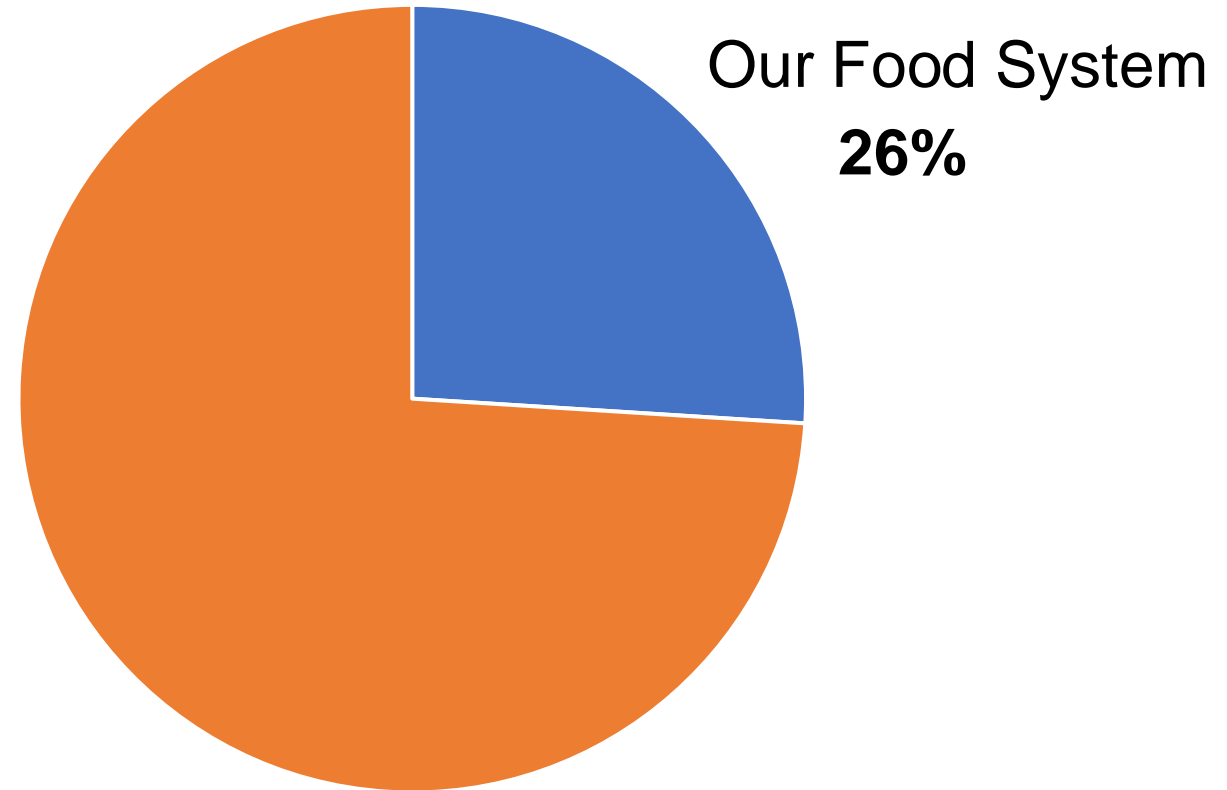


Source: [climate.gov](https://climate.gov)



# 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](#)





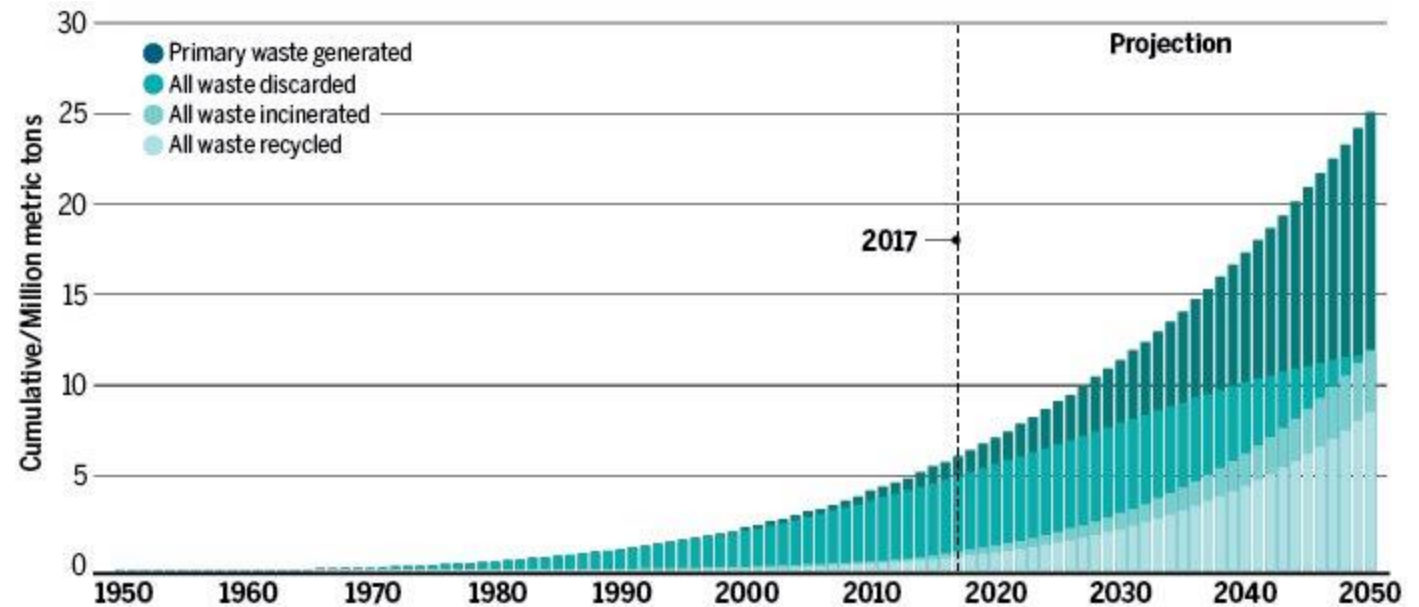
# Food Recovery and Diversion

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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