



SunOpta Food Loss and Food Waste Reduction Policy – Effective May 1, 2023

As a food and beverage company, we are uniquely positioned to impact the food system by helping to support food security and nutrition while reducing food loss and food waste. SunOpta supports Target 12.3 of the UN SDG on Food Loss & Waste, which strives to “halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses” by 2030. (Nations, 2023) This policy shares our commitment to this ambition and identifies the type of activities and efforts we support as an organization. The scope of this policy is internal and will be reviewed and approved annually by the Senior Leadership Team at SunOpta. The policy will be communicated to employees through various channels, including a lunch and learn, company newsletter, SOP training for appropriate individuals, and/or posted on SunOpta’s website and internal company site.

Where does the Food in our landfills come from?

Where our waste comes from:



(rts, 2023)

What is SunOpta doing about it?

To address *Food Waste* coming from homes, restaurants, grocery stores, and food service companies, **SunOpta is:**

- Striving for clear date labeling on packaging to help consumers and food business establishments identify food that is safe and does not need to be wasted. SunOpta recommends using “Best if Used By” for packaged food labeling where the date relates to optimal quality and not to safety. (Administration, 2023)

- Educating its employees on food waste by providing educational opportunities (lunch and learns and internal communications) on ways we can reduce Food Waste at home or when we go out to restaurants.
- Creating opportunities for involvement with community organizations which provide food to people in need and organizations that redistribute food from one stream to another stream in an effort to avoid *Food Waste*. At SunOpta, we support community involvement by our employees. We offer 24 hours of paid time off for volunteering. For example, in Minnesota, where our corporate headquarters is located, we've teamed up with Every Meal, a local organization whose mission is to feed kids while helping them maintain their dignity and the dignity of the families. We've sponsored a school, delivered meals to kid's lockers, and packed meals.
- Donating goods with limited shelf life to Feeding America and/or its local chapters or through product giveaways to SunOpta employees.

To address *Food Loss* coming from farms, **SunOpta is**

- A resource for farmers for finding commercial channels, where available, for less than premium fruit through the frozen, puree, or juice markets.

To address *Food Loss* coming from manufacturing, **SunOpta is**

- Identifying outlets for *Food Loss*. Our goal is to feed people through normal commercial channels, but sometimes there is a disruption to normal. In those instances, we want to be prepared and make sure we are able to connect the Food to the people that need it. We have taken several steps to accomplish this.
 1. We identified a partner to take *Food Loss* from our operations and repurpose and distribute it to people.
 2. We have developed standard operating procedures to assist plant personnel in identifying opportunities for recovery and procedures for donation.
 3. We created a way to track and measure the donations and convert goods donated to meal equivalency to better visualize the impact we are making.
 4. We've educated the company on finding a partner to take the Food.
 5. Where possible, we find ways to upcycle within our operations.
- Continuously improving waste management at our plants by implementing solutions to minimize or eliminate waste in our process. For example, we have enhanced equipment with software to achieve greater production efficiency of our aseptic products.

- SunOpta strives to follow the EPA Waste Management Hierarchy (See Figure 1 below) and divert *Food Waste* to the most preferred recovery.

Figure 1. EPA Waste Management Hierarchy



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References

- Administration, U. F. (2023). *Confused by Date Labels on Packaged Foods?* Retrieved from Consumers: <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/confused-date-labels-packaged-foods?>
- Nations, F. a. (2023). *Indicator 12.3.1 Global Food Loss and Waste*. Retrieved from Sustainable Development Goals: <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1231/en/>
- rts. (2023). *Food Waste in America in 2023*. Retrieved from <http://www.rts.com/resources/guides/food-waste-america.com>