Reducing wastage of food is key to saving environment

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This year’s theme of World Environment Day (June 5) is “Time to act on food waste” to highlight the global issue of food wastage and its impact on the environment. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched an initiative to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030. According to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), around 1.3 billion metric tons of food are wasted each year, which is equivalent to the food consumed by the entire population of China. This wastage is not only a loss of food but also a loss of water, energy, and natural resources.

Reducing food waste is crucial for several reasons:

1. **Environmental Impact**: Reducing food waste can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Food production, storage, and transportation are responsible for a significant portion of global greenhouse gas emissions. By reducing food waste, we can reduce these emissions.

2. **Economic Benefits**: Reducing food waste can help save money. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the cost of food waste in the U.S. alone is estimated to be $161 billion per year. By reducing food waste, we can save money on food and reduce the cost of food production.

3. **Social Benefits**: Reducing food waste can help reduce hunger and improve food security. By reducing food waste, we can ensure that more food is available for people who need it.

The good news is that reducing food waste is within our reach. Simple changes in our daily lives, such as meal planning, using leftovers in creative ways, and composting food scraps, can make a big difference.

In conclusion, reducing food waste is not only a responsible choice but also an opportunity to save money, protect the environment, and improve food security. It is time for us to act on food waste and make a difference.

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*Image Source: [UNEP website](https://www.unep.org)*

**Reference**: UNEP - *Time to act on food waste*.