

Reducing Food Waste Through Plastic Packaging

Food waste presents significant financial and environmental impacts. But plastic food packaging has the ability to help prevent food waste, save money, and reduce environmental effects. Plus it helps keep foods fresh and sanitary.¹



Preventing Food Waste

Foods without packaging are thrown out uneaten more often than foods protected by packaging.

Think about the items in a typical refrigerator. Fruit and veggies tightly sealed in protective plastic are more likely to reach the dinner table than unpackaged fruit and veggies.



The strong correlation between food packaging and waste is backed by research.

U.S. Fresh Food Sales: Percentage Sold Packaged vs Wasted (%)²



By safeguarding food with plastic packaging, it stays fresh longer and has less risk of going to waste.

**Stays
Fresh
Longer**



Cucumbers
11 days longer



Bananas
21 days longer



Beef
26 days longer

¹ Study: "Quantifying the Value of Packaging as a Strategy to Prevent Food Waste in America," AMERIPEN, 2018.
<http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.ameripen.org/resource/resmgr/files/AMERIPEN-WhitePaper-FoodWast.pdf>

² Adapted: Euromonitor International, 2017 & ReFED 2016



Boosting Economic Impact

The U.S. economy loses more than \$200 billion each year due to food waste costs.

Reducing food waste by just 10-20% through packaging initiatives has major savings potential for everyone, from big retail stores to local restaurants to individual households.



Protecting the Environment

Protecting food in plastic packaging helps protect the environment. Ten times more resources are used to make and distribute food than are used to make the packaging to protect it.³

Food production
requires 10x
more resources



Water



Land



Energy



Fuel

And each of these impacts the environment.

Every time food is wasted, all of the natural resources that went into producing it are wasted as well. Investing in a little plastic packaging helps protect the environment by saving resources.

Throughout its life cycle, food production emits as much as 13% of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the U.S. If wasted, food takes up space in landfills and releases methane as it decomposes.

21x more potent
than CO₂



Food packaging, including plastic packaging, serves as a valuable resource in **preventing food waste, saving money and protecting the environment.**

³ "INCPEN evidence explains how packaging prevents waste," INCPEN, 2017.
<http://www.incpen.org/incpen-evidence-to-food-waste-inquiry-explains-how-packaging-prevents-waste>