



#FoodWasteEU

European Citizens' Panel How to reduce food waste more effectively?

The contribution of citizens to the European Commission's legislative proposal

The citizens' perspective

Citizens' Panels are now **part of the Commission's policymaking** in certain key areas, as announced by President von der Leyen on the occasion of her [State of the Union Address on 14 September 2022](#).

Time to reduce Food Waste in the EU

In addition to a wide range of consultations, the Commission convened a Citizens' Panel **to deliberate and make recommendations on actions** to be taken by Member States, actors in the food supply chain, citizens and other stakeholders, in order to step up efforts to reduce food waste and achieve targets.



A Panel of **147 citizens, randomly selected,** representative of **EU diversity, was convened.** One third were young people aged 16-25.

What do citizens recommend?

The Citizens' Panel put forward **23 recommendations**.

They called for a **broad approach**, engaging all actors and **strengthening collaboration** across the **food supply chain**.

The recommendations present **3 lines of action** aiming to:

- Strengthen the cooperation in the food value chain;
- Encourage food business initiatives;
- Support consumer behavioural change.

They include recommendations among others:

- Ensure cooperation and solidarity to facilitate the redistribution of surplus food to those in need;
- Further encourage research on innovative and sustainable packaging;
- Promote the role of education to build understanding and appreciation of the value of food.

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What next?

The **Citizens' Report** from the Panel with the **full set of recommendations** is published together with the **Commission's legislative proposal**.

It is the **first concrete and structured contribution by citizens to the development of European political and legislative initiatives**, resulting from an exercise in participatory democracy.

The outcome of the Citizens' Panel will continue to **support the overarching work of the Commission** on food waste.

Citizens' recommendations indicate **points for further consideration**, such as:

- Taking measures to **forbid the destruction of safe, surplus food**;
- **Research on innovative and sustainable packaging**;
- The need to **improve outreach and engagement with citizens across the EU on these issues, by the EU and Member States**.

Importantly, the outcome of the Panel will serve as a **guide to help Member States** in achieving the targets.

Citizens' recommendations will be shared and discussed with the [EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste](#) bringing together Member States and stakeholders, in view of being considered in national food waste prevention programmes.