Reducing Food Waste in Merced County Ramiro Gonzalez

University of California Global Food Initiative Fellowship

Introduction

Food waste is a problem that has serious consequences to the environment, economy and human lives. Billions of pounds of perfectly edible food is wasted around the world. Food that could fed many hundreds of thousands of people. Food waste contributes to the following

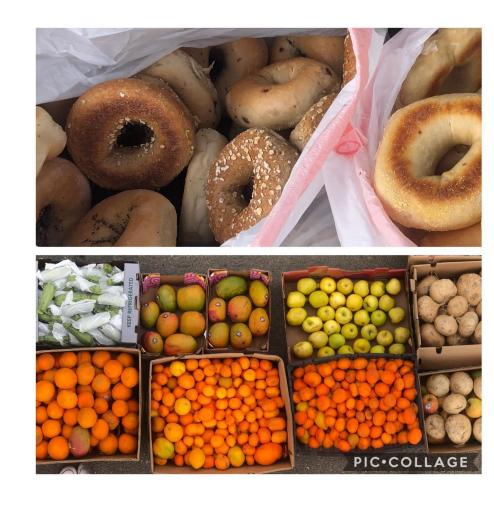
- Climate Change
- Social Problems
- Economic ProblemsWhy Food Waste Programs?
- Implementing food waste programs can help reduce many gigatons of CO2.
- According to the USDA in 2010 approximately 133 Billion pounds and \$161Billiion worth of food was wasted.

Bobcat Eats Food Waste Awareness and Prevention Program had saved 900,000 pounds of food as of july 2019. This UC Merced program rescues food from local businesses and donates it to distribution sites.

Project Goals

This project aims to increase the number of food donors and distribution sites by aiding in food rescue efforts.

- Reach out to local business
- Rescue food from local business
- Collect data on amount of food rescued
- Why is food wasted?



Materials and Methods

Material

- Scale
- Reliable Car
- Gloves
- Containers

In order for food waste programs to be successfull food must be handled safely. Food rescuers are required to take a course to earn a ServSafe Certification.

Following guidlines and procedures created by Bobcat Eats to make food rescuing efficient.

Results and Outcomes

In aiding Bobcat Eats Food Waste
Awareness and Prevention Program
with their efforts to reduce food waste
in Merced county we learn that
businesses are ver receptive and
support programs that reduce food
waste. Business waste food because it
is economically, however by
implementing food waste programs that
take care of coordination, transporting
food and distribution businesses are
able to reduce food waste without loss
of profits.

- 1. Increase distribution centers. A total of 26 New Distribution Sites
- 2. Increase amount of food donors: A total of 32 Food Donors



Conclusions

food waste in Merced County has been successful because of the procedures and guidelines set into place, and the support of the community.

Increasing the number of food donors and distribution was made possible because community support and results. Over 2,103,405 pounds of food has been diverted from landfills since

The efforts of Bobcat Eats in reducing

June 1st 2018.



Future Goals

A future goal for this project is to continue to divert food from landfills, increasing the number of food donors and increase the number of distribution centers.

Due to COVID19 food rescuing efforts were suspended, therefore a future goal of this project is to create guidelines and find a zero-contact way to handle food.,

Literature Cited

pounds-food-merced-county

Fight climate change by preventing food waste. (n.d.). Retrieved May 23, 2020, from https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/fight-climate-change-by-preventing-food-waste

Fight climate change by preventing food waste. (n.d.). Retrieved May 23, 2020, from https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/fight-climate-change-by-preventing-food-waste

Food Waste Prevention Program Saves Thousands of Pounds of Food in Merced County. (2019, March 12). Retrieved May 23, 2020, from <a href="https://news.ucmerced.edu/news/2019/food-waste-prevention-program-saves-thousands-program-saves-program-saves-thousands-program-saves-thousands-program-saves-program-saves-program-

Writers, S. (2020, May 20). Food Insecurity in College: Finding Support on Campus. Retrieved May 23, 2020, from

Retrieved May 23, 2020, from https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/college-food-insecurity

Acknowledgements

