

Special Edition: Summer 2013



# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2013

**THINK. EAT. SAVE**



Ministry for the Environment  
H.M. Government of Gibraltar





# FOOD WASTE

Once again, Gibraltar, along with over 100 other countries around the world, celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June 2013. This year's theme set by the United Nations Environmental Programme focused on Food Waste.

As part of its Environmental Education Programme, the Department of the Environment visited all local schools and delivered presentations to most children regarding the problems associated with wasted food in the run up to World Environment Day. On the actual day we had a fantastic turnout with twelve schools performing and spreading the environmental message as interpreted by them. The morning kicked off with a welcoming speech by the Minister for the Environment.



A recent study has revealed that about one third of all food production worldwide gets lost or wasted in the food production and consumption systems, amounting to 1.3 billion tonnes. In industrialized nations, retailers and consumers discard around 300 million tonnes that is fit for consumption, around half of the total food squandered in these regions. This is more than the total net food production of Sub-Saharan Africa and would be sufficient to feed the estimated 900 million people hungry in the world. (FAO)

### **What is the Food Waste Campaign all about?**

The down side: food waste is a massive global problem that has negative humanitarian, environmental and financial implications.

The up side: with relative ease and a few simple changes to our habits, we can significantly shift this paradigm.

Many regional campaigns have recently been launched, echoing the challenge of food waste at the national level and in major sectors, including hotels, restaurants, supermarkets and households. Perhaps surprisingly, one-third of all unused food in developed countries is wasted by households.

The Think.Eat.Save campaign of the Save Food Initiative, is a partnership between UNEP, FAO and Messe Düsseldorf, and in support of the UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge, which seeks to add its authority and voice to these efforts in order to galvanize widespread global, regional and national actions, catalyze more sectors of society to be aware and to act, including through exchange of inspiring ideas and projects between those players already involved and new ones that are likely to come on board.



**St. Paul's First School** performed a song entitled:

*Circle of Life*

On average a person throws away 120kg of food every year. That's like the weight of a baby elephant! One of the bad things about all this food being thrown away is that it ends up in a landfill site. Would you all agree that this is not healthy for our environment? Of course it isn't and this is why we need to be aware and reduce the amount of food we throw away every day.





**St. Bernard's First School** performed a song entitled:  
*Eco Friendly Style*

Food waste is a waste – because it causes pollution, food production uses up resources and a lot ends up at landfill even though there are millions around the world going hungry.

If we send everything to landfill – one day we will run out of space & not only that, food waste at landfill contributes to climate change because it emits methane, a very powerful greenhouse gas.





**St. Joseph's First School** performed a song entitled:

*Food Waste*

**Food just doesn't appear on our plates at home or in the supermarket by magic!**



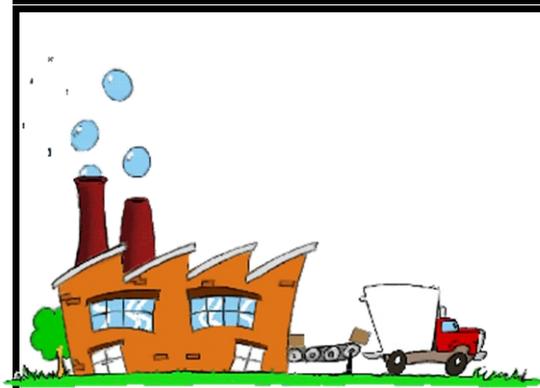
In order to produce food to eat a lot of things happen which we don't think about when shopping. We don't think about the food that is used to feed the animals or the water and land which is used to grow our crops.





**Loreto Convent First School** performed a song entitled:

*No More Food Waste*



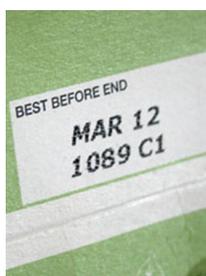
We don't think about the energy used in processing and packaging our food ready for transportation. We don't think about the planes, trains, boats and trucks which use petrol to take the food round the world. So when we waste food, we are also wasting all these other resources which were used in growing and preparing the food we find in our supermarkets.



**St. Mary's First School** performed two songs entitled:

*Recycle it and 3 R's*

So far we've been talking about why food waste is a bad thing for our environment. So the question really is why do we throw away so much food?



Food is left over on your plate.

We may cook or prepare too much.

Not using food in time, like bananas growing brown and spotty.





**Governor's Meadow First School** performed a dance and song entitled: *Feed Me / Hunger*

So how can we cut down on the amount of food we throw away? We can reduce the amount of food wasted through good Food Management and this begins at home – before your family goes shopping.



Check what food you have and use before they expire. Plan family meals for the week. Eat what's on your plate. Create shopping lists and stick to them.





**Notre Dame First School performed a song entitled:**

*Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle*

**Food waste is only one of the types of wastes we produce at home.**

Luckily we can now recycle a lot of the stuff we used to throw away with food.



Like paper, pizza boxes and anything made from plastic. In this way we can reduce the amount of rubbish we produce and therefore there is less to be sent to landfill.





**Sacred Heart Middle School** performed a dance and song entitled: *Read all about it*

**Recycling is important!**

*The basic idea of recycling is to use the materials again.*



Where does the metal you recycle end up?

Here, here, here and here!





**St. Anne's Middle School** performed a dance and song entitled: *Out of Time*

**Benefits of Recycling**

By using materials over and over again, we don't need to take more natural resources from our natural environment in order to make the things we need and want.

Did you know that there is no limit to the amount of times an aluminum can be recycled? But if you throw it away and it goes to landfill, 500 years from now it will still be a can and rubbish.





**Loreto Convent Middle School** performed a song  
entitled: *Don't waste food!*

If we recycle as much of the waste we create at home as we can, then a lot less waste would go to land fill. Landfills are big holes in the ground where we hide all our waste by covering it with soil once the landfill is full. The less waste we put in our normal bins, the smaller the amount of waste that goes to landfill and therefore, the less damage we cause to our natural environment.





## **Bishop Fitzgerald Middle School performed a song.**

Another benefit of recycling is that it saves our natural resources. For example if we all recycle as much paper and cardboard as we can, fewer trees need to be cut down. This would mean more homes for our birds and other wildlife and more oxygen for the planet as a whole. The more plastics we recycle, the more fossil fuels that are saved to be used another day.





## **St. Joseph's Middle School** performed a gymnastics display.

Talking about fossil fuels, did you know that if you switch your TV off with just your remote, and not from the socket, you are still using electricity? By switching TVs and other electronic equipment off from the socket at night, or when not using them, not only do you save energy and help the environment, but you are also saving money which could be used towards a holiday or a treat.

**There is no downside to recycling plastics, paper, metal, glass and batteries.**

# PRESENTATION

Each school was presented with a Trophy and Certificate for their efforts!



*Do your bit for the environment!*

***THINK. EAT. SAVE***