**What is Food Waste Weekend?**

Food Waste Weekend is a nationwide public engagement event by America’s faith community to introduce the issue of - and some solutions to - the food waste dilemma facing America.

**When is Food Waste Weekend?**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 8-10, 2017

**What will be happening on that weekend?**

Clergy from across the faith spectrum will be speaking about food waste – the practical problem as well as the ensuing moral/ethical issues – from their own faith perspective during their weekly sermon.

**Who is sponsoring Food Waste Weekend?**

AmpleHarvest.org, a nationwide nonprofit which is reducing food waste nationwide by educating, encouraging and enabling America’s 42 million home and community gardeners to donate their heretofore wasted excess harvest (a recent [study](http://www.ampleharvest.org/GardenFoodWasteStudy) determined that more than 11 billion pounds of garden food is lost to waste annually) to more than 8,000 food pantries nationwide.

**Food waste is a “foodie” issue… where does the faith community come into it?**

“Foodies” have been discussing food waste in the past decade. Non-profits, government, “farm to table” businesses and others have increasingly been brought into the discussion, yet up to now, the faith community has not yet been engaged. This has been a critical gap for two reasons:

1. Millions of Americans are not yet aware that food waste is an issue that is hurting them and their community, and therefore are not aware of the many options available to them to reduce or eliminate food waste.
2. 70% of America’s food pantries – a key part of the solution to food waste – are based in or sponsored by a house of worship. By closing this gap, more food that otherwise would be lost to waste can be routed to a nearby hunger program to benefit those in the community who are food insecure.

**Where will Food Waste Weekend take place?**

Everywhere. Clergy from all states and in all faith communities are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

**What exactly will the clergy have to help then with their sermons?**

All of the resources needed for any/every house of worship to participate are available at [www.FoodWasteWeekend.org](http://www.foodwasteweekend.org/). including:

1. General introduction to the issue of food waste – an abridged version as well as a somewhat longer more academic look at the issue, videos and links to several excellent food waste information sites.
2. An [article](http://foodwasteweekend.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Newsletter-Long-and-Short.docx) for use in newsletters or bulletins (two versions – one shorter and one longer – are available)
3. Boilerplate [sermons](http://foodwasteweekend.org/sermons1/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) written six major faith traditions along with one secular one.  Several are also available in Spanish.
4. A “[game show](http://foodwasteweekend.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Food-Waste-Weekend-Game-Show.docx)” for their religious schools
5. A series of [Calls to Action](http://foodwasteweekend.org/calls-to-action-2/) that the clergy can share as part of the sermon.

**What are calls to action?**

Food Waste Weekend has assembled a number of things that the members of the congregation can do to reduce or eliminate food waste.  The clergy should decide which of them will have the greatest impact and most likely to be acted on by the community.  We suggest that two or three should be a good starting point, with additional ones suggested later on if the community is so inclined.

We strongly suggest that if the house of worship is a community that has home and community gardens, that [AmpleHarvest.org](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org) be a selected as one of the calls to action.  It is the low hanging fruit in the food waste arena – plus it will help the food pantry get more food for free for years to come.

**Are there any calls to action for the clergy?**

YES.  Above and beyond participating in food waste weekend, if the house or worship hosts a food pantry, the clergy should absolutely work with the food pantry manager to get them registered at [www.AmpleHarvest.org](http://ampleharvest.org/find-pantry/) so that local gardeners and other donors can contribute excess fresh food instead of letting it go to waste.  This should be done, if possible, before Food Waste Weekend.

**Which faiths are invited to participate?**

This is open to the entire faith community. Food Waste Weekend’s documents specific to Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Unitarian/Universalists traditions as well as a secular version are available at [www.FoodWasteWeekend.org](http://www.foodwasteweekend.org/). Any clergy outside of these faiths is free to adopt the material to their own faith tradition.

**How much does it cost to participate in Food Waste Weekend?**

Food Waste Weekend is free.

**What can I do in a non-faith/secular environment?**

Yes, a secular version of the documents is available for any non-faith participants.

**How can I participate if I’m not involved with a house of worship?**

You can help Food Waste Weekend and more importantly, help reduce food waste, by making sure that the houses of worship in your community are aware of Food Waste Weekend.

**I love the idea of giving a sermon on food waste and helping my congregation do something about it, but we’re already committed to another topic on that weekend. Can we do this at a later date?**

Yes. We realized that some clergy plan their sermons months in advance and some faith organizations have a schedule of topics – either of which would make it impossible to do a food waste sermon on Food Waste Weekend, so if you are in one of those buckets, please do download the sermon and all of the material that is available to you and do it on a date that works better for you.

**Should we invite the local media to cover the service?**

Absolutely, yes! Reach out to the local TV, radio and newspapers. The more coverage you get, the better.   Urge them to include the hashtag #FoodWasteWeekend in their coverage to help others to also read/view it.

**What can I do about food waste?**

There are a lot of ways you can reduce the waste of food in America. Ask your clergy to join [FoodWasteWeekend.org](http://foodwasteweekend.org/) and get the information for you.

**Where can I find media information?**

[www.FoodWasteWeekend.org/News](http://www.foodwasteweekend.org/News)

**I want to help promote Food Waste Weekend. What is the #hashtag?**

#FoodWasteWeekend