



THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD WASTE CRISIS

You probably don't spend much time thinking about food waste, but as experts in food waste, we think about it a lot. Food waste is a big problem— In Australia over 5.3 million tonnes of food is wasted each year. Food waste sitting in landfill and kerbside produces methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas that is a known contributor to climate change. In fact, methane is 21 more dangerous than carbon dioxide. Not only a problem for the planet food waste is becoming a big problem for consumers with council bin collection changing from weekly to fortnightly. While there's no single solution for reducing the world's waste, even the little things we do can have an important impact on the environment—like using an InSinkErator® food waste disposer to keep your food scraps out of landfills.



FOOD WASTE AT THE CENTRE OF THE CRISIS

- ❗ Around a third of the household bin is wasted food and **1 in 5 shopping bags end up in the bin** costing families thousands of dollars every year.
- ❗ If food waste could be represented as its own country, it would be the **third largest emitter of greenhouses gases**.
- ❗ Globally, **food waste generates the equivalent of 485 million metric tonnes of CO2 each year**, equal to the annual emissions of 100 million cars.
- ❗ Food waste contributes to other environmental problems as well. The numbers above don't include the additional **energy required to transport waste to the landfill**, which is getting more and more expensive as landfills get further away from urban centres.
- ❗ Since **food waste is 75% to 90% water, it is a significant contributor to landfill leachate**—the toxic liquid that 'leaches' from a landfill as trash decomposes—and there's a significant cost to capturing and treating it before it reaches and pollutes water sources.

SMALL CHANGES CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT

- ✅ On average, the energy used to run a disposal comes out to less than \$3.50 a year. When a community of 30,000 households grinds its food waste in a disposal instead of sending it to landfills, it has the same positive effect on greenhouse gas emissions as planting 31,435 trees; diverted to biogas production, it could create enough electricity to power 322 homes.
- ✅ Over the past 80 years, **InSinkErator has kept 80 million tonnes of food scraps out of landfills**. Less food waste decomposing into methane gas and fueling climate change means a better environment for all of us. Using an InSinkErator food waste disposal to grind your food scraps is a small action you can take that can have a big impact on your kitchen, community and environment.