



# SUSTAINABILITY 101

EPISODE 2 – PRODUCT WASTE

# PRODUCT WASTE

**Waste occurs when products are discarded before consumption at any stage in the supply chain.**

This could be products damaged in transit to food that has gone off at the consumer's home.



# IT TAKES A NUMBER OF **RESOURCES** TO **PRODUCE** A PRODUCT

## WATER WASTAGE



250 km<sup>3</sup>

It is estimated that 250 km<sup>3</sup> a year (3 times the volume of Lake Geneva) is used to produce wasted food.

## LAND WASTAGE



1.4 billion  
km<sup>3</sup>

Wasted food occupies 1.4 billion km<sup>3</sup> of land that could be better used. If this was a country, it would be the second largest on the planet!

\*FAO 2013, Food waste footprint, Impacts on natural resources summary report

# IT TAKES A NUMBER OF **RESOURCES** TO **PRODUCE** A PRODUCT



4 billion tonnes

## CO2 EMISSIONS

The 4 billion tonnes of CO2 emissions from producing food that goes to waste is more than the whole of Germany emits in a year!

\*FAO 2013, Food waste footprint, Impacts on natural resources summary report

# PLASTIC PACKAGING CAN REDUCE PRODUCT WASTE



## PRODUCTS CARBON FOOTPRINT

**Products generally have higher carbon footprint than the packaging it is in.** Soft drinks are the only major food group that uses less energy to make than the packaging it is sold in.

\*FAO 2013, Food waste footprint, Impacts on natural resources summary report

# IT TAKES A NUMBER OF **RESOURCES** TO **PRODUCE** A PRODUCT

## CUCUMBER LIFE SPAN



**14** days longer

Wrapping a cucumber in plastic film extends its shelf-life by 14 days.

## MEAT LIFE SPAN



**10** days longer

Plastic packaging on fresh meat extends its shelf-life by 10 days.

\*Cucumber Growers' Association

\*Denkstatt, How packaging contributes to food waste prevention

# SUSTAINABILITY 101

Stay tuned for  
the next episode

