
Disco Soup



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Introduction

What is the problem?

According to a study conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 1/3 of all food produced for human consumption worldwide is either lost or wasted. Each year 1.3 billion tons of perfectly edible, safe and nutritious food is not eaten.

In 2010 it was estimated that Japan discarded approximately 18 million tons of food annually, of which 5 to 8 million tons were considered edible at the moment they were disposed of.

The causes of food losses in medium and high-income countries like Japan, Europe and North America mainly relate to consumer behavior as well as to policies and regulations put in place to address other sectorial priorities. If the countries that waste more food stopped doing it, they would be able to feed each and every person on the planet that doesn't have enough food to eat.

In all stages of the food supply chain in the food system there is a certain amount of perfectly good food being wasted. It is either left in the farmer's fields for over -production or low market prices, or discarded by supermarkets for consumers' preference or close best-before dates, or thrown away by consumers not using all they bought.

Part of this enormous mountain of fresh and tasty food that the world wastes is simply rejected because of little aesthetic irregularities, bumps or spots, because it does not meet the form, size and color standards that the big grocery chains impose.



We want to change that! A way to get attention for this major problem is by showing that all of this 'waste' is perfectly good to use and eat. We want to show that wonky, misshaped vegetables are valuable vegetables too, that they are just as nutritious as the perfect produce available in stores: they are too much precious to be trashed!

What is a Disco Soup?

Disco Soup is a culinary and musical act of protest.



All you need to do a Disco Soup are the following ingredients:

- Discarded vegetables and fruit gathered from a market or a farmer
- People armed with vegetable peelers, knives and cutting boards
- Tables and a place to gather people - a town square, co-working space, or a marketplace, etc.
- A DJ or any musician or band

Disco Soup sees young and old people coming together in public places to chop vegetables, sourced from local farms and markets, which would otherwise have been wasted (unmarketable and rejected produce). Soups and salads are then prepared and distributed for free to the general public; often in huge quantities, always to music.



Watch the videos!

<http://vimeo.com/user11062128>

www.vimeo.com/70976541

<http://vimeo.com/39596405>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUWFaY0T4Q

<http://vimeo.com/93048144>

How did it start?

Disco Soup started as Dicing Disco, or Schnippeldisko (literally, 'snippet disco' in German) in Berlin, Germany, organized by the Slow Food Youth Network in January 2012 in an old covered market, the Markthalle Neun. Around 300 volunteers peeled, chopped and sliced a mountain of out of standard vegetables at the music of 2 DJs, and the following day 9,000 portions of soup were served to hungry protesters on the cry of “We are fed up!”

Since then, the idea has spread internationally and was replicated around the world under many creative names and unique characteristics of each local group, but the format is always the same. In France the Disco Soupe Movement has established itself nationally and very successful events have been held in The Netherlands, Greece, Switzerland, Ireland South Korea, Belgium, U.S., Italy and much more. Disco Soup has been especially mentioned by the UN as one of the important projects regarding care for the environment



Now, almost every weekend, there is a Disco Soup being held somewhere.

There are number of reasons why this initiative is spreading like fire:

- Fun.** Disco Soup events are fun, and the meals are delicious!
- Passionate people.** The Disco Soup Crew is made up of fabulous food waste fighters.
- Self-organization.** The team and ideas are growing organically and fed with a lot of good sense and love.
- A good vibe.** Disco Soup works on food waste issues without making everyone feel guilty. Instead everyone is invited to join the fun.

Their formula for success: Lead by example + positive mind frame + collaboration = make change happen.

The movement

Disco Soup is a way to show that the best thing to do with food that would go to waste is... to eat it! It collects a lot of good food destined to be wasted and make something really good out of it, all together, while having fun in the process (in this way we evade the negative feeling of a protest while actually making a strong case).



Vision

This movement intends to inspire all citizens to think about where their food comes from, to be aware of the extent and impact of wasting food and take action together every day to eradicate it, effectively spreading the message around the world.

Mission

Disco Soup is set on stopping the senseless waste of food due to prevailing selection standards.

Our mission is to devise simple and participative means to combat food waste by creating a convivial setting in which to prepare and distribute food accompanied by music.



Goals

1. To build and lead a collaborative community of individuals committed to combating food waste by raising public awareness.
2. To develop an open source method and the human and material resources to create and multiply Disco Soup events.
3. To transmit Disco Soup's message to combat food waste to the greatest number of people possible and to be an idea generator for pertinent authorities and organizations.

Principles

Within the community

1. The Disco Soup community has been created to fight against waste, show how it is to recycle food, and enjoy music in a convivial setting by showcasing discarded, rejected and unsold fruits and vegetables.
2. The organization of free or pay-what-you-want Disco Soups in public spaces open to all constitutes the core activity of the community.

3. The Disco Soup core team guarantees the liberty of community members to take initiatives and to be creative respecting the association's Open Source and Do It Yourself founding principles.
4. Multiplying projects and experience in fighting food waste provides the means for maintaining learning dynamics within the community. The know-how is compiled on pertinent media and distributed to everyone free of charge.
5. The music, vegetables/fruit saved from the waste bin and a general pleasurable ambiance are the indispensable elements of any Disco Soup event.

Outside the community

1. Disco Soup showcases cooking and a healthy alimentation, open-mindedness and sharing.
2. The organization of Disco Soup events in partnership with sister projects and events contributes to the idea of community sharing and solidarity.
3. The community is open to all acts of good will and to working with all players who share its values.
4. Conviviality and shared pleasure communicates a positive and non-moralizing message that has a greater impact.
5. Disco Soup supports events of a non-racist nature, not tied to any religion or political party and only takes part in public debates to support causes directly linked to cooking and alimentation.



Get inspired!

About Disco Soup

<http://www.shareable.net/blog/disco-soup-fighting-food-waste-to-a-disco-groove>

<http://www.discosoupe.org/>

<http://vimeo.com/user11062128>

Disco Soep (NL) during Damn Food Waste

www.vimeo.com/70976541

Disco Soupe (FR)

<http://vimeo.com/39596405>

www.facebook.com/DiscoSoupe

Schnippel Disko (DE)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JUWFaY0T4Q

discoSOUP (EL)

<http://vimeo.com/93048144>

Damn Food Waste event in Amsterdam

www.vimeo.com/71404109

www.damnfoodwaste.com/?lang=en

www.facebook.com/DamnFoodWaste/photos_stream

Slow Food Youth Network International

www.slowfoodyouthnetwork.org

www.facebook.com/slowfoodyouthnetwork

Slow Food Youth Network Germany

www.slowfoodyouth.de

Youth Food Movement The Netherlands

www.youthfoodmovement.nl

Feeding the 5000

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bhoJP6MBak

www.feeding5k.org

TED talk by Tristram Stuart

<http://on.ted.com/Tristram>