**NOV 08, 2011 • BY**[**BOB BRANHAM**](https://blog.generalmills.com/author/bob-branham/)

**The impact of food waste**

For the last several months, I have been on an educational journey to understand the impact of food waste, and I continue to work within General Mills and with the food industry to reduce the amount of food discarded in landfills.

The impact of food waste is staggering, particularly when you consider:

* Each year 70 to 80 billion pounds of food is thrown away in the U.S. – equating to almost 250 pounds per person.
* 20 to 30 percent of all food grown, processed and transported is never consumed.
* Only a very small portion of food waste (approximately 2.5 percent) is recycled – primarily as compost.

Americans now throw away more food than any other material disposed of in landfills and incinerators, according to Jean Schwab, who leads the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) National Food Recovery Initiative.  And that’s one reason why the EPA has identified food waste as an agency priority.