



MUCH OF the fresh fruit and vegetables delivered to Central de Abasto, Mexico City's wholesale food market, ends up in dumpsters. Photographs by KATE LINTHICUM Los Angeles Times

Food waste takes climate toll

MEXICO CITY — Each day, an army of trucks delivers tens of thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables to Mexico City's Central de Abasto, one of the world's largest wholesale food markets.

Most of the produce finds its way to people's kitchens, and eventually their stomachs. But around 420 tons goes bad each day before it can be sold. It ends up, like so much food around the world, in a landfill.

Globally, a staggering one-third of all food that is produced is never eaten. That waste — more than 1 billion tons annually — fuels climate change. As organic matter decomposes, it releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is much more potent than carbon dioxide when it comes to warming the planet.

The United Nations estimates that up to 10% of all human-produced greenhouse gases are generated by food loss and waste. That's nearly five times the emissions from the aviation industry.

Americans will throw out an estimated 316 million pounds of uneaten scraps this Thanksgiving, generating methane

By KATE LINTHICUM



UP TO 10% of human-produced greenhouse gases are estimated to come from food waste, nearly five times the aviation industry's emissions.

For many years, scientists and policymakers have been largely focused on addressing other drivers of climate change, especially the burning of fossil fuels, which is by far the largest contributor to global emissions.

But food waste has recently been drawing more international attention.

The issue was on the agenda at this month's COP29 U.N. climate summit in Azerbaijan, where for the first time, leaders signed a declaration calling for countries to set concrete targets to reduce methane emissions caused by organic waste.

Only a handful of the 196 countries that have signed the Paris Agreement on climate change have incorporated food waste commitments into their national climate plans, according to the U.K.-based nonprofit Waste and Resources Action Program.

Many more nations are like Mexico, which is just beginning to assess how it can reduce the 20 million tons of

What to make of O.C. gains by Trump

The Republican again didn't win formerly deep-red county, but experts see warning signs for Democrats.

By HANNAH FRY AND SEEMA MEHTA

Donald Trump posted notable gains in Orange County during the November election, but it was not enough to win the increasingly purple county that has become a suburban battleground between Republicans and Democrats — and a reflection of the demographic political realignment unfolding across the nation.

Kamala Harris won Orange County, but by a much tighter margin than either Hillary Clinton in 2016 or Joe Biden in 2020. When it comes to presidential politics, Orange County has backed Democrats since 2016, with increasingly blue areas such as Santa Ana, Anaheim and Irvine besting more red areas such as Huntington Beach and south Orange County.

But experts say the 2024 results offer some warning signs for Democrats.

"What the early numbers indicate is that Donald Trump made inroads with minority voters including probably substantial gains with Latino and Asian voters," said Jeff Corless, a former strategist for Orange County Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer. "What we're hearing is that he made those same kinds of gains in other communities similar to Orange County across the country. He also made gains with traditional suburban voters, which he struggled with in 2020."

[See O.C., A10]

Tran prevails in 45th District race

Rep. Michelle Steel concedes to her Democratic challenger in close O.C. contest. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



SIBLINGS Michael and Corinne Purtill rejoice over their batch of nocino, an Italian liqueur, which they created from their great-grandfather's recipe.

COLUMN ONE

A treasured family tradition made new

By CORINNE PURTILL

Fifty years ago my great-grandfather Carlo Portolan hauled down from the roof of his Lincoln Heights home a glass jug full of fragrant black booze, warm from 40 days in the sun.

He decanted it into smaller bottles, affixed to each a masking tape label inscribed with the year — 1974 — and passed them around to friends and family.

He died four years later. His bottles of nocino, an Italian liqueur that looks like tar and tastes like Christmas, carried on.

My mother has one. So does each of her siblings. The glass bottles still get pulled out sometimes at the end of holidays and long family gatherings. All flavors, save for the sear of grain alcohol, have long since faded. It's drinkable but serves mostly as an excuse to speak fondly of the people who made it, the places they came from and the threads that still connect us.

[See Nocino, A7]

L.A. to build a facility to purify wastewater so it's fit for consumption

The \$740-million project, in the making for three decades, aims to curb reliance on imported supplies.

By IAN JAMES

Los Angeles will soon begin building a \$740-million project to transform wastewater into purified drinking water in the San Fernando Valley, expanding the city's local water supply in an effort to prepare for worsening droughts compounded by climate change.

The city plans to break ground next month to start construction of new facilities at the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys. When completed, the facilities will purify treated wastewater and produce 20 million gallons of drinking water per day, enough to supply about 250,000 people.

The drinking water that the plant produces will be piped 10 miles northeast to L.A. County's Hansen Spreading Grounds, where it will flow into basins and percolate into the groundwater aquifer for storage. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will later pump the water from wells, and after additional testing and treatment, the water will enter pipes and be delivered to taps.

"It's a major step forward for the city," said Jesus Gonzalez, the DWP's manager of water resources. Through this project, he said, the city will start using recycled water as a "new source of sustainable, drought-proof drinking water supply."

L.A. has been recycling wastewater for decades but has previously used the treated water for outdoor irrigation in areas such as golf courses and parks. With the new facility, which is scheduled to be finished in 2027,

Lebanese take stock, celebrate
Israel-Hezbollah cease-fire enables displaced residents to go home and assess damage. **WORLD, A3**


Dodgers land another star
Free agent Blake Snell, who has won two Cy Young Awards, will reinforce the club's rotation. **SPORTS, B10**

Trickle-down effect of tariffs
Companies could raise prices for apparel, autos, electronics, food and more if levies are imposed. **BUSINESS, A6**

Weather
Areas of morning fog. L.A. Basin: 73/53. **B6**

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