

Reducing our Food Waste



WasteWatch x LeanPath 2022

This case study explores how a simple approach to waste management can significantly reduce waste and carbon emissions across Sodexo sites internationally.

The Challenge

One third of food produced globally – roughly 1.3 billion metric tonnes annually – is wasted or lost, contributing to an estimated eight percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Australian Government.

Sodexo has committed to real action through its global sustainability roadmap, Better Tomorrow 2025. In Australia, this plan demonstrates Sodexo's commitment to reducing food waste and championing sustainable resource usage. We believe the effects of food waste prevention are circular, reducing both the amount spent on food and the resources used to produce more food.

Currently operating at more than 50 sites nation-wide, Sodexo recognised its ability and responsibility as a food services company to support the prevention of food waste, starting at site level. Globally, Sodexo has committed to prevent 50 percent of food waste from our operations and reduce carbon emissions by 34 percent by 2025.

Sodexo Solution

Our response to food waste on-site is informed by data collected by those on the ground. By understanding what is going to waste and what trends are emerging in certain regions, our Supply Chain and Food Platform teams can make informed choices that cut down on potential emissions and waste.

This work began in 2013, when sites manually measured their kitchen and mess waste in buckets, which informed volume estimations. Over time, Sodexo refined and digitalised waste measurement, creating a bespoke solution through a partnership with Leanpath, and began piloting the WasteWatch, powered by LeanPath (WWxLP), software solution in 2018.

Since starting the national roll-out in December 2020, this technology has been deployed across 58 Australian Sodexo sites in just over 18 months. The benefits have been so substantial to our environmental and business objectives that globally we have committed to a 100 percent adoption rate of WWxLP across all foodservice sites by 2025.

Australia is on track to achieve this adoption rate in 2022, well ahead of the global schedule.

Results

Achieved Together

As a major foodservice provider, a large portion of Sodexo's carbon emissions come from food waste, so mitigating this waste is key to meeting our Better Tomorrow 2025 targets. To our best knowledge, Sodexo was the first company to utilise food waste tracking devices in the Australian mining industry.

Results from Sodexo sites around the world have shown the WWxLP program to reduce food waste by 50 percent on average, which translates to a 2-3% reduction in food purchasing costs – a significant saving for large mining operations.

The WWxLP system has had the following impacts in Australia in the first 18 months of deployment:

- Recorded more than 64,000 individual waste 'transactions' on the Leanpath trackers, reflecting more than 348 tonnes in food waste
- Prevented 139.5 tonnes of food waste across 58 sites, worth over \$417,000
- Saved the equivalent of 256,272 meals
- Prevented 972 tonnes of carbon emissions.

Beyond the program's impact on creating more sustainable and waste-free operations, WasteWatch has enabled numerous operational savings and efficiencies, such as labour time and waste management savings. We've also been able to stimulate client and consumer engagement on the topic of food waste through use of the program at our sites, raising awareness of the issue and what can be done about it.

Once full deployment is complete across all Australian sites, each year we expect to prevent approximately 150 tonnes of food waste, save over \$10,000 in food purchasing costs, and prevent up to 150 tonnes of carbon emissions.



Better Tomorrow 2025

With nine measurable commitments, Sodexo's global corporate responsibility strategy, Better Tomorrow 2025, focuses our actions to ensure a positive impact on individuals, communities and the environment.

This case study impacts our **three commitments to the environment**.

In Our Role as an Employer

Individuals Improve the Quality of Life for our employees

Communities Ensure a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that reflects and enriches communities we serve

The Environment Foster a culture of environmental responsibility within our workforce and workspaces

In Our Role as a Service Provider

Individuals Provide and encourage our consumers to access healthy lifestyle choices

Communities Promote local development, fair, inclusive and sustainable business practices

The Environment Source responsibly and provide management services that reduce carbon emissions

In Our Role as a Corporate Citizen

Individuals Fight hunger and malnutrition

Communities Drive diversity and inclusion as a catalyst for societal change

The Environment Champion sustainable resource usage