

Wasteless

Food Waste Prevention

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A mobile app that lets you select leftover food from restaurants and cafes that would otherwise throw the food out leaving food waste.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The United States discards more than forty million tons of food every year, making up about forty percent of the entire US food supply. [2] That's almost half! By implementing this idea of giving away free or low-cost food that would otherwise be thrown out at the end of the day, it's safe to assume that the number of food wasted per year would drastically go down. This idea will also help with preventing climate change. More on that later.

II. IS THIS APP SECURE?

As a food establishment owner, they need to opt-in to take part in this service. The food establishment would go through a verification process consisting of a list of the food menu, the supply and demand for certain items, as well as the allergy information of each item. Doing this would help the consumers using the app get detailed information on what they are buying. When the consumer orders through the app, they will get a confirmation email as well as the food establishment will get the confirmation as well so there is no mix-up.

III. PAGE STYLE

Navigating the app is fairly easy. When you first open the app, you will be prompted with a screen to create an account, you don't have to do this yet, it is only required to give reviews or add community fridges to the map. On the main page will be two tap points, "Restaurants Near Me" and "Find a Fridge". These tap points will show restaurants near your location as well as community fridges.



Fig. 1 DIGITAL IMAGE OF A THE LOGO

A. What will it include?

Wasteless is going to be home to a lot of different resources. Like I mentioned before, there are two tabs. "Restaurants Near Me". What this tab does is shows you a map of your current area, or can put in a zip-code to see other areas as well. It will bring up a list of locations that have opted-in to take part in "Wasteless". When you click on a restaurant, it gives you the restaurant information, the menu, the prices, as well as any reviews it has. This tab has filters for those who have dietary restrictions. The "Find a Fridge" tab will also open a map and showcase all the different community fridges in your area that one can go to and check out. When you click on a fridge there will be a comments tab people can write in including "Hey, they have ___ today".

B. What are the benefits of this app?

The consumer of this app is benefited from Wasteless for the sole fact that its free or heavily discounted food. Struggling families will make use of this app because it will help them feed themselves and their children. So instead of spending on money on food, struggling families can spend it on

more priority things like clothes and shelter. This app will also benefit the environment. In 2020, 26 millions adults in American told the Census Bureau, that they hadn't had enough to eat in the previous week. Climate change has been a real issue for a long time. When food is wasted, we also waste all the energy and water it takes to grow, harvest, transport, and package it. When food is rotting in a landfill, it creates a chemical called methane which is a greenhouse gas that is stronger than carbon dioxide. Of all human caused greenhouse gas emissions, 6 to 8 percent of that can be stopped if we stop wasting food. [3]



Fig. 2 2020 FOOD LOSSES AND WASTE PER YEAR [4]

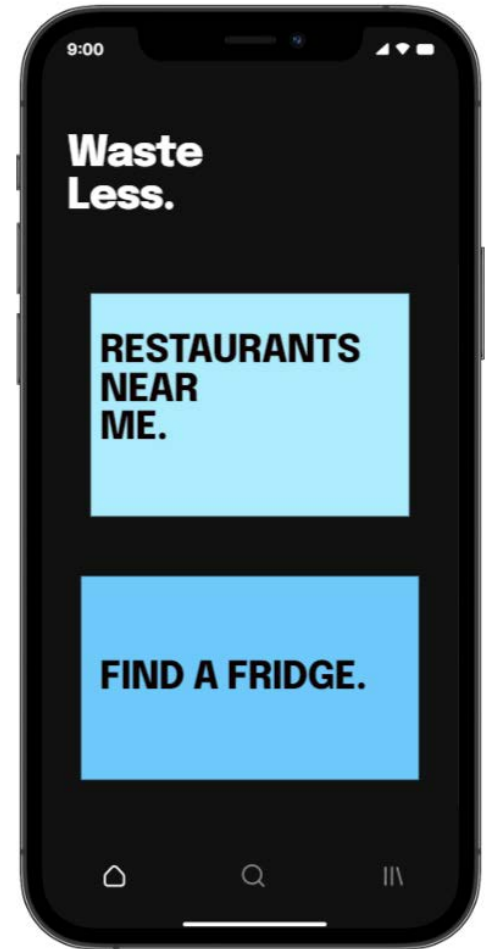


Fig. 3 HOME SCREEN OF WASTELESS

According to this graph, we lose about a trillion dollars a food each year. The United States can save that money if they implemented better ideas to reduce food waste like the app, "Wasteless".

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, food waste has become a problem for the environment of the world, making cities dirty, producing unearthly gases in the air, and furthering climate change. The app, Wasteless is designed to help both families and the environment by getting free or low-cost food to families in need, and by lowering the amount of food waste yearly to produce a better cleaner, greener earth.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

With this being my last semester of college ever, it has been the most challenging and rewarding. I used to not do so well when it comes to my grades. Since the pandemic, when all of my classes made the switch to online, I have realized I do better in my own space than in a classroom setting. My grades have increased and I felt much more confident in my writing. Throughout these past two years at Lehman college, I have done a lot of writing. Doing so has increased my writing skills drastically. This semester also taught me how to manage my time better, I took on the load of 5 classes plus my capstone project and it has been difficult especially in this last leg of the semester to keep up but I have managed. Also, learning with you Professor Brucker-Cohen has been a great experience and has taught me all the different mediums of technology and using it when it comes to media. Thank you for teaching and making me a better writer. Now that my college experience is nearly done, I am ready for what awaits me.

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