

Waste Minimization Consulting

<u>Team Member Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
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Topic Title: Whole Foods and the Minimization of Late-Stage Food Waste

Audience: Whole Foods Board of Directors

Sustainable Development Goal

SDG # 12 “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”

Executive Summary

Food waste is a major issue throughout the United States, as roughly a third of all food in the supply chain from growers to consumers goes to waste. Additionally, roughly 40% of this waste occurs directly within grocery stores, restaurants, and other food service companies. With a stated purpose “to nourish people and the planet”, Whole Foods presents itself as an environmentally conscious leading grocery chain that serves the well-being of its stakeholders and the environment. In 2020, Whole Foods committed to cutting 50% of its food waste by 2030. However, the company’s strategy, which includes upcycling imperfect foods at retail locations, donating food to local communities, and diverting food waste from landfills, does not include a segment that directly distributes otherwise wasted food in-house within the retail stage of the supply chain.

Through a partnership with the app Too Good to Go, a leading player in the Food Waste Prevention industry, Whole Foods can change its approach towards its surplus, ready-to-eat food management, both minimizing its overall food waste and maximizing its social impact. By implementing this partnership, Whole Foods is moving towards its goal of minimizing its food waste while also greatly reducing the costs of food for those who may need it. Under the ownership of Amazon, one of the largest companies in the world, Whole Foods has no reason to not minimize its food waste while also gaining financially via this partnership. Overall, this partnership will not only help reduce Whole Foods’ food waste but will also help fight against food injustice and world hunger.