

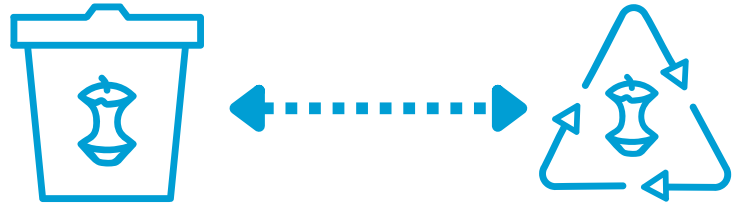
## ACTIVITY 3: RESEARCHING FOOD WASTE INITIATIVES

The purpose of this **multi-week activity** is to investigate efforts in the local community to address food waste. This is an open-ended research project and does not have specific parameters for students to follow in researching the issue or reporting their findings. The overarching requirements are that the students find out what's going on in their local communities and devise a way to share what they learned with others.

First, inform students that they will be working with a partner to investigate the efforts in their local community to fight food waste. As inspiration, you can share with them that several organizations are actively engaged in global efforts to combat food waste, but this research project is meant to find out what is happening at the local level. Global examples, which might inspire their research, include: **the Food Recovery Network, Too Good To Go, Feedback, Imperfect Foods, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, ReFED, OzHarvest, and WRAP.**

Next, have students find a partner and begin discussing their research project. They should come up with a title and an objective for it, such as "Food Waste Warriors" – to research and understand how local restaurants and grocery stores in our community address food waste and manage leftover food.

Then, give students time to plan out their research project, learn more about the issue –perhaps by determining what local businesses/restaurants they will investigate, or by looking more into what some of the above-mentioned global organizations are doing to address food waste. Encourage them to develop a driving question for their project, e.g., **"how might we...?"**



Once they are knowledgeable about the issue and have their list of the businesses, restaurants, and other local organizations they are going to research, have them determine what information they will collect and how they will collect it. For example, they can research the local businesses' websites, they can generate interview questions or a survey to give to business owners (see student handout for example interview/survey questions). After they know their research methods, provide them time to collect data. Encourage students to take notes, record interviews (with permission), and collect data carefully. After data is collected, provide time in class for students to compile all of their data and analyze it. Assist students in organizing the data they collected and looking for patterns or trends. Facilitate discussions to help them identify some of the most significant findings in their data to help them draw conclusions.

Last, instruct students to prepare presentations to showcase their research findings to others, encouraging creativity in the presentation format, such as slideshows, posters, or short videos. Allow time for students to present and for Q&A from the audience.

After all the presentations are concluded, facilitate a whole-group discussion to engage students in reflection about the project experience and the impact of their research in order to arrive at consensus about what the local community is doing to address the issue of food waste locally.