The Race for Less Food Waste Opportunity Cards

Another player reads the scenario and options. The active player chooses and justifies a response.

Opportunity Card 1

Several unopened apples remain after lunch.

A. Throw them away.
B. Use an approved share table if safe and allowed, then review future ordering.
C. Compost them immediately.

READER KEY
Preferred: B. Award −2 for B with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 2

Fresh spinach is repeatedly forgotten until it spoils.

A. Plan meals and buy a smaller amount.
B. Keep buying the same amount and compost what spoils.
C. Move it to the back of the refrigerator.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 3

Yogurt is one day past a "Best if Used By" date and has remained properly refrigerated.

A. Discard it because the date passed.
B. Check storage history, packaging, and signs of spoilage; use current safety guidance.
C. Leave it at room temperature to test it later.

READER KEY
Preferred: B. Award −2 for B with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 4

One slice in a loaf of bread has visible mold.

A. Remove the moldy slice and eat the rest.
B. Discard the whole loaf.
C. Smell every slice and keep those that smell normal.

READER KEY
Preferred: B. Award −2 for B with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 5

Cooked leftovers were refrigerated within two hours and are now two days old.

A. Reheat and eat them soon, or freeze them for later.
B. Discard them automatically.
C. Leave them on the counter until dinner.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 6

A restaurant has safe, temperature-controlled prepared food left at closing.

A. Use an approved donation partner now and improve forecasting for future days.
B. Send it directly to landfill.
C. Leave it out overnight for staff tomorrow.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

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Opportunity Card 7

A cafeteria notices high plate waste from one entrée.

A. Measure the pattern and test portion or menu changes.
B. Keep service unchanged and compost everything.
C. Increase the standard portion.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 8

Only plate scraps and inedible peels remain after a class event.

A. Use composting or another accepted local organics pathway.
B. Donate the plate scraps.
C. Landfill them even if an accepted program is available.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 9

Several overripe bananas are still safe to use.

A. Freeze, bake, or blend them before they spoil.
B. Discard them and buy new bananas.
C. Wait until mold appears.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 10

A grocery store has safe produce with cosmetic imperfections.

A. Discount, process, or donate it through approved channels.
B. Discard it because it looks different.
C. Hide it until it spoils.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 11

An unopened eligible item remains on a student's lunch tray.

A. Use an approved share table or take-home option if policy allows.
B. Place it in the trash automatically.
C. Leave it on any empty table.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 12

A culinary class finds duplicate pantry ingredients.

A. Use first-in, first-out rotation and plan recipes around older items.
B. Open the newest package first.
C. Discard the older packages based only on appearance of the label.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

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Opportunity Card 13

Buffet food has been outside safe temperature control for too long.

A. Donate it because someone may still want it.
B. Return it to refrigeration for tomorrow.
C. Discard it for safety and prevent a repeat with smaller batches and temperature control.

READER KEY
Preferred: C. Award −2 for C with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 14

A farm has a safe bumper crop with no usual buyer.

A. Explore secondary markets, donation, processing, or storage with approved handling.
B. Leave it unharvested without checking alternatives.
C. Transport it to landfill immediately.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 15

A restaurant repeatedly receives uneaten side dishes back from tables.

A. Offer portion choices and study which sides are left.
B. Require every customer to eat the side.
C. Keep portions unchanged and rely only on composting.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 16

An apple has a bruise but no mold or rot.

A. Trim the bruised area and use the sound fruit soon, if otherwise safe.
B. Discard the entire apple automatically.
C. Ignore any sign of spoilage.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 17

A campus café collects coffee grounds and local composting accepts them.

A. Place the grounds in the accepted compost stream.
B. Send them to landfill.
C. Donate the used grounds as food.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 18

A school forecast shows attendance will be much lower tomorrow.

A. Reduce the food order and monitor actual demand.
B. Order the usual amount without reviewing the forecast.
C. Increase the order just in case.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

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Opportunity Card 19

A grocery deli has safe prepared meals nearing the end of the approved sale window, and temperature control has been maintained.

A. Mark them down promptly or use an approved donation partner while they remain eligible.
B. Wait until they are no longer eligible, then discard them.
C. Relabel them with a later time and keep selling them.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

Opportunity Card 20

A cafeteria waste audit shows many unopened milk cartons are discarded because students have little time to eat.

A. Test a schedule or service change that increases eating time, then measure whether unopened-carton waste decreases.
B. Keep the system unchanged and remind students not to waste food.
C. Open every carton before serving it.

READER KEY
Preferred: A. Award −2 for A with evidence; −1 for another defensible response with evidence; 0 without support; +1 for unsafe/unsupported. See guide.

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