The Race for Less Food Waste Grades 9-12 Game

A decision-based board game about preventing wasted food, protecting food safety, and conserving resources across the food system.

OPPORTUNITY	CHALLENGE	WASTE TROUBLE

Package Contents

- Teacher Overview and Preparation
- Secondary Game Instructions
- Full-Page Game Board
- 20 Opportunity Cards
- 20 Challenge Cards
- 20 Waste Trouble Cards
- Card Answer and Scoring Guide
- Student Group Score Sheet
- Sources and Development Notes

Recommended use: One game set per group of 2-6 students during Day 2 of the lesson. Allow approximately 25–30 minutes for play, including a brief midpoint Decision Pause.

Teacher Overview

Purpose

This secondary version preserves the elementary game's board, movement pattern, and three card types while increasing the complexity of the decisions. Students must use food-safety information, the EPA Wasted Food Scale, the Food Waste Decision Lens, and evidence about resource conservation to justify their responses.

GRADE LEVEL	GROUP SIZE	GAME TIME	PRIMARY OUTCOME
9th - 12th	2 - 6 Students	25 - 30 Minutes	Defend informed food-waste decisions with evidence

Materials for Each Group

- Game board and pieces, 1 per group of 2-6 students:
- The Race for Less Food Waste Instructions*
- Game Board*
- Game Cards*
- Game Card Answer and Scoring Guide*
- Student Group Score Sheet*
- 5 Game Pawns*
- 1 Die*

Printing instructions for a duplex printer or a non-duplex printer.

These items are available in the Race for Less Food Waste Game, which can be purchased from agclassroomstore.com.

The Race for Less Food Waste Game Instructions

A decision-based board game about preventing wasted food, protecting food safety, and conserving resources across the food system.

Object of the Game

Finish with the lowest Waste Score. Reaching the Less Waste Zone first earns a 2-point reduction, but speed alone does not determine the winner. Players lower their scores by making informed decisions and explaining their reasoning.

Setup

1. Place the board in the center. Put every game piece on START.
2. Shuffle each card type separately and place the three decks face down.
3. Write each player or team name on the score sheet. Everyone begins with 6 Waste Points.
4. Choose the first player. Play continues clockwise.
5. Keep the Answer and Scoring Guide face down or with the designated reader.

How to Take a Turn

1. Roll the die or spin, then move the full number of spaces.
2. Follow the direction for the space where you land.
3. If a card is drawn, another player reads it aloud. The active player responds before the reader reveals the guidance.
4. Use a complete sentence and include evidence when the card requests reasoning.
5. Record the score change, return the card to the bottom of its deck, and pass the die.

Board Spaces

- **Colored Spaces:** No action. End the Turn.
- **Pantry Pick:** Choose either an Opportunity Card or a Challenge Card.
- **Opportunity Space:** Draw an Opportunity Card and defend a response.
- **Challenge Space:** Draw a Challenge Card and complete the prompt.
- **Waste Trouble Space:** Draw a Waste Trouble Card and respond to the prevention prompt.
- **Less Waste Zone:** Remove 2 Waste Points, to a minimum score of 0.

Cards

- **Opportunity Cards:** Preferred response plus relevant evidence: −2. Other defensible response plus evidence: −1. Choice without support: 0. Unsafe or clearly unsupported response: +1.
- **Challenge Cards:** Complete and accurate within the stated time: −1. Incomplete or inaccurate: +1.
- **Waste Trouble Cards:** Add 2 points. If the player identifies a realistic prevention step, add only 1 point.

The Race for Less Food Waste Game Instructions

Decision Lens

- **SAFE?** Is the food safe to eat, share, store, or repurpose? What information is needed?
- **PREVENT?** Could planning, storage, portions, or preparation have prevented the surplus?
- **KEEP IN USE?** Can safe, edible food feed people or be upcycled? Can an approved pathway recover value?
- **DISPOSE LAST.** If it cannot be eaten or recovered, is composting or another accepted local pathway available before landfill?

Midpoint Decision Pause

After approximately 12 minutes, pause every group for two minutes. Ask one prompt, then resume play:

- Which scenario has required the most information before deciding?
- When did prevention rank above composting or another recovery pathway?
- Did your group change an answer after hearing another perspective?
- Which decision could conserve the most resources over time?

Ending the Game

1. When the first player reaches the Less Waste Zone, that player removes 2 points.
2. Every other player takes one final turn. If time is called first, finish the current round so all players have had the same number of turns.
3. Calculate each final Waste Score. The lowest score wins. Tied players may be recognized as co-winners.
4. Use game discussion as formative evidence; chance and speed mean the final score should not be the only assessment.

Why Less Food Waste Matters

Reducing food waste helps limit trash and supports a healthier environment. In this game, a lower Waste Score means you're making better choices for the planet.