

# **THE BASQUE COUNTRY IS POSITIONED BETTER THAN THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE IN FOOD WASTE, BUT THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT FOR THE COMING YEARS**

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## **More than half of food waste is produced in Basque homes, according to a 2022 study by the Basque Government's Vice-Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Policy, through the Elika Foundation.**

A [new study](#) pioneering in Spain has calculated the food waste of the entire agri-food chain in the Basque Country based on the methodology established by the European Commission (Decision 2019/1597).

In this work carried out by the Basque Government's Vice Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Policy through the Elika Foundation, food waste throughout the entire agri-food chain has been estimated at 244,362 t/year by 2021 ( 111 kg/year per person), including both edible and inedible parts.

This amount is significantly lower than the European average, which according to [Eurostat](#) is estimated at 127 kg/person·year, for the latest available year (2020).

In particular, it can be seen that 57% comes from Basque households (63.5 kg/year per capita), of which 28% corresponds to edible parts of food. If reference is made to "Potentially Usable Materials"<sup>(1)</sup> in the production and transformation phases, the figure reaches 232,197 t/year.

Thus, the Basque Country has significant potential for improvement to achieve a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030, in line with the goals proposed in the Basque Green Deal and SDG 12.3, as well as with the new [Law for the Prevention of Food Losses and Waste](https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/220607cmleydesperdicioalimentariook_tcm30-620821.pdf).

<sup>(1)</sup> Identified flows that fall outside the concept of food waste, but are considered of interest due to their opportunities for use according to the Basque strategy against food waste.

