



Gabrielle Upton
Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

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GET A HANDLE ON THE FOOD WE WASTE

The NSW Government is encouraging households to get a handle on the food they waste as part of the state's first citizen science food waste study, Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said today.

Households are invited to participate in the NSW Government's first Great Food Waste Study, which will go fridge to fridge in NSW homes, to paint a clearer picture of the types and amounts of food people waste.

"We're asking households to participate in a study to get a better read on how much food they waste every year, so we can develop programs to reduce food waste," Ms Upton said.

"An EPA survey from last year estimates the average NSW household is currently throwing out almost \$4000 of food waste per year – this is a significant increase from \$1000 estimated in 2009."

Households can request an EPA food waste bag online to get started – once it arrives participants are asked to clean out their fridge, putting expired food in the bag instead of putting it in the bin. The next step is to record their food waste over the next two days and log the results on the EPA's website.

Ms Upton said reducing food waste was a priority for the NSW Government and its latest research showed the community felt the same.

"The last three years of EPA research shows one in 10 people admit they waste more food than they should," Ms Upton said.

The NSW Government has committed \$5 million over four years to its *Love Food Hate Waste* program under the NSW Government's \$337 million *Waste Less Recycle More* program.

To be part of the study, visit:

www.lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au/GreatNSWFoodWasteStudy