

**Item Description:** Walmart employee sparks outrage online after sharing alarming photo from store backroom: '180 pounds worth'

**Publishing Platform(s):** Web

**Production Type:** Original

**Source URL:** [https://www.reddit.com/r/walmart/comments/1lvyye4/this\\_is\\_bananas/](https://www.reddit.com/r/walmart/comments/1lvyye4/this_is_bananas/)

*As a reminder, original content synthesizes material from multiple sources into a unique finished product, whereas curated content merely presents and contextualizes the curated source material for the TCD audience.*

**Style Reminder:** For a more general discussion of brand standards for tone and terminology, please consult the [TCD Style Guide](#).

**Web Format & Word Count:**  Business Waste Analysis 400-500 words

*We use this template (and the accompanying subheadings) to report on and add context to troubling business waste news. The article should match the following format:*

- **INTRO:** Begin with a paragraph introducing the trend, event, concept, development, etc., explicitly naming the subject matter in your lede.
- **THE WHAT:** Add a subhead titled "What's happening?" or "What happened?" Beneath it, provide a short explanation answering that question — including details like key dates, statistics, and reactive quotes from experts or social media users, where applicable.
- If the source URL is a social post or you come across a compelling visual on your own, include a hyperlinked "//EMBED//" line within your web copy where you think the embedded piece of media should go (preferably after the 2nd or 3rd paragraph when it's central to the article).
- **THE WHY:** Add a subhead titled "Why is SUBJECT important?" or "Why is EVENT concerning?" Detail the overall climate implications of the problem (i.e., why it's bad for the environment, how it may contribute to our planet's overheating, how it exacerbates social issues, like global hunger), and discuss the potential impact if this issue persists.
- **WHAT THE COMPANY IS DOING:** Add a subhead titled, "Is [COMPANY] doing anything about this?" discussing any statements the company in question has issued on the matter or the topic in general. If it doesn't feel quite right to put the company's name in the subhead for a particular reason, just write a general term like "Is the company doing anything about this?" Attempt to identify and analyze at least one positive sustainability effort the company has undertaken. Attempt to identify and analyze any potential mitigating factors that could help explain the context around the example of waste, such as whether there are or aren't indications as to whether this might just be a one-off fluke or localized problem at a particular store/branch.
- **THE SOLUTION:** Add a subhead titled, "What's being done about SUBJECT more broadly?" or "What can I do to help SUBJECT?" Beneath it, present positive, solutions-oriented answers to those questions. You can include positive policy developments in the fight against the problem (local, national, global, etc.), a list of actions everyday people can take to mitigate the

*issue (from lessening reliance on single-use plastics to home electrification), or positive examples of other similar companies taking action to prevent the problem.*

*Please reference TCD's Business Waste Best Practices before writing:*

*<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ih4myHE4GYS72rSnGkAlKCWX7t1NC-PV2ElTcJyPSc/edit#heading=h.no0ft5hznzcl6>*

**Primary Assignment Notes:** Business food waste spotlights a company or business at fault for excess food waste to call out irresponsible corporate practices when other solutions to avoid the excess waste are available (e.g., donating food to shelters or giving it to customers before it spoils). Such content will always feature solutions to the waste in question.

Take care to note that this issue is complex, as food must be deemed safe for human consumption before it can be donated to anyone. Include composting as a secondary option whenever discussing food waste, and incorporate the following solutions as positive examples, linking back to these articles:

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[[www.thecooldown.com/green-business/arkansas-foodbank-kroger-donation-power-outage-storm/](http://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/arkansas-foodbank-kroger-donation-power-outage-storm/)](<http://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/arkansas-foodbank-kroger-donation-power-outage-storm/>)

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[[www.thecooldown.com/green-business/trader-joes-power-outage-food-waste/](http://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/trader-joes-power-outage-food-waste/)](<http://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/trader-joes-power-outage-food-waste/>)

**Special Brand Messaging Guidelines:** Tone & Language Requirements:

Business waste content spotlights excessive food, product, or packaging waste to highlight the irresponsible corporate policies that cause such waste. Such content will always feature solutions to the waste in question, such as a store immediately donating food to shelters or giving it to customers before it spoils.

If the assignment centers on food waste, take care to note that this issue is complex, as food must be deemed safe for human consumption before it can be donated to anyone. Include composting as a secondary option whenever discussing food waste, and incorporate the following solutions as positive examples:

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[www.thecooldown.com/green-business/arkansas-foodbank-kroger-donation-power-outage-storm/](http://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/arkansas-foodbank-kroger-donation-power-outage-storm/)

- [www.thecooldown.com/green-business/trader-joes-power-outage-food-waste/](http://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/trader-joes-power-outage-food-waste/)

If the assignment centers on plastic waste, excessive packaging, or other material waste, please include a few solutions featured in the TCD Solutions Guide on how to donate or sell used goods or how to lessen our overall reliance on plastic.  
docs.google.com/document/d/181kWuC5HtYVsfUd0O9IQ6QIbcKm7SIQlxRNGjj0wYc8/edit#heading=h.359n2swjqj9l

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Linking Requirements:

If relevant, please link to TCD's Guide page on exploring plastic-free alternatives for everyday products:

- [guide.thecooldown.com/actions/choose-plastic-free-options-for-everyday-products](https://guide.thecooldown.com/actions/choose-plastic-free-options-for-everyday-products)

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**Reminder:** Most notes and guidelines are written for the *TYPE* of article this is and **may not always apply to your exact topic**. Please view the Primary Assignment Notes as the **primary instructions** for the assignment (especially for hyperlinks and partner mentions), **superseding anything that overlaps with the Special Brand Messaging Guidelines**. If you have any questions about the assignment instructions, please reply-all to your assignment email and ask for guidance.

Also, if you believe this assignment should run sooner than the **Web Live Date** listed in the [Writer Dashboard's Assignment Tracker](#) in order to reduce the risk of anything you wrote becoming outdated, please note this in your submission form AND reply-all to your assignment email to flag this to TCD admins.

When this copy is ready for review, please submit a **review form** at the following URL:

[https://airtable.com/shrdp7pxzL9uiKd5h?prefill\\_Item+Description=recDN8WTnIHZPL4dp&prefill\\_Template=rec4lv2lfqmnIXi95](https://airtable.com/shrdp7pxzL9uiKd5h?prefill_Item+Description=recDN8WTnIHZPL4dp&prefill_Template=rec4lv2lfqmnIXi95)

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**Tentative Headline:** Walmart employee sparks outrage online after sharing alarming photo from store backroom: '180 pounds worth'

— Web Copy —

A Walmart store may have taken the old adage about bananas going bad in the blink of an eye a little too literally, slating nearly 200 pounds of the popular fruit for one unique type of dumpster.

## What's happening?

In Reddit's r/walmart, an employee [shared](#) a photo of "180 pounds' worth" of bananas and said they were "all going into the compost dumpster" — a decision they found to be, well, "bananas," likely because most of the fruit was still a vibrant yellow.

"10/10, totally bananas," another Redditor [agreed](#).

[// EMBED //](#)

## Why is this important?

Dumping bananas in a [composting bin](#) is better than sending them to a landfill, where they'd account for far more planet-overheating methane without offering any positive returns.

With composting, Walmart is transforming its food waste into nutrient-rich fertilizer that it can resell, per the [Institute of Sustainability Studies](#), promoting a more [circular economy](#).

However, this process still requires energy, adding to the carbon footprint of a banana supply chain that may rely on toxic chemical fertilizers or pesticides, plastic, and gas-powered harvesting tools, according to the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#). Then there are energy costs associated with [transport](#) and refrigeration.

With [millions](#) of U.S. residents struggling to put enough food on the table and plenty of tasty [recipes](#) available that incorporate overripe bananas, it's worth wondering whether pulling the plug on selling the bananas for human consumption was premature.

## Why would Walmart rush to compost the bananas?

Since 2006, Walmart and its subsidiary Sam's Club [have donated](#) over 9 billion pounds of food to Feeding America and its partners.

However, many consumers avoid buying less than perfect-looking produce. Walmart may have determined the bananas were at risk of turning brown sooner rather than later and that keeping

them in the stockroom or on the floor would back up operations or reduce daily sales. Donating ugly produce also would've likely presented logistical and brand-image challenges.

"My produce back room gets so hot. If no one air stacks them that day, the next day they are almost spoiled," one Reddit user [shared](#). "Had to dispose of 800lbs before cuz of that."

"Sadly, most companies are fine with wasting a ton of bananas. They are grown in very large quantities and then sold very cheaply so wasting a good amount isn't a big deal," another [said](#).

## How can I combat food waste more broadly?

While food safety is a complex issue, with retailers such as [Kroger](#) and [Trader Joe's](#) donating perishable goods during power outages to prevent them from spoiling, funny-looking produce isn't inherently unsafe to eat and doesn't necessarily have an inferior taste.

[Misfits Market](#) has prevented millions of pounds of food from going to waste while saving consumers money on groceries it [sources for](#) flavor and quality rather than appearance. You can also keep many items [fresh for longer](#) at home by storing them in your freezer.