[Got Leftovers To Share? In Germany, There's A Website For That](https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2014/06/27/321691095/got-leftovers-to-share-in-germany-theres-a-website-for-that)

June 27, 2014, Heard on [All Things Considered](https://www.npr.org/programs/all-things-considered/2014/06/27/326205869/all-things-considered-for-june-27-2014), S.S.Nelson

From NPR News, this is ALL THINGS CONSIDERED. I'm Audie Cornish.

MELISSA BLOCK, HOST:

And I'm Melissa Block. Activists in Europe say, more than half the food available on the continent ends up in the trash. They say, it costs the economy there more than $130 billion a year. In Germany, the revelations have sparked a wave of popular movements aimed at curbing food waste. Among the most successful is a website called foodsharing.de. From Berlin, NPR's Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson has the story.

SORAYA SARHADDI NELSON, BYLINE: One of the food sharing Internet site's founders is Cologne filmmaker Valentin Thurn.

His documentary, called "Taste the Waste," lays out in jolting terms how much food Europeans throw away each year - 90 million tons worth, to be exact. That's enough to fill three million trucks stretched around the equator, according to the film. In addition, up to 50 percent of produce harvested at farms is thrown out, including tomatoes, the film says.

(SOUNDBITE OF FILM, "TASTE THE WASTE")

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: The computer checks the color to make sure they're right. And if they're the wrong color, they get zipped off to the side and thrown away.

NELSON: Thurn says those statistics, as well as having parents who were hungry as children during World War II, led him on a mission with like-minded friends to try and stop so much food from being thrown away.

VALENTIN THURN: A lot of people ask for solutions, especially the younger ones in our team. They came up the idea. Well, everybody's talking about the sharing economy and they share everything. Why not food?

NELSON: This sharing or collaborative economy, which relies heavily on the Internet and makes available people's homes, cars and services among other things is a fast-growing trend around the globe. Filmmaker Thurn says applying that concept to thrown out food was an easy.