



North Tyneside Council

## Task – Solving the problem of Food Waste!

This task uses knowledge from Key Stage 3 Geography and Science. The aim of the task is to help develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. Both are important skills that most employers' value in new employees.

- **Problem solving** is the ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge and often involves exploring problems by creating and assessing different potential solutions.
- **Critical thinking** is the ability to examine something and develop an informed opinion about it, backed by facts.

### Context

Catering Services at North Tyneside Council provide school meals to many schools in the borough. Like any caterers, they don't always know how much will be needed and predicting it accurately is hard. If they prepare too little food, pupils could go hungry. If they prepare too much, it will go to waste.

Food waste includes all the food we don't eat and the packaging we don't reuse. The Council are very keen to try to reduce this waste, stop it going to landfill and make it more useful.



Catering Services are interested in recycling the food waste using a process called anaerobic digestion. All the food is put into a huge chamber where it rots and releases methane gas. The sludge that's left over can be used as fertiliser on farms or gardens.

### Task

- a) Use research to identify the main problems with food waste. Try and identify the main social, economic and environmental impacts.
- b) You have been asked to evaluate the Council's plan to recycle all food waste using anaerobic digestion. Research and produce a balanced argument for and against the plan. What are the social, economic and environmental arguments for and against? How could you solve the problem of the methane produced?

You can use the following argument frame to help if necessary.

**Question: Should North Tyneside Catering Services start using anaerobic digestion to recycle food waste?**

**Arguments for**

**Evidence for**

**Compare arguments for and against**

**Your Conclusion**

**Arguments against**

**Evidence against**

