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Review

Anaerobic bioconversion of food waste into energy: A critical review

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## 1. Introduction

Food waste was defined by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and includes any healthy or edible substance that is wasted, lost, degraded at every stage of the food supply chain. Every year, between 1.3 and 1.6 billion tons of food, such as fresh vegetables, fruit, and meat, bakery and dairy products, are lost along the food-supply chain, and this accounts for one third of the food produced globally for human consumption, affecting several natural resources. Food waste, in fact, cost the global economy around USD 990 billion annually, and consumes in fact about a quarter of all the water used for agriculture purposes, and is responsible for an estimated 8 % of total anthropogenic global greenhouse gas emission, contributing to biodiversity loss. An ever-increasing amount of food waste (FW) is generated, owing to population growth and rising living standards. Globally, around 2 billion tons of municipal solid waste are formed annually, of which 34–53% is organic biodegradable waste (defined as

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