



## 4. TAKE A DIVE

---

RECYCLING STRATEGIES, LIKE DUMPSTER DIVING, **DISRUPTS** CAPITALISM'S DRIVE FOR CONSTANT CONSUMPTION

---

**THE LOWDOWN:** If you ever feel tight on cash, you're not alone. That's because corporations like us to spend, spend, spend. By turning us into constant consumers, capitalists stand to make even more money. Using recycling strategies, like second-hand clothing and dumpster diving, not only saves you money: it also disrupts capitalism's drive for endless consumption.

### DISRUPTING CAPITALISM'S DRIVE FOR CONSTANT CONSUMPTION

- A) REBEL:** Ready to take a dive and do something fun and different? Dumpster diving works like this: supermarkets are forced to throw out perfectly good food as their new supplies come in. They don't want people being able to take this food for free, because then stuff on supermarket shelves has less value. Some shops go as far as hiring 24-hour security guards to keep rebels away from dumpsters. But where safe, we rebels are ready to dive right in with collection bag in hand, sturdy shoes, and protective clothing in order to help disrupt capitalism's wastefulness. *Note: this rebel tactic requires some homework to fully learn the ropes – there are lots of helpful online resources to learn how to dumpster dive safely.<sup>159</sup>*
- B) DISRUPT CAPITALISM:** Capitalists hate to have anyone get anything for free because then they're not collecting money. Take the Great Depression for example, when our federal government intentionally destroyed hundreds of millions of pounds of food to keep food prices from dipping too low.<sup>160</sup> Instead, they could have shared this perfectly good food with the throngs of starving Americans.<sup>161</sup> Today, capitalist drive for constant consumption causes people to buy food in excess: around 40% of food in the U.S. is not eaten each year. This amounts to around \$165 billion in food that is purchased and just thrown away into landfills.<sup>162</sup> If rebels break the drive for constant consumption with strategies like dumpster diving, we cut right into capitalism's profit margins and highlight the problems of pervasive wastefulness.
- C) HAVE FUN:** Sure dumpster diving may be sticky and slimy, but that's part of the fun: dive in and see what treasures you'll discover. And it gets even more fun when you save money on food. What fun things will you do with your extra cash?

---

#### BONUS POINTS (A+B+C):

There are over 46.5 million Americans at risk of hunger on a daily basis.<sup>163</sup> How about seeing if any homeless people you see on the street want some of your dumpster diving bounty? Just always make sure the food you're giving out is safe and offer a fair heads up about the source.

*"AMERICANS WILL EAT GARBAGE, PROVIDED YOU SPRINKLE IT LIBERALLY WITH KETCHUP." HENRY JAMES*