

# FROZEN OUT

## WHY IS FOOD WASTE FROZEN OUT OF THE COP26 AGENDA?

### The problem

Over 33% of all human made climate emissions arise from food production. Yet 33% of all the food grown in the world is wasted (UN FAO, 2011).

Food production alone is set to push Earth past 1.5°C of warming (Clark et al., 2020), even if we stop all other emissions, while 689 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 a day (World Bank, 2020).

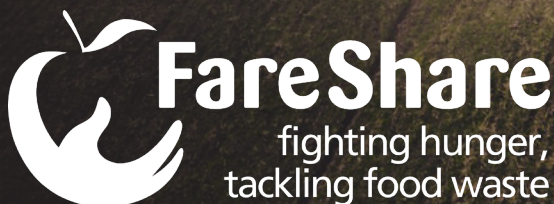
This is a broken system. This is resource inefficiency. In the UK, food production and waste creates 35% of total CO2 emissions (WRAP, 2021).

A 50% reduction in food-related emissions by 2030 is possible, but only if urgent action is taken (WRAP, 2021).

### Where should surplus food go?

Professor Mike Berners-Lee and his team wrote the definitive report on the lowest impact destination for retail level surplus food, which is to get it to people.

It is 17 times better to get surplus food to people than the next best option, use it for animal feed (Moult et al., 2018).



## The FareShare model

This is what FareShare and other surplus food networks do. We take unsold good-to-eat surplus food and sort it, in our 30 warehouses across the UK.

Then we get it to people who need it most, through our network of more than 10,500 charities across the UK.

## How carbon friendly is FareShare's model?

We now have independent evidence that confirms it's a highly efficient and green way to manage surplus food.

Redistributing food avoids the waste of 9 times more CO<sub>2</sub>e than is emitted by our operations.<sup>1</sup>

The operational Carbon Footprint of FareShare UK for 2019/20 was 1,246.87 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.<sup>2</sup>

This is the necessary carbon impact for FareShare to fulfil its work of getting surplus food safely from the food industry to charities.

By redistributing surplus food, FareShare prevented the waste of 10,698 tonnes of embedded CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 2019/20.<sup>3</sup>

10,216,904 m<sup>3</sup> of water embedded in the surplus food that FareShare UK redistributed was prevented from being wasted, in 2019/20.<sup>4</sup>

For every 1 tonne of food that FareShare UK redistributed in 2019/20, we prevented 1,500,000 litres of embedded water from going to waste.<sup>5</sup>

For every 1 tonne of food that FareShare UK redistributed in 2019/20, we prevented the waste of 1.6 tonnes of embedded CO<sub>2</sub>e.<sup>6</sup>

FareShare provides the food industry – from farm to retailer - with the most environmentally friendly option for its unsold, surplus food.

We help cities, governments and food business progress towards their SDG commitments.

## What more can FareShare do?

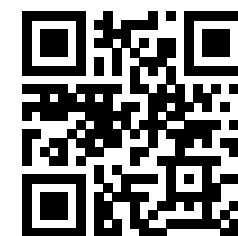
But we want and can do more. Much more. In warehouses like here in Glasgow, we are now introducing electric vans and bikes to deliver our food.

Last year (2020/21) more than a third of the food we redistributed came via our innovative *Surplus with Purpose* scheme, which helps make it cost neutral for farmers and growers to redistribute their unsold good food, rather than let it go to waste.

But there's more than 2 million tonnes of edible food still being wasted each year across the food industry in the UK alone.

With government help, a grant of £5m per year, we could double the amount of food we're able to get onto people's plates.

## JOIN US



[www.fareshare.org.uk](http://www.fareshare.org.uk)





## Looking forward

The aviation industry attracts the headlines. It's responsible for about 2.4% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (International Council on Clean Transportation, 2019). But global food waste is up to four times more polluting (United Nations Environment Programme, 2021).

We at FareShare believe COP26 is the ideal catalyst for change. Now is the moment for government and industry to act and for the UK to take a lead on tackling food waste.

**BECAUSE  
INACTION ISN'T  
AN OPTION.**

## References & Endnotes:

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1. This figure has been independently calculated by the Carbon Trust
2. This figure excludes F gas contributions which will be addressed in future annual reporting. The operational footprint includes electricity usage of their facilities, fuel usage owned/leased vehicles and all outsourced transportation and distribution. This figure has been independently calculated by the Carbon Trust.
3. These are the emissions resulting from the production, storage, and transport of the surplus food and drink that FareShare redistributes to charities for consumption. Because the surplus food is eaten and not wasted, these emissions are not produced in vain. This figure has been independently calculated by the Carbon Trust
4. This is the embedded water resulting from the production, storage, and transport of the surplus food and drink that FareShare redistributes to charities for consumption. Because the surplus food is eaten and not wasted, this water is not used in vain. This figure has been independently calculated by the Carbon Trust.
5. This figure has been independently calculated by the Carbon Trust
6. This figure has been independently calculated by the Carbon Trust