

# About FareShare



**FareShare is a charitable organisation focused on fighting hunger and tackling food waste. With the clear vision of 'no good food goes to waste', we redistribute surplus food to charities who turn it into meals.**

FareShare targets food surplus opportunities at all phases in the supply chain through developing ongoing relationships with key partners – from farmers to food processors, retailers and online stores to food services businesses. We estimate that we currently redistribute around 9% of the UK's surplus food, with big ambitions to grow that number exponentially in the coming years. Once collected, we distribute food to frontline charities, through our network of partners which now span the whole of the UK. Having experienced over a decade of significant growth, we are now the UK's largest charity fighting hunger and food waste.

## Operations



**FareShare takes good-to-eat surplus food, which is unsold or unwanted by the food industry, and redistributes it, through a network of nearly 8,500 charities and community organisations.**

We do this in two ways:

- Larger quantities (pallets) of surplus food are taken to one of our 34 sites located across the UK. An army of volunteers then help sort, store and deliver this food locally, to charities and community groups, who are signed up to receive it.
- Smaller quantities of unsold food in supermarkets (including Tesco, Asda and Waitrose) and from food-to-go outlets are made available to local charities for collection, through FareShare Go. Launched in 2015, this app alerts local charities about available food from nearby shops. FareShare Go now works with over 5000 stores across the UK.

The charities and community groups that receive food from FareShare turn it into meals and food parcels for vulnerable families and individuals. Nearly all (88%) of these organisations offer vital services and support (wrap-around-care) for people who are often vulnerable and struggling with issues including unemployment and low income, debt, homelessness, loneliness, family break up, and dependency. Our food is helping these charities tackle the root causes of poverty, not just the symptoms.

More than 10% of the food redistributed via FareShare now comes from our pioneering Surplus with Purpose scheme. The scheme works with businesses across the food industry including small-scale farmers and growers, to help cover the extra costs of redistributing their unsold food to people who need it most, through FareShare. Each year, Surplus with Purpose helps FareShare redistribute thousands of tonnes of surplus fresh fruit and vegetables, poultry, processed meat and dairy products as well as cupboard items and chilled and frozen foods.

# Impact



More than 3 million tonnes of good to eat food is wasted across the food industry every year. Meanwhile, up to 14 million people, including 4 million children, in the UK are food insecure, which means they are skipping meals and struggling to get enough to eat. The pandemic, and then the cost of living crisis, have dramatically increased the number of people in food insecurity, with 88% of the charities and community groups we support telling us that demand for their services has increased in the past year. The 3m tonnes of good-to-eat wasted food would make the equivalent of 7 billion meals. FareShare reduces this impact by delivering food to the individuals that need it the most. We redistribute 4 meals every second across the UK to people in need - that's two and a half million meals every week across the UK. We redistributed 128m meals (54,000 tonnes) in the last financial year (22/23) with similar figures in 21/22.

FareShare exists not only to combat food poverty but also food waste. It is still often cheaper to let unsold good-to-eat food rot in the ground, use it for animal feed, anaerobic digestion or send it to landfill, than redistribute it to people. Food waste accounts for at least 8% of global CO2 emissions - if it were a country, food waste would be third, behind USA and China, in terms of emissions. In the UK, food waste accounts for between 6 and 7% of total greenhouse gas. FareShare's operations focus on reducing this impact through reusing the food which would otherwise contribute to the country's emissions.

Aside from the climate case, FareShare makes a significant contribution to the broader UK economy. Research conducted for FareShare by NEF Consulting, confirmed that by collecting food that would otherwise go to waste and redistributing it to good causes, we save the UK economy approximately £51 million every year. Through our operations, we create approximately £50.9 million of social-economic impact each year. This is made up of £6.9 million in social value to the beneficiaries themselves and £44 million in savings to the state (i.e. to the NHS, the criminal justice system, to schools and social care). The economic case is clear - our estimated return of investment is 14-1.

# Fundraising



In 2021/22, FareShare raised £17.4 million, and £38.8 million the previous year, driven by the generosity of the UK public, trusts, foundations and companies supporting our work. A notable feature of the funds raised was due to a step change in the amount received from individual giving. The food retail sector also stepped up with both financial support and their commitment to supporting FareShare through advertising and campaigns. New corporate partners such as Barclays and McDonalds provided funding to increase food redistribution and there was unprecedented support from high profile supporters, both from a financial and marketing perspective. Continuing to grow the individual donor base and diversifying income streams is a key focus for us going forward.

# Get in touch!



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