



Where's The Food?

A Mini-Manifesto For The Future Of
Surplus Food Redistribution

Each political party should commit, in their manifestos, to strengthening communities by delivering more surplus food to those in need, and by supporting the food redistribution sector from farm to fork.

fareshare.org.uk/manifestoconsultation



A Manifesto For The Future Of Surplus Food Redistribution

In this Mini-Manifesto, we will outline what we want the next government to do to bring about a lasting change in our food distribution system.

Whoever forms the next government must take food insecurity seriously, minimise food waste as an environmental issue, and support communities across the country with surplus food. This is our opportunity to ensure that the next government can truly support working families, local people, and businesses in their efforts to get food to those who need it.

Who We Are

FareShare is the UK's largest food redistribution charity, turning an environmental problem into a social good.

We take surplus food from the food industry and redistribute it to every constituency in the UK via our network of **34 warehouses** and our industry leading food redistribution app FareShare Go. By utilising surplus food and resources, our unique model means we multiply the environmental and social impact of our partners and donors.

Last year FareShare redistributed the equivalent of **128 million meals**, or four meals every second, via **8500** charities and community organisations.

Thanks to our **14,000** volunteers, industry partners, donors and supporters, we touched the lives of well over a million people in communities across the UK.



Welcome To FareShare's Mini-Manifesto

Every year in the UK, we waste a staggering 3 million tonnes of edible food in our supply chain. This is the equivalent of 7 billion meals. Sadly, a significant portion of this food surplus is wasted before it even leaves our farms. This comes at a time when 13 million people are struggling with food insecurity, and charities are struggling to obtain sufficient amounts of food to address this need.

The UK's efforts in food redistribution falls well short of the other G7 countries, like the USA, France, and Spain. These countries have introduced legislative and economic frameworks that have fostered a supportive environment for food redistribution.

In contrast, the UK government has remained largely inactive in this sector. The heavy lifting has been undertaken by charities, community groups, and businesses, many operating without ongoing governmental intervention or support. It's evident that the next government needs to step up and collaborate with the charity sector and the food industry to increase the redistribution of surplus food to those in need.

This Mini-Manifesto outlines several steps the next government should take to achieve this

goal. It lays the groundwork for a comprehensive Surplus Food Redistribution Manifesto, set to be released in the new year, ahead of the upcoming General Election.

At FareShare, our goal is clear - **no good food should go to waste**. We are actively collaborating with food industry experts and academics to develop, evaluate and cost policies that will realise the objectives of this manifesto. In addition to our own policy objectives, we are committed to collaborating with other organisations who are working towards addressing the underlying structural factors that cause poverty.

In the coming months, FareShare will be having discussions with our key stakeholders in the redistribution, civil society, and food sectors. These discussions will be instrumental in refining the proposals outlined in this manifesto. The insights gained from these consultations will guide the creation of a detailed and fully costed final manifesto.

Food redistributors, charities, and businesses are already hard at work. We need the government to do its part and deliver lasting change for communities across the United Kingdom.



CEO, George Wright



What's Wrong?

The UK is lagging behind its counterparts like the USA, France and Spain in redistributing surplus food. This is because the Government has chosen to be a passenger in recent years, leaving businesses, charities and community groups to drive the sector forward.

Our Ambition For The Future

By doing this, the next government will be able to work with industry and the charity sector to build a UK where:

- No good food goes to waste.
- Communities are strengthened through food.
- Access to healthy, nutritious food is improved.
- The UK becomes a world leader in redistributing surplus food.

Our Manifesto At A Glance

This manifesto is our roadmap to change. We need the next government to create an economic and legislative environment that means we rescue more food, and play our part to build a better food system.

We propose three critical areas for the next government to focus on in its first term. These include key policies to reduce food waste and get more surplus food to people in need.

How To Fix It

The next government must create an economic and legislative environment that benefits surplus food redistribution, and results in more food getting to people who need it.

1 in 5 people in the UK struggle to afford to eat properly. There is a moral obligation for government, industry, and civil society to act.

- 1 Incentivise Businesses To Redistribute More Surplus Food
- 2 Empower Families, Local People, And Communities
- 3 Put An End To Short Term Food Policies

These three manifesto commitments form the core of our vision for a United Kingdom where no good food goes to waste. If the next government shares our ambition and adopts this Mini-Manifesto, we can turn this vision into a reality.



What The Next Government Must Do

1 Incentivise Businesses To Redistribute More Surplus Food

1.1 Surplus subsidy

Expand the Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) budget to enable surplus food redistribution to be treated as a public good under the ELMS. Run a trial with surplus food as a standard under the Sustainable Farming Incentive. Equivalent schemes should be applied in devolved nations.

1.2 Restructure subsidies and tax regimes

Amend the corporate tax regime to reward businesses for donating surplus food, leveraging the high socio-economic return on food redistribution. Ensure that subsidies incentivise the Food Waste Hierarchy across the food supply chain.

1.3 Mandatory food waste reporting

The next government should implement mandatory food waste reporting for medium and large businesses. Fines should be introduced for non-compliance which should go to supporting surplus food redistribution charities.

1.4 Good Samaritan Law

Provide legal protection to people and organisations who donate surplus food in good faith.

1.5 Support best practice nationally

Create a national 'one stop shop' best practice portal to share learnings and methods to facilitate the exchange of ideas in food surplus redistribution.

Impact of FareShare's Food Redistribution in 2021/22: FareShare contributed a quarter of a billion pounds to the British economy in social return on investment.



2 Empower Families, Local People, And Communities

2.1 Grant support for redistribution organisations

Introduce a dedicated, ring-fenced grant designed to empower surplus food redistribution organisations. This funding will be directed towards supporting their operational capacity, upgrading infrastructure, and boosting overall efficiency.

2.2 Adopt a whole system approach to waste reduction strategies

Ensure food redistribution organisations are considered and supported when implementing waste reduction measures in the food system.

2.3 Improve skills and training

FareShare calls on the next government to establish 'Skills England' to oversee the national skills effort. This expert body will remove the silos and bring together the expertise of the trade associations, employers, further and higher education, and charities. This body should also support with skills for organisations to support resilience and redistribution of food in the supply chain. The government should also make flexibility improvements to the apprenticeship levy.

Investment in surplus food redistribution not only contributes to sustainability, but is also a smart economic choice. For every £1 spent on redistributing surplus food, FareShare has demonstrated a return of £5.72 in socio-economic value, highlighting the significant savings and benefits these investments bring to the wider community



3 Put An End To Short Term Food Policies In The Uk

3.1 Develop a comprehensive national food strategy

The next government should produce a full food strategy, which includes a land use framework. It should recognise the moral imperative to prevent food wastage and promote redistribution given widespread food insecurity in the UK, and the socio-economic benefits of surplus food redistribution.

3.2 Set up a supply chain taskforce

The next government should set up a supply chain taskforce to review and assess potential supply chain needs across critical sectors including food. This will position the system to better respond to shocks and risks, and take advantage of opportunities.

3.3 Support for local authorities and Metro Mayors

Level up local authorities and metro mayors with the resources and guidance they need to integrate the national food strategy into local delivery frameworks, ensuring effective, region-specific implementation that addresses local and regional needs.



The Consultation

In preparation for the full manifesto, FareShare will engage in a consultation process on this Mini-Manifesto. This consultation will be active until 11/02/2024.

We are committed to hearing from a wide range of stakeholders, including local boroughs, businesses, third-sector organisations, and individuals across the UK. This consultation is a crucial step for all interested parties to contribute their views and ideas regarding our proposed approach to improving the food redistribution system in the UK.

Once the consultation period concludes, FareShare will review and consider all feedback received. This process is fundamental to refining and strengthening the manifesto. We would like to thank everyone in advance for participating and offering their insights.

The input gathered will directly inform the full manifesto, complete with an Impact Assessment and associated costs.

Please follow this link to respond to the consultation: fareshare.org.uk/manifestoconsultation

Acknowledgements

FareShare would not be able to achieve our mission to turn an environmental problem in to social good without our volunteers, supporters and industry partners, to whom we are very grateful. We would also like to thank the 130 Members of Parliament who have publicly backed us in recent years, and we look forward to continuing to work with them to achieve the change we need. It is clear that at a time of so much need, it is a moral, economic and environmental failure that so much food still goes to waste.

For more information about our manifesto contact:

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FareShare is a registered charity in England & Wales (1100051) and Scotland (SC052672)

