



Food Loss in Ireland

Policies

Table 1: Highlights and gaps in the national/regional policy framework of Ireland

Highlights	- Food Vision Strategy making reference to FL - FL as a priority in the FLW research agenda - Strategies addressing definition of FL and FW
Gaps	- Inconsistent use of terms FL and FW in different policies - No quantitative targets on FL reduction - No measuring and reporting system for FL

Table 2: Policy analysis in Ireland

1. Territory	Ireland		
2. Level	Country		
3. Is a specific law / regulation for food loss in place?			
☐ Laws and regulations on food loss		☐ Under development	
☒ Other laws / regulations containing provisions on food loss		☐ Under development	
Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 (CEMPA 2022)			
☒ Soft law policies on food loss		☐ Under development	
Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap 2023-2025 (NEWPR 2022) Food Vision 2030 Strategy – A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems (FVS 2021) A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy. Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025 (WAP 2020)			
4. Governance			
Law formulation and adoption	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine		
Law implementation and enforcement	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Environmental Protection Agency		
Monitoring of compliance	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine		
5. Definitions (tick if available)			
☒ Food loss		☐ Under development	
☒ Food waste		☐ Under development	
☐ Food loss and food waste jointly		☐ Under development	
6. Objectives, targets and obligations for food loss prevention and reduction in laws / regulations and governmental soft law policies			
☐ Quantitative objectives			
	Ambition		
	Timeline	☐ Under development	
☒ Qualitative objectives			
FVS 2021	Ambition	Research the extent of food loss at the production (primary) stage in an Irish context, and develop innovative ways of reducing it	
	Timeline	None ☐ Under development	
NEWPR 2022	Ambition	Compiling a compendium of existing and completed research on food loss and waste	
	Timeline	Q1 2023 ☐ Under development	
NEWPR 2022	Ambition	Compiling a Register of Priority Research and Innovation Topics on food loss and waste	
	Timeline	Q2 2023 ☐ Under development	
Reporting and verification		Yes	No Under development



Are reporting obligations on the progress towards reaching the objectives in place?	☒	☐	☐
Have indicators to evaluate progress towards reaching the objectives been specified?	☐	☒	☐
7. Measures and actions on food loss prevention and reduction in governmental policies			
Type of measures	Yes	No	Under development
Measuring and reporting obligations	☐	☒	☐
Obligations to create food loss prevention and reduction plans			
By companies (PP businesses, food processing companies, etc.)	☐	☒	☐
By public actors (municipalities, provinces, regions, etc.)	☐	☒	☐
Fiscal incentives for food loss prevention and reduction	☐	☒	☐
Grants for food loss prevention and reduction	☒	☐	☐
Grants for improved food loss measuring (precision farming, earth observation, digitalisation, etc.)	☒	☐	☐
Non-financial incentives for food loss prevention and reduction	☐	☒	☐
8. Steps in the value chain targeted by objectives and measures for food loss prevention and reduction			
☒ Primary production, pre-harvest			
☒ Primary production, post-harvest (including on-farm storage)			
☒ Food processing			
☒ Wholesale and retail			
☒ Household consumption			
Are any of the following primary production sectors targeted by specific objectives/measures for food loss prevention and reduction?			
☐ Grains and pulses	☐ Fruit and vegetables	☐ Roots and tubers	
☐ Meat and dairy	☐ Fish	☒ No objectives/measures by specific commodities, but for all of them in general.	
9. Measurement and reporting of food loss in legislation and governmental soft law policies			
☐ Measurement and reporting system for food loss in place		☐ Under development	
☐ With specified quantification methods	☐ Without specified quantification methods		
☐ Measuring food loss in primary production, pre-harvest	☐ Measuring food loss in primary production, post-harvest (including on-farm storage)		
☒ No measurement and reporting system for food loss			
Are there any specific measurement/reporting obligations or quantification methods for any of the following primary production sectors?			
☐ Grains and pulses	☐ Fruit and vegetables	☐ Roots and tubers	
☐ Meat and dairy	☐ Fish	☐ No objectives/measures by specific commodities, but for all of them in general.	
10. Budget for food loss prevention and reduction			
☐ Dedicated budget for food loss prevention and reduction defined		☐ Under development	
☐ No dedicated budget for food loss prevention and reduction			
☒ Do not know			
Comments			

Table 3: Public objectives related to food loss

Name	Date	Status	Type	Short name
Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022	21.07.2022	In force	Legal Act	CEMPA 2022
Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap 2023-2025	11.2022	In force	Roadmap	NFWPR 2022



Waste Management Act 1996, last amended on 6 March 2024	20.03.1996 (06.03.2024)	In force	Legal Act	WMA 1996
Food Vision 2030 Strategy – A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems	02.08.2021	In force	Roadmap	FVS 2021
A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy. Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025	2020	In force	Action Plan	WAP 2020
Food Waste Charter 2023	2023	In force	Voluntary agreement	FWC 2023
S.I. No. 367 of 1977 Food Standards (Potatoes) Regulations, 1977, last amended by S.I. No 406 of 2003	01.12.1977 (15.08.2003)	In force	Legal Act	S.I. 367/1977
Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027	16.08.2022	In force	Legal Act	CAPSP 2022
S.I. No. 198/2021 – European Union (Unfair Trading Practices in the agricultural and food supply chain) Regulation 2021	28.04.2021	In force	Legal Act	S.I. 198/2021
The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development	2022	In force	National Strategy	NSPSAD 2022
Comments				

Table 4: Budget and financing of activities on food loss in Ireland

Budget allocated to the implementation of the law / regulation			
Amount	Timing	Provided by	Purpose / description
Financial incentives			
Type of incentive		Prize / Award	
Purpose / description		Science Foundation Ireland Future Innovator Prize 2020 – Food Challenge ¹ : dedicated to “ <i>novel, potentially disruptive, sustainable STEM-led solutions to reduce food loss and waste across the full breadth of the food supply chain from “farm to fork”.</i> ”	
Beneficiaries		Academic researchers	
Eligibility criteria		Interdisciplinary teams of academic staff or contract researcher of an eligible Research Body holding a PhD or equivalent	
Amount - total		Not stated	
Timing - total		One-time	
Amount per beneficiary		EUR 20 000 for projects at concept stage, EUR 200 000 for projects at seed stage, EUR 2 000 000 for the prize winner Among the five awarded projects, none was dealing with food loss	
Timing - beneficiary		One-time over three months, nine months and two years for projects at concept and seed stage and prize winners, respectively	
Financial incentives			
Type of incentive			
Purpose / description			
Beneficiaries			
Eligibility criteria			
Amount - total			
Timing - total			
Amount per beneficiary			
Timing - beneficiary			
Comments			
Several other funding programmes and challenge funding not directly dedicated to food loss may be open to projects / innovations dealing with food loss prevention, including the Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy funding progarmme ² and the Community Climate Action Programme: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing (Strand 2) ³ . In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency is providing funding for evidence, review and best practices to answer urgent emerging policy questions and addressing short-term policy needs ⁴ .			



The FVS 2021 relies on the exploitation of EU and national climate and environmentally sustainable agriculture funds, in addition to scaling-up public private partnerships and fully sponsored private sector initiatives and developing a partnership with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund. The amount of funding expected to be obtained through these activities is not disclosed.

- 1) <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/future-innovator-food/>
- 2) <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/circular-economy/green-enterprise/>
- 3) <https://www.pobal.ie/programmes/community-climate-action-programme-climate-education-capacity-building-and-learning-by-doing-strand-2/>
- 4) <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa--research-funding/epa-research-fast-track-to-policy/>