



Food Loss in Norway

Policies

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

Highlights	In Norway, existing policies address the complex issue of food loss and waste, each with its strengths and weaknesses. - The challenge lies in the somewhat ambiguous definitions, creating difficulties in generating accurate statistics and aligning with the EU framework. - However, there is a robust framework of supporting mechanisms, including the Circular Economy Strategy and Food Security Strategy. These initiatives are strategically designed to promote the efficient utilization of resources, ultimately minimizing potential losses. - Additionally, Norwegian regulations concerning primary production, encompassing agriculture and seafood production, play a crucial role in fostering good practices aimed at preventing food loss. - The Voluntary Industrial Agreement, endorsed by state authorities and participants across the value chain, underscores a commitment to collaboration. With its sub-targets and established reporting systems, this agreement signals a comprehensive engagement throughout the food value chain. - The unveiling of a forthcoming legislative initiative concentrating on food loss and waste underscores the Norwegian government's commitment to intensify its efforts on this critical issue.
Gaps	- The current lack of a clear differentiation between food loss and food waste in existing legislation creates obstacles in ensuring uniform statistics and compliance with the EU's Waste Directive. The forthcoming law is expected to address this challenge by introducing new definitions. However, the specific focus, whether on food loss, food waste, or a combination of both, and the particular value chain actors to be emphasized, remain uncertain at this juncture.

Table 2: Policy analysis in Norway

1. Territory	Norway
2. Level	National
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
Information available on upcoming law	
☒ Soft law policies on food loss	☐ Under development
Voluntary Industrial Agreement F2F Norway Circular Economy Strategy Klimaplan Food Security Strategy Meld. St. 11 (2016–2017)	
4. Governance	
Law formulation and adoption	Ministry of Climate and Environment Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Law implementation and enforcement	
Monitoring of compliance	
5. Definitions (tick if available)	
☐ Food loss	☐ Under development



☒ Food waste ¹		☐ Under development	
☒ Food loss and food waste jointly ¹		☐ 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			
Voluntary Industrial Agreement	Ambition	- Promote better resource utilization and raw material conservation through the prevention and reduction of food loss/waste throughout the food chain. - Contribute to reducing the environmental consequences associated with food production and consumption in Norway. - Fostering greater knowledge and promoting positive attitudes among consumers and within the food industry, with the goal of preserving food and preventing/reducing food loss/waste.	
	Timeline	Not specified	☐ Under development
FOR-2008-12-22-1623	Ambition	Safe redistribution of food to reduce food loss/waste (this regulation governs initiatives such as "Matsentralen" (ie Food Bank) and facilitates redistribution, however, promoting redistribution is not its main concern)	
	Timeline	Not specified	☐ Under development
Reporting and verification		Yes	No
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
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	Currently, the Voluntary Sectoral Agreement signed between the Norwegian state authorities and actors from agriculture, seafood, and food industries is the main tool for monitoring and reducing food waste/loss in Norway. A new law specifically focusing on food waste/loss is on the way, drafted by the Food Waste/Loss Committee commissioned by the Norwegian government. The Food Waste/Loss Committee delivered their first report on recommendations on comprehensive measures and tools on 31.12.2023. Part of the Committee's work is to evaluate and recommend a new definition for food loss and food waste, along with the development of appropriate methodologies for data collection and statistics. However, in the first report on recommendations, they have not formulated new food waste and food loss definitions for the time being, while suggesting the adoption of EU food waste definition for better alignment in reporting.	

Table 3: Public objectives related to food loss

Overall objective / target	Source
Commitment to SDG 12.3: reduce the per capita global food loss/waste by half in both retail and consumer sectors, while also decreasing losses in production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses by 2030.	Voluntary industrial agreement BSP 2020 Food Loss/waste Committee
Sub-objective / target	
Description	Source
To be able to track progress in reducing food loss/waste, the parties have agreed to reduce food loss/waste by 15% by 2020 and 30% by 2025. "Every five years, data regarding the quantity of food waste/loss will be consolidated into a comprehensive report to offer an assessment of the progress made by the participating parties in working towards the sub-goals."	Voluntary industrial agreement BSP 2020
Timeline to reach sub-objective / target	2020 and 2025
Obligations	
It is the signatory authorities' responsibility to compile the primary reports from various industries and sectors that show the food waste/loss trends in Norway for 2020, 2025, and 2030.	Actors – compliance
	State authorities
	Actors – enforcement
	Not specified
The industry partners in the agreement are responsible for assessing the extent and composition of food waste/loss in the value chain they represent. The businesses that have signed the agreement commit to providing annual reports. However, it is not the case that every entity that signed the agreement follows up on reporting, and a grocery chain may be signatory even if not every store in the chain reports. Furthermore, not all entities reporting data have necessarily signed the commitment agreement. For instance, vegetable producers and packaging	Actors – compliance
	Value chain actors that signed the agreement
	Actors – enforcement
	None defined as this is voluntary agreement



companies have reported data without being directly affiliated with the sectoral agreement.	
Measures	
The agreement requires the agriculture industry, seafood industry, and the food industry to monitor and report their food loss/waste. Accordingly, the agriculture ministry reports the food waste/loss every five years regarding: • Grain production • Dairy production • Meat production • Egg production • Fruits, berries, vegetables, and potato production These reports are further employed as measures for reaching the overall objective. The report does not cover the resource utilization and loss before the slaughter or harvest time. Food waste/loss in the agricultural sector is measured from the time animals are slaughtered and plants are harvested until further processing of the raw material and/or sale to wholesalers, the hospitality industry or the retail sector. According to the BSP 2020, food loss/waste stems from a wide array of reasons, but all food exiting the food chain is categorized as such, irrespective of the cause. Notably, there is no assessment of whether the raw material was edible at the point of its removal from the food chain (unclear definition regarding waste and loss).	Actors – provision
	Norwegian Agriculture Agency
	Actors – use
	All value chain actors and the government
Similarly, the seafood industry monitors and reports the food waste/loss in the following sectors from landing through processing, packaging, storage until transport to consumers. • Salmon industry • Pelagic fish industry • White fish industry Same as the agriculture industry report, this report is planned to be published every five years as a means of measuring the fulfilment of the overall objective	Actors – provision
	SINTEF Ocean (Research institute)
	Actors – use
	All value chain actors and the government
Means of verification	
Every five years, data regarding the quantity of food waste/loss will be consolidated into a comprehensive report to offer an evaluation of the progress made by the participating parties in working towards the sub-goals. Kg food loss per capita is used as a common indicator in the Voluntary Industrial Agreement	Actors
	Signatory state authorities
Other aspects	
	Actors
Sub-objective / target	
Description	Source
Promote better resource utilization and raw material conservation through the prevention and reduction of food waste throughout the food chain.	Voluntary industrial agreement
Timeline to reach sub-objective / target	None
Obligations	
None	Actors – compliance
	Actors – enforcement
Measures	
	Actors – provision
	Actors – use



Means of verification	Actors
Other aspects	Actors
Sub-objective / target	
Description	Source
Contribute to reducing the environmental consequences associated with food production and consumption in Norway.	Voluntary industrial agreement
Timeline to reach sub-objective / target	None
Obligations	
None	Actors – compliance
	Actors – enforcement
Measures	
	Actors – provision
	Actors – use
Means of verification	Actors
Other aspects	Actors
Sub-objective / target	
Description	Source
Fostering greater knowledge and promoting positive attitudes among consumers and within the food industry, with the goal of preserving food and preventing/reducing food waste.	Voluntary industrial agreement
Timeline to reach sub-objective / target	None
Obligations	
None	Actors – compliance
	Actors – enforcement
Measures	
	Actors – provision
	Actors – use
Means of verification	Actors
Other aspects	Actors
Comments	
On 31.01.2023 the Food Loss/Waste Committee commissioned by the Norwegian government delivered their report on recommendations for comprehensive measures and tools focusing heavily on food waste (matsvinn as defined by the committee). Their regulatory proposals for food waste reduction and reaching 2030 targets include: 1) due diligence assessment requirements, 2) due diligence disclosure obligations, 3) Due diligence-aligned food waste planning of measures requirement, 4) implementing donation requirements, 5) implementing requirements for price reductions for products approaching expiry date, 6) removing VAT on donated food, 7) incorporating food and meals into relevant educational programs. In addition to the above suggestions on regulations targeting food waste, the committee further discusses ways of strengthening the Voluntary Industrial Agreement by the following revisions: 1) Strengthening industry standards for fulfilling due diligence assessments with best practices, 2) inviting local and regional authorities and relevant government departments as parties to voluntary industry agreement 3) Establishing competence centre for food waste reduction, 4) Increased and standardized reporting pursuant to the voluntary industry agreement, 5) Further develop channels for donations to the Food Bank (ie Matsentralen) from retail and catering establishments, 6) Further develop channels for low-grade fruit and vegetable distribution, 7)	



Industry program for employee competency enhancement, 8) Introducing the role of 'food host' in public institutions, 9) Consumer-focused information campaigns, 10) Nudging, practical tools and innovations, 11) Funding models based on fee collection from households and businesses regarding food waste generated.

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

Budget allocated to the implementation of the law / regulation			
Amount	Timing	Provided by	Purpose / description
170M NOK (proposed 200m in 2024)	2023	National budget ¹	Special environment measures in agriculture industry
37M NOK (proposed 40m in 2024)	2023	National budget	Climate and environment program (agriculture) (for grant details see below)
10M NOK (proposed 10m in 2024)	2023	National budget	Climate-smart agriculture
171M NOK	2024	National budget (proposed)	contribute to climate measures at the farm level and promote increased value creation through the transition to a more circular bioeconomy (see below)
180M NOK	One time in 2024	Norwegian Research Council	Collaboration project call addressing societal and industrial challenges (see below)
75M NOK	One time in 2023	Norwegian Research Council	Innovation project call (see below)
200 million NOK (2023)	Annual	National budget	Provision of grants for municipal projects aiming at achieving climate goals (Klimasats) (see below)
Financial incentives			
Type of incentive		Grant (Special environment measures in agriculture industry)	
Purpose / description		The grant is distributed by Innovation Norway under the program BIONOVA. The program aims to contribute to building up value chains and efforts within feed, fertilizers, recycling, and smart solutions for efficient food production, and therefore potentially reduce food loss in primary production.	
Beneficiaries		Primary production actors such as forestry, agriculture and seafood industry.	
Eligibility criteria		Unspecified	
Amount - total		Unspecified	
Timing - total		Unspecified	
Amount per beneficiary		Unspecified	
Timing - beneficiary		Unspecified	
Financial incentives			
Type of incentive		Grant (climate and environment program)	
Purpose / description		Within the framework of the Climate and Environment Program for Agriculture, it is explicitly outlined that The Norwegian Agriculture will distribute 18.2 million NOK to projects addressing climate-related challenges within the agricultural industry. One of the pertinent themes is the optimization of resource use in food production, which has the potential to significantly reduce food loss.	
Beneficiaries		Primary production actors within agriculture industry.	



Eligibility criteria	Applications from research and consultancy entities, professional/industry organizations, and other businesses will be taken into consideration.
Amount - total	18.2M nok
Timing - total	Unspecified
Amount per beneficiary	Unspecified
Timing - beneficiary	Unspecified
Financial incentives	
Type of incentive	<i>Grant (collaboration project call)</i>
Purpose / description	The grant is distributed by Norwegian Research Council. The research grant focuses on the key areas of: • Knowledge and methods contributing to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, increased carbon sequestration, and enhanced climate adaptation in agricultural value chains. • Understanding the interconnections between food production, climate, and the environment for more targeted policy interventions. • Addressing issues related to the relationship between climate and sustainability. • Developing new knowledge, methods, and operational systems to ensure good soil health, including organic farming methods and culture-specific soil health measures. • Mapping and resolving climate and environmental challenges arising from agricultural and food industry greenhouse gas emissions, impacting ecosystems, water environments, and biodiversity. • Advancing technology and methodology development. • Energy efficiency and emission-free energy solutions. • Safe and sustainable packaging and packaging technology for proper durability and reduced food loss/waste. Which may directly or indirectly impact the food loss.
Beneficiaries	Research institutes and industrial partners along the food chain
Eligibility criteria	Only approved Norwegian research institutes can apply. Applications must align with one or more of the four primary goals outlined in agricultural policy, focusing on food security, nationwide agricultural production, enhanced value creation, and sustainable agriculture. Emphasizing the significance of efficient resource utilization, these goals indirectly address the issue of food loss. Additionally, reference is made to increased efforts for food security, preparedness, and self-sufficiency, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture, and sustainable feed based on Norwegian resources. Furthermore, the boards emphasize a particular need for research that can contribute to increased innovation and growth in the horticultural sector, as well as increased production and utilization of Norwegian cereals and protein crops.
Amount - total	Up to 180M NOK in total
Timing - total	unspecified
Amount per beneficiary	4M-20M NOK
Timing - beneficiary	24-48 months
Financial incentives	
Type of incentive	Grant (innovation project call)
Purpose / description	The project call refers to the 4 primary goals outlined in agricultural policy and defines very many relevant topics for research. Among these there are several research themes that can be linked to food loss directly or indirectly:



	• Sustainable use of packaging and packaging technology for proper shelf life and reduced food loss. • Monitoring plant and animal health, as well as preventing and combating new and existing diseases • Product development and processing that contributes to increased utilization of Norwegian raw materials for both food and feed • opportunities and threats related to new food products and production systems • practical and economically feasible operational solutions, and production systems for improved animal welfare and good animal health • Developing knowledge and methods for increased utilization of by-products in the food and beverage value chain for the development of new and profitable products • Development, adaptation, and utilization of new technology and methods that contribute to efficiency in all stages of the value chain, such as automation, robotics, information technology, and sensor technology • New knowledge, methods, and operational systems to ensure soil health, including organic farming practices and specific soil health measures The financing of the projects are provided by the industry through fees and transfers under the agricultural agreement.
Beneficiaries	Research institutes?
Eligibility criteria	The project should address challenges relevant for the industry.
Amount - total	75M NOK
Timing - total	unspecified
Amount per beneficiary	2M-16M NOK
Timing - beneficiary	24-48 months
Financial incentives	
Type of incentive	<i>Grant</i>
Purpose / description	Klimasats is a grant program started in 2016, where municipalities, county municipalities, and Longyearbyen local government could apply for support for greenhouse gas reduction and transition. The total grant amount is specified in the national budget and distributed by the Norwegian Environmental Agency based on project application evaluations. One of the focal points includes the reduction of food loss/waste in municipalities, and various projects with the aim of minimizing food loss/ waste have been previously granted support. Most of these food loss/waste project target reducing the food waste of retail sector, public offices, hospitality industry and the households.
Beneficiaries	All actors along the food waste chain.
Eligibility criteria	The application must be from the municipalities, county municipalities, and Longyearbyen local government
Amount - total	<i>200m NOK total</i>
Timing - total	<i>unspecified</i>
Amount per beneficiary	<i>unspecified</i>
Timing - beneficiary	<i>unspecified</i>
Comments	
⁴ The national budget allocated for environmental measures in agriculture, the climate and environment program, and climate-smart agricultural production doesn't explicitly focus on primary industries' food loss. Nonetheless, it is closely linked to the broader challenge of food loss, as these initiatives aim to reduce carbon footprint and promote sustainability	



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