



Food Loss in Great Britain

Policies

Table 1: Policy analysis in Great Britain

1. Territory	Great Britain		
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	
Landfill tax – for businesses getting rid of waste using landfill sites			
☒ Soft law policies on food loss		☐ Under development	
UK Government Waste Strategy			
WRAP – Courtland Commitment (Voluntary Agreement)			
WRAP – Food Waste Reduction Roadmap (Voluntary Agreement)			
4. Governance			
Law formulation and adoption	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs		
Law implementation and enforcement	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs		
Monitoring of compliance	Environmental Agency		
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			
	Ambition		
	Timeline	☐ 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	There are no mandatory FLW reduction targets and measurement systems. However, WRAP has established a voluntary reporting system and published FL measurement methodology for different sectors (onions, blackcurrant, raspberries, soft fruit, eggs).		

Table 2: Public objectives related to food loss

Overall objective / target	Source
Commitment UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 In addition, WPP 2023 states: "We also need to continue to tackle food waste in primary production."	NZS 2021 WS 2018 WPP 2023
Timeline to reach objective / target	2030
Obligations	
None	Actors – compliance
	Actors – enforcement
Measures	
In 2019-2020, a pilot funding scheme with a volume of GBP 25 million to reduce FLW was launched (see Section 5.3).	Actors – provision
	Government
	Actors – use
	All FSC actors
Publication of a food waste hierarchy and guidance on how to comply with it. It is not clear, whether FL is covered by the hierarchy.	Actors – provision
	Government
	Actors – use
	All FSC actors
	Actors – provision
	Government



In 2019 review of the current rules around permits for food waste storage facilities to further support redistribution of surplus food.	Actors – use
	Actors engaged in food redistribution
Support the Courtauld Commitment and Food Waste Reduction Roadmap (see Section 6) with the ambition to have all 600 large food businesses providing evidence of measuring and acting on food waste by 2026.	Actors – provision
	Government
	Actors – use
	WRAP
Review of the Agricultural Bill with respect to - Evaluation of introduction of sector-specific statutory codes of contractual conduct to protect producers from exposure to unfair trading practices - Facilitating efficiency in collection and dissemination of market data	Actors – provision
	Government
	Actors – use
	Primary producers
GBP 10 million collaboration fund supporting the establishment of short supply chains	Actors – provision
	Government
	Actors – use
	Primary producers
Support specific working groups to promote change and inform policy	Actors – provision
	Government
	Actors – use
	All FSC actors
Means of verification	Actors
WS 2018 commits to regularly update and publish progress against a defined set of indicators, starting in 2019. However, none of those indicators directly refers to FLW. An analysis of the contribution the strategy has made to observed changes is planned for 2028.	Government
Other aspects	Actors
Comments	
Ambitions seem to have decreased from WS 2018 to WPP 2023. While in the former, a review of the Agricultural Bill in light of unfair trading practices is foreseen, the latter merely states: “ <i>The government is working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme to address issues across the supply chain. Defra have launched a review into supply chain fairness (in pigs, dairy, eggs and horticulture) to address some of these practices</i> ”. Similarly, introduction of mandatory food waste reporting was no longer pursued in WPP 2023. Instead, it aims to “ <i>consider options to improve voluntary food waste reporting by large food businesses</i> ” This drawback was legally contested as it contradicts the outcomes of a public consultation held on the matter. Current ambitions with respect to mandatory reporting remain unclear (HoCB 2024).	

Table 3: Budget and financing of activities on food loss in Great Britain

Budget allocated to the implementation of the law / regulation			
Amount	Timing	Provided by	Purpose / description
GBP 15 million	2019-2020	Government	Pilot fund to support the redistribution of surplus food and waste
GBP 80 million	From 2026	Government	Support Package for Farming and Food Sector (see below)
GBP 10 million		Government	Collaboration fund (see below)
Financial incentives			
Type of incentive		Subsidy	
Purpose / description		Strengthening the resilience of the UK food system (multi-actor projects)	
Beneficiaries		UK research organisation eligible for BBSRC funding	
Eligibility criteria		Projects must - take a food systems approach to increasing resilience, focusing on either domestic production and trade, critical infrastructure and resources or both and consider two or more cascading risks. In doing so, projects should consider the actors, activities and outcomes involved in the food system and how they are	



	connected, alongside the key vulnerabilities, interdependencies, and pinch points. - be interdisciplinary. Examples of possible disciplines include, but are not limited to: - o biological sciences - o engineering and physical sciences - o environmental sciences - o economic and social sciences - o arts and humanities - collaborate with at least one stakeholder organisation (government, business and the third sector)
Amount - total	
Timing - total	Multi-year (3 years) from 1 September 2024
Amount per beneficiary	Up to GBP 1.75 million per project (80% funding rate)
Timing - beneficiary	
Financial incentives	
Type of incentive	Subsidy
Purpose / description	Support Package for Farming and Food Sector: Includes: - GBP 80 million funding for horticultural businesses replacing the EU Fruit and Vegetable Aid Scheme from 2026. Includes up to GBP 10 million to help English orchard growers access equipment, technology and infrastructure to support the growing of fruit - GBP 75 million to support internal drainage boards to accelerate recovery from 2023/24 storms and provide opportunities to modernize and upgrade assets that benefit and support resilience for farms and rural communities.
Beneficiaries	Primary producers
Eligibility criteria	
Amount - total	
Timing - total	
Amount per beneficiary	
Timing - beneficiary	
Financial incentives	
Type of incentive	Subsidy
Purpose / description	Collaboration fund (e.g. funding for joint initiatives, seeking alternative commercial outlets for non-specification goods, support to establish short supply chains, etc.)
Beneficiaries	Groups of producers interested in pursuing joint business models
Eligibility criteria	
Amount - total	GBP 10 million
Timing - total	
Amount per beneficiary	
Timing - beneficiary	
Financial incentives	
Type of incentive	Subsidy
Purpose / description	Grant for food redistribution during the COVID 19 pandemic
Beneficiaries	Voluntary and charity sectors
Eligibility criteria	
Amount - total	GBP 32 million (spring and autumn support package with GBP 16 million each)
Timing - total	2020
Amount per beneficiary	
Timing - beneficiary	
Comments	
In February 2024 the British Prime Minister announced that there would be GBP 15 million made available for redistribution of surplus food (HoCB 2024)	



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