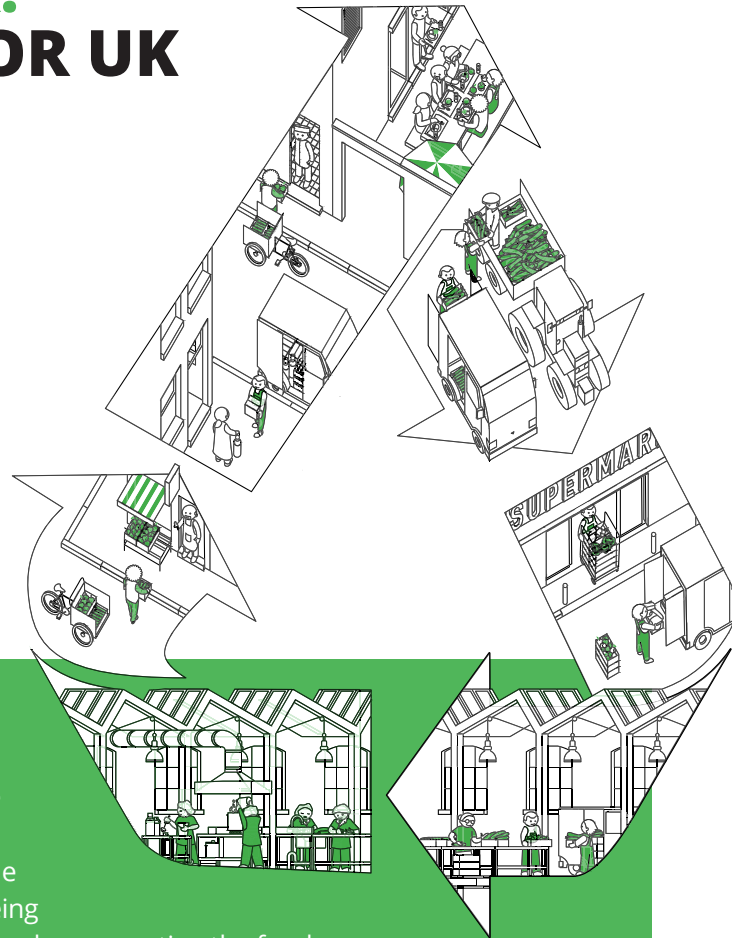


## TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE, LOW-CARBON FOOD SURPLUS SECTOR: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UK POLICYMAKERS

### INTRODUCTION

This summary highlights policy recommendations for an inclusive food surplus sector based on the work of FLAVOUR, an innovative regional project with 10 partners in the UK, France, and Belgium (the '2 seas' region). FLAVOUR seeks to systematise the redistribution and revalorisation of food surplus while creating inclusive jobs in food surplus organisations for people who are socially or economically vulnerable.



### KEY MESSAGES

- High levels of food waste in the UK supply chain generate 5% of the UK's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and undermine climate goals. For the UK to meet 'net zero', the priority action should be to prevent surplus food from being produced in the first place. The second priority should then be supporting the food surplus sector to effectively redistribute food waste that cannot be prevented.
- Better policy-making at local and national levels in support of a circular economy, waste management, education, and employment can create opportunities to make use of surplus food and create employment and skills training.
- Introducing mandatory food waste reporting and food waste reduction targets (that include on-farm waste) for businesses will be key for achieving the UK's goal of halving food waste by 2030, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 12.3). For faster-paced food waste reduction, the food use hierarchy should be enshrined into law and enforced through fiscal and regulatory measures.
- To support circular economies and inclusive employment, national and local strategies to support social enterprise, such as Scotland's Social Enterprise Strategy 2016-2026, should be created. Job programmes to get people back into work, including within food surplus organizations, must be designed in a way that is inclusive of marginalised communities.

**FIGURE 1: TRIPLE-LAYER BENEFITS OF A THRIVING FOOD SURPLUS SECTOR**



Credit: Feedback, 2022

## SUMMARY OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

<p><b>1. Introduce mandatory food waste and reduction targets in line with UK objective to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030 against a 2015 baseline</b></p>	<p><b>1.1 Introduce mandatory food waste measurement (that includes on-farm waste) and reporting for businesses, with provisions to support SMEs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt a methodology to measure food waste that                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>includes on-farm waste, ii) assumes an ambitious 2015 baseline from which to measure progress, and iii) integrates support for non-mandatory data collection methods from small and medium-sized enterprises.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Introduce mandatory food waste reduction targets for large food businesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In line with SDG 12.3, adopt a mandatory target of 50% food waste reduction by 2030 that applies to all large businesses and both edible and inedible waste, supported by financial penalties for and transparent data on non-compliance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Put in place the regulatory, fiscal, and enforcement regime to operationalise the food use hierarchy, in accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prioritise food waste prevention, enshrine the food use hierarchy into law and operationalise it through regulatory and fiscal policies that expand funding for activities that focus on food waste prevention and disincentivise activities at lower levels of the pyramid.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Strengthen legal and policy measures to equalise cross-supply chain power relations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In tandem with 'polluter pays' policies, enact measures to equalise power relations in the food system and hold supermarkets responsible for the waste across their entire supply chains, such as strengthening the Groceries Code Adjudicator.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Create national social enterprise strategies with clear activities and targets to support the inception, development, and sustainability of social enterprises</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a national social enterprise strategy that promotes a thriving social economy and identify mechanisms for social enterprises to access sustainable financing—particularly for women, LGBTQ2+, and BPOC founders who may face additional barriers to accessing capital.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Provide financial incentives for social enterprises to encourage start-up and sustainability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In recognition of their benefits to society, help social enterprises to start up and become financially sustainable by providing them with tax breaks (similar to those for registered charities) or other forms of support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Strengthen job programmes for people who face barriers to accessing the labour market (while considering the specific needs of women, BPOC, and neurodiverse people) and improve incentives for joining social impact organisations</b></p>	<p><b>6.1 Reduce the administrative burden and delays associated with job programmes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that job programmes to support people far from the labour market emphasize placement in social enterprises and make hiring as smooth for candidates and organisations as possible.</li> </ul> <p><b>6.2 Mainstream gender equity, anti-racism, and social inclusion into job programmes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Job programmes should be designed to explicitly account for the specific needs of women, LGBTQ2+, BPOC, non-national, and neurodiverse job seekers, including by supporting part-time as well as full-time work and providing employers with guidance on how to ensure accessible and inclusive workplaces.</li> </ul> <p><b>6.3 Incentivise job programme placement in the social impact sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incentivise more people on Universal Credit to join the social sector by allowing job programmes to promote or reward placement in a social organisation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Integrate education on food waste and the social economy into schools curricula and public awareness campaigns across the UK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To capitalise on the opportunities presented by youth activism and reduce the burden of knowledge sharing on advocacy organisations, school curricula, and public awareness campaigns should incorporate topics related to food waste and social business.</li> </ul>

*Feedback regenerates nature by transforming the food system. To do this we challenge power, catalyse action and empower people to achieve positive change.*

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