

Nestlé UK & Ireland - Making food waste measurement count



Key facts

- Reduced food waste across UK operations since 2016 by over 8%.
- Committed to UK Food Waste Reduction Roadmap
- Courtauld 2025 signatory
- Working towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12.3.
- Operate a corporate continuous Improvement programme.

Enhancing understanding to drive action

Nestlé UK & Ireland have adopted the Food Loss & Waste Standard (FLW Standard) and UK Food Waste Reduction Roadmap guidance into their food waste reporting. How did they go about this and what are the benefits of doing so?

Foreword

In 2015, Nestlé achieved zero waste for disposal across its operations in the UK and Ireland. As part of its continuous improvement programme and sustainability commitments, the business has continued to strive to reduce the impact of its waste streams.

Nestlé recognise that a consistent approach to measurement and reporting of food waste enhances its ability to identify and implement further opportunities and collaborate to deliver the pace and scale of change required.



“Managing our food waste effectively can not only help reduce its environmental impact, but help address some of the food inequality issues experienced in our communities. We are proud to commit to the Food Waste Reduction Roadmap; only by working together can we address this issue at the pace and scale required.”

Andy Griffiths, Head of Value Chain Sustainability, Nestlé UK & I

Nestlé reporting



Nestlé UK & Ireland reporting approach is consistent with the [UK Food Waste Reduction Roadmap](#) which is aligned with [Food Loss & Waste Standard \(FLW Standard\)](#) guidelines, allowing businesses to measure and report consistently and with confidence.

	2016	2017	2018
Waste Waste (tonnes)	10919	6193	10082
Waste (% of production)	1.392%	0.816%	1.278%
Change (year on year)		-41.4%	56.6%
Change (cumulative)		-41.4%	-8.2%
Surplus Redistribution for human consumption (tonnes)	718	670	402
Used for animal feed (tonnes)	15474	15717	13911
Total surplus (tonnes)	16191	16387	14313
Total surplus (% of production)	2.1%	2.2%	1.8%

Notes: Food waste increased in 2018 versus 2017 due to project commissioning issues at one of our sites. Surplus levels have reduced as food waste has been tackled at source. Redistribution levels are anticipated to increase in 2019 . Data cover Nestlé UK food factories and distribution centres. Spent coffee grounds are treated as by-product rather than food waste. Food waste equivalent for effluent treated off site is currently excluded.

Measuring and acting



The following activity was undertaken by Nestlé UK and Ireland to improve food waste measurement and focus attention on impactful actions:

- Compared existing waste reporting to FLW Standard/Roadmap guidance and identified gaps.
- Modified reporting standards to provide required level of granularity and build into standard routines (utilising existing verified/credible channels where possible).
- Identified, enabled and supported site waste champions to leverage local action.
- Utilised Nestlé Continuous Excellence improvement programme to deliver reduction of food waste at source.
- Co-developed a food waste audit programme (Waste Not, Want Not) to identify further opportunities to reduce waste at source, valorise waste streams and increase redistribution opportunities:
 - Team of internal experts, external experts, ops team and finance team
 - Pre-visit data pack including process flows, waste data and site layout
 - Review of data followed by end-to-end process walks
 - Identification and refining of opportunities
 - Financial evaluation and prioritisation of opportunities
 - Site reviews and commitment to plan activity
 - Monthly waste operations review including food waste performance.

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Benefits to Nestlé

- A further reduction in food waste across UK operations of over 8% in the last 2 years.
- Detailed understanding of waste drivers and the scale of opportunity.
- Although Nestlé have been redistributing appropriate surplus product for a number of years, this process identified opportunities to make part-processed products redistribution ready.
- Increased insight and buy-in to the food waste challenge at board level and across the organisation.
- Opportunities to share and leverage insights with other organisations on the food waste journey.



Lessons learnt

- Decide whether the social, environmental or economic aspects best resonate with the business values and leverage these.
- Buy-in at board level is critically important, but also from the teams on the floor.
- Utilise existing systems and programmes where possible.
- Challenge your assumptions.
- Reality check – visit your waste yards regularly.
- Don't wait for perfect data to act – start the journey and refine as you progress.
- Collaborate – share learnings and build scalable networks.
- **No matter where you are on the journey, the more you look, the more opportunities you find.**



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Target, Measure, Act – Q&A's



- **Why did you choose to use the Roadmap approach for food waste reporting?**
It provides a robust and consistent approach, enables effective collaboration and sharing of learnings and a platform to replicate and scale impact.
- **Who provided the data and analysis for reporting?**
A combination of waste management company reporting and internal measurement.
- **Who did you seek support from (internally and externally)?**
WRAP, IGD, our food waste and redistribution partners (including Company Shop and FareShare) and our employees.
- **What additional skills did you need?**
We leveraged the existing skills of our partners and employees.
- **How did your business respond to the publication of data?**
We feel this will help drive a focus on food waste reduction and hopefully help other manufacturers feel more comfortable in joining the journey and publishing their food waste data.

WRAP is not-for-profit, working with governments, businesses and citizens to create a world in which we source and use resources sustainably. Our experts generate the evidence-based solutions we need to protect the environment, build stronger economies and support more sustainable societies. Our impact spans the entire life-cycle of the food we eat, the clothes we wear and the products we buy, from production to consumption and beyond.

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This represents Nestlé UK & Ireland reported and published data as a case study.



wrap.org.uk/food-waste-reduction-roadmap
wrap.org.uk/courtauld2025

