



## NATIONAL CHARITY FARESHARE CHALLENGES THE FOOD INDUSTRY TO COMPLETE THE ETHICAL SUPPLY CHAIN

Today, national food redistribution charity FareShare, in partnership with the Food and Drink Federation, is launching the “10,000 pallet challenge”, with the aim of encouraging industry to send more food that would otherwise be sent for waste disposal to people in the community who really need it.

- Every year hundreds of thousands of tonnes of food are being disposed of every year despite the fact that it is still fit-for consumption.
- Approximately one fifth of people using the services of charities across the country admit they have gone without a square meal for a week or more in the last year.<sup>1</sup>

The food industry has put enormous effort into ensuring that the front end of its supply chain, that is purchasing and manufacture, is as ethical as possible. However, very little has been done to address the ethical issues when it comes to disposal of its products.

Meeting the 10,000 pallets target will enable the charity to:

- Double the number of people receiving food to 60,000 individuals a day
- Increase the number of meals it is contributing towards to 14 million
- Help businesses reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 25,000 tonnes
- Help businesses reduce their waste costs

Tristram Stuart, Author of ‘Waste: Uncovering the Global Food Scandal’ and strong supporter of FareShare is supporting the challenge and says:

***“Thousands of tonnes of surplus food are wasted at every step in the supply chain, incurring disposal costs to businesses and being an environmental liability.***

***It’s time the food industry started taking responsibility for the food it produces - and stopped throwing so much of it away. Some businesses have woken up to this win-win situation, but others continue to discard food unnecessarily.***

***Much more focus should be given to management options further up the ‘waste hierarchy. Wherever possible, food should be used for its original intended purpose,***

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<sup>1</sup> Source: FareShare National Impact Survey 2008

*i.e. eating it. Helping out with FareShare is just common sense, and no business in the country should refuse to work with them.”*

Tony Lowe, Chief Executive of FareShare, which redistributes good quality surplus food from the food industry to projects supporting disadvantaged people, says;

*“We know good food is being wasted and we are challenging the food industry to complete its ethical supply chain by ensuring that food that cannot be sold but can be eaten always goes to people first, as not to do so, when there is an opportunity, would be a scandal.*

*Too much good food is still being destroyed. We have the capacity to handle this food. The more companies come on board and use FareShare’s services, the more food FareShare can redistribute, the more people FareShare can reach and the greater the impact on our society and the environment.*

Julian Hunt, Director of Communications at the FDF, says:

*“The FareShare model exemplifies what sustainability in the food chain is all about. It has been tried and tested. It really does make environmental, social and economic progress all at the same time and achieves win-wins for the most vulnerable in society, for businesses and the planet. That is why FDF has chosen FareShare as a key strategic partner.*

*We have in FareShare’s vision a great opportunity to deliver benefits for the most vulnerable in society, to deliver benefits for the environment and achieve business benefits all at the same time. Let us grasp it with both hands”.*

- ENDS -

**Notes to Editors:**

To request further information, to set up an interview with Tony Lowe, Tristram Stuart or the FDF, and/or to request photography, please contact Maria Olesen at FareShare on tel: 020 7394 2467 or email: [maria.olesen@fareshare.org.uk](mailto:maria.olesen@fareshare.org.uk)

**About FareShare:**

- Last year 3,100 tonnes of food were redistributed from the food and drink industry, by FareShare, to 600 projects serving the disadvantaged and vulnerable in the community. This equated to 7.4 million meals provided for the most vulnerable. This redistribution of food helped businesses reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 14,000 tonnes.

- FareShare has been operating as an independent charity since 2004 and today has 12 locations around the UK. Established in 1994 as a project within the homelessness charity Crisis, it aims to help vulnerable groups, whether they are homeless, elderly, children, or other groups in food poverty within our communities. FareShare regularly works with over 100 companies in the food and drink industry
  
- FareShare addresses food poverty and food waste in three ways:
  - i. Providing quality food - surplus 'fit for purpose' product from the food and drink industry - to organisations working with disadvantaged people in the community.
  - ii. Providing training and education around the essential life skills of safe food preparation and nutrition, and warehouse employability training through FareShare's *Eat Well Live Well* programme.
  - iii. Promoting the message that 'No good food should be wasted'.
  
- Almost 70% of community projects serving disadvantaged people have made savings thanks to the food they receive from FareShare and have redirected those funds into other support services
  
- 92% of FareShare's clients agree that the food they receive helps them stay fit and healthy. (Source: FareShare National Impact Survey 2008)  
[www.fareshare.org.uk](http://www.fareshare.org.uk)

**About FDF:**

- i. The Food and Drink Federation (FDF) is the voice of the food and drink manufacturing industry - the UK's largest manufacturing sector. For more information about FDF and the industry we represent visit: [www.fdf.org.uk](http://www.fdf.org.uk).