

21 October 2013: Comment on Tesco's food waste announcement

We welcome Tesco's openness about food waste and their initiatives to reduce their own and help consumers waste less. These initiatives follow last week's announcement that Tesco will now be diverting all their surplus fresh food to FareShare, the equivalent of 7 million meals a year.

For an industry that provides food to more than 60 million people every day, there will inevitably be waste, with some of that still being surplus and fit for human consumption. For FareShare what's important is what's done with this surplus.

We already work with some of the leading retailers, including Asda, Sainsbury's and Tesco to divert over 4,200 tonnes of surplus food a year, helping to feed more than 51,000 people in need every day. However we estimate that we handle less than 1% of the surplus food available in the UK. FareShare is urging all responsible food businesses to work with us to help divert good food to people who need it.

With 5.8 million people living in deep poverty, unable to afford everyday essentials like food, it's more important than ever to ensure food that is fit for human consumption is used to feed people first.

We are working hard to connect food industry surpluses with over 1,000 local charities, including homeless shelters, women's refuge centres and breakfast clubs for children. These charities offer not only a meal but invaluable support to some of the poorest people in our society. In doing so, we turn an environmental problem into a positive solution with social, environmental and economic benefits.



Fresh produce redistributed to charities to feed people in need