

Food Waste in Scotland

Catherine Pendreigh – Food Systems Partner
(Zero Waste Scotland)
cpendreigh@zerowastescotland.org.uk



European Union



gov.scot

EUROPE & SCOTLAND

European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future



Scale of the Problem

- Globally food loss and waste is responsible for 6% of greenhouse gas emissions
- Approximately three times as many emissions as global air travel
- Food waste is also a leading cause of biodiversity loss



EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

How this is broken down in Scotland

- In 2021 food waste in Scotland produced 4.74 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent
- Approximately 60% of food waste is avoidable – it could have been eaten
- The majority of Scotland's food waste is from households

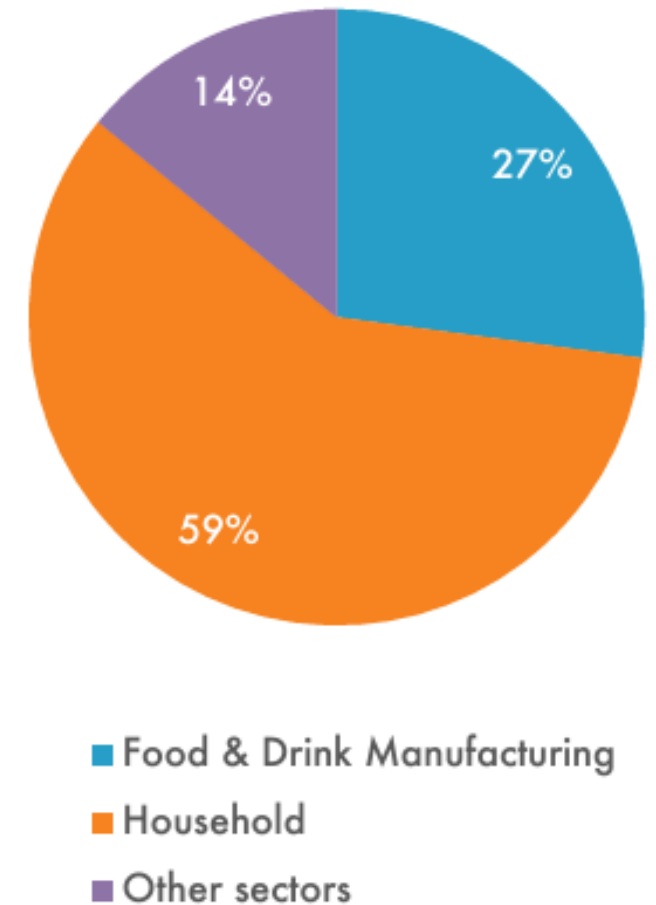
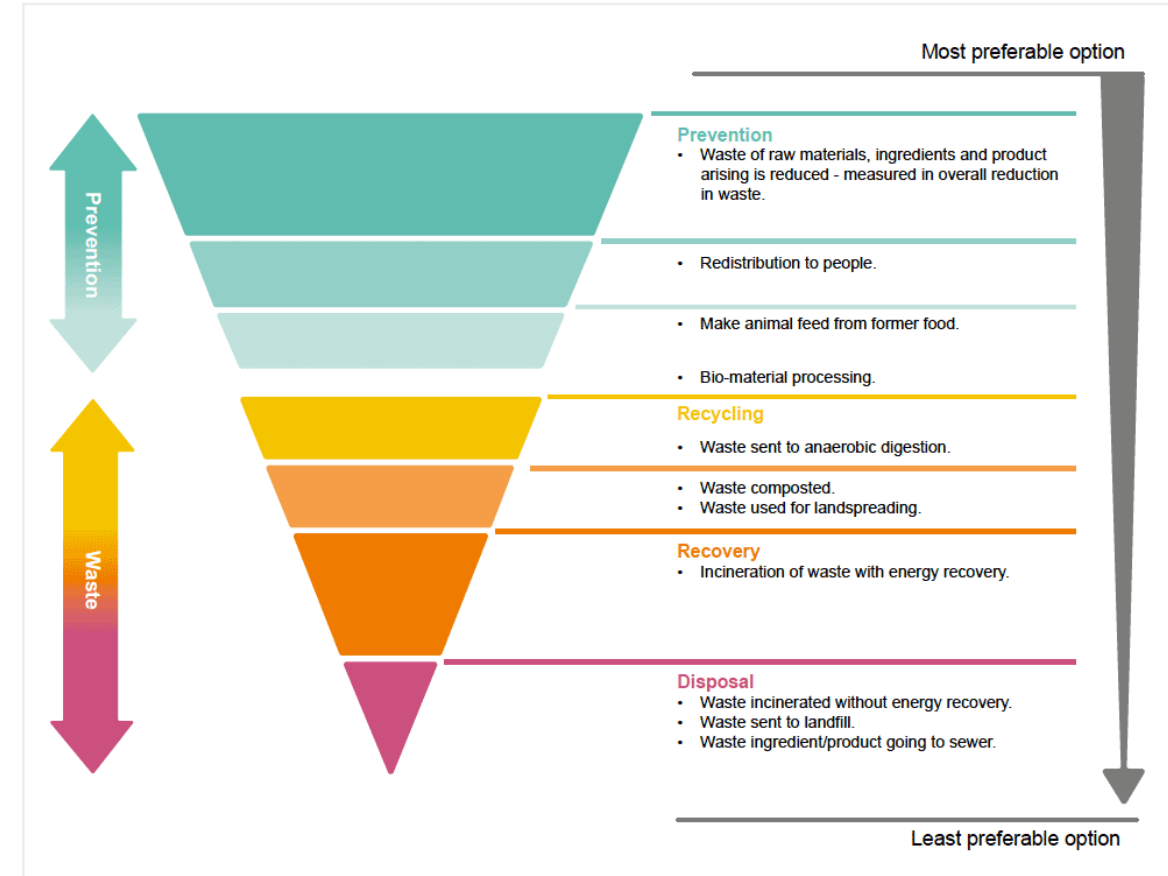


Figure 2.2: 2021 estimate by sector in tonnes

Reduction vs Recycling

- Recycling unavoidable food waste is an important part of a circular economy allowing it to produce compost or sustainable energy
- However, recycling does not mitigate emissions associated with production – the vast majority



EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

Ambitions to Reduce Waste

- Scottish Government Food Waste Reduction Target – to reduce per capita food waste by 33% by 2025
- SDG 12.3 To halve per capita food loss and waste by 2030



Circular Economy Bill and Route Map

- Circular Economy Bill currently going through stage two of parliamentary process. Will set recycling targets for local government and statutory targets for circularity measures
- Circular Economy and Waste Route Map underwent a second consultation earlier this year – reducing food waste a priority area identified



European Union



gov.scot

EUROPE & SCOTLAND

European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

SECTION 2: REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Proposed priority actions:

- Deliver an intervention plan to guide long-term work on household food waste reduction behaviour change (by 2025)
- Develop with stakeholders the most effective way to implement mandatory reporting for food waste and surplus by businesses (by 2025/26)

Further actions:

To complement and build on these priorities, we will seek to progress the following actions to 2030:

- Strengthen data and evidence (ongoing)
- Review the rural exemption for food waste recycling, as part of recycling codesign process (In 2024/25 and 2025/26)
- Investigate feasibility of action plans (After 2025)
- Deliver enhanced support for businesses (ongoing)

Good Food Nation National Plan

- National plan published January
- Local plans must “have regard” for national plan
- Food waste reduction identified as a priority under Outcome Two and reducing waste by 33% as a target for this outcome
- Public Sector Caterers in a Good Food Nation *“I have reduced avoidable food waste as much as possible, and I ensure that unavoidable food waste is disposed of in a sustainable manner”*



European Union



gov.scot

EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

Zero Waste Scotland Resources

[Cooking class](#)

[How to Run a LFHW week](#)

[Primary school resources](#)

[Secondary school resources](#)

[Whole school approach resources](#)

[School monitoring tool kit](#)



EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

Discussion:
**Are you working on
food waste?**
**What are the
opportunities and
challenges for public
sector caterers?**



European Union



gov.scot

EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

