

TOP TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING ON THE CLIMATE BENEFITS FROM REDUCING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE



Tip 1 | Make It Relevant to Your Audience



Make the value of reducing food loss and waste (FLW) easily understood by using “equivalents” meaningful to your target audience.

Equivalency calculators include:

- [U.S. EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#)
- [Canada's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#)



Best Practices



Convert the GHG emissions avoided into other metrics, e.g, the number of cars taken off the road, **or convert the wasted food into other metrics,** e.g, “number of meals”* or equivalent amount of relevant foods.



Provide clear and transparent documentation for how the equivalency was calculated.

It's important to also describe the emission factors and sources used.

* For converting to number of meals, check with the local foodbanking organization. In the U.S., Feeding America estimates a meal weighs 1.2 pounds.



Rescuing food for community groups

Impact from Aldi Ireland's food donation program (since 2017):

- Embedded GHG (food production): 1,762 tonnes of CO₂e emissions.
- Meals (equivalent): > 1.3 million meals, based on average weight.



Preventing surplus in production facilities

Benefits from operational improvements (saving 3.3 million lbs./year):

- Embedded GHG: 2,200 tonnes/year.
- \$1.6 million/year, with a payback average of < one month.
- Meals (equivalent): 5.5 million/year, based on calories.



Upcycling surplus food

For 10,000 kg of Kerry's upcycled cheese powder:

- Cheese waste avoided: 11,856 kg.
- GHG avoided: 55,586kg CO₂e (45% lower in emissions compared to standard cheese powder).
- Food equivalent: 312 wheels of parmesan cheese.



Reducing milk losses from farm gate to factory

- Emissions associated with milk losses reduced from 65,000 tonnes of CO₂e to 38,000 tonnes of CO₂e between 2017 and 2018.
- This reduction of 27,000 tonnes of CO₂e is equivalent to 2,470 trips around the world in a small car.

Tip 2

Make the Link With Meeting GHG Reduction Targets



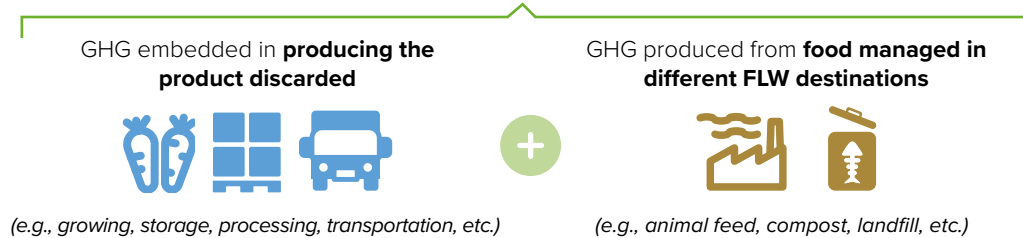
Reductions in FLW can be used to claim progress in meeting targets that are based on GHG inventories.

Examples of CGF members referencing food waste in their climate action plans:



Reminder

The climate impact of food loss and waste (FLW) comes from:



Emissions associated with FLW are typically found in the following parts of a GHG inventory:



Scope 1
Company facilities
(for agricultural producers)



Scope 3**
Purchased goods (category 1)
Waste in operations (category 5)
Waste end of life (category 12)

**Scope 3 emissions encompass the indirect emissions that occur outside of a company's direct control, arising from the wider value chain.

Helpful Reminders

When accounting for FLW in a GHG inventory:

1 Not all emissions from FLW can be counted towards meeting a GHG reduction target, since some must be reported separately from scopes 1 – 3.

This currently includes carbon opportunity costs, carbon removals, carbon storage, and/or avoided emissions and may change as the GHG Protocol standards are updated.

Understanding and communicating these impacts is important for decision-making purposes

2 Take care when linking GHG emissions to reduced purchases.

Reducing food waste while maintaining output can lower the need for input purchases, impacting scope 3, category 1.

While these emissions could be highlighted in communications on GHG impact from reducing FLW, it's important not to double count them in scope 3 reporting.

3 Food donated to people in need doesn't reduce scope 3 emissions from "purchased goods" but does reduce emissions from "waste treatment."

Donating or redistributing surplus food helps combat food insecurity and conserves production resources, but typically doesn't lower a scope 3 GHG emissions from purchased goods.

By donating food, the GHG emissions from discarding it (e.g. in landfill) are avoided, thereby reducing scope 3 emissions from "waste treatment."

Further Information

- How to identify and isolate emissions from FLW embedded within a GHG inventory is covered in [Connecting Food Loss and Waste to Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Guidance for Companies](#).
- Additional guidance is also available in section 7.6 of WRAP's [Scope 3 GHG Measurement and Reporting Protocols for Food and Drink Businesses](#).
- [The Global Food Banking Network's Food Recovery to Avoid Methane Emissions \(FRAME\) methodology](#) can be used to quantify the GHG avoided by rescuing food.

- [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) one pagers describe how to calculate the GHG emissions associated with FLW and provide useful statistics connecting FLW to its climate impacts.

