

Waste Reduction and Food

This section looks at how local authorities support sustainable food production on their land and promote sustainable food choices in their schools. Local authorities also play a key role in supporting local circular economy initiatives, as well as improving waste collection and recycling rates.

Average score¹ by council type

37% Single Tier

23% District

30% County

35% Northern Ireland

LEADING THE WAY

61% of local authorities* provide kerbside food waste recycling to most homes²

57% of local authorities support community food growing initiatives³

43% of local authorities support food surplus redistributions initiatives⁴

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

29% of local authorities are part of a sustainable food partnership⁵

26% of local authorities support circular economy initiatives⁶

24% of single tier and county councils provide at least one complete vegetarian meal in schools each week⁷

FALLING BEHIND

84% of local authorities don't have a sustainable food strategy⁸

70% of local authorities recycle less than half of their waste from residents⁹

94% of local authorities send to landfill or incinerate over 300kg of waste per household each year¹⁰

(* This section does not apply to Mayoral Authorities, as they have limited powers in relation to 'Waste Reduction and Food' • (1) See average scores here → https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/sections/s7_wr_f/ • (2) Q 7.7: Does the council provide kerbside food waste recycling? This question doesn't apply to county councils • (3) Q 7.5: Has the council taken steps to support local food growing? • (4) Q 7.3: Does the council support initiatives to redistribute surplus food? • (5) Q7.4b Question: Is the council part of a sustainable food partnership? • (6) Q 7.2: Has the council taken steps to support a circular economy locally? • (7) Q 7.6: Do schools in the council area serve less meat in school meals? This question doesn't apply to district councils or to Northern Irish councils • (8) Q7.4a Question: Does the council have a sustainable food strategy? • (9) Q 7.8 How high is the councils' area wide annual recycling rate? • (10) Q 7.9 How low is the councils' area wide level of household waste produced?

