

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?

