



Consultation on Draft National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap

**Submission to Department of Environment,
Climate and Communications**



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1. Introduction

Social Justice Ireland welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the public consultation on the Draft National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap.

2. Response to Public Consultation Questions

Below are *Social Justice Ireland's* responses to the relevant questions set out in the public consultation. We are happy to elaborate further on any of the issues outlined in this submission.

Do you think the approach as outlined in the draft Roadmap will deliver the reductions necessary to reduce Ireland's food waste by 50% by 2030?

The approach, informed by circular economy principles is welcome, however a broader perspective is required if Ireland is to reach the targets set out in the draft Roadmap. This approach goes beyond establishing a food waste baseline data set. In addition a baseline dataset is required of what food(s) Ireland is a net importer of, the correct carbon pricing of this food to inform the cost of this food waste, the proportion of current food waste that this imported food accounts for, the potential to reconfigure our own agricultural strategy to produce some of this food, and how we can in the long-term support and encourage consumers to buy food produce which is produced locally, and encourage farmers to produce food for local consumption. This will require a considerable reorientation of our agricultural aims and strategies, however the current grain and cereal crisis we are facing as a result of the war in Ukraine is a reminder that we will face further foody system challenges into the future as a result of climate change, and that in order for Ireland to be 'food resilient and food secure' policy must consider whether there is scope for amending current food production strategies.

What additional actions do you think would be effective in helping Ireland reduce its food waste?

As outlined above, incorporating the true cost of food waste (including carbon pricing of imported foods) and a systems of incentivising and promoting short local supply chains for consumers. Retailers should be encouraged to reduce packaging so that consumers can buy food items individually, and they should also be encouraged to ensure the price of food reflects the true carbon cost. This should be done in line with Circular Economy Strategy goals.

What are the most effective awareness raising measures that could be taken to reduce food waste?

The correct carbon pricing of food would help to awareness and reduce waste of imported food.

Which sectors or stakeholders do you think should play a key role in the implementation of the Roadmap?

All of the stakeholders identified in the Roadmap have a key role to play in its implementation, as does Government, policy makers, environmental organisations and civil society organisations. In terms of implementation, the Roadmap does not detail what action(s) will be taken if we fail to reach the targets, or what penalties different sectors may face if interim targets are not met. An outline of these actions would be prudent, and also the positive impact that reducing food waste will have for different sectors in meeting carbon budget targets.

Are you satisfied with the proposed Roadmap monitoring and evaluation arrangements?

The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action should have a greater role in scrutinising progress towards the targets, and an annual presentation to this committee on progress and evaluation would be appropriate.

Social Justice Ireland is an independent think-tank and justice advocacy organisation of that advances the lives of people and communities through providing independent social analysis and effective policy development to create a sustainable future for every member of society and for societies as a whole.



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An Roinn Forbartha
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