

## **Courtauld 2025: Business Case for Local Authority Financial Benefits**

### **The opportunity for Local Authorities**

As things stand, 44% of household waste that goes to landfill is food, totalling 4.7 million tonnes per year. A further 2.3 million tonnes of food waste is disposed of through other means. Local Authorities currently face costs of around £100- £150 per tonne for the collection and disposal of food waste, a total bill of £700 million - £1 billion per annum at a time when budgets are reducing.

Reducing household food waste has a direct, and immediate, positive impact on councils' budgets without the sort of pain associated with cutting budgets in other areas (e.g. social services, libraries and streetscene).

Action to reduce food waste and improve the budget situation relies on a council's ability and willingness to work with householders; and householders acting on messages given to them.

Currently, the average UK household throws away the equivalent of six meals a week. This would fill 50 carrier bags with wasted food and amounts to around £700 of wasted money every year for a family.

However, many families still do not recognise how much food goes to waste from their homes – 60% still believe they waste 'none' or 'hardly any' food. Over one third don't know how much they could save by reducing their food waste.

Councils need not be alone in seeking to act on reducing food waste and secure the much-needed financial benefits. WRAP has a plan to help called Courtauld 2025, developed with government and the supply chain.

### **How can Courtauld help?**

#### **WRAP is currently developing the next generation of its Courtauld commitment:**

**Courtauld 2025.** This is an ambitious voluntary agreement, launching in 2016, which brings together a broad range of organisations involved in the food system to make food and drink production and consumption more sustainable. By targeting hotspots of resource use, Courtauld 2025 aims to cut the waste and greenhouse gas emissions associated with food and drink by at least one-fifth per person in ten years, with cumulative savings of around £20 billion. As a critical player in this, we want you be involved.

Over the years, local authorities and the waste management sector have helped WRAP to deliver significant impact on household food waste through the consumer behaviour change campaign, Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW), helping residents to understand the issues and value their food through activities such as:

- Running local Love Food Hate Waste campaigns;
- Cookery skills development;
- Better on-pack labelling;
- Education on storage and product life; and
- Information on portion sizes and healthy and sustainable diets.

For the first time we will be opening up the commitment to a wider range of partners and we would like to invite you to join Courtauld 2025 as a key early supporter helping to deliver impact across the food system from farm to fork.



## How can local authorities benefit?

- Savings in disposal costs (gate fees plus landfill tax) at a UK level between 2015 and 2025 (i.e. over the ten year period) of up to £500 million
- By 2025 the amount of household food waste in the UK would be around 5.8 million tonnes if the Courtauld 2025 target is met and of that 3.8 to 4 million tonnes is likely to be available for collection by local authorities. This potential tonnage for collection is substantially higher than the 0.6 million tonnes currently collected separately, meaning that there is considerable scope to increase participation in existing and new food waste collection and treatment schemes, while also delivering against the Courtauld 2025 food waste 20% per capita prevention target.
- A 20% reduction in food waste arisings per household for your Authority would represent a significant reduction in food waste collection and disposal costs.
- In addition, households could save £100 per year due to wasting less food, meaning budgets will go further – and this, together with actions to increase efficiency and redistribution in the supply chain, will help the most vulnerable access better more affordable diets.
- Help foster a joined up food system in your area: Courtauld 2025 will get signatories and partners working together to achieve more. For example, business signatories will help you achieve your objectives on household food waste with stronger and more national campaigning combined with consumer engagement and behaviour change on the ground.
- Depending on the level of activity, WRAP will provide evidence, insights and expertise on consumer food waste prevention to help you prioritise action, target your delivery and achieve maximum impact with your residents. WRAP will also facilitate collaborative working across the broad range of stakeholders including academia, businesses and NGOs signed up to Courtauld 2025 and delivering Love Food Hate Waste.

## How can local authorities get involved?

***Sign up as a key Engagement Partner to the Courtauld Commitment 2025 alongside many of the UK's leading food and drink retailers, manufacturers and hospitality companies.***

As an Engagement Partner we would ask your organisation to actively support the overall ambitions of the commitment and play your part in helping your residents reduce avoidable food waste. This would include:

- working collaboratively with Courtauld 2025 partners to deliver greater impact than any signatory can achieve on their own;
- helping communicate to residents the actions which can make the biggest difference;
- measuring and reporting food waste data (as already collected by you for WasteDataFlow or where you carry out waste composition analysis); and
- reporting annually the scale of actions you have taken to help the C2025 ambitions to be met.

Local authorities are critical to maintaining the high profile of Love Food Hate Waste. Your role could range from using template LFHW partner materials to promote the campaign on social media at a foundation level, through to running targeted collaborative campaigns to show your leadership.

## What to do next?

Contact Emma Marsh on 01295 819666 or email [emma.marsh@wrap.org.uk](mailto:emma.marsh@wrap.org.uk) for more information and to request a sign-up form.

