

Food Waste (Reduction) Bill

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Require the Secretary of State to make provision for a scheme to establish incentives to implement and encourage observance of the food waste reduction hierarchy; to encourage individuals, businesses and public bodies to reduce the amount of food they waste; to require large supermarkets, manufacturers and distributors to reduce their food waste by no less than 30 per cent by 2025 and to enter into formal agreements with food redistribution organisations; to require large supermarkets and food manufacturers to disclose levels of food waste in their supply chain; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Duty to encourage food waste reduction

- (1) The Secretary of State shall have a duty to encourage individuals, businesses and public bodies to reduce the amount of food they waste.
- (2) In discharging the duty under subsection (1), the Secretary of State shall—
- (a) set a target to halve per capita food waste in England by 2030; 5
 - (b) seek to work with Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Ministers to—
 - (i) agree,
 - (ii) meet,
 a target for food waste reduction by 2030 for the United Kingdom.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall establish and publish, after appropriate consultation, a food waste reduction strategy for achieving the target under subsection (2)(a). 10
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations—
- (a) define appropriate consultation, and
 - (b) make provision for a scheme to deliver the food waste reduction strategy under subsection (3). 15

- (5) The food waste reduction strategy under subsection (3), and the scheme under subsection (4), shall, amongst other things –
- (a) set annual objectives and targets and the key indicators by which progress towards such objectives and targets shall be measured, 5
 - (b) take into account the principles and practices of the food waste reduction hierarchy, and
 - (c) include incentives for individuals, public sector bodies and private sector companies to implement and encourage observance of the food waste reduction hierarchy, which the Secretary of State must make provision for. 10

2 Food waste from large businesses

- (1) In the discharge of his duty under Section 1, the Secretary of State shall by regulation require large supermarkets, manufacturers and distributors to –
- (a) reduce their food waste across their supply chains by no less than 30 per cent by 2025, from a 2016 baseline, 15
 - (b) agree an industry benchmark by the end of 2018 for measuring on-farm waste,
 - (c) set a target, or targets, for the reduction of on-farm waste against the benchmark agreed under paragraph (b),
 - (d) make proposals for achieving a reduction of food waste by 50 per cent by 2030 from a 2016 baseline, and 20
 - (e) enter into formal agreements with food redistribution organisations within 6 months of this Act coming into force, for the purpose of donating unsold in-date food to such organisations.
- (2) The Secretary of State may make provision about the content of the formal agreements mentioned in subsection (1)(b) in regulations. 25
- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) shall define –
- (a) “large supermarkets, manufacturers and distributors” for the purposes of subsection (1) and section 3(1); and
 - (b) “food distribution charities” for the purposes of subsection (1)(b). 30
- (4) Before requiring that formal agreements under subsection (1)(b) are entered into, the Secretary of State must consult relevant bodies and organisations including, but not limited to –
- (a) supermarkets,
 - (b) food manufacturers, 35
 - (c) food distributors, and
 - (d) food redistribution organisations,
- on the terms of such agreements.

3 Disclosure of levels of food waste from supermarkets and food manufacturers

- (1) Large supermarkets and food manufacturers shall be required to disclose levels of food waste in their supply chain. 40
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision about this requirement.

4 Reporting to Parliament

- (1) The Secretary of State must lay an annual report before Parliament on the discharge of his duty under subsection 1(1).
- (2) The report under subsection (1) must –
 - (a) include a statement from the Secretary of State setting out how he has complied with the duty under subsection (1); and 5
 - (b) include an assessment of whether the target under subsection (2)(a) has been achieved.
- (3) Where an annual report under subsection (1) shows that the target set for that year has not been, or was not, met the Secretary of State must, as soon as reasonably practicable after laying the report, lay before Parliament a statement complying with subsection (4). 10
- (4) A statement under subsection (3) must –
 - (a) set out why the annual target has not been met;
 - (b) describe any steps that the Secretary of State has taken, or plans to take, to ensure that the targets within the strategy will be met by the end of the following report year. 15
- (5) In this section “report year”, means the period of 12 months which is the most recent relevant period to which the information included relates.

5 Interpretation

In this Act, “food waste” and “food waste reduction” shall be defined in regulations, taking into account such terms as have been validated by or are in accordance with –

- (a) the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
 - (b) the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and 25
 - (c) the waste hierarchy as set out in the Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 and Waste Regulations 2011,
- save that methods of “food waste reduction” for the purposes of this Act shall not include any form of waste disposal.

6 Regulations, extent, commencement and short title

- (1) Regulations under this Act shall be made by statutory instrument to be laid before each House of Parliament under the negative resolution procedure. 30
- (2) This Act extends to England.
- (3) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (4) This Act may be cited as the Food Waste (Reduction) Act 2016. 35

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To require the Secretary of State to make provision for a scheme to establish incentives to implement and encourage observance of the food waste reduction hierarchy; to encourage individuals, businesses and public bodies to reduce the amount of food they waste; to require large supermarkets, manufacturers and distributors to reduce their food waste by no less than 30 per cent by 2025 and to enter into formal agreements with food redistribution organisations; to require large supermarkets and food manufacturers to disclose levels of food waste in their supply chain; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Kerry McCarthy,
Caroline Lucas, Zac Goldsmith,
Margaret Ferrier, Huw Irranca-Davies,
Seema Malhotra, Frank Field,
Steve Rotheram, Dr Alan Whitehead,
Daniel Zeichner and Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck.*

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