

Towards the 2030 food waste commitment

May 2026

Tracking progress
and action against the
Food Waste Coalition's
baseline



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Introduction

Since publishing its [baseline report in 2023](#) based on the amount of food waste generated in 2021, The Consumer Goods Forum's (CGF) [Food Waste Coalition of Action](#) has continued to advance its ambition to reduce food loss and waste across global retail and manufacturing operations.

This report provides an updated view of progress against that 2021 baseline, drawing on the latest available data from participating members. It reflects the Coalition's ongoing commitment to transparency, measurement, and accountability, recognised as essential drivers of meaningful and sustained action.

The findings demonstrate that individual members are taking concrete steps to reduce food waste within their own operations, while increasingly working in collaboration with suppliers and consumers to address systemic challenges. Improvements in data quality and reporting scope further strengthen the Coalition's ability to track progress and identify priority areas for action.

At the same time, the scale and complexity of food loss and waste remain significant. Continued progress will depend on sustained effort, innovation, and deeper collaboration across the value chain. In this context, the Coalition is also advancing the development of a Framework designed to help quantify the environmental, social, and economic benefits of food waste reduction and strengthen the business case for action across the full value chain.

As the Coalition moves forward, this report serves as both a measure of progress and a tool to inform action, supporting individual members and the wider industry in accelerating efforts towards the shared goal of halving food waste in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 12.3.

We hope that our progress and lessons learned will be valuable for our members, companies within and beyond the consumer goods sector, and stakeholders across value chains.



Food waste intensity

The global picture

Tracking efficiency across the value chain

To account for changes in sales and production volumes, the Coalition uses food waste intensity as the primary metric for operational efficiency. This metric measures food waste as the proportion of food handled that is discarded as waste, providing a key indicator of operational efficiency in managing food resources. As our reporting maturity grows, members are refining historical data and expanding their scope. This commitment to accuracy ensures our path to 2030 is grounded in high-quality, transparent evidence.

Food waste intensity = total food waste ÷ total food handled



Quantitative insights

1. **Measurable Progress:** We have achieved a **22% decline** in average company-level food waste intensity among participating companies compared to the 2021 baseline year.*
2. **Tonnage Reality:** While intensity is improving, the **2.9 million tonnes** of total food waste remains a significant call for further action and collaboration.

Qualitative insights

1. Coalition members have in place or are developing a **clear recommended roadmap for action on reducing food waste in their operations.**
2. The **large majority are taking action to collaborate with supply chain partners** to reduce Food Loss and Waste.
3. Coalition members are providing evidence of **improvements in data quality** and reporting seen through improvements in submission quality and updating historical data. As other companies find, the emphasis on improving accuracy and scope may lead to an increase in food waste.

*Data verified by WRAP based on 2024 data submitted in 2025. Only businesses that provided a figure for food produced or sold as intended were included in the calculations here. The data here represents the average of individual company-level food waste intensity values. This approach best represents sectoral trends given the variability in size among companies. This figure reflects a restatement from prior reporting years. As companies improve the quality of their data it may be subject to future amends.

Performance by sector

Manufacturing success and retail progress

Manufacturing success

All reporting manufacturers have reduced their food waste intensity, a testament to targeted operational action.

Diverse retail progress

While overall retail intensity declined slightly, we see significant reductions in high-intensity operations, while others have reached an efficiency plateau requiring new, collaborative solutions.

Actionable roadmaps

Members are now deploying clear recommended roadmaps to navigate these sector-specific hurdles, moving beyond individual action toward stronger supply chain collaboration.

Average Company-Level Food Waste Intensity:
Food waste as % of product handled (tonnes)

By Sector	2021	2024	Difference from 2021 to 2024
Manufacturer	2.44%	1.23%	-49.43%
# companies	5	4	
Retailer	1.98%	1.93%	-2.79%
# companies	5	10	
Total (combined)	2.21%	1.73%	-21.76%
# companies	10	14	

Food waste prevention and preferred destinations (% of unsold food)

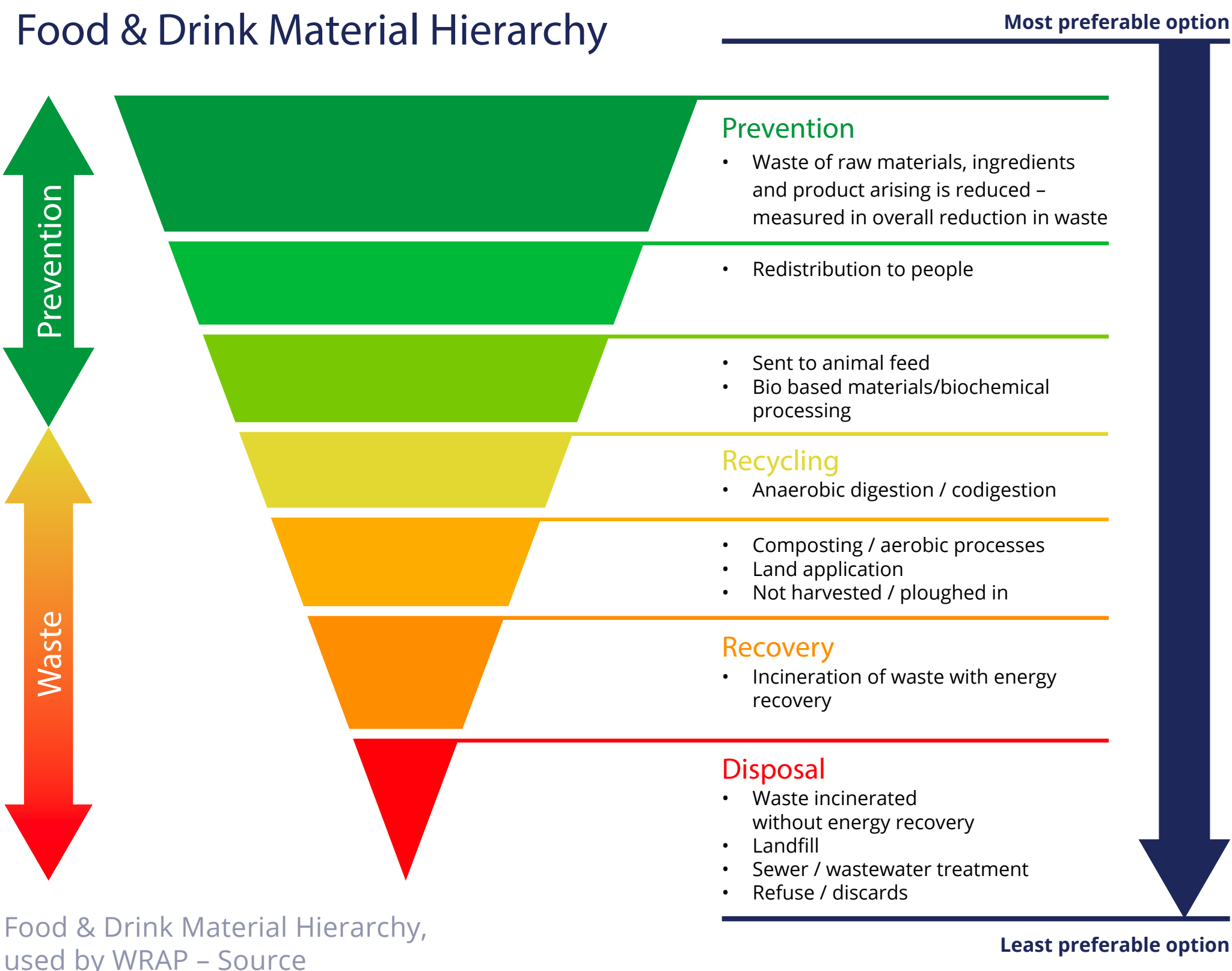
Prioritising the human food chain

In line with the Food & Drink Material Hierarchy, our priority is keeping food in the human chain through redistribution and surplus management. Members are increasingly managing surplus before it ever becomes “waste”.

Food waste prevention
 Food waste prevention is taking place among Coalition members. Among the retailers reporting, **nearly one-quarter (24%) of unsold food in 2024 was redistributed to feed people**. Converting it into animal feed is the next most preferable option and among the manufacturers reporting 2024 data, **over half (55%) of the total unsold food was recycled for animal feed**.

Valorised waste
 If food cannot be used for human or animal consumption, preferred options include **anaerobic digestion and composting**, as they support circular systems. These destinations are used for approximately **one-fifth of unsold food** by both retailers and manufacturers (representing respectively **22%** and **18%** of unsold food).

Non-valorised waste
 Use of the non-valorised destinations differs between retailers and manufacturers due to structural constraints and value chain differences. **Landfill is more common among retailers, accounting for 39%** of unsold food tonnes in 2024, while **sewer disposal** is more common among manufacturers,



Catalysing systemic change for people and planet

Waste reduction and valorisation as a lever for social and environmental impact

The Food Waste Coalition is moving beyond individual operational improvements to focus on **more impactful action**. We recognise that meaningful food waste reduction and valorisation are the primary levers for delivering the social and environmental outcomes at the core of our strategy.

- **Social impact (Redistribution):** Prioritising the human food chain is a key strategic pillar. In 2024, nearly **one-quarter (24%)** of unsold retail food was successfully redistributed to feed people.
- **Environmental impact (GHG Mitigation):** Shifting away from non-valorised destinations is critical to reducing the climate impact of food waste. The vast majority of individual companies have between 2021 and 2024 reduced the proportion of food waste sent to a landfill. Given that food decomposing in a landfill contributes significantly to GHG emissions, this is an important trend among Coalition members that helps reduce the environmental impact of wasted food.
- **System-wide valorisation:** When human or animal consumption is not possible, we advocate for circular systems such as anaerobic digestion and composting, which account for **18%–22%** of unsold food depending on the sectors.

Our future focus is on accelerating the transition away from the least-preferred destinations by scaling effective solutions to prevent waste from being generated and strengthening collaboration across the entire value chain.

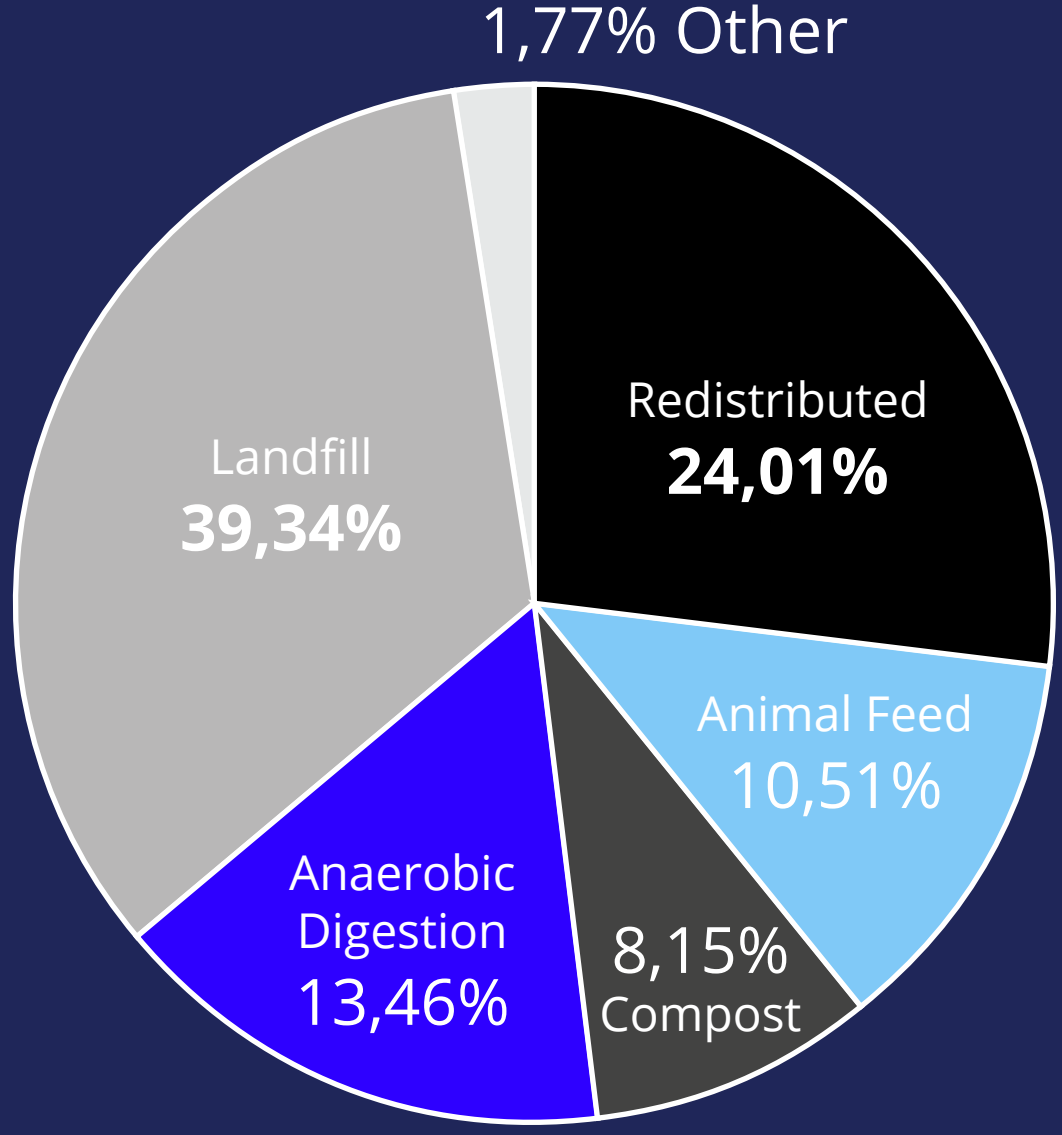
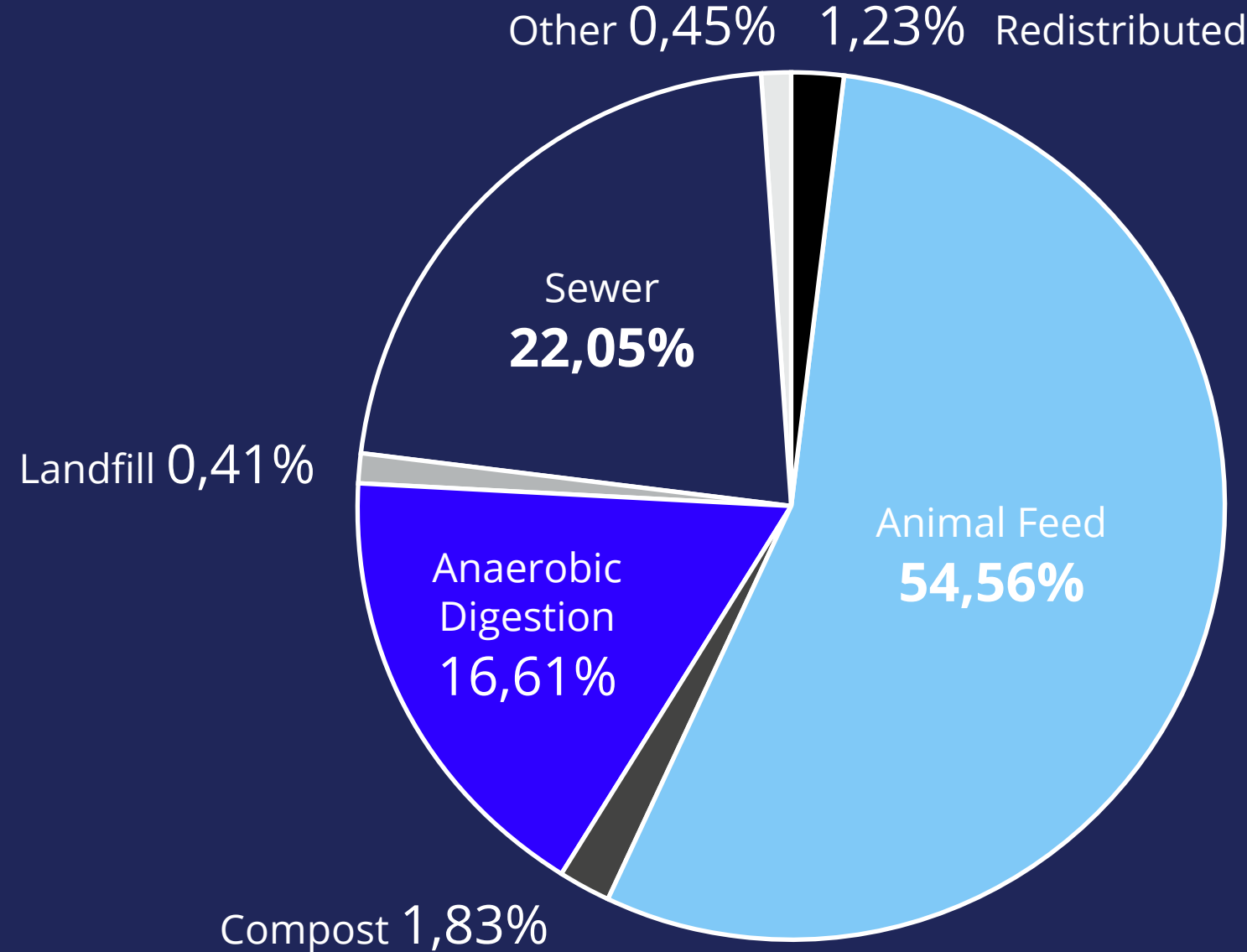


Food waste and surplus destinations as a % of unsold food*

Summary charts

Manufacturers

Retailers



2024 (food waste and surplus as a percentage of unsold food; aggregated total)

	Manufacturers	Retailers
Redistributed	1,23%	24,01%
Animal Feed	54,56%	10,51%
Compost	1,83%	8,15%
Anaerobic Digestion	16,61%	13,46%
Landfill	0,41%	39,34%
Sewer	22,05%	0,00%
Other	0,45%	1,77%

* This calculation is based on each sector's aggregated food waste or surplus divided by the total of unsold food. It shows the proportion of unsold food among reporting companies going to waste or other destinations.

Conclusion

Three years on from the establishment of its baseline, the Food Waste Coalition of Action is demonstrating measurable progress in reducing food waste and strengthening reporting practices across its membership.

Coalition members increasingly have clear recommended roadmaps to reduce food waste within their own operations, while also stepping up collaboration with supply chain partners. This shift reflects a growing recognition that systemic change requires collaborative action across the value chain.

At the same time, improvements in data quality and reporting are becoming evident. Enhanced accuracy, expanded scope, and better historical tracking are strengthening the robustness of submissions. As seen across the

industry, this increased precision can lead to a rise in reported food waste, reflecting improved measurement rather than declining performance.

The data shows a clear 22% reduction in the average food waste intensity, alongside solid adoption of preferred destinations such as redistribution, animal feed, and circular recovery solutions. These results reflect targeted action and the growing maturity of food waste management approaches.

However, significant challenges remain. The overall volume of food waste is still high, and progress continues to vary across sectors and geographies. Structural constraints, including infrastructure limitations and operational complexity, continue to shape outcomes.

Looking ahead, continued focus will be needed to:

- **Further improve data formatting consistency and voluntary transparency**
- **Scale effective waste prevention solutions across operations and supply chains**
- **Accelerate the transition away from least preferred waste destinations**
- **Strengthen collaboration to address shared challenges**

The Coalition remains committed to helping to drive progress through action, with the ambition of contributing meaningfully to global efforts to halve food loss and waste by 2030.



Appendix

Key definitions

Unsold = redistribution + all FLW destinations; same as surplus + waste. This refers to food that is not sold as intended and either redistributed for human consumption or sent to other FLW destinations **(e.g. animal feed, biomaterials, or waste)**.

Handled = sold (as intended) + unsold.

Surplus = redistribution + animal feed + bio/industrial uses.

Waste = anaerobic digestion + compost + landspread + land fill
+ energy from waste/incineration + sewer + other.



About us

The CGF Food Waste Coalition

Leading a Global Commitment to Halve Food Loss and Waste by 2030.

When our Coalition was launched in 2020, its members set out to support the voluntary adoption of an ambitious yet practical recommended strategy that will have real, lasting impacts on our global food systems and ensure more food makes it from producers, to grocery stores and finally on to consumers' tables. Thanks to its CEO leadership, our Coalition is able to support swift action to address the important issue of Food Loss and Waste (FLW) within the industry.

The Food Waste Coalition is already working to reduce waste by focusing on four priority actions:

- 1. Measurement and Reporting:** Public reporting drives internal action and builds consumer trust. The Coalition partnered with WRAP to create a baseline report to track progress in halving food waste in its operations from 2021 to 2030. About The Consumer Goods Forum
- 2. Scaling up the 10x20x30 Initiative:** The Coalition collaborates with Champions 12.3 to meet UN SDG 12.3 through the 10x20x30 Initiative, which supports plans for the entire supply chain to reduce food loss and waste.
- 3. Upstream Losses:** Approximately 30% of food loss happens post-harvest, but more data is needed. The Coalition and WWF are working with growers and buyers to measure post-harvest losses and improve system efficiency.
- 4. Consumer Engagement:** Around 60% of food waste occurs in homes. The Coalition's #TooGoodToWaste campaign educates consumers and partners with retailers to reduce household food waste. In 2024, the Sustainable Kitchen online hub was launched to inspire corporate-level campaigns that promote reducing waste and healthier eating.

We invite CGF members and interested stakeholders to see how they can get involved in the Food Waste Coalition and help support our work to drive positive change.

Coalition Governance

Co-Sponsors

Ken Murphy

Group CEO, Tesco plc

Max Koeune

President & CEO, McCain Foods

Co-Chairs

Chris Franke

Senior Manager of Global Sustainability, Walmart

Annabelle Souchon

Global Circular Economy Lead, Bel Group

The Consumer Goods Forum

Guided by the vision “Better Lives Through Better Business”, The Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) is the only CEO-led, global organisation that unites retailers and manufacturers to drive positive change across the consumer goods industry.

With a unique model grounded in pre-competitive collaboration, we bring together the world’s leading companies to tackle shared challenges such as sustainability, human rights, food safety and product data.

Our global network offers unparalleled access to insights, best practices, and a thriving community committed to securing consumer trust, delivering greater impact and supporting sustainable growth.

By working across regions and with key stakeholders, we help future-proof businesses and shape a better future — for people, for the planet, and for the industry.

The CGF reflects the immense diversity of the industry, representing some 380 retailers, manufacturers, and service providers across 70 countries. Our member companies account for combined sales of EUR 5.2 trillion and directly employ nearly 10 million people, with an estimated 90 million additional jobs along the value chain.

For more information, please visit:
www.theconsumergoodsforum.com

