



FoodCycle

FoodCycle, Southbank House, Black Prince Rd, London, SE1 7SJ

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Registered charity no. 1134423

FoodCycle builds communities through the power of good food. We combine surplus food, volunteers and spare kitchen spaces to create tasty three-course meals for people at risk of food poverty and loneliness.

We have four main aims:

- build stronger communities by encouraging volunteers and guests to dine and talk with each other
- reduce food poverty by providing nutritious meals to vulnerable groups
- reduce isolation by providing a three course nutritious meal in a communal setting
- change attitudes to food to reduce food waste



Volunteers create positive social change in their communities, and use surplus food that would otherwise have been wasted.

We run a national network of volunteer-powered projects in Bath, Bristol, Birmingham, Cambridge, Clacton-on-Sea, Durham, Exeter, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Norwich, Peterborough, Portsmouth, Sheffield, and 9 across London.

Partnerships

We work with major food retailers including Marks and Spencer, Morrison's, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, together with local independent retailers and markets.

Our impact

We started cooking in May 2009 and serve over 900 community meals a week by using over 1 tonne of reclaimed food.

"I don't have much money left by the time I've paid my bills, I just make easy things like maybe I buy a quiche or maybe an egg on toast or cheese sandwich or things like that. Because by the time I've paid everything I don't have much money left anyway."

"But this is really good. This is good for you. It's lovely. This is what my body needs because my immune system is low. Coming here now I'm getting all the vitamins. I'm really thankful. You're all kind to do this for us"

Theresa, guest at FoodCycle Islington

87% of our guests say a FoodCycle meal has a positive effect on their community and 2/3 guests have made friends since coming to a FoodCycle meal.



The need for FoodCycle

Food poverty – there is an estimated 8 million people in the UK who struggle to get enough to eat (UN, 2016). We address this need by providing free sit-down meals to those in need in the community.

Loneliness – there is extensive research that shows the connection between loneliness and mental health issues. FoodCycle addresses this by providing community dining experiences, bringing the community together and reducing loneliness.

Food waste – An estimated 15 million tonnes of food is wasted in Britain from plough to plate. If we stopped wasting food it would be the CO₂ equivalent of taking 1 in 4 cars off the road (WRAP).

Awards and recognition

We have achieved coverage in major newspapers including The Guardian, the Daily Mail, The Times, The Telegraph and the Evening Standard, and have featured on BBC2, BBC Radio 1, CNN and ITN London as well as local radio stations.

We have received a number of awards including the Prime Minister's 'Big Society Award' 2011, 'Highly Commended' at the Charity Awards 2014, BBC Good Food's Great Gamechangers of 2015 and were shortlisted for the Community Awards in the Charity Times Awards in 2016.

Campaigns

We sit on the London Food Board and are involved in the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger and Food Poverty in Britain, led by Frank Field MP. We have been involved in Kerry McCarthy MP's proposed Food Waste Bill and the Food Redistribution roundtable with the Environment Secretary, DEFRA, WRAP, and representatives of all major supermarkets.

CEO, trustees and patrons

Chief Executive: Mary McGrath. Mary has over twenty years' experience of the charitable food sector, having worked for Grocery Aid, IGD and FareShare. Mary has been with FoodCycle for four years and is working to scale the charity over the next five years.

Patrons: Kerry McCarthy MP

Trustees: Penelope Daly, Delphine Brand, Duncan Brewer, Regan Leahy, Daniel Oppenheimer, Pippa Garland.