

# Industry agreement on reduction of food waste<sup>1</sup>

## between

The Ministry of Climate and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Children and Equality, Ministry of Health and Care Services, and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries,

henceforth called the authorities

and

Dagligvarehandelens Miljøforum (The Groceries Sector's Environmental Forum), Dagligvareleverandørenes forening (The Grocery Suppliers of Norway), NHO Mat og Drikke (Food Drink Norway), NHO Reiseliv (Norwegian Hospitality Association), NHO Service (National Federation of Service Industries), Norges Bondelag (The Norwegian Agrarian Association), Norges Fiskarlag (The Norwegian Fishermen's Association), Norsk Bonde- og Småbrukarlag (Norwegian Farmers and Smallholders Union), Norske Sjømatbedrifters Landsforening (The Norwegian Seafood Association), Næringslivets Hovedorganisasjon (Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise), Sjømat Norge (Norwegian Seafood Federation) og Virke (The Enterprise Federation of Norway),

henceforth called the food industry

## 1. Background

- A third of all food produced in the world is never eaten, because food is spoiled or discarded.<sup>2</sup>
- Production, transportation and storage of food, as well as treatment of food waste, affect our environment. Less food loss will help reduce environmental pressure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve resource conservation and global food security.
- Norway is committed to following through on the UN's sustainability goals<sup>3</sup>, including sub-goal 12.3, stating that global food waste should be halved by 2030. The Paris Agreement requires all countries to report on increasingly ambitious national contributions towards reducing climate emissions.<sup>4</sup>
- The authorities and the food industry entered into an agreement of intent on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 to reduce food waste. This would be valid until replaced by a detailed agreement. This industry agreement replaces the previous agreement of intent.

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<sup>1</sup> With food waste we refer to the edible part of food waste, see item 3.

<sup>2</sup> FAO (2011) <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/mb060e/mb060e00.pdf>  
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. "Agriculture" Includes agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fn.no/Tema/FNs-baerekraftsmaal/Dette-er-FNs-baerekraftsmaal>

<sup>4</sup> Article 4.2 and 4.3 of the Paris agreement [[http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9485.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php)]

## 2. Purpose

- The parties to the agreement will cooperate to promote better utilisation of resources and raw materials through prevention and reduction of food waste throughout the food chain. The agreement will thereby contribute towards reducing the environmental consequences associated with food production and consumption in Norway.
- The agreement will provide increased knowledge of the extent and causes of food waste, contribute to the exchange of experience between the actors and lead to cooperation across the food chain.
- The agreement will contribute towards better knowledge and attitudes among consumers and within the food industry in order to preserve food and prevent/reduce food waste. The agreement implies, inter alia, that the parties should facilitate consumer behavior that contributes to reduced food waste in households.

## 3. Definition of food waste

The following definition of food waste is used as the base of this agreement and as the background for assessing the results:

*"Food waste includes all edible parts of food produced for humans, but which is either disposed of or removed from the food chain for purposes other than human consumption, from the time when animals and plants are slaughtered or harvested."*

"Because of this definition, it is considered as food waste when useful parts of food produced for humans end up as animal feed.

The parties will contribute to the best possible utilisation of resources throughout the value chain. Although potential wastage before slaughtering or harvesting periods are not considered food waste, the industry will nevertheless seek to obtain first line data and take measures to reduce waste.

## 4. Reduction targets

Based on UN Sustainability Goal 12.3, an overall food waste reduction target in Norway is set to 50 % by 2030. This calculation is for the entire food chain, measured in kg per person

The reduction target of 50 % by 2030 is subdivided into two overall sub-targets:

- 15 % reduction by 2020
- 30 % reduction by 2025

The objectives apply to the parties to the agreement as a whole. In order to achieve the reduction targets, food waste must be reduced throughout the food chain, including the consumer level. Waste must not be moved from one part of the food chain to another.

The reduction in food waste will be measured using 2015 as point of departure<sup>5</sup>. Reduction of food waste achieved before this will be highlighted through the compilation of trends in 2020, 2025 and 2030.

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<sup>5</sup> In 2015 food waste in Norway (food industry, wholesale, grocery and household) amounted to 355,000 tonnes, or 68,7 kg per capita. (Food waste from Norwegian households constitutes 42.1 kg of food per person per year. Food waste from households account for 13% of their total food consumption ("every eighth grocery-bag is discarded"). These figures are from the ForMat project's final report (2016) and covers only four sections in the value chain (food industry, wholesale, grocery and households), and does not cover the primary part, the

## 5. Contract partners' deliveries

### Parties to the contract within the food industry

- are to survey the extent and composition of food waste within the part of the food sector they represent, and report on this every year. For the parts of the food chain where no concrete statistics are available, this should be mapped as soon as possible in order to assess the development of loss for the entire value chain.
- are to coordinate work with mapping and reporting within the part of the food sector they represent.
- are to provide a main report for the years 2020, 2025 and 2030. The report will also highlight causes behind food waste and cost savings to be gained by reducing food waste at an overall industry level.
- are in their main reports to state what they have undertaken as actions and initiatives.
- are to seek cooperation in the value chain and also carry out initiatives on their own that contribute towards achieving the objectives of the agreement.
- are to implement measures, in accordance with the purpose of the industry agreement, that can help consumers waste less food.
- are, in cooperation with the authorities, to develop a simple system that stimulates and demonstrates the best possible resource utilization of food that has become food waste<sup>6</sup>.
- are to contribute towards donations of surplus food to charitable organizations/food centres.
- are to encourage actors in their part of the food sector to participate in reporting and reducing food waste. It is up to each contracting party how they choose to organise this work.
- are to prepare an action plan for each sector in order to reach the objective of the agreement. The plans must be dynamic.

### The authorities

- are to develop a system ready for receiving reports from the industry.
- are to compile national statistics, report to the EU and map food waste at the consumer level.
- are to compile the main reports that illustrate developments in food waste in Norway in 2020, 2025 and 2030. These reports are to be made publicly available and make visible the savings of reduced food waste at an overall industrial level.
- are to contribute towards influencing consumers to waste less food, in accordance with the overall purpose of the industry agreement.
- are to facilitate food donations, in cooperation with the food industry.
- are to encourage public sector enterprises to participate in the work of reporting and reducing food waste.
- are to develop action plans in order to reach the goal of the agreement. The plans must be dynamic.
- are to arrange annual coordination meetings between the parties.

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hotel and catering industries, public institutions and offices. In addition, parts of the food industry are not mapped (fish processing, mill and flour producers and brewery and mineral water producers), and food waste via wastewater is not mapped (applies mainly to households and the food industry).

<sup>6</sup> Form and direction will be elaborated at the start of the agreement period.

## **6. Organisation**

A coordination group of the parties to the agreement has been established. At least one meeting per year will be held, where, amongst other things, progress and actions are presented and discussed.

The Ministry of Climate and Environment is responsible for coordination and for convening meetings.

## **7. Endorsement by companies**

Companies can actively commit to the objectives of the agreement through a declaration of endorsement. This is coordinated by the industry organisations.

## **8. Economics and the relationship to competition rules**

Each of the parties to the agreement are to bear the costs of their own efforts.

The contracting parties shall coordinate reporting from the part of the food industry they represent.

The contracting parties shall act in accordance with the competition law at all times, and they must be conscious of these regulations in their contact with each other. Reporting and other sharing of information under the agreement shall take place within the framework of the competition rules and regulations.

## **9. Duration**

The industry agreement is valid from the time of signing in June 2017. The coordination group will evaluate the agreement after delivery of the main reports for the years 2020, 2025 and 2030.

It is possible for other relevant industry organisations to join the agreement later. New contracting parties are to be approved by the existing contracting parties.

Any contracting party may freely withdraw from the agreement with one month's written notice to the Ministry of Climate and Environment, who notifies the other contracting parties.

The agreement may be renegotiated or terminated in the event of significant changes in the terms of the agreement.

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Virke

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