



Bwyd a Diod Cymru
Food & Drink Wales

Supporting FareShare Cymru

Food & Drink Wales Sustainability Cluster



Sustainability Cluster

The Sustainability Cluster is part of the Food & Drink Wales Cluster Programme and is aimed at supporting growth through industry collaboration and connectivity.

facilitates businesses in completing the B Impact Assessments and manages a specific B Corp workstream of businesses keen on achieving the coveted certification.

1 Market insight

Through engagement with retailers, industry experts and market research, the Sustainability Cluster will help you identify what sustainability credentials your business needs to meet the expectations of both consumers and retailers.

2 Access to expertise and innovation

The Sustainability Cluster has links with Welsh Government, academia, the food innovation centres, Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre Cymru, Food and Drink Skills Wales and others. Access to this expertise will help your business with process improvement, automation, reformulation, packaging, waste management and much more.

3 1:1 support provided for B Corp certification

The Sustainability Cluster boasts a successful track record of collaborating closely with Welsh food and drink businesses, guiding them through the B Corp certification process. The Cluster

4 Branding and showcasing at events

Under the Food & Drink Wales branding, the Sustainability Cluster showcases businesses at important events such as the Royal Welsh Show and BlasCymru / Taste Wales, providing the perfect platform to connect with a wide audience and promote the sustainability credentials of your products.

5 Growing community

Already boasting over a hundred members from across the industry, along with government bodies and 30 academic organisations, the Sustainability Cluster is continually growing and providing a valuable resource for food and drink businesses to flourish and succeed, through sharing information and best practice.

For further information about the Food & Drink Wales Sustainability Cluster, please contact:

SustainableFD@gov.wales



Find out more about how we can support your food and drink business become more sustainable:
food-drink.wales/business

Working with FareShare Cymru to **Reduce Food Waste and Strengthen Welsh Communities**



As part of the Sustainability Cluster's vision to make Welsh food and drink the most sustainably produced in the world, the Sustainability Cluster works in partnership with FareShare Cymru to tackle food waste and support social good.

FareShare Cymru collects surplus food and redistributes it to charities and community groups across Wales, bringing people together, creating shared meals, and strengthening communities throughout the country.

Each year, an estimated 4.5 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK — with around 400,000 tonnes wasted annually in Wales alone, much of it still good to eat. This waste not only impacts Wales but also

contributes significantly to global climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

With 1 in 5 adults in Wales facing poverty and food insecurity, allowing good food to go to waste should never be the only option. FareShare Cymru are committed to working with Welsh food businesses to redirect good-to-eat surplus food to people and communities, turning an environmental problem into a social solution.

By connecting Welsh food and drink businesses with FareShare's redistribution network, the Sustainability Cluster help ensure surplus food is diverted from waste and reaches communities in need.

Where Can Welsh Food and Drink Producers Donate?

01 Cardiff Distribution Centre
Unit S5, Capital Business Park,
Cardiff, CF2 3PU
029 20362111
info@fareshare.cymru

02 Merseyside distribution centre
Unit 1 A/B Academy Business Park
Lees Road, Liverpool, L33 7SA
0151 486 1139
fsmerseyside@fareshare.org.uk

Surplus with Purpose Fund

In recent years, rising costs have hit the food industry hard, with cost pressures often cited as a barrier to donating surplus food. Disposing of food through methods like landfill or anaerobic digestion can be cheaper than donating. To tackle this, FareShare Cymru introduced the Surplus with Purpose Cymru Fund - a vital initiative that allows Welsh food businesses to donate surplus food completely free of charge, covering all associated costs like staffing, packaging, and transport.

Since April 2024, the fund has brought 342 tonnes of fresh produce including cucumbers, potatoes, cauliflower, and milk into FareShare's warehouses at no cost to businesses. This has prevented an estimated 1,058 tonnes of CO2 emissions

that would have been released if the food ended up in landfill. Through redistributing this surplus, FareShare Cymru have helped provide approximately 814,285 meals for people who need them most.

The Sustainability Cluster plays a key role in building awareness of this fund among its members as part of our commitment to Promoting Best Practice. By encouraging Welsh food and drink producers to donate surplus food and connecting them with FareShare Cymru, we help ensure good food is put to use rather than going to waste - supporting both environmental and social sustainability



To find out more:
fareshare.cymru/surplus-with-purpose/



Visit p.20-21 for a full list of who
FareShare Cymru work with

“There’s a Much Bigger Picture...and Food is Always a Part of That”

Community Volunteers Wales (CVW) is a charity dedicated to supporting people facing poverty and isolation in Risca and beyond. Founded during the 2020 lockdown, CVW began by helping vulnerable residents with shopping and medication deliveries. As needs grew, so did their services - most notably with the launch of “The Pantri,” a welcoming community pantry and coffee shop.

With support from FareShare Cymru, CVW receives weekly deliveries of surplus food, including fresh produce, dairy, and more. This reliable supply allows them to offer affordable food baskets to members, helping families stretch their budgets and reduce food waste. In 2023, The Pantri won the Welsh Charity Awards’ Trailblazer award for its outstanding community impact, now serving over 560 members and saving 350kg of food from landfill every week.

Thanks to a pop-up kitchen from FareShare Cymru, CVW now runs cooking sessions and workshops, empowering people with essential life skills and building confidence through food. Beyond food, CVW also runs a bike repair hub, a free school uniform scheme, a pet food and baby bank, and events to tackle loneliness.

As co-founder Tara says, “Food is what helps us connect to everyone — it’s a gateway to offer people more support.” FareShare Cymru is proud to partner with CVW, helping them create lasting change and a stronger, more resilient community.

“Food is what helps us connect to everyone — it’s a gateway to offer people more support.”



Sirhowy Community Centre: A Place for Food, Fun and Friendship

Sirhowy Community Centre is a vibrant hub bringing people of all ages together through food, creativity, and support. With the help of FareShare Cymru's Pop-Up Kitchen, the centre has expanded its meal offerings and activities, supporting families, children, and older residents — especially during the cost-of-living crisis.

The centre runs FoodShare sessions, creative holiday clubs with hot meals, art classes, and ongoing donation drives for food, clothing, and essentials. Thanks to the Pop-Up Kitchen, they can now serve sit-down meals for up to 24 people indoors or over 100 at outdoor events, making every gathering special.

Looking ahead, Sirhowy Community Centre plans to launch a lunch club for older residents and provide free slow cookers to help families prepare affordable, healthy meals at home. The centre's dedicated volunteers and welcoming atmosphere are helping to tackle loneliness, build friendships, and create lasting memories.

FareShare Cymru is proud to support Sirhowy Community Centre as they strengthen community bonds and improve wellbeing for everyone in Sirhowy.





Grow Rhondda: Welcome Platter Lunch Club

Grow Rhondda, based in Tynewydd, is a grassroots organisation dedicated to sustainable food, climate action, and community wellbeing. In early 2025, with support from FareShare Cymru, they launched the Welcome Platter Lunch Club - a monthly event that transforms surplus food into delicious shared meals and meaningful connections.

Held at their community hub, Y Pot Bach, the club brings people together for a hot, nutritious meal made from FareShare-supplied surplus food. Guests enjoy trying new recipes, making friends, and feeling part of a supportive community. As one attendee shared, "This was more than just food to me."

The Lunch Club is just one of Grow Rhondda's many projects, which also include a community fridge, gardening workshops, a 'Men's Shed', and support for people growing food at home. All their work is rooted in sustainability, wellbeing, and community-led action.

With plans for themed lunches, creative workshops, and more, Grow Rhondda continues to show how surplus food can do so much more than fill plates - it can bring people together and spark lasting positive change.

FareShare Cymru is proud to support Grow Rhondda's inspiring work in building a healthier, more connected community.

"This was more than just food to me."



Y Pantri Project: How to Feed a Local Community

In 2023, St Giles Cymru set up Y Pantri in Colwyn Bay, becoming Wales's first 'social supermarket' service. The aim is to "allow members of the community to choose their own food, that is more suited to them and their families, rather than being allocated a selection of products, like that of a food bank." This approach "is beneficial for consumers' confidence and independence, allowing them to get back on their feet with a sense of control over their situation: a sense of stability in such unstable circumstances."

Y Pantri "currently is in support of over 75 people, with an aim to lift them out of poverty indefinitely." Members pay just £3.50 a week for a choice of 10 items, "colour-coded in terms of retail pricing." The project is supported by "121 trained experts who offer advice and referrals to those who use the service."

Stacey Brady, Pantri Co-ordinator, shares: "Running the Pantri helps me to get people in a better place, and be able to move forward. Being in the position I am, as a parent, I understand the importance of being able to provide for your children, and the impact that has on your mental health if you can't; taking this pressure away from families and helping the vulnerable is rewarding in itself."

Y Pantri goes beyond food, "providing additional services like offering advice and

support via Wales's Peer Advice Network," and "supporting both people at risk of criminal exploitation and those who have been caught within the Criminal Justice system."

Stacey adds: "FareShare and St Giles Cymru have a really good relationship. We now have four deliveries a week, which is important for Y Pantri to be able to deliver the goods to our clientele. Without the help of FareShare, we wouldn't be able to fulfil the needs surrounding food poverty in the area. FareShare have opened opportunities for people to taste new and different processes of cooking. They cater for vegan, vegetarian, glucose free etc., which is amazing."

FareShare Cymru is proud to support innovative projects like Y Pantri, "helping make a positive difference in people's lives."

"Running the Pantri helps me to get people in a better place, and be able to move forward."



Hope at The Hive: Reducing Waste and Strengthening the Community in St Mellons

At FareShare Cymru, we are committed to tackling food waste while supporting community initiatives across Wales. Our partnership with Hope at The Hive in St Mellons brings these goals together, delivering practical support for residents while promoting environmental sustainability.

Introducing Zero-Waste Food Dispensers

Thanks to FareShare Cymru, The Hive now has innovative zero-waste food dispensers, allowing Pantry users to access dry goods in reusable containers. To help residents get comfortable with the system, the centre currently provides free pasta, “encouraging sustainable habits and reducing packaging waste.” FareShare Cymru not only supplied the dispensers but “continues to fill them with surplus food, ensuring a reliable and sustainable supply for the community.”

Supporting a Thriving Pantry

The Hive Pantry currently “serves over 100 people, with numbers growing each week.” Using a colour-coded system, “members pay £5 a week to select 2 red items and 5 blue items every Tuesday.” FareShare Cymru’s regular deliveries of surplus food underpin this system, “helping the Pantry consistently provide high-quality, nutritious items to everyone who visits.”



Beyond Food: Building Community

The Hive is more than a Pantry. “It’s a vibrant hub for social activity and support,” offering:

- **Community coffee mornings** with free tea, coffee, and cake
- **Financial advice drop-ins** via Riverside Advice
- **Clubs and activities**, including Boxing, Diamond Art Club, Crafty Chats, Busy Bees Stay & Play, and Breastfeeding Peer Support
- **Community-growing initiatives**, such as on-site produce and a newly planted patio orchard
- **Events for all ages**, including choirs and family sessions during term time

A Sustainable Partnership

By combining food provision with zero-waste initiatives, FareShare Cymru helps The Hive “reduce environmental impact while strengthening community bonds.” Residents learn to use reusable containers, access nutritious food, and engage in a range of social and support activities — all supported by a reliable flow of surplus food.

Through this partnership, FareShare Cymru is proud to see Hope at The Hive “thrive as a sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant community hub, showing how environmental responsibility and social support can go hand-in-hand to create lasting impact in St Mellons.”

Welsh Food and Drink Producer Testimonials

"After the peak season for pumpkins had passed, we were left with a large quantity that didn't have a commercial market.

FareShare Cymru made it so easy to both donate the pumpkins to their network of charities and cover the costs of transporting them up to Cardiff."

| Louise Harry-Thomas, Paviland Farm

"When staff have grown and nurtured a crop there is nothing worse for them than seeing food wasted. Rather than leaving them in the field we decided that it would be a good idea to donate them to this fantastic initiative by FareShare Cymru. The Surplus with Purpose initiative offers a solution to the problem of food waste, by **allowing us to cover our own harvesting and labour costs for donating otherwise commercially unviable surplus.**

"In an increasingly uncertain world, the **opportunity to give surplus food to charity** has never been more important. The Surplus with Purpose initiative is **easy to administer** and **the FareShare team are also a pleasure to work with.**

"Not only do these donations **help people in genuine need**, but they also **help towards our company goal of reducing food waste** in line with our commitment to the Courtauld Agreement 2025."

| Matthew Thomas

National Account Manager, Puffin Produce

"At Bremenda Isaf Farm we have a mission to grow great quality, nutritious food for the public plate. But as with any food producer, there is always surplus that needs to find a home. It's brilliant that we can provide some of our surplus to FareShare Cymru, in the knowledge that it will **reach people across Wales who need it most.**

"This fund has been absolutely instrumental in diverting surplus from waste. We had a situation in which cucumbers destined for school meals were producing significant quantities during the summer holidays. Our other markets were unable to take those quantities, so it was a lifeline for us to have a third sector route that had **no limit on the number of cucumbers it could handle.** In today's economic climate, in which people struggle to afford the high cost of living, it was so good to know that **our produce was going where it was really needed.**"

Piers Lunt
Head Grower, Bremenda Isaf Farm

"We wanted to donate through FareShare Cymru because your model ensures **surplus food goes directly to people who need it most in Wales.** Knowing the cheese will be distributed to **local community organisations and families** who benefit from nutritious, high-quality food makes us confident it will have the **biggest positive impact.**"

Monarchs Crackers

FareBoost Cymru: Chantelle's Journey to Confidence and Career Success

FareBoost Cymru is a 12-week programme by FareShare Cymru that actively supports people across Cardiff who aren't currently working, studying, or in training. Whether you're unemployed, looking to gain work experience, or rebuilding your confidence, FareBoost offers a hands-on way to develop skills, build a routine, and form meaningful connections — all while helping to reduce food waste and tackle food insecurity.

Meeting Chantelle: Taking Steps Forward

Chantelle joined FareBoost Cymru nearly a year ago. Prior to that, she spent 12 months on a programme with Serco through the Job Centre. Although she had previously visited a Pantri food service, she hadn't known where the food came from. That changed when Jessica, our Employability Lead at FareShare Cymru, visited Serco. Inspired by the visit, Chantelle decided to join FareBoost once her placement ended.

"At first, I wasn't sure what to expect and felt a bit nervous," she shared. "But I've been committed from the start."

Building Routine and Confidence Through FareBoost programme

Right from the beginning, Chantelle found the FareBoost team friendly and supportive.

"Everyone showed me what to do and helped me settle in," she said. "It gave me a routine and a chance to meet people."

Moreover, working in the warehouse and taking part in training boosted her confidence. She gained leadership experience by helping new volunteers and sometimes swapped shifts to cover busier days.

"The training also helped me handle real work situations," she explained, "like calming down customers arguing at the stadium. I enjoy working with the team and knowing our work matters."

First Job Success and Future Plans

Four months ago, Chantelle secured her first paid role — working part-time in hospitality at the Principality Stadium.

"I hadn't really worked before, but now I've been in this role for a few months and I'm ready to move forward."

Chantelle is preparing to take her Security Industry Authority (SIA) training through FareBoost, aiming to become a steward.

Support and Community

Throughout her journey, the FareBoost team continues to support Chantelle every step of the way.

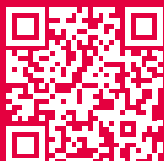
"There's always someone to talk to," she said. "Jess checks in regularly and has helped me whenever I needed support."

Furthermore, being part of FareBoost gave Chantelle a sense of belonging and purpose.

"You're helping people who need food," she said. "This place is important and definitely deserves more funding."

Why Choose FareBoost Cymru?

At FareBoost Cymru, participants step into a welcoming, hands-on environment where they actively build skills, gain confidence, and establish routines. As a result, they take meaningful steps toward employment. Best of all, you don't need any prior experience — just the willingness to learn and a commitment to show up.



**Ready to take the next step
like Chantelle?**

Find out more about FareBoost Cymru and how to
get involved by visiting: fareshare.cymru/fareboost-cymru

Who FareShare Cymru Work With

Al-Ikhlās Centre	Cefn Cribwr Community Pantry	Felinfoel Family Centre
Al-Manar	Cefn Fforest Primary School BBB*	Fir Tree Community Centre
Banc Bwyd Cwmaman Food Bank	Central Primary School BBB*	Food Cycle - Newport
Baobab Bach Sandfields Community Pantry	Centre for African Entrepreneurship	Foodshare Llantwit (Glamorgan Voluntary Services)
Barc Community Outreach Centre	Cetma	Foothold Cymru
Beaufort Centre	Colcot Primary School	Garnsychan Partnership
Bethel Trust Port Talbot	Community Volunteers Wales	Gellideg Foundation Group Merthyr Tydfil
Bethlehem Church Community Group	Costar Partnership	Glad2Share Gladstone Primary School RC
Brackla Primary School	Cwmfelin Primary School	Glenwood Church
Bryncethin Community Centre	Cwmffrwdoer Primary School BBB*	Glyncoch Community Regeneration Ltd.
Bwyd i Bawb (Ysgol Bro Barw)	Cwmllynfell Welfare Hall	Goleudy Community Fridge
Cadogs Corner Development Group	Cwtch Angels Abergavenny	Hangar Community Hub CIC
Cae Rowland Food Pantry	Cyfarthfa Park Primary School	Herbert Thompson Primary
Cafe Tyfu - Barod	Dant y llew CIC	Hope Church Merthyr
Calon-y-Cwm Baobab Bach Pantry	Duffryn Community Link @ Duffryn Community Centre	Hope St Mellons Pantry (CIO)
Canolfan Maerdy	Fairwater Primary School Family Action FOOD Club	Kenfig Hill Meals on Wheels Baobab Bach
Castleland Community Association	FAN Community Alliance	KPC Youth & Community (Baobab)

*BBB (Big Bocs Bwyd) is a scheme across several schools in south Wales, comprising of a 'Pay As You Feel' shop in a modified shipping container, featuring additional secure storage, raised beds and small group meeting spaces. The project aims to ensure no child is hungry and that every child is able to learn how to make good food choices that enable them to thrive. For more information, please visit bigbocsbwyd.co.uk

Llanrumney Hall Community Trust	Sirhowy Valley Hub CIC (Catering)	Tremains Primary School BBB*
Maesteg Baobab Bach Pantry	Sketty Food Bank	Treorchy Primary School BBB*
Matthews House	Splott Community Volunteers	Trinant Primary School
Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind (MTIB)	St Gwladys Hall	Trowbridge Pantry
Michael Climer Legacy Fund	Swansea Community Farm	Ty Fforest Resource Hub
Myrtle House	Sycamore Centre	UK Islamic Mission (I care Newport) Food Project
Oakdale Christian Centre	Tabernacle Baptist Church	Vernon Place Community Hub
Ogmore Vale Primary School	Tavs Centre Cardiff	Victory Grocery Store
Panteg Employees Club	Teen Challenge Hope House	Vineyard Church Cardiff
Pillgwenlly Millennium Trust Ltd	The Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme	Whiterose Information & Resource Centre
Porthcawl Community Pantry	The Fortified City of God	Willowtown Community Primary BBB*
Rainbow Cafe FOOD Club	The Good Food Hub	Wyesham Christian Fellowship Church FOOD Club
RCCG Vineyard Chapel	The Pantry @ YCB	Y Cwtsh
River Church Wales	Thornhill 4 U Too	Youth Centre Cefn Hengoed
Rumney Forum	Threshold DAS Limited	Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw Big Bocs Bwyd
Safer Wales	TK's and Community Group	Ysgol Gynradd Llandeilo Primary School
Sharon Full Gospel Church	TLC CAFE RISCA	Ysgol Hen Felin

