Food Waste Measurement & Reporting Methodology

May 2023
Introduction

The IFWC methodology for measuring and reporting food waste follows the principles of the UNEP Food Waste Index (supporting UN SGD 12.3) as well as the methodology and minimum quality requirements of the European Union. It therefore uses similar definitions, scope and metrics.

It has been adapted specifically for the hospitality and mass catering sectors, enabling companies to:

**Act:** through improved data quality

**Align:** all players and their supply chains through comparable data and metrics

**Engage:** with regulatory bodies using transparent, standardised data aligned with their own methodologies

Our methodology was used by over 1,000 sites in the European food service sector in 2022, and our goal is for it to be adopted by 50% (>10,000) of our members’ sites by 2025.
Measurement Scope

Under the IFWC methodology, the measurement and reporting of food waste is conducted within the following parameters:

**Geographic Scope**
EU27+UK+Norway

**Material Type**
Edible & associated inedible parts

**Metric**
Grams per cover or meal

**Food Category**
All food, excluding beverages & other liquids

**Life cycle stage**
Preparation, service, plate waste

**None-waste destinations**
Human consumption (donation) & animal feed

* when applicable
Data collection and quality assessment

Food waste data is collected and its quality is assessed using the following parameters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Entry level (minimum requirement)</th>
<th>Intermediary level</th>
<th>Advanced level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Campaign Duration</strong></td>
<td>Min. 1 full business week</td>
<td>Min. 1 full business week</td>
<td>Min. 2 full business weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency</strong></td>
<td>1 campaign per year</td>
<td>1 campaign per semester</td>
<td>1 campaign per quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantification Method</strong></td>
<td>Staff measurement &amp; data from biowaste collector (1)</td>
<td>Staff measurement</td>
<td>Staff measurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lifecycle Stage</strong></td>
<td>Pre-consumer &amp; post-consumer</td>
<td>Preparation, service &amp; plate waste</td>
<td>Preparation, service &amp; plate waste</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) This is assuming that the segregation of food waste is done properly and can be connected to the number of cover served during the period.
# Reporting Requirements

Reports must include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country &amp; Site ID</th>
<th>Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality Segment</td>
<td>Food Service Segment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Lifecycle Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food waste&lt;sup&gt;(2)&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No. of Covers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Description

- **Country & site ID**
  - EU country name and site identification number

- **Sector**
  - Defined as hospitality or contract catering

- **Hospitality segment**
  - Defined as upscale, midscale or eco

- **Food service segment**
  - Defined as corporate, administration, education, health or sports & leisure

- **Date**
  - The year if only one data point per site, the year and month if several data points over one year per site

- **Lifecycle stage**
  - Pre-consumers (further divided into preparation and service waste as from an ‘intermediary quality’ level) and post-consumers

- **Food waste (grams or kilograms)**
  - Reported food waste quantity

- **Number of covers (#)**
  - Served during the measurement campaign

<sup>(2)</sup> Reported for each lifecycle stage
IFWC key performance indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reporting sites (#)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sites reporting food waste data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sites with a baseline (#)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sites with a food waste baseline; site’s baseline being its first available dataset since 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average quality index, with quality ranked from 1 (entry level) to 3 (best level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food waste by sector (gram per cover or meal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average food waste for each sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food waste by segment (gram per cover or meal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average food waste for each segment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food waste reduction indicator (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of the annual reported food waste and the corresponding baseline, expressed as an annual average for all sites reporting data for the year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example: Site (A) reports 80gr/cover in 2022 whereas its baseline states 100gr/cover in 2019. Its food waste reduction index is 20% = \( \frac{100-80}{100} \).
Definitions

Food
Any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be, or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans.

Food Waste
Any food that has become waste that the holder discarded or intend to discard.

Edible Parts
The parts of food that were intended for human consumption.

Inedible Parts
Components associated with a food that are not intended to be consumed by humans e.g. bones, rinds and pits/stones.

Animal Feed
Diverting material from the food supply chain to animals.

References

- UNEP, Food Waste Index Report, 2021
- FAO, Food Loss Index, 2020
- European Parliament, Waste Framework directive, 2018
- European Commission, Food waste methodology & minimum quality requirement, 2019
- European Commission, Food Waste Reporting Template, 2019