



The Green Advantage: Leveraging Sustainability Reporting For Better Business

Summary: main findings



1

Climate change will continue to negatively affect businesses. Both food and non-food companies have **to act in the face of climate change.**

2

Companies can reduce their climate risk by adopting sustainable practices. Reporting them in a transparent way benefits business by **improving their business viability, access to financial products and recruitment.**

3

Given the positive environmental and social impact of City Harvest's activities, and its **ability to substantiate it with accurate data,** companies can **leverage their partnership with City Harvest in their sustainability reports.**

Methodology

Stage 1: Desk research

Review of academic as well as grey literature, including government documents, company research reports and others.

Stage 2: Interviews

Semi-structured interviews with 18 professionals from various industries, including Food & Beverage, academia, finance, consulting and government.



Harper Adams
University



LIVERY
CLIMATE ACTION
GROUP



SIMPLY
SUSTAINABLE

Context: urgency of the situation



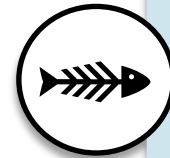
Climate-related extreme weather events have cost the global economy more than \$2 trillion over the past decade. Climate change is therefore a threat to businesses – but they have power to mitigate it by adopting sustainable practices.



By 2050, there will be a 70% reduction of the most versatile farmland in the UK due to climate change. Meanwhile, nearly 1 in 5 UK households (with children) are food insecure and food prices rose by 30.6% between 05/2021 and 05/2024. It previously took over 13 years for prices to rise by this much.



The UK Financial Conduct Authority's new anti-greenwashing rule requires any claims about sustainability to be clearly communicated and accurate. With the rule having taken effect on 31 May 2024, it is important that companies report their sustainability efforts in a transparent way.



If food waste was a country, it would be the 3rd largest emitter, behind the United States and China. In the UK, food waste currently accounts for 8-10% of its greenhouse gas emissions.

Advantages

Supporting business viability

- 65% of consumers look for products that can help them live a more sustainable and socially responsible life, especially when it comes to food

Lowering premiums

- Nearly 8 in 10 insurers believe a positive ESG profile could result in premiums reduced to half and increased insurance capacity

Improving recruitment and employee retention

- 1 in 5 workers in the UK have rejected job offers due to the company's ESG values being misaligned with their own, rising to 1 in 3 among those aged 18-24

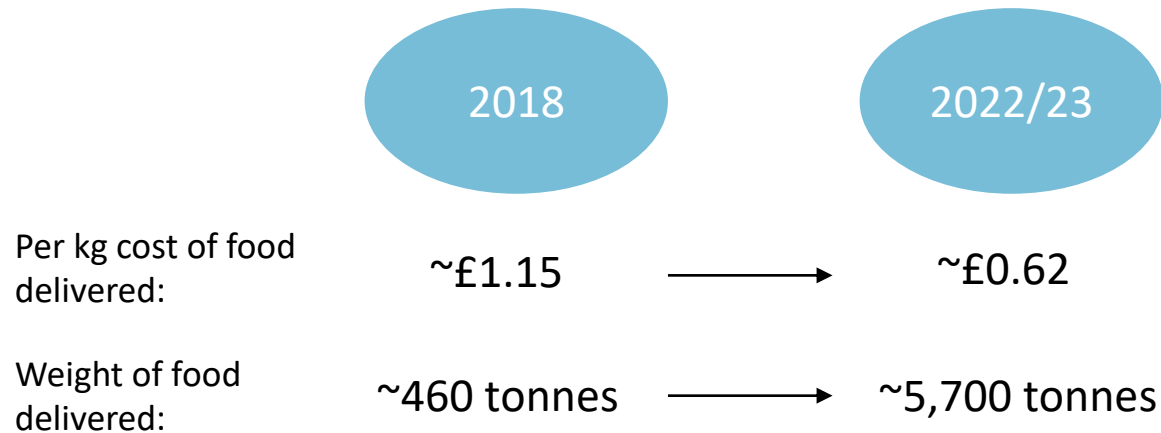


Transparency You Can Trust

City Harvest's carbon calculator:

- Provides food donors with an accurate report of GHG emissions diverted from landfill based on the categories of food donated.
- Converts businesses' financial donations and volunteering hours into avoided GHG emissions — this can help companies with their B-Corp certifications (including Charlie Bigham's).

City Harvest is maximising efficiency:



Charlie Bigham's Partnership with City Harvest













Charlie Bigham's values their partnership with City Harvest for their:

- flexibility which allows more food to be regularly rescued
- ability to provide data for CB's impact report
- ability to provide an understanding of the savings CB's are making by avoiding AD processing

£2,042.50

The amount Charlie Bigham's saved on AD costs in the 2023 financial year by donating 50 tonnes of food to City Harvest.

City Harvest's Data

Every Action	Number of Meals Provided	Diverted GHG Emissions from Landfill	Impact
 Every 1 tonne of produce that a food donor redistributes through City Harvest	 Meals for people in need	 2.58 tonnes 	313,838 smartphones charged ²³
 Every 2 hours of volunteering	 Meals for people in need	 1.19 tonnes 	3,051 miles driven by an average gasoline-powered car ²⁴
 Every £10,000 donated allows 16.80 tonnes of food to be rescued	 Meals for people in need	 43.30 tonnes 	1,546 cooked full roast dinners ²⁵

Artemis Fund Managers' Partnership with City Harvest	
<p>Staff engagement</p> <p>Between 85-90% of surveyed employees express satisfaction with the company's staff engagement in their annual surveys. Volunteering opportunities with City Harvest, which are always oversubscribed, play a key role.</p>	<p>New business</p> <p>Artemis use City Harvest's data to demonstrate their environmental impact in responses to Requests for Proposals (RFPs). ESG elements in RFPs have been growing in importance in the last 12 months, compared to 18-24 months ago.</p>

Recommendations

Businesses

- Engage in **charity partnerships**
- Review sustainability frameworks
- **Consider sustainability** in financial decisions

Food businesses

- Adopt **early positive release redistribution policies** to improve ability to redistribute surplus food

Governments

- **Incentivise companies** to engage in charity partnerships to address food insecurity and waste



Reflecting Questions

How has this presentation made you think differently about your company's sustainability engagement?

What activities does your company engage in to enhance your sustainability reporting?

What support would you need from charity partners to improve your sustainability reporting?

How have recent regulatory requirements influenced the way you engage in sustainability reporting?





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