

Food sharing

What is it?

In the UK, we throw away about a quarter to a third of the food we purchased. 60% of the food thrown away could have been avoided. The food could be shared with neighbours and communities or re-distributed to those who need them. Food sharing can be at a local community, neighbourhood, or city level. Successful programmes are currently running around the UK and globally, with people sharing food items and full meals.

How would it work?

There are plenty of existing apps and platforms for food sharing. It can also be coordinated using an offline noticeboard, or a new app.

Existing apps work differently, but generally let you share photos and locations of food you have to share, and browse what food others would like to share. Users can get in touch to arrange a pick-up. Other apps allow you to advertise group meals where everyone contributes to the needed ingredients.

It would be possible to incorporate community food storage in a small community. When food for sharing has been requested by someone it could be stored in a fridge/freezer and food cupboards in a community space until it can be picked up.

What are the costs and benefits?

Most existing apps / platforms are free to users. Apps, platforms and notice boards require regular updates by users.

Adding storage needs a location and possibly a fridge/freezer (cost around £200 to £500). App development costs vary depending on the functionality of the App.

Food sharing is a great way to save money. An average household is wasting about £60 per month on the food being thrown away¹.

Community effects

Food sharing can be a great way to meet your neighbours and get to know them if a community meal is part of the plan.

Sharing community meals and recipes can open up new ideas for cooking.

Wider impacts

Food sharing will avoid edible food being wasted, thus avoiding wasting resources that go into growing the food and diverting food waste from landfill.



Source:

1: <http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com>