

Food waste and composting

Public polling commissioned by Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Highland Community Waste Partnership from Diffley Partnership (December 2024, Highland Council Area, n=861).

Are people generally concerned about food waste?

76%

are concerned with about the amount of food we waste



This is statistically higher in the following groups:



83%
women



81%
over 45

Those concerned with:



87%
climate change



82%
social issues

Those likely to:

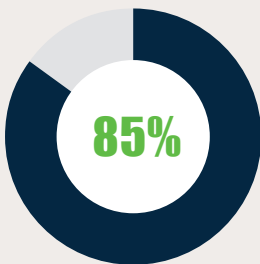


88%
engage with community initiatives

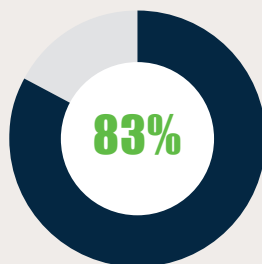


87%
learn how to reduce their environmental impact

Reducing food waste



Store food properly



Plan meals



Purchase or cook smaller quantities



The main reason stated for reducing food waste was to save money.

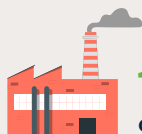
12%

are likely do donate or share excess food.



This is statistically higher in the following groups:

Those concerned with



16%
climate change



14%
social issues

Those likely to



19%
engage with community initiatives



16%
learn how to reduce their enviromental impact

Composting



51%

compost already at home or through the council

Home composting

51%

would compost at home if they had the knowledge and skills



This is statistically higher in the following groups:

Those living in:



57%

lower social grade



68%

households with 4+ people

Those likely to:



60%

engage with community initiatives



64%

learn how to reduce their environmental impact



59%

those concerned with climate change



31%

said they would not, rising to **36%** in urban areas



18%

do this already; rising to **23%** in rural areas

Reasons for composting



Saving money



Improved soil

"You find it's better soil at the end of the process. It's cheaper obviously because you're just throwing your waste in there as well and you know that the waste has actually been recycled just well."

Barriers to composting



Lack of space



Misconceptions around odour



Effort involved

The Highland Community Waste Partnership (2022-2025)

Funded by The National Lottery Climate Action Fund, and coordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful, the Highland Community Waste Partnership (HCWP) brought together eight community groups in the Highlands to reduce waste and promote more sustainable consumption, focusing on: food waste & composting, share & repair and single-use items & packaging.

For case studies, webinar recordings and our end-of-project report, visit:
www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/highlandcommunitywaste/