

Brighton & Hove



Reducing food waste: City-wide actions from Brighton & Hove

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The challenge in Brighton & Hove

- Brighton & Hove is densely populated, has many hotels, restaurants and cafes, and has **almost 11 million visitors per year**, making food waste a key challenge.
- Surprisingly there is **no food waste collection for residents** in Brighton & Hove

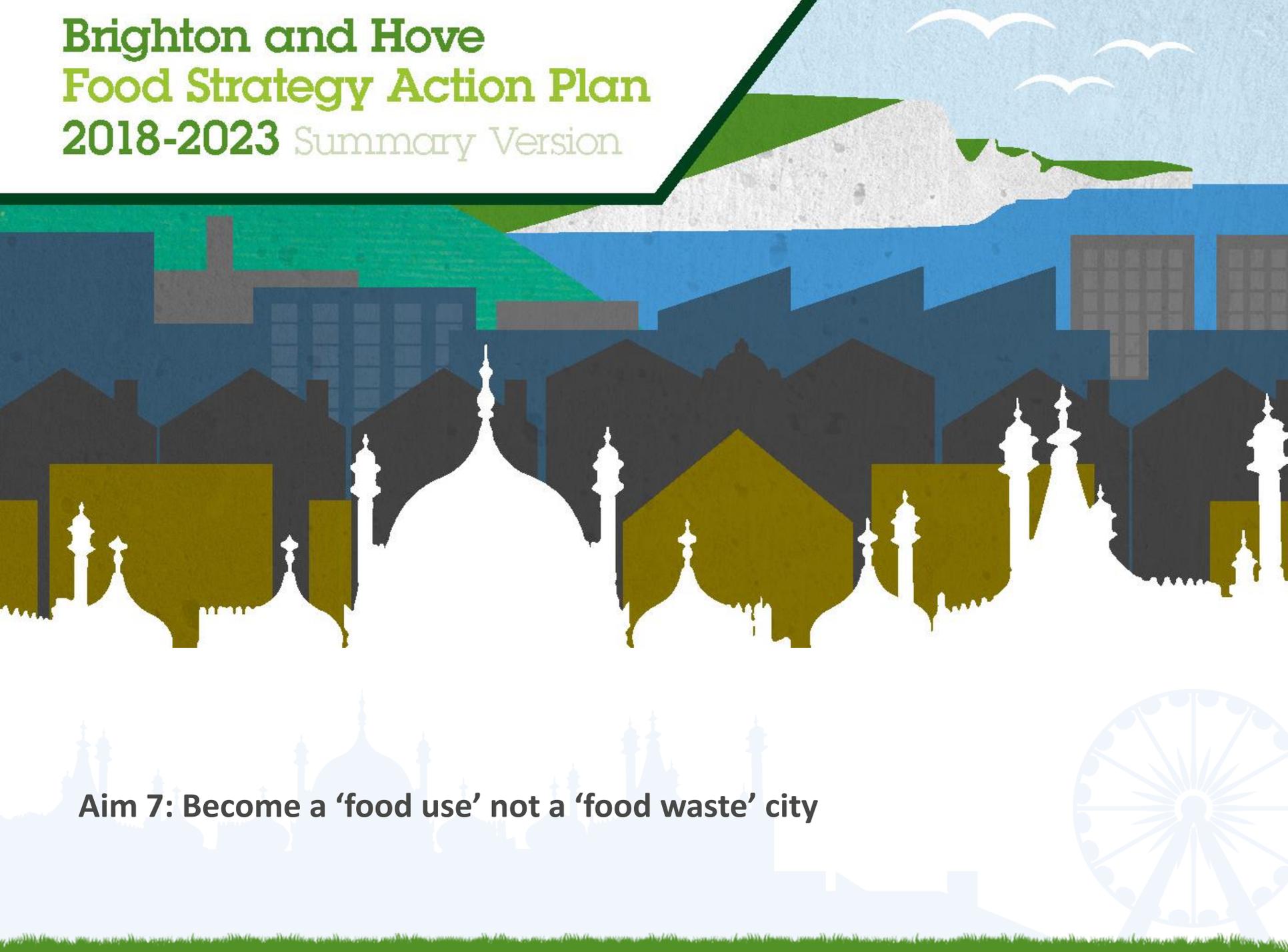


City-wide approach to food waste: how we work

- **With individuals**
e.g. campaigns on preventing food waste, pumpkin rescue parties, advising residents on how to donate surplus food
- **Promote food sharing**
e.g. supporting shared meals, promoting food sharing apps like Olio
- **Support surplus food organisations**
e.g. Surplus Food Network
- **Community composting**
- **Influence practice**
e.g. working with businesses, schools, universities, hospitals, large caterers
- **Influence policy**
e.g. Brighton & Hove Food Strategy Action Plan



Brighton and Hove Food Strategy Action Plan 2018-2023 Summary Version



Aim 7: Become a 'food use' not a 'food waste' city

Brighton & Hove Food Strategy Action Plan 2018-2023

- In 2018 we refreshed our **5-year action plan** for the city's Food Strategy. It has 200 actions and almost 100 partners.
- A **survey of residents and food businesses** showed there was a strong interest in reducing food waste.
- The strategy includes an **aim to become a 'food use' not a 'food waste' city.**
- We plan to develop a city-wide **food use strategy** to be adopted by City Council. This would promote a whole-city approach to moving up the food waste hierarchy - **prioritising reduction over reuse over recycling.**
- Food waste is a focus area for our Food Strategy work in 2019.
- In July we are holding a **food waste event to help businesses take action** to reduce their food waste, and to generate ideas for the citywide food use strategy.



Read the Food Strategy Action Plan on our website:

<https://bhfood.org.uk/resources/food-strategy/>

Surplus Food Network

- Launched in 2017.
- 7 organisations working together to intercept and redistribute surplus food.
- Works across Brighton & Hove and East & West Sussex.
- Surplus food redistribution doesn't solve food poverty or food waste, so this project sits alongside work in our Food Strategy which aims to take more of an upstream approach.
- Working collectively as a network gives all of these surplus food organisations a stronger voice in fighting food waste.

Find out more & watch our film:

<https://bhfood.org.uk/directory-hub/surplus-food-network/>



Benefits of the Surplus Food Network

- **Less food is wasted** – in the last year, the amount of food intercepted by the network increased from 680 tonnes to 1090 tonnes.
- **Increased efficiency & reduced duplication** through sharing of resources. Having the Food Partnership coordinate the network allows projects to get on with what they do best.
- **Boosted goodwill between projects** who would otherwise be competing for the same sources of surplus food.
- **Leverage of resources** - working at a bigger scale has allowed additional funding to be secured.
- **Stronger publicity** – through running joint events, getting new branding and creating a website and video about the network. This has helped us recruit more volunteers and increase donations of surplus food.



1090 tonnes

of surplus food delivered in the Brighton & Hove area in the last year



4142 tonnes

of carbon saved in 2018



which is the equivalent energy use of...

1534 homes

for a whole year



Community composting scheme

- Since 2011 Brighton and Hove Food Partnership has worked with the City Council to run **community composting for residents**.
- There are **39 schemes across the city and over 1000 households** signed up.
- Each site is **run by volunteer compost monitors** that we train up and support.
- Last year the scheme **diverted over 90 tonnes of food waste from the general waste system**, saving the Council money they would spend on collecting and processing this waste.
- The scheme is **highly popular with residents**: Many sites have now reached full capacity & we've had to turn new members away. We are pushing for a bigger grant to expand the scheme.
- Community composting has **sparked other community initiatives** by bringing people together to look after green spaces in the city.

Find out more: <https://bhfood.org.uk/directory-hub/community-composting/>

