

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 28 APRIL 2016

PROPOSED SIGNATORY OF COURTAULD COMMITMENT 2025

Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Strategy & Infrastructure Planning)

Introduction

1. Oxfordshire County Council has been asked to sign the Courtauld Commitment 2025 Voluntary Agreement. This agreement, led by Waste Resource Action Plan (WRAP), aims to make food and drink production and consumption more sustainable. Signing the agreement would demonstrate that Oxfordshire County Council supports a UK joint approach to solving food waste issues.

Waste Management in Oxfordshire

2. The Corporate Plan states that Waste Management is a key strategic priority for Oxfordshire County Council. The Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy focuses on managing waste according to the waste hierarchy, which is a legislative requirement (Revised EU Waste Framework Directive- Article 4). Oxfordshire is currently number one in the country for recycling performance and produces the least waste of any County Council Waste Disposal Authority per household across the UK.
3. Despite all households in Oxfordshire having the ability to separate food waste for recycling at kerbside, food waste continues to be a major component of the residual waste stream (refuse bin). Continual education and engagement with residents is required to reduce the amount of food waste generated and to encourage residents to recycle food waste using their special caddies.
4. Aside from the environmental benefits, processing food waste at an Anaerobic Digestion plant is significantly cheaper than sending it (in the residual bin) to landfill or the Energy Recovery Facility at Ardley. Better yet, the prevention of food waste in the first instance would create significant savings, both in collection and processing costs. Food waste collected via the special caddies either goes to an anaerobic digester and is processed into biogas and digestate or to an in-vessel composting plant to create soil conditioner. The biogas creates enough renewable energy to power 8400 homes across Oxfordshire (3% of Oxfordshire).
5. Officers are already communicating and engaging with residents on how to reduce food waste. In addition officers are working with the District Councils on increasing food waste recycling participation as well as food waste prevention measures. Oxfordshire County Council contracts Resource Futures to manage over sixty community action groups (CAG's). Several CAG's are

heavily involved in food waste reduction initiatives at grass roots, community level such as food banks, food surplus cafes as well as lobbying on food waste bills.

What is the Courtauld Commitment 2025 Voluntary Agreement?

6. WRAP are leading on The Courtauld Commitment 2025 which is an ambitious ten-year voluntary agreement that brings together organisations across the food system – from producer to consumer – to make food and drink production and consumption more sustainable. The aim is to achieve:
 - 20% reduction in food & drink waste arising in the UK.
 - 20% reduction in the Green House Gas intensity of food & drink consumed in the UK.
 - A reduction in impact associated with water use in the supply chain.
7. Signatories of the agreement are asked for a commitment to the following:
 - Work with others to identify and develop good practices in engaging with others.
 - Engage with residents and colleagues to enable changes in consumption habits - for example deliver 'Love Food Hate Waste' messages.
 - Report annually to WRAP on what has been done to engage with residents.
8. The benefits to Oxfordshire County Council in signing the agreement include:
 - Priority access to world leading research and insights.
 - Access to engagement and communication advice.
 - Opportunities to collaborate and join funded innovative projects.

How do we assist to help meet the targets in the Agreement?

9. Signing the Courtauld Commitment 2025 does not commit Oxfordshire County Council to any additional expenditure or commitment of resources. It would build on existing food waste prevention measures, providing the opportunity to share good practice and collaborate on joint innovative projects.
10. As a local authority, Oxfordshire County Council's strength is communicating and engaging with residents on how to minimise food waste. Oxfordshire has a full time Waste Reduction Officer who already undertakes projects aimed at minimising waste generation. A specific focus on a food waste project can be undertaken using existing resources and budget. The foresight and innovation of Oxfordshire County Council to procure and support a 'Community Action Group' (CAG) contract has supported over sixty volunteer groups across the County to undertake environmental projects. The majority of CAG projects are waste reduction focussed, such as supporting food banks and running food

surplus cafes so continued support of the CAG's assists in meeting the targets.

11. Oxfordshire County Council works closely with the District Councils to promote food waste recycling and has a good working relationship with Agrivert - the food waste processing contractor. The County, Districts and Agrivert are currently in discussion to partnership work to increase the amount of food waste captured for recycling. By joining the Courtauld 2025 Commitment, the opportunity to engage with new organisations could result in information sharing and innovative ways to support new and existing projects to meet the targets.
12. Reporting annually to WRAP of any progress does not involve any additional work as records are already being kept of any promotional and engagement work as well as food waste tonnages.
13. The Oxford Environmental Partnership (OEP) agreed on the 11 March 2016 that it intends to sign the agreement and each OEP member will take it through the appropriate channels to do so.
14. There are no foreseeable risks in signing the commitment.

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to sign the Courtauld 2025 Commitment Voluntary Agreement

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Courtauld 2025 signatory commitment

OUR VISION

is a world in which food and drink are produced and consumed sustainably.

Courtauld 2025 gives us a framework for collaboration towards this goal. Population growth, climate change, water stress and the waste of food and resources require us to take action today to safeguard tomorrow.

OUR COLLECTIVE AMBITION

is to cut the waste and greenhouse gas emissions associated with food and drink by at least one-fifth per person in ten years and improve water stewardship.

MY COMMITMENT

To achieve this ambition, my organisation will:

1. Work with others across the entire food chain, from producer to consumer, to deliver changes which we cannot achieve individually;
2. Help communicate the actions which can make the biggest difference;
3. equip and encourage people to make changes; and
4. Report annually on progress.

OUR IMPACT

This will make food supply more efficient and resilient to future changes, reduce environmental impact, and help people get the best value from their food and drink.



Name: _____

Position: _____

Company: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

To be signed by the senior decision-maker in the organisation accountable for delivering these outcomes, e.g. Board Director, and sent to WRAP.



Courtauld 2025 signatory commitment

TAKING ACTION

We will work with others to communicate and help embed best practice among our audiences across these four areas:



MEASURING SUCCESS

We will report annually to WRAP on the actions we have taken to promote changes which deliver the collective ambition, and the estimated amount of food and drink supply or consumption we have influenced.

TRACKING PROGRESS

To demonstrate collective progress on **Courtauld 2025**, WRAP will:

Report national-level data on the GHG intensity of food and drink consumed in the UK and food and drink waste arising in the UK both in the home and the supply chain – against a national-level target of at least 20% reduction per person over 10 years

Work with stakeholders to set and measure overall improvements in water stewardship

Report annually on the aggregated results from confidential signatory reporting.

