



Sources	Ellen McArthur Foundation, PACE		
Date	2020		
Potential scale of impact	Certainty of outcome	Impact horizon	
★★★★☆	★★★★☆	H1	H2 H3

The world produces more than enough food to feed the people living on it. But about 690 million people worldwide still went hungry in the last year. And an estimated 1.3 billion metric tons of food — about one-third of all the food produced for human consumption — is lost or wasted globally each year, according to the United Nations.

In economic terms, there's massive demand. There's abundant supply. But our current food system is unable to connect the two.

A circular food economy could be the answer. producing organic, healthy food using natural, regenerative, soil-supporting growing practices. Any byproducts or waste could be used to create additional new food, fabrics or bioenergy inputs. The resources of local ecosystems could be used to feed their communities.

In a circular food economy

- Food is produced in ways that regenerate nature. This means changing what we grow and how we grow it. The industrialisation of agriculture has led to over 75% of food coming from just 12 plant and five animal species. Without change, the dangers to human health, and to the planet, cannot be overstated.
- Food is not lost or wasted: We must reduce the vast amounts of food we currently lose at all stages from field to fork. If current levels of food loss and waste were a country, it would be the third largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. By tackling the problem, we can make huge progress toward mitigating climate change.
- Commonly wasted resources are used productively: less than 2% of the valuable nutrients in food byproducts and waste are currently recycled. By using these as fertilizers, to make textiles or animal feed, we can drive new innovation, establish new business sectors, and put a stop to the environmental destruction necessary for our current model.

To successfully transition to a circular economy for food, businesses, governments, and civil society must work together. Northern Ireland has [already started](#).

A CIRCULAR FOOD ECONOMY
 The UN SDGs won't be met without the food sector adopting circular economy practice