



Our approach

In an ideal world, when stock arrives at an Asda distribution centre it is exactly what we've ordered. But sometimes this isn't the case. Suppliers send 'overs' or stock that we haven't ordered – even a couple of extra cases of food here and there can quickly add up to thousands of surplus cases each week.

This fresh food is in date and perfectly edible, but risks being disposed of as food waste. As the supplier still technically owns this surplus stock, it gets sent back. But by the time that's happened it's often out of date and goes straight into the bin.

That's why, in June 2013, we forged an innovative partnership with our suppliers and FareShare to redistribute surplus food to UK charities and community projects. As the largest partnership project of its kind in the UK grocery sector, we have delivered enough food to make over 5 million meals at over 2,000 charities.



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The issue

Whilst our collaboration with Fareshare is ongoing, they are not in a position to receive and redistribute surplus food with less than 3 days shelf life. We therefore needed to find a further solution for this additional surplus food to ensure it went to good use.

Company Shop was identified as a secondary distribution partner for over-produced stock with short shelf life and they now routinely collect from two distribution depots and sell this through their discount stores.

The proceeds from sales of this stock are donated to the social supermarket 'community shop', an enterprise operated by Company Shop.



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Actions taken

- Asda has entered in to an agreement with Company Shop and our logistics provider (NFT) to redistribute surplus food with less than three days' shelf life.
- Company Shop redistributes short shelf-life surplus food – not suitable for Fareshare - via their Company Shop and Community Shop network.
- Company Shop now collects all product with less than 3 days' life from 2 NFT depots on a regular basis and has recently started collecting from a third depot in Daventry.
- Company Shop donates funds generated from the sale of our surplus food to Community Shop, a social enterprise operated by Company Shop.

Key Facts

Our partnership with Company Shop has delivered the following environmental and social benefits:

- **The amount of surplus food diverted from landfill has prevented the equivalent of 186 tonnes of Carbon (Co2e) emissions.**
- **To date, in excess of 46 tonnes of surplus food has been donated - enough to make over 110,000 meals.**

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Asda and Company Shop will continue to explore opportunities to redistribute distribution centre food surpluses.

We are currently reviewing the overall scheme and looking to bring more suppliers on board.

A number of our suppliers, we believe, are taking surplus product back to their manufacturing sites. We're investigating if this could alternatively be collected by Company Shop directly from our distribution centres which would result in a longer shelf life whilst also providing a financial return for our suppliers.



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