



FoodSavers Impact Report

Tackling food insecurity and building financial resilience

The problem: Food insecurity in the UK¹



18% of UK households experience food insecurity, lacking access to enough fresh, nutritious food



4 million children live in households impacted by food insecurity



The Northeast is the worst affected region, with **27.8% of households** experiencing food insecurity



Households with **children, elderly, ethnic minority groups and people with disabilities or on benefits** are more likely to be food insecure



One solution: FoodSavers

FoodSavers offers high quality fresh and store cupboard food for a low weekly membership fee (typically £6). Membership also gives customers the opportunity to save in a recognised Credit Union scheme and enjoy other member benefits.

As a network of food outlets, FoodSavers offers an innovative solution to these economic challenges, helping customers to:



save money on their weekly shop

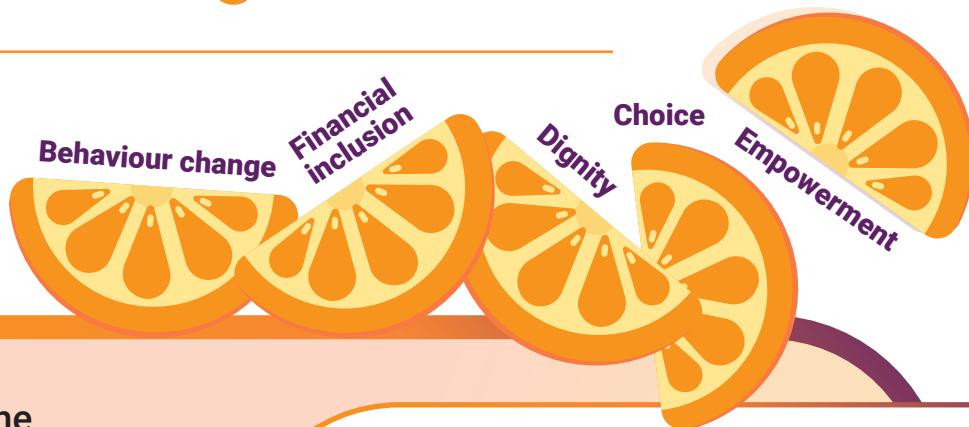


save food from going to landfill



save into a credit union scheme

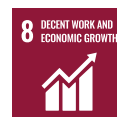
FoodSavers' strategy is grounded in its 'Five Quarters of the Orange' principles, which guide every aspect of the programme.



Through the Social Value Engine calculations, we determined that the **Social Return on Investment** for the FoodSavers programme is an impressive

£17.70 FOR EVERY £1 INVESTED








SROI linked to 5 Sustainable Development Goals:



¹ Food Foundation (2022) Food Insecurity Tracking Report (<https://foodfoundation.org.uk/initiatives/food-insecurity-tracking#tabs/Overview-of-surveys->)

² Evans, J. & Davies, S. (2024) Understanding the role of savings in promoting positive wellbeing (www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/geography/pfrc/documents/Understanding%20the%20role%20of%20savings%20in%20promoting%20positive%20wellbeing.pdf). Personal Finance Research Centre, University of Bristol.

Key measurements this year

-  **1200 weekly shoppers** across the network
-  Customers **saved** around **£1.6 million** on their weekly shop
-  **750 new memberships** to Credit Unions
-  Over **£57,500 saved** into the Credit Unions
-  **25 voluntary and community sector groups** supported
-  **8 new pantries** partnered with FoodSavers
-  A **bespoke CRM platform**
-  **160 tons of food** diverted from landfill
-  **2 new Credit Unions** onboarded
-  A **new rewards app** offering fresh produce vouchers and cookery classes to encourage ongoing participation and support healthier lifestyles
-  **500 families supported** with our Nourishing Communities Fresh Food Vouchers
-  **125 families supported** with cookery classes
-  FoodSavers **recognised** by Bradford Council in their Anti-Poverty and Good Food strategies

Impacts



Food security and economy

- Advocate to local government as part of local campaigning for policies that support access to sustainable, affordable food
- Facilitate connections between other charitable organisations
- Assist with access to financial and other support for community members via a credit union



Sustainability and resilience

- Develop the FoodSavers network of social supermarkets to support more people in accessing food at affordable prices
- Offer wraparound services to support customers holistically
- Reduce food waste by using surplus food in food outlets
- Encourage allotment owners to donate fresh produce through 'Share your Spare' (an allotment food recovery scheme)



When I got to £40 of savings, I thought wow this is the most I have ever saved."

– Shine FoodSavers customer



Access and demand for healthy, local food

- Offer food growing packs and work with local allotments
- Accept Healthy Start vouchers
- Provide access to fruit and vegetables through Nourishing Communities vouchers
- Raise awareness of the benefits of healthy local food through cooking classes and conversations in the food outlets



Health and wellbeing

- Improve physical and mental health
- Offer volunteering opportunities
- Offer food workshops and classes
- Improves financial anxiety and sleep quality

To find out more about our impact or to collaborate email Juli Thompson juli@foodsavers.org.uk.

FoodSavers™ is a project of Inn Churches registered charity 1149792. Report written by Juli Thompson with thanks to Rab Campbell and Jennifer Jefferson from Social Value Engine. This report also draws on the work of Dr Effie Papargyropoulou and Dr Gemma Bridge from the University of Leeds: the Food Hubs Impact Evaluation Toolkit (<https://environment.leeds.ac.uk/faculty/dir-record/research-projects/1854/food-hubs-for-food-security-health-inclusive-growth-and-sustainability>) and the Scaling up place-based food initiatives (<https://environment.leeds.ac.uk/faculty/dir-record/research-projects/1888/scaling-up-place-based-food-initiatives>) project. Edit and design: Research Retold www.researchretold.com (2024).



Calderdale
Credit Union



Credit Union
BRADFORD DISTRICT



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