



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Food
Standards
Agency



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Food Data Transparency Partnership

OFFICIAL – NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY

What is the Food Data Transparency Partnership (FDTP)?

The FDTP is a long-term partnership between government, industry and experts that **aims to drive positive change in the food system through better and more transparent food data.**

For **Defra**, the **focus** of the partnership is on increasing the transparency of environmental impact data, beginning with streamlining the **measurement and communication of greenhouse gas emissions** to meet our net zero targets.

For **DHSC**, the focus is on developing recommendations for a **mutually agreed set of health metrics** for large food and drink companies that support companies to report in a consistent way.



Defra FDTP team is aiming to:

1

Standardise the **methodology and data sources** used for measuring GHG emissions of food and drink at a *company level* (scope 3 emissions) and at a *product level*, so these emissions can be communicated in a **consistent and comparable** way.

2

Establish a **consistent reporting mechanism** for large food and drink companies to report scope 3 GHG emissions at a company level.

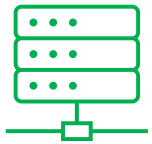
3

Establish a **standardised methodology for voluntary food eco-labels**.

First few Eco Working Group meetings focused on scope 3 reporting

1. Agreed to **support sector agnostic (industry wide) reporting** being considered by DBT and DESNZ – this will reduce the risk of fragmentation in reporting requirements.
2. Agreed that the **GHG Protocol** Scope 3 standard should be the minimum baseline for company level scope 3 reporting.
3. Agreed to **support the development of WRAP's reporting protocols V2** to translate the GHG Protocol standard into guidance for the food and drink sector.

We then dug into the data challenges, in particular the need for:



A **greater volume of consistently quantified primary data** to inform production level improvements, improve the quality of secondary data and enable primary data transfer where possible. (Approach to primary data)



An approach to enable **continuous improvement of secondary data** quality and widespread **accessibility** of this data. (Approach to secondary data)



Data infrastructure and governance for data consistency, interoperability and sharing. Additionally, an agreed set of standards for **product level accounting** to help bring alignment to LCA inventory data.

Further to these data-related challenges, the group also identified the need to:



Improve the **carbon literacy and data literacy** of the industry, understanding where gaps in support and training are and how these can be filled.



Ensure **different data users have the right guidance and support** to harness the value of data for driving system-wider change.

Potential impacts on producers



Increased requests for data/information from other parts of the supply chain, often in different formats.



Potential for confusion due to tensions between different priorities, e.g., sustainability, animal welfare, food security.



An opportunity to be recognised for environmental sustainability efforts, including on the export market, supporting competitiveness.

Current work

- 1 Review of food and drink **product level environmental impact methodology** and underpinning data requirements.
- 2 Considering the **data infrastructure & governance** requirements – the standards needed to ensure that data can move through the supply chain in a protected and streamlined way
- 3 Supporting a number of **research projects** to improve our evidence base, including for the HESTIA database at Oxford University.
- 4 Exploring options for increasing uptake of **farm carbon audits** to support decarbonisation on-farm, improve data in the supply chain and help farmers access green finance

Next steps

- Bringing this all together into a publicly available roadmap.
- Data infrastructure and governance; Host a workshop with our expert working groups to identify potential solutions.
- Looking to endorse WRAP's V2 Scope 3 GHG protocols.
- Further policy development and research.