

CASE STUDY

SODEXO: USING TECH TO TACKLE FOOD WASTE

This case study outlines how Sodexo has used circular thinking and technology to help track and eliminate food waste.

What is the issue?

Sodexo has significantly cut its own carbon emissions, for example 98% of its electricity comes from renewable sources on its directly operated sites. The next step was to look at its 'Scope 3 emissions' which refers to all indirect carbon emissions resulting from the activities of the business. Sodexo believes that addressing its indirect impact, via the supply chain and on client sites, is where the greatest advances can be made.

What did Sodexo do?

In 2019, Sodexo launched the WasteWatch using technology developed by Leanpath to cut food waste. WasteWatch is an automated programme that enables onsite staff to easily capture food waste data. Catering staff weigh their waste, and the data is entered into a tablet that helps track waste by every type of food category. Reports are then generated providing data on the biggest opportunities to improve kitchen processes.

OUR COMMITMENT TO REDUCING FOOD WASTE REMAINS AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR PROMISE TO CREATE A BETTER TOMORROW AND TO KEEP RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS AT THE HEART OF HOW WE DO BUSINESS.

Sodexo's initiative to cut Scope 3 emissions through cutting waste is being done at speed and scale. WasteWatch has been deployed to 3,000 sites worldwide. This includes a rapid deployment programme within the UK & Ireland to over 250 sites and a commitment to roll it out to all relevant sites by 2025.

Outcomes and impact

In the UK alone, Sodexo has deployed WasteWatch to over 200 sites and achieved an average reduction of 42%. This is equivalent to:

Over 280 tonnes

of food waste prevented

538,285

meals saved

2,041 tonnes

CO₂e emissions prevented

One client, Leeds Nuffield Hospital, reported WasteWatch had enabled it to significantly reduce deliveries, saving further emissions.



What have Sodexo learnt?

With around one third of food being wasted across the world, accounting for up to 10% of total greenhouse gas emissions, food waste is a problem that affects us all. By measuring its waste footprint, Sodexo is helping its clients to manage their own emissions. For businesses buying food through service providers like Sodexo, encouraging measurement and reporting of food waste is a crucial step to tackling the problem.

The combination of technology and behaviour change can be very powerful. In this case, the WasteWatch programme created a different culture led to behavioural change across teams in support of ending avoidable food waste.

ENJOYED THIS CONTENT?

You might also like to:

- [find out more about our Circular Economy work](#)
- [learn more about our advisory services](#)
- [join us for one of our upcoming events](#)



Talk to one of our expert team [today](#) to learn how membership of BITC can help you take your responsible business journey further and drive lasting global change.