

**UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 08:00 10 DECEMBER 2019**

## **Progress on Sustainable Development Goals necessary to fix UK's broken food system, say businesses and charities**

***Nestlé, Nando's, BaxterStorey, WWF, the Food Ethics Council and more join UKSSD's Food System Programme to drive progress on the SDGs in the UK***

UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) has launched a new Food Systems Programme, bringing together cross-sector organisations who are working across the food sector to accelerate progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the UK.

The initiative builds on the recommendation in the UKSSD's landmark report [Measuring up](#) which highlighted that the food system isn't working: in the UK calories from healthy foods consistently cost more than unhealthy food and 20% of 10-11 year olds are obese, global food systems contribute up to 30% of greenhouse gas emissions and food is a major contributor to the climate emergency and biodiversity loss.

UKSSD Network Director Emily Auckland said: "Our food system in the UK needs new thinking which can only come from cross-sector collaboration. The Sustainable Development Goals provide a framework to understand the total impact the food sector is having, look at the interconnections between different parts of the food chain and think differently about the system that meets the needs of people and planet going forwards."

Founding partners in UKSSD's Food System Programme are Nestlé, the British Retail Consortium, Nando's, BaxterStorey, the Food Ethics Council, WWF, Giki, the British Poultry Council, the RSPB and the Suffolk Sustainability Institute.

Nestlé UK & Ireland's Head of Sustainability Anna Turrell said: "In order to create a world where an anticipated 9 billion people are all living well and within the boundaries of our planet, by 2050, we need to take action now. We need a systemic transformation of the food system to achieve healthy people and a healthy planet, and the Sustainable Development Goals provide a great framework to identify intervention pathways to achieve this."

The British Retail Consortium's Sustainability Policy Advisor Leah Riley Brown said: "The BRC is excited to be working collaboratively with all involved in the UKSSD to shape an effective and comprehensive roadmap for the UK food sector in order to meet the targets set by the UN. It is important that leading organisations spearhead action on the biggest environmental and social challenges, laid out by the Sustainable Development Goals. This roadmap will provide a common vision that will allow all of us to make a positive contribution to the UK."

A series of meetings have been scheduled for 2020, kicking off in January and building to launch of an agreed roadmap for a sustainable food system in September.

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The UKSSD Food Systems Programme is the first cross-sector systems transformation initiative to be launched by the initiative, with others scheduled

Emily Auckland continued: “Systems transformation is critical if the UK is going to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and today marks the start of a new programme of activity for UKSSD. We are responding to the clear need for a fresh look at our food system, and now exploring other sectors where cross-sector collaboration can help to accelerate action.”

Anyone interested in joining the UKSSD Food Systems Programme should email [foodsystem@ukssd.co.uk](mailto:foodsystem@ukssd.co.uk)

**Ends**

For further information or interviews, please contact [emily@ukssd.co.uk](mailto:emily@ukssd.co.uk)

#### **Notes to editors**

**UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD)** brings organisations together to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in the UK. We work with our partners on collaborative actions using their combined expertise and cross-sector influence because we believe everyone in the UK should have a good life and live on a healthy planet.

UKSSD has over 100 cross-sector Partner organisations and a wider network of more than 1000 organisations.