

FOOD POLICY COMPASS

What is the Food Policy Compass?

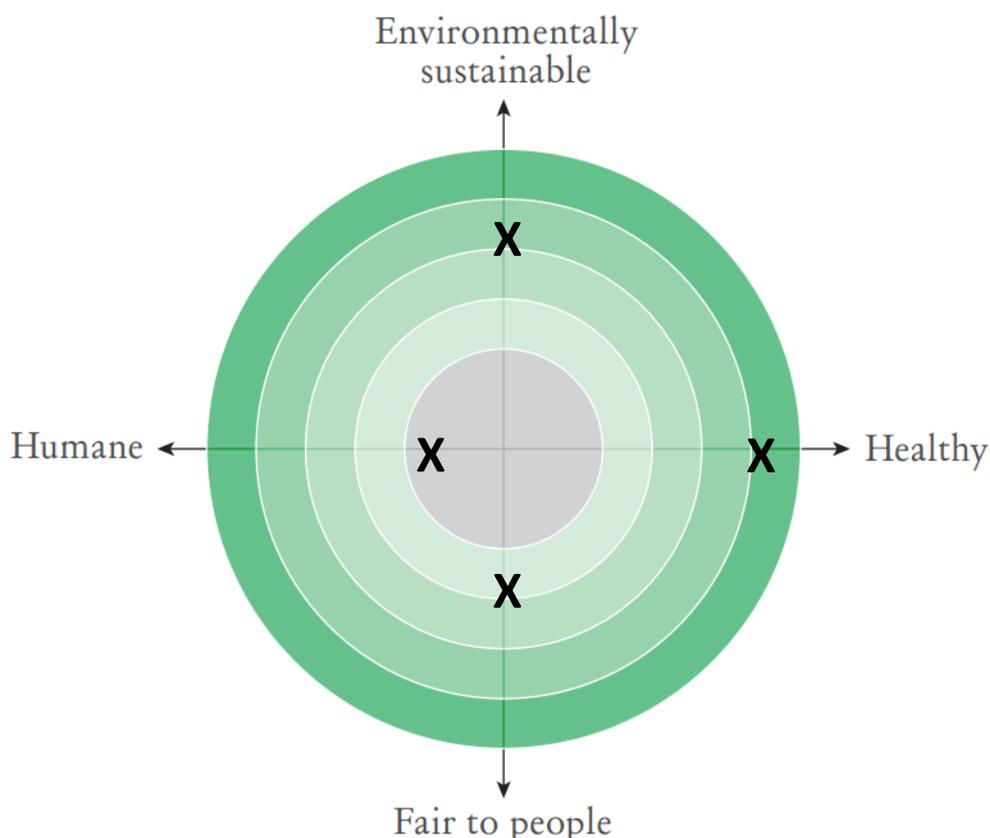
It is a simple prompt/ tool to encourage an ‘in the round’, integrated approach to policymaking – to consider four key dimensions. The question it helps address is: **Is the policy under consideration likely to contribute to positive outcomes or to cause unacceptable harm in any of the four critical dimensions of social justice, human health, animal welfare and environmental sustainability?**

How to use the compass?

Once you have reviewed available evidence and perspectives relating to the policy idea under consideration, use your judgement (and the judgement of others where appropriate) to rate whether it is likely to contribute to outcomes that are fair (to people), healthy, humane and environmentally sustainable. Mark an X on the grid (on the relevant north/ east/ south/ west axis) according to the likely size of its contribution. The bigger the positive contribution, the closer the X should be to the outside of the circle. The smaller the positive contribution (or indeed the greater the harm), the closer it should be to the inside of the circle. Anything in the grey circle in the middle is what you deem unacceptable, i.e. that falls below your ‘red lines’.

If you end up with any Xs in the ‘unacceptable’ grey circle in the middle, we would urge you to either reject the policy idea OR to modify it, so that it moves above your red line (meaning there are no Xs left in the centre circle).

Join up the Xs, so that you have a kite shape. **The aim is to make as big a shape as possible, but with no rating being below the minimum level of acceptability on any of the dimensions.** It is about maximising positive contributions and minimising harm – crucially not on a single-issue basis, but ‘in the round’. If, for example, you believe a policy is likely to contribute to positive outcomes for health, social justice and environmental sustainability, BUT involves inhumane treatment of animals, then it should be rejected or modified. **Consider how you could adapt the policy to increase the potential positive contribution of the policy and to ensure no unacceptable harm on ANY dimension.**



FOOD POLICY COMPASS - TEMPLATE

For the policy relating to food and farming that is 'in the dock', how does it measure up 'in the round'? In your view, is it likely to contribute to positive outcomes and lead to food systems that are healthy, fair to people, humane and environmentally sustainable? Or is it in the 'unacceptable' grey circle across any of those dimensions? If the latter, we urge you to reject or amend the policy proposal.

Goal: maximise the positive impact of a policy proposal 'in the round' and avoid the unacceptable.

