



COMMUNITY FRIDGE PROJECT REPORT

December 2022



THE PROJECT

Climate Action Strathaven set up the Strathaven Community Fridge Project in February 2022 with financial support from the National Lottery Community Fund and the Schroder Trust.

The aim of the project is to better manage food waste and prevent good, usable food ending up in landfill. This can be achieved by promoting better food management within individual households.

Three nights per week we collect surplus food that would normally be discarded from local supermarkets and make it available to the local community the next morning free of charge. This food is available to everyone in the community regardless of financial means we do not have any means of testing in place. If a customer does divulge to us that they are struggling, we sign post them to the appropriate organisations such as the Strathaven Food Bank and Home Energy Scotland.

The project employs a project worker and 18 volunteers. The project worker and a number of volunteers have undertaken food hygiene courses. The community fridge is based at our Climate Action Eco Hub, 5 Green Street Strathaven M110 6LT. Our weekly opening hours are 10am-2pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday . We have also carried out a number of talks to local community groups and schools promoting and provoking thoughts on how we think about food and food waste.

The Community Fridge Project went live on 11th April 2022 and all first time users were asked to take part in a 5 question survey, which covered the five questions below:

1. Postcode
2. Number of Adults /Children
3. Reason for use
4. Do you consider yourself disabled
5. Have you read our disclaimer

The final question was a Yes or No question and all answered Yes to indicating that they had read and understood our disclaimer.

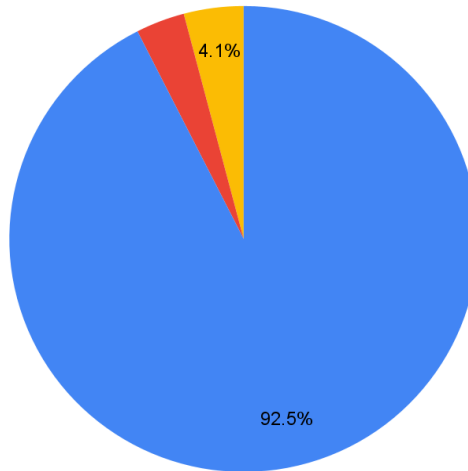
A total of 267 individuals completed our survey.

POSTCODE AREA

The greatest number of customers of the project by far reside in the ML10 postcode area which covers the town of Strathaven and surrounding area. The ML9 postcode covers the neighbouring town of Stonehouse.

Postcodes

- ML10
- ML9
- Others

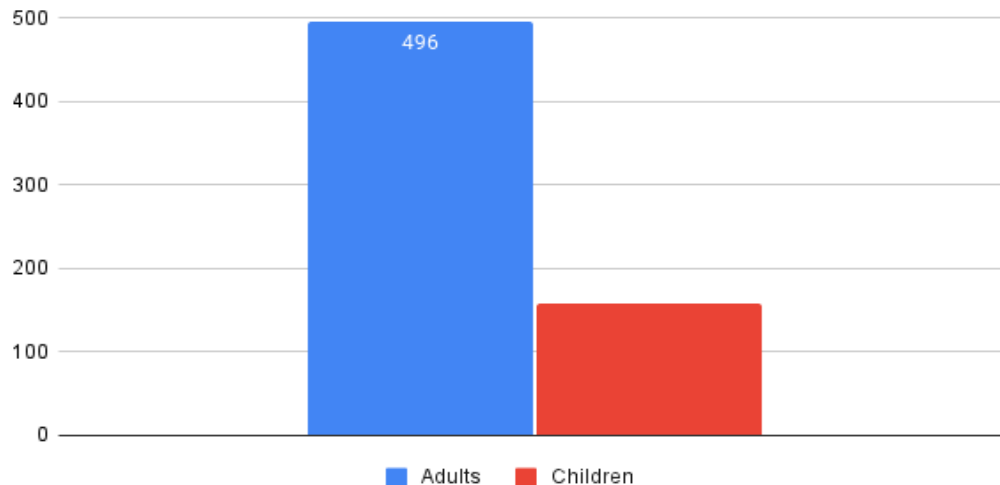


HOUSEHOLD

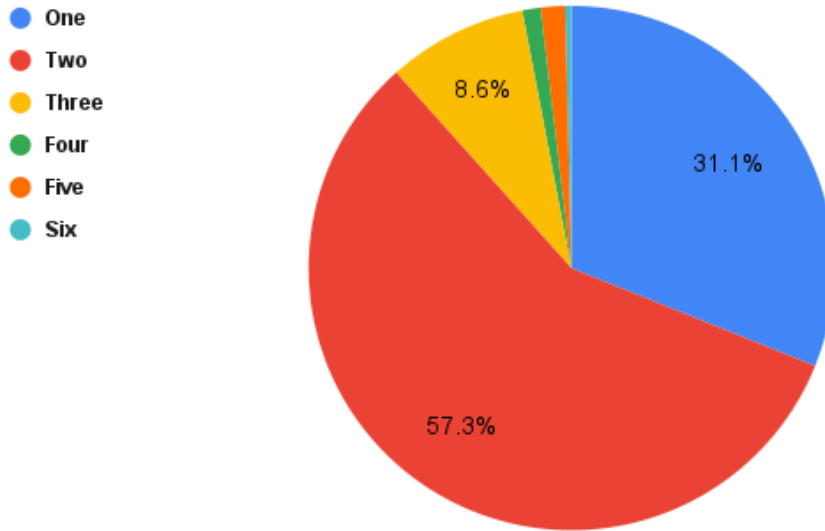
The number of adults benefiting from the project for the first time was **496**. The number of children benefiting was **158**.

We have collected data from all people making their **first visit**. The project now has regular clientele and the Community Fridge itself has become a destination rather than relying on passing customers.

Number of Adults and Children



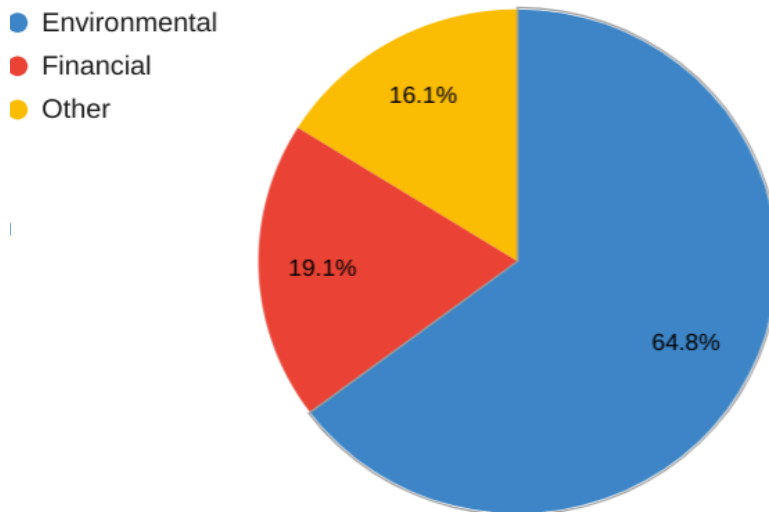
No of Adults per Household



REASON FOR USE

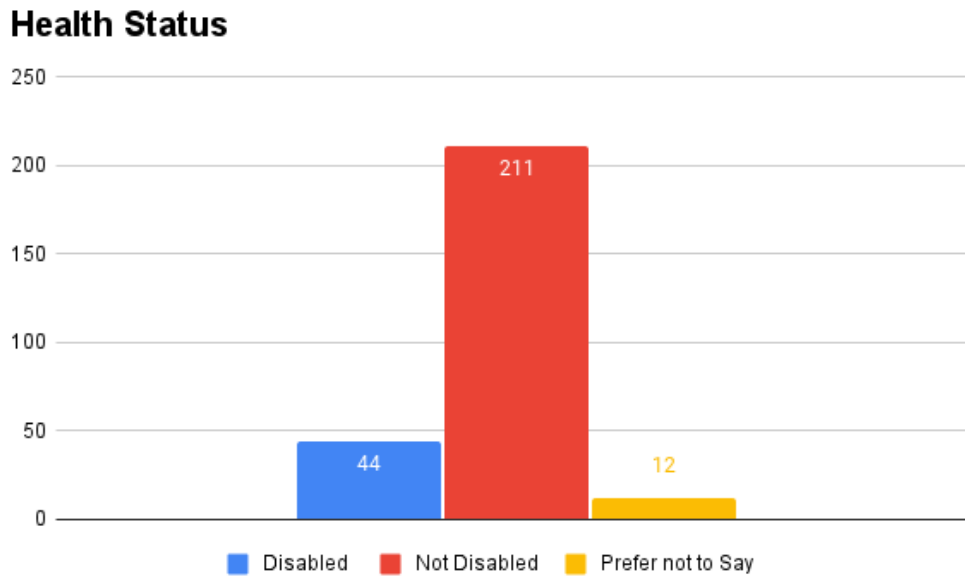
When interpreting the data from this question it is important to note that a number of customers indicated more than one reason for using the project. The answers given to this question on the survey show that **65%** of customers selected environmental impacts of wasting food as a reason for using the project. **19%** use the Community Fridge Project for financial reasons and **16%** chose Other.

Reasons for Use



HEALTH STATUS

The data received for the question “do you consider yourself disabled” shows that 211 customers did not consider themselves disabled..44 customers did identify that they did consider themselves as disabled. This indicates we don't have any concerns over accessibility to the project.



DISCLAIMER

All customers were encouraged to read our disclaimer and **100%** answer that they had.

The disclaimer is a basic disclaimer regarding allergies and food suitability to those with certain health conditions.

FOOD COLLECTION AND REDISTRIBUTION

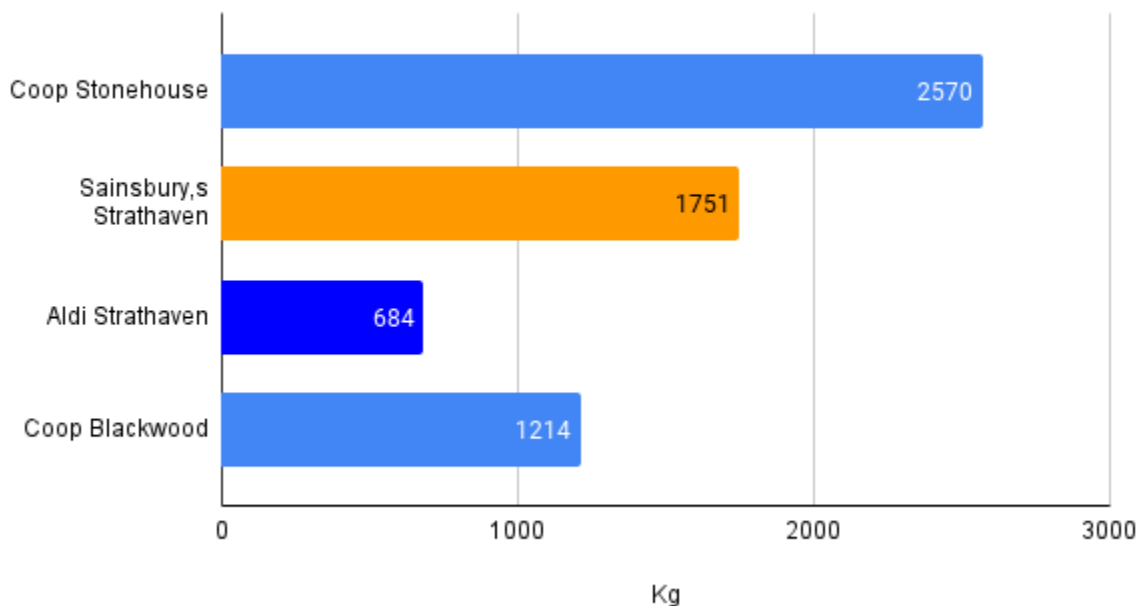
We only collect surplus food products from supermarkets as we can be certain there is clear allergy information, traceability and dates displayed and that the food has been stored correctly.

As members of **Hubub**, **Neighbourly** and **Carboodle** we also receive product recall alerts. **Co-op** Stonehouse was the first and only supermarket we collected from when the project commenced. It was soon after opening that we started collecting from **Sainsbury's** Strathaven.

The food is then sorted and displayed appropriately. Freezable items are identified and placed into the project freezers. Fridge food with suitable best before items are then placed in the fridge. All bakery items go onto our display shelves and any items deemed unsuitable for human consumption are removed and stored separately for distribution to a local chicken sanctuary or pig farm along with any left over goods at the end of each day.

The early success of the project meant we needed to expand our food collection and that's when we managed to involve **Aldi** Strathaven and **Co-op** Blackwood. Once our volunteers collect the food it is brought to the hub where all the food is weighed. This enables us to measure what food waste we have saved (see bar graph below for the breakdown)

Surplus Food Collected

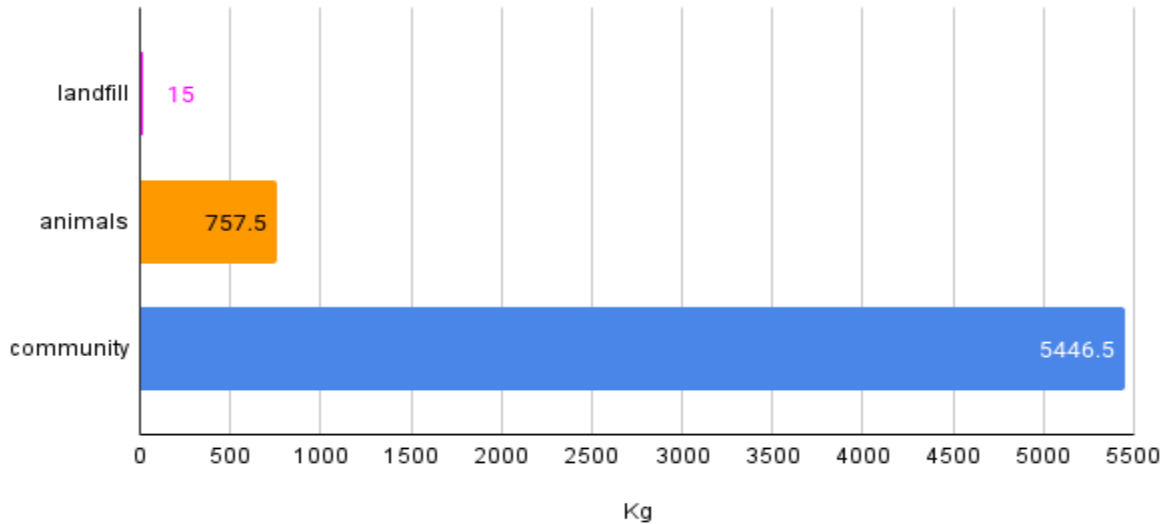


The total amount of food collected from local supermarkets was **6219 kg** .

A total of **772 kg** went to local animals while **only 15 kg ended up in landfill**.

So in the period from 11/4/22 to 30/11/22 a total of **5446 kg** which is equivalent to almost **five and a half tonnes of surplus food was redistributed to the community**. This equates to **35548 kg CO2 equivalent emissions saved** which is the equivalent to **129,551 miles travelled in a typical car**.

Breakdown of Redistribution



Moving Forward

Looking forward, it would be an aspiration for the project to expand the geographical area of supermarkets from which we collect.

Future project planning:

- Offer our customers surplus vegetables grown by local community gardeners.
- Continue and build upon the outreach work we do in educating and informing the local community in ways of managing food waste.
- Open an extra day each week.

Love Food Hate Waste !

Compiled by
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6/12/2022