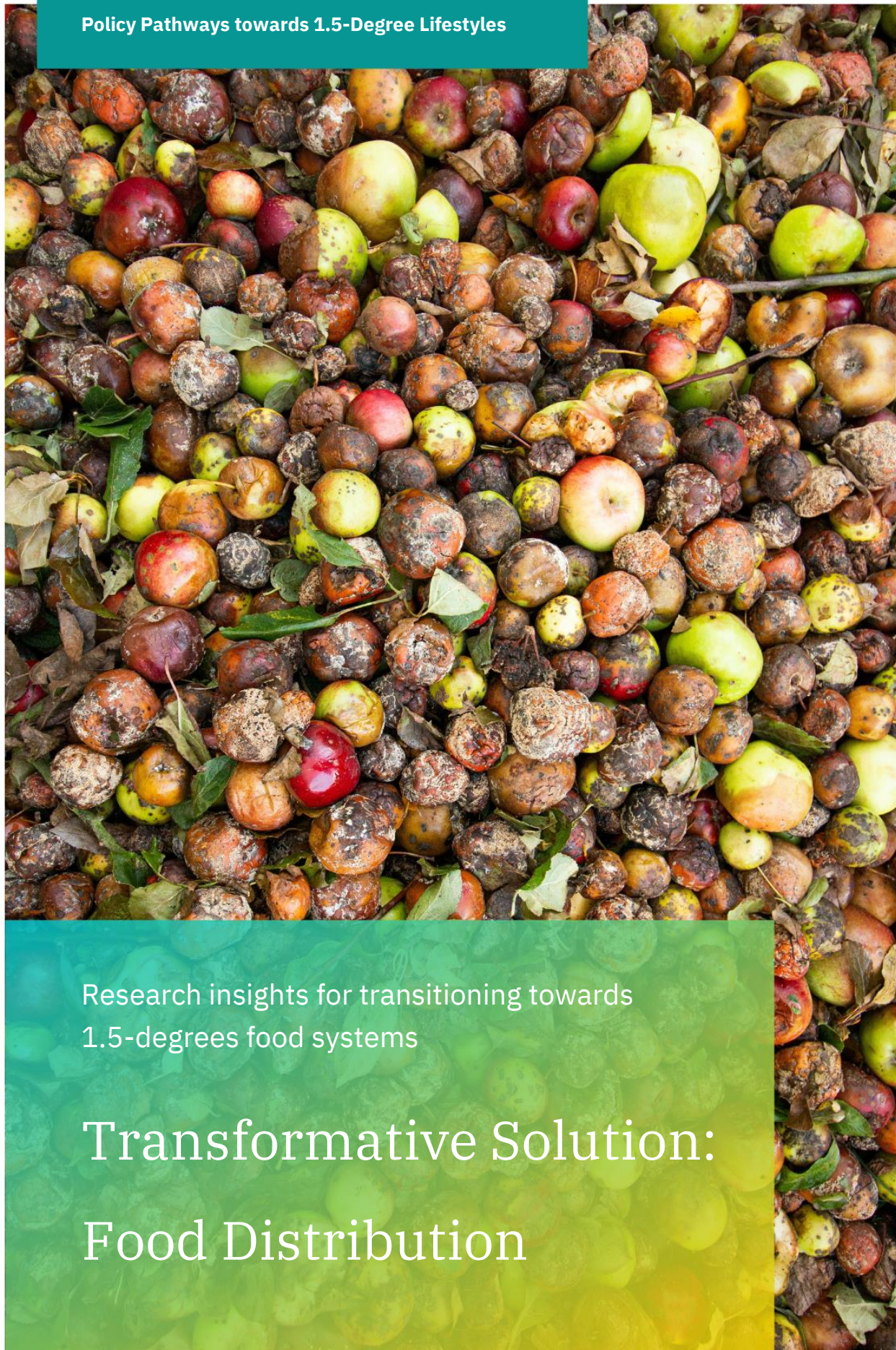


Publication Series

Policy Pathways towards 1.5-Degree Lifestyles



Research insights for transitioning towards  
1.5-degrees food systems

# Transformative Solution: Food Distribution

## **Imprint**

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### **Cover photo**

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# Research insights for transitioning towards 1.5-degrees food systems

Reshaping food policy for sustainable and equitable lifestyles

## Food Distribution

The amount of food produced globally reached 4 billion tonnes in 2020 (IPCC 2022). That is enough to adequately feed 10 billion people, 2.2 billion more than currently required (UNEP 2022). However, around 2.3 billion people were moderately or severely food insecure in 2021, primarily in the Global South (FAO et al. 2022). This represents nearly a quarter of the world's population. This is because more than one third of food that gets produced each year gets wasted, primarily in the Global North (Cox and Downing 2007). As such, a disproportionate amount of the global food production flows to rich countries where much of it ends as waste. Food waste and loss account for US\$ 990 billion globally each year (UNEP, 2022). The UN find that cutting global food waste by only a quarter and redirecting it to where it is needed most would eradicate global hunger in a single stroke, all the while mitigating the catastrophic impacts of the food system on environmental breakdown (Lyons 2015).

### F2F provides a policy framework for addressing food waste

Farm to Fork recognises the crucial importance of addressing food distribution to address both environmental breakdown and global hunger. The European Commission is committed to integrate food loss and waste prevention in EU policies and committed to reducing per capita food waste at retail and consumer levels by 50% by 2030. To achieve that, the Commission will propose legally binding targets to reduce food waste across the EU by the end of 2023 as part of a wider initiative to revise the Waste Framework Directive. This is an important step, but it remains to be seen how this initiative will develop in the co-legislative process.

However, measuring the effectiveness of waste prevention activities or policies have been identified as a fundamental challenge in the prevention of food waste (EEA [2020](#)). Harmonised data as well as robust monitoring systems are missing to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of local actions.

In addition to tackling food waste, practices such as Food sharing, whereby instead of wasting food citizens share them with other people, are an example of many which could change European's relationship with food waste.

### Further resources

Find out more on improving food waste prevention in the EU and Bio-waste management to turn challenges into opportunities with the EEA's report [here](#).

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