

Food Cloud preventing food waste while alleviating food insecurity in Arklow.

Food Cloud is a social enterprise tackling the issue of food waste and food security. Their model is to connect businesses with a surplus of food to charities and communities that need it. One in eight people in Ireland is living in food poverty yet one million tonnes of food is wasted each year. As a result of Food Cloud's work 1,000 tonnes of perfectly good food that would be wasted in Ireland is now being distributed to people who need it.

Food Cloud partners with over 250 charities and communities including Saint Vincent de Paul and The Simon Community. It partners with many retailers who supply product or sponsorship. It uses app technology to allow retailers inform local charities what food they have available for collection and those charities can then respond arranging to collect it. Tesco was the first retailer to partner with Food Cloud and the Tesco store in Arklow was one of the first in the country to start using Food Cloud to divert its surplus food to the local community with local partners. Arklow has a dedicated team of volunteers who collect the food from Tesco, divide it up and then deliver the food to those who need it.

Food Cloud delivers on SDG 2 Food Poverty but is also delivering on SDG 12 Sustainable consumption, SDG 13 Climate Action and on SDG 17 Partnership for the goals. A smart piece of technology and a great social enterprise.

