

Food Data Transparency Partnership (FDTP)

Eco Working Group - meeting minutes

The Eco Working Group is a stakeholder engagement group that provides input on policy development as part of an open policy design process. These discussions do not reflect agreed government policy.

Date: 12 May 2026

Time: 10:00am to 12:30pm

Venue: Caxton House (UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) offices) and Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Co-chairs:

- Judith Batchelar OBE, Non-Executive Director, Trustee and Advisor for Food Matters International Ltd
- Karen Lepper, Deputy Director for Environmental Sustainability, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Members:

- 19 Eco Working Group members
- officials from Defra, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and Northern Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

1. Co-chairs' welcome and updates

The co-chairs welcomed members and thanked UKRI for hosting.

New Defra policy team members and Department for Business and Trade colleagues were welcomed.

Members were reminded that meetings operate under Chatham House Rules and in a competition-compliant manner.

1.1 Updates from Defra

The resources of the FDTP policy team are currently stretched due to other departmental priorities.

A new dashboard was commissioned by Defra to illustrate the progress of the different project workstreams. Going forward it will be shared with Eco Working Group members on a quarterly basis.

2. FDTP research projects

2.2 Developing a Framework for Reporting, Assessment and Modelling of GHG Emissions from Agriculture (FRAME-Ag)

The FRAME-Ag project representative updated on progress in addressing the issues of inconsistent methods for calculating emissions and developing guidance; minimum technical expectations; and standard background models to achieve those outcomes.

Question and answer themes included:

- potential mitigation measures that might be included, such as nitrification inhibitors and methane suppressing feed products
- how FRAME-Ag would be managed in the future and ensuring governance is joined up with other FDTP governance
- ensuring that the right stakeholders were involved in the project
- the relationship between the FRAME-Ag project and the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory

2.3 The Food Data Infrastructure and Governance (FIG) project

The FIG project team provided an update on progress to date, outlining the agreed vision, the structure of the project's work phases and the discovery work completed. The ongoing work includes the identification of use cases, pilot planning work and the development of a proposed governance model.

Question and answer themes included:

- ongoing challenges in accessing high-quality, consistent farm-level data
- the value of data extending beyond purely economic considerations, including questions around data ownership, control and stewardship

2.4 Led 4 Food update and outline of Global Sustainable Transition Alliance (GSTA) - The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)

The WRAP team provided an update on progress of the Led 4 Food project, including the launch of the Food Environmental Impact Data (FEID) web tool in May.

WRAP also outlined the Global Sustainable Transition Alliance (GSTA) project that was launched earlier in 2026. GSTA aims to develop an internationally recognised product footprinting standard.

Question and answer themes included:

- GSTA's relationship with Led 4 Food and how their work will interact

3. Smart data presentation – Department for Business and Trade (DBT)

DBT representatives introduced the wider Smart Data strategy and the next steps for the Smart Data project. Smart data is a way for people and businesses to securely share their data with each other or authorised third parties. The Smart Data strategy's aim is to unlock investment across nine sectors, including agrifood.

Question and answer themes included:

- the applicability of smart data across both business-to-consumer and business-to-business contexts
- the practical challenge of handling large and complex datasets, and how data could be made usable and accessible in practice
- opportunities for the group to engage with and inform the ongoing development of smart data policy

4. Sustainability focus – How companies are progressing – British Standards Institution (BSI)

BSI is the UK national standards body and has a role in international standard setting. Standards are mostly voluntary but are led and adopted by the market and can also underpin regulation when referenced in legislation. BSI works together with Government and industry to set standards and make use of emerging technologies to set standards for the safe adoption of innovations such as methane suppressing feed and the carbon footprinting of products.

The presentation highlighted the relevance of formal standards to the FDTP and its associated research, particularly in supporting alignment, interoperability and consistency across data and supply chains.

Discussion

Members discussed the challenges of connecting supply chain data systems and the need to identify priority areas and examples of best practice to improve data coverage and interoperability across the supply chain.

5. Summary and close

The co-chairs shared their reflections from the meeting including making the work of this group accessible for external stakeholders and thanked attendees.

The next Eco Working Group meeting will be on 15 July 2026.