

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: 15 July 2026

Time: 10:00am to 11:30am

Venue: 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:

- 17 Eco Working Group members
- officials from Defra, Department for Business and Trade, 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 a new Defra policy team member.

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

1.1 Updates from Defra

Defra noted recent ministerial changes and the likelihood of a busy summer as wider government changes become clearer.

The Department for Business and Trade (now the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade) colleagues provided a brief update on the Smart Data call for

evidence, which had recently been published and will run for 12 weeks, closing on 1 October 2026. Two of the sectors explored are retail and agrifood.

The Defra team gave brief updates on the framework for reporting, assessment, and modelling of GHG Emissions from Agriculture (FRAME-Ag); food data infrastructure and governance (FIG); LED 4 Food; and the new International Subgroup.

On FIG, Defra noted that work is progressing on data sharing infrastructure, governance options, and pilot planning. Members discussed the importance of well-designed pilots, appropriate participant mix, and practical routes for farmers and smaller organisations to engage. FIG was also noted as important to wider questions on product level methodology implementation, including governance, data sharing, and the ambition for users to contribute data once for multiple purposes.

Defra shared that the new International Subgroup met for the first time in June and will help identify where FDTP should focus internationally.

Members noted the value of communicating progress across the FDTP portfolio. Defra agreed to consider what could be sent alongside the dashboard update.

2. Product level methodology

Waste and Resources Action Plan (WRAP) colleagues presented the LED 4 Food Product Level Methodology (PLM). The methodology is intended to support more consistent calculation and reporting of environmental impacts at food and drink product level.

WRAP updated members on feedback received on the methodology. Feedback and testing had been received from 19 organisations from across different parts of the food and drink supply chain. Feedback fell into two categories:

- methodological issues, clarity, and guidance points that could be addressed through changes to the document for version 2; and
- wider implementation issues relating to the system needed to support the methodology and enable genuine harmonisation and comparability.

Members discussed the product level methodology and the wider conditions needed to support implementation in practice.

Question and answer themes included:

- how assurance and validation might work, including how businesses can have confidence that supplier data has been calculated consistently
- what level of data is “good enough” for different purposes, including internal decision making, scope 3 reporting, business-to-business data exchange and consumer-facing purposes
- methodological questions, including on allocation approaches
- the importance of being clear about the scope, underlying assumptions, and outstanding issues

- how the methodology applies to fisheries and aquaculture
- international alignment, including links with the Global Sustainable Transition Alliance (GSTA)
- how smaller supply chain actors can engage with the methodology in a proportionate and usable way
- the respective roles of government, industry, and third-party providers in developing shared data, tools, and background datasets
- links with the FIG project, including governance, data sharing, pilot design, and the ambition to “ask once” and use data for multiple purposes.

Members broadly welcomed the proposed direction of travel but noted that further work is needed on implementation, usability, and governance. They also noted the importance of linking the methodology to specific use cases, so that the level of data and assurance required is proportionate to the intended purpose.

3. Summary and close

The co-chairs shared their reflections and thanked members for a well-informed and constructive conversation.

The next Eco Working Group meeting will be on 16 November 2026.