FOOD WASTE IN EVENTS

Food waste isn’t about ignorance, it’s about changing behaviour. Through the prism of our fear of running out, how can we regulate the wasteful habits of the events industry?
THE AVERAGE EVENT WASTES BETWEEN 15% - 20% OF THE FOOD IT PRODUCES.

Research* conducted by Lime Venue Portfolio has shown that the average event wastes between 15% and 20% of the food it produces. The survey also shows that of all event feedback, food is the primary source of conversation, and roughly 20% of all food-based feedback is in relation to waste. It’s therefore fair to say that, just like organisers, delegates are becoming increasingly aware of the issue too.
BACKGROUND

Everyone eats, most people cook, and everyone is an expert, so when it comes to food at events, everyone has an opinion. And none more so than event attendees if the food runs out.

Lime Venue Portfolio coined the phrase #FORO (fear of running out) at the beginning of 2019 - a play on the popular hashtag #FOMO (fear of missing out). The phrase aims to encourage wider discussions around one of event organisers’ most deeply felt fears.

This chapter of the report looks at the cost of #FORO and presents some solutions that may allow us to overcome it together, for the good of our planet.
“We need to talk more about food”. That is the opinion of Jon Davies, Managing Director of Levy UK, one of the event industry’s leading catering companies.

During the past five years there has been much to dominate conversations within the events industry, from wellbeing to the rise of the experience economy, and food has fallen down the agenda; Jon is keen to bring it to the front of people’s minds again.

However, Jon’s ambition is a whole lot more than just ‘talking food’. The way people approach food; eating it, sourcing it, its provenance, and its journey from farm to fork, is changing. So, for him, it’s about really looking at where food fits into the modern-day event experience.

But before he talks about the positive aspects of food, he’s keen to take on the hard stuff, and there can be no doubt that the subject of food over the last few years has moved from taste to ethics. So, before we take a look at the many positive aspects of food, it’s time to be open and honest about its full impact. It’s here where real leadership can happen, and Jon is keen to lead the industry into a new level of ethical food production, and he’s starting with waste.

“The research from Lime Venue Portfolio is both quite alarming, and actually not that surprising. People are talking about food, but it’s no longer just about taste, it’s about provenance and waste,” comments Jon. “As an industry we’ve become so scared about running out that we’re over ordering and wasting a lot of food. This is doing our delegates a great disservice; they want to be fed but they don’t want us paying this level of ecological price in order to do so.”

“Equally, the events industry is talking a lot about experience, sustainability and a new delegation with specific expectations of the events they go to. Well, food waste plays a part in each of these aspects,” he adds. “Organisers need to do both the right thing for their delegates as well the environment.”

“With strong sustainable values, an event can build loyalty, trust and engagement with delegations, and this can start with an open discussion about waste,” continues Jon. “If we share with them our plans on how we are combating waste, we can ask for their help, share progress and results and encourage them to become invested in our mission. It’s a positive message.”

So, why is Levy UK leading on this subject, what can it gain? “We’re in the position to best effect the way food is consumers, and not consumed, at events,” continues Jon. “We work with the venues and with the event organisers, so we have a responsibility to tackle food waste in a responsible way. I want us to be leading the conversation with our customers, rather than them coming to us.”
A key part of Jon’s ambition is to create more conversations between venues, chefs, event organisers and delegates. “This isn’t about lecturing, but about trying to have a more open dialogue about some of the more inconvenient truths around food. This means discussions between event organisers and delegates, to manage their expectations, as well as those between event planner, venue and chefs.

“We need to openly discuss major talking points such as wastage and the balance between managing waste and what LVP have coined #FORO, or ‘fear of running out’. This means that when we revisit the Lime Venue Portfolio research next year that hopefully we’ll see that the amount of waste is going down, and the conversations between organisers, chefs and delegates have changed and become much more enriching for both.

“It’s a bold ambition and one that is well worth keeping an eye on. Food waste, as this report will demonstrate, is a big issue in the events industry and it needs a concerted effort across the supply chain to make a positive difference. With initiatives like this though, I believe the industry is taking a big step in the right direction.”

“We need to break up traditional formats and give food its rightful place in a new event world.
Imagine a situation. You have over 1,200 people at a banquet, gala dinner or awards ceremony. The guests have paid top dollar, they are here for the entertainment, but they’re really paying for the food and drink. Expectations are rightly high; it’s splendid, it looks magnificent, aspirations are soaring. Then the kitchen runs out of food. Anyone in events will tell you that there are many things a guest will forgive; AV failing, the speaker not quite hitting the mark, but running out of food is not one of them. With 42% of event feedback being about food, it is important an event organiser gets this aspect of their event right.

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This is why #FORO exists, the event industry’s justified fear of running out. However, #FORO makes us do some very strange things, which if we take a second look at, seem absolutely astounding. It’s not an uncommon statistic that the kitchen will prepare an extra 10% of meals to make sure the event is able to cater for additional or last-minute guests. With the growing amount of vegan, vegetarian, and free-from options, it’s often that this will be replicated in so called ‘specialist’ meals, as guests change their mind or have failed to tell the organisers their food preferences ahead of time. Sounds extreme, but when set under the context of having guests going home disappointed is it a risk worth taking?

Until now, possibly. However, if all goes swimmingly well, based on an over-production of 10% of meals at a banquet for 1,200 people, you’re looking at the very real potential of 120 meals going to waste; that’s a lot.

And this isn’t a light meal we’re preparing here. At a banquet we are looking at a high-value, high-quality meal. The very best meat and fish, indulgent desserts, expertly sourced and prepared. Meat is an especially sensitive subject; one of the reasons why so many people are turning to plant-based diets is the massive environmental cost of rearing it. Wasting such a high-premium ingredient should not be done lightly.

The past 12 months have been full of event organisers really taking the lead in sustainable events, especially food. This is led by a massive shift in consumer behaviour towards food, but we still need to get the balance right between our need to produce ethical and responsible events, and our #FORO.

* Research carried out by Lime Venue Portfolio: June 2019
[covered in Chapter One]
INDUSTRY
RESEARCH

Insight into #FORO
The following research was conducted by Lime Venue Portfolio, in June 2019, to better understand the phenomenon of #FORO, the breadth of food wastage that it causes, and the onward potential damage to the environment.

**The research was an on-line survey, distributed through:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Profile of respondents:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lime Venue Portfolio database of event organisers, venues and industry stakeholders</td>
<td>5% identified as in-house event professional</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCD Meetings &amp; Events database of customers</td>
<td>36% identified as agency event professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCD Meetings &amp; Events global staff database</td>
<td>1% identified as PCO (Professional Conference Organiser)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social media channels of both BCD Meetings &amp; Events and Lime Venue Portfolio</td>
<td>27% identified as Support Service</td>
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<td>Source total of 63 responses</td>
<td>35% of respondents organised more than 30 events per year</td>
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<td></td>
<td>48% of respondents organised more than 20 events per year</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Only 5% of respondents organise a meeting without a food element</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **35%** Respondents organise more than 30 events per year
- **48%** Respondents organise more than 20 events per year
- **5%** Respondents organise a meeting without a food element
FOOD WASTE ACCOUNTS FOR AROUND 20% OF FEEDBACK

87% of respondents chose this bracket, meaning that roughly half of all food-based feedback is on food wastage.

* Research carried out by Lime Venue Portfolio: June 2019
Food waste is a major issue in the meetings and events industry. The following research, conducted by Lime Venue Portfolio, in partnership with BCD Meetings & Events, provides relevant and up-to-date data that unveils staggering figures underlining just how prevalent food wastage is in the industry.

Of the respondents surveyed:

- 29% admitted that roughly 15% of the food they commission at events goes to waste after the event
- 27% reported that this number was closer to 10% at their events
- 18% admitted that wastage was over 20%, and
- 2% that the amount exceeded 20%

This level of wastage, previously suspected by the industry, has now been borne true and underlines the challenges the industry needs to overcome.

Further findings of the research also show that, of this food wasted:

- The biggest food group to be wasted is ‘salads’ accounting for 40% of the food groups presented in the survey
- Next was ‘breads’ at 16%
- Then ‘desserts’ at 13%; and
- Vegetable side dishes’ at 11%

The groups that were thrown away least were ‘alternative tastes e.g. spicy food etc.’ (1.5%), ‘fruit’ and ‘alternative mains e.g. gluten, vegan, veg etc.’, which accounted for 5% each perhaps indicating that such options are more likely to be ordered in the correct volumes ahead of the event.

The research also demonstrated how important food is to delegates at an event.

- 38% of respondents reported that food accounts for between 0-20% of post-event feedback
- 25% believed this figure to be closer to 20-40% of feedback
- One third of respondents saw this as even higher, between 40% and 80%, further underlining the importance of getting the food proposition right at events.

The survey also demonstrated that food waste accounts for around 20% of this feedback. 87% of respondents chose this bracket, meaning that roughly half of all food-based feedback is on food wastage. While there is little historical data to compare these findings with, it does perhaps show a larger scale awareness amongst delegates of this issue and a growing inclination to address it.

With the scale of the problem revealed, the survey also asked respondents where responsibility lies regarding reducing waste. The survey asked respondents to ‘place in order who was most responsible for reducing food waste’; choosing between ‘Event Organiser’, ‘Caterer’ and ‘Delegate’.

The results were very clear:

- Well over half of all respondents look to the caterer for leadership around this subject
- Event Organiser was a very close second, just under half placing them in this position
- The Delegate was an overwhelming third

However, the chart below does underline that although the results were clear, there was universal approval that it is down to everyone at an event to help solve this issue.

Most importantly though, this survey has brought to light the extent of food wastage within the events industry, the growing importance it has for delegates, and the urgency of an industry-wide response.
How would you define yourself in the industry?
- Agency event professional: 37%
- In-house event professional: 35%
- Support Service: 27%
- PCO event professional: 2%

What percentage of food, do you throw away average per head?
- 5%: 24%
- 10%: 27%
- 15%: 29%
- 20%: 18%
- More: 2%

How many events do you organise per year?
- Under 3: 16%
- 4 - 10: 17%
- 11 - 20: 19%
- 21 - 30: 13%
- 30+: 35%

What type of the food produced at an average event gets wasted?
- Salads: 40%
- Vegetable sides: 11%
- Hot mains: 10%
- Alternative mains e.g. gluten, vegan, vegetarian etc: 5%
- Alternative taste e.g. spicy: 2%
- Desserts: 13%
- Breads: 16%
- Fruit: 5%

How many events have a food element?
- Under 3: 16%
- 4 - 10: 17%
- 11 - 20: 19%
- 21 - 30: 13%
- 30+: 35%

Percentage of food focused feedback
- 0 - 20%: 38%
- 21 - 40%: 25%
- 41 - 60%: 19%
- 61 - 80%: 14%
- 81 - 100%: 3%

How much feedback is food wast focused
- 0 - 20%: 87%
- 21 - 40%: 6%
- 41 - 60%: 3%
- 61 - 80%: 2%
- 81 - 100%: 2%

Whose primary responsibility is it to minimise waste at events?
(Order 1-3, with 1 bearing the most responsibility)
- Caterer: 57%
- Event Organiser: 30%
- Delegate: 17%

1st Caterer
2nd Event Organiser
3rd Delegate
As part of this report’s research into #FORO, Lime Venue Portfolio, in partnership with Levy UK, and BCD Meetings & Events, convened a live discussion at The Meetings Show. The session featured speakers representing venues, chefs, caterers, agency buyers and in-house corporate event organisers.

On the panel, which was chaired by Jon Davies, Managing Director of Lime Venue Portfolio and Levy UK, were; Emily Girdwood - Event Manager, Barclays; Anna Golden, Commercial Director, Olympia London; Paul Jenning, Director of Culinary, Sports & Arena’s, Levy UK; and John Kelly, Director, Marketing EMEA, BCD Meetings & Events.

The session began with a presentation by Jon that set the scene for the discussion. He highlighted the challenges and concerns surrounding food and events and why the fear of running out of food (FORO) is influencing organisers’ choices.

It put into context the perspective of consumers today, who are showing increasing concern towards food waste and sustainability. Equally, climate change is very much a global issue, and Jon demonstrated the impact that the food industry, and therefore the event catering industry, has on the environment.

Evidenced from the research conducted throughout the food service industry Jon shared some frightening statistics:

- A third of all food produced is wasted
- The animal agriculture industry contributes to a massive 59% of CO2 emissions
- Emissions created by cattle (beef rearing) was 60 times more harmful than normal CO2
- To meet global commitments to CO2 reduction, the western world would need to reduce its beef consumption by 90%
- Amongst this we have an events industry that wastes up to 10% of everything it produces, and in the case of large banquets, this is often high-value beef products*

He left attendees in little doubt that this is an urgent and relevant issue that event organisers have a responsibility to tackle and must do so quickly.

Following the presentation, the panellists discussed food wastage and #FORO. One of the biggest challenges the panel brought forward was historic lack of mutual objectives from stakeholders, clients and suppliers. It was felt that this was changing but was a difficult hurdle to overcome. For instance, how do we explain low food levels, or even being out of stock at an event? “Be bolder,” commented Emily Girdwood, Event Manager, Barclays. “Take the courage to tell your customers or your clients why you are ordering this amount of food. Don’t be afraid to say this is how we do things and ensure they know there’s value in that.” This advice was unanimous across the panel.

*Source: ILEA UK, The Meetings Show
“Take the courage to tell your customers or your clients why you are ordering this amount of food. Don’t be afraid to say this is how we do things and ensure they know there’s value in that.”

Emily Girdwood, Event Manager, Barclays
John Kelly, Director, Marketing EMEA, BCD Meetings & Events, commented, “We need a modern approach to food. We need to break up traditional formats of buffet spreads and gala dinners and incorporate food in a way that adds to the experience. For me, it’s about getting the chefs out onto the floor, cooking to order and interacting with the guests. This maintains a stronger control over what’s going out and how much wastage there is.”

Anna Golden, Commercial Director, Olympia London added, “Communication is important too. Organisers need to have these discussions and have them early on. Be clear from the outset about your CSR objectives and be visible with it. Let your consumers, suppliers and stakeholders know and see that you are conscious of your business’s footprint. Let them know you care about where your food is coming from or why you want to keep wastage to a minimum. Expectations will be met if this is visible knowledge from the outset.”

On delving deeper into avoiding #FORO, on top of the structural approach, there was also good advice on managing the situation on the floor of the event, “The way in which we are consuming food is changing, and why should this be any different from the events we go to,” commented Paul Jennings, Director of Culinary, Sports & Arenas, Levy UK.

“Adopting new ways of serving food at events can significantly alter the chances of running out but also conceal the notability from guests that the food has run out. Serving bowl food is another great option for this. It’s replaceable and will often go unnoticed.”

The panel later addressed food sustainability, another pillar of concern and an ongoing industry topic. The subject of food is not just about wastage, but where and how the food is sourced.

Paul commented, “There are a lot of benefits that come from exploring a menu that tells a story. Customers like to know about the food they are eating and telling this story through your menus is a subtle, yet powerful way of doing this. It also further adds to the event experience. It’s a fantastic selling point from an organiser’s standpoint. As long as it doesn’t deter from the event, customers like to know you are going the extra mile to support the environment.”

Perhaps one of the largest misconceptions is the impact of agricultural farming - specifically the mass production of meat (in particular beef) and dairy to cater for mass consumption.

Again, Paul added: “Limiting meat options or having none at all, is not only key for drastically helping sustainability, but also encourages event organisers to be more creative with their menus. Having plant-based menus is a great way to do this. 9 times out of 10, customers will prefer this.”

Emily added, “Do we need meat on our menus at all? Within our division we’re looking to ban all red meat on menus within every event except smaller boardroom tables. Surely offering creative, alternative plant-based options is much more exciting and taking meat off the menu all together will leave out any pre-expectations.”

This bold step, from one of the UK’s largest corporate events departments underlines the general message from the panellists: be bolder in your decision to be greener and don’t give in to #FORO. Attitudes are changing and showing that you care about the environment is a desirable trait in the eyes of the consumer.

Jon Davies finished by saying: “We need to stop waiting and just do it. Yes, there are certificates and accolades that award those who are proactive towards their CSR, but that isn’t what it is about. We need to stop asking and just start taking the steps within our own businesses and that’s what’s going to make a difference!”
The food industry wastes the weight of 182 HMS Belfast** ships in the UK every year.

1.9 million tons

**HMS Belfast is part of Lime Venue Portfolio
* Source: Fareshare ‘Fighting Hunger, Tackling Food Waste’ 2019
So, based on our conversations with experts in and out of the industry, we’ve created the following tips...

**Bring guests into the conversation, from the outset.**
If guests only knew how much some events waste, they’d be 100% on the side of the organiser looking to reduce it. So, speak to delegates from the outset; it’s a virtue and says a lot about the event’s values, it makes the delegates think about the cost of them not sharing dietary requirements or changing their minds. Make them a part of the conversation, it will be really rewarding for them.

**Get the numbers right.**
It’s so important that the event organisers know who is coming, when they’re coming, and at least what they are planning to eat. Over-ordering and back up is a response to a lack of information ahead of an event; with more reliable information we can reduce the amount of waste. Technology can be a big part of this, we can integrate menu data collection in event apps, and even onsite at the events.

**Create new menu formats, plants then meat.**
There are stories of events (OK, not banquets … yet) that have gone completely vegan without making a major issue of it. In the end the food spoke for itself and the guests were pleasantly surprised, many of them didn’t even notice. The sign on the wall doesn’t have to say; “meat free” it can just say ‘great food’. A less dramatic option is to use meat as a side or garnish, so it’s not the main aspect of the plate. Finally, with so many vegans, veggies and healthy eating guests out there, maybe it’s time to create a menu that doesn’t marginalise them, again, not veggie, not vegan, just great food.

**Use everything.**
Education is key here; we need to create a virtue in front of guests of cooking with ingredients that would usually be thought of as ‘wasteful’. Through our events we could be advocates for broccoli stems and eating the whole of the kale. If we get them on side, we can reduce more waste in the kitchen and eventually the home!

**Get chefs out into the event.**
This isn’t just about theatre, although it does add an extra layer of authenticity and interest for the guest, it’s about chefs pushing different food options and being able to regulate waste in real time.

Imagine chef cooking stations, where food is finished, carved and presented to tables, more options are given to the guests from these stations, perhaps something that they would not have chosen before. It adds to the event experience, but moreover it goes to the heart of regulating waste.

**Share the numbers.**
Delegates should be rewarded for helping the event reduce waste, so where possible share the results of initiatives in food waste. ‘How much did we throw away, of what, and how much better was this than last year / time?’ This approach not only rewards, it continually reminds delegates of the issues we face as an industry.
PATHWAY TO AN INDUSTRY WITHOUT #FORO

A holistic industry response
- Pressure across the conference network
- Collaboration with associations and networks

Communication
- Between delegates, event organisers, venues and caterers
- Built into pre, during and post event programmes

Stopping it at source
- Clear communication with delegates from the outset
- Reduction in over-ordering
- Bravery in saying ‘no’

At Event
- Changing event formats to support waste eradication
- Pushing chefs out onto the floor
- ‘Selling’ options
- Create new format menus

Post Event
- Sell success
- Tell stories
- Create heroes

Structure
- Bring leaders together
- Have the conversations
- Show failure and success
A selection of #FORO recipes from across the Lime Venue Portfolio estate
**Broccoli ‘stalk’ & Cashel blue cheese soup**

*Chef Tony Maude, Kents Hill Park, Milton Keynes*

Often thrown in the bin, the broccoli stalks deserve some attention and rightfully so! Gram for gram the stalk is just as nutritious as the floret who takes all the glory. They can be eaten raw drizzled with some olive oil and sea salt or just dipped into some hummus, even throw on the BBQ and charred, but then our comforting simple soup recipe is worth trying!

- Why not make your vegetable stock with leftover vegetable trimmings, skin and herb stalks?
- Not a fan of blue cheese? Try another cheese instead.

**Ingredients**

1 large white onion, roughly diced
2 tbsp rapeseed oil
1 stick celery or the leftover root, rough chopped
900g broccoli stalks
800ml vegetable stock
200g cashel blue, crumbled
Pinch salt & pepper

**Method**

1. Add the oil to a large saucepan over a medium heat, add the onion and cook until soft.
2. Whilst the onions are cooking cut the broccoli stalk into 2cm sized chunks, add them to the pan fry for 2 minutes before adding the vegetable stock.
3. Once the stalks are tender add the cashel blue cheese, then salt & pepper to taste once the cheese has melted puree the soup until smooth before dividing between 4 bowls or 2 if you are really hungry!
Anything goes kimchi

Chef Frank Lusumbi, Eastwood Hall, Eastwood

Well almost anything can go into this recipe….a stable in Korean cuisine, the fermented vegetable dish is usually made with cabbage and a variety of seasoning. We love the dishes versatility by adding all trimmings and scraps to create a fantastic zero waste version! If you do want to add meat, the recipe works brilliantly with fish, pork, chicken or beef added just before serving.

Ingredients

Cauliflower leaves
(from 2 cauliflowers &/or carrot trimmings, scallion tops, cabbage outer leaves or leek tops)

2 garlic cloves
(peeled & crushed)

Fresh ginger, one 15cm piece, peeled & finely chopped

2 tbsp honey

2 tbsp Korean red pepper powder or gochujang

3 tbsp rice wine vinegar

1 tbsp table salt

Method

1. Place the honey, ginger garlic, rice wine vinegar salt into a small bowl and mix well.

2. Once mixed massage the mixture into the cauliflower leaves (or whatever vegetables you are using).

3. Add the mixture to a clean kilner jar, press it all down and cover with a muslin (or you can use cling film).

4. Place in the fridge for 5 days to allow it to ferment before serving.
Kale stem vegan pesto

Chef Grzegorz Ostropolski, Milton Hill, Oxfordshire

We have utilised the stalk to create a wonderful vegan friendly pesto, if you cannot get nutritional yeast, a drop of Marmite will give the dish that cheese-like flavour.

Ingredients
- 50g pine nuts, toasted
- ½ garlic clove
- 40g kale stems
- 50ml olive oil
- 1 tsp nutritional yeast
- Salt, pinch
- Lemon juice, to taste

Method
1. Toast the pine nuts in a pan until coloured, allow to cool.
2. In a food mixer add the kale stems, garlic, toasted pine nuts and a small amount of oil, whilst the mixer is still running add the remaining oil.
3. Stir in the nutritional yeast (or Marmite), salt & lemon juice to taste.
4. Put into a clean kilner jar and place into the fridge until required.

GO BEYOND
Try mixing your pesto with spiralized courgette
Coffee Grind Granola
Chef Justin Renkes, Alexandra House, Swindon

We serve so many cups of coffee each day, that creates so a lot of
coffee grounds. A lot of this goes back to our suppliers who use it as
compost to grow vegetables. We enjoy this recipe as much as we enjoy
drinking coffee!

Ingredients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200g rolled oats</td>
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<tr>
<td>(gluten free, if desired)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100g chopped raw pecans</td>
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<tr>
<td>100g nibbed almonds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tbsp coffee grinds</td>
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<tr>
<td>200g chopped dried dates (pitted)</td>
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<tr>
<td>75g butter</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>75ml maple syrup</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 tsp vanilla extract</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 tsp sea salt</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 tbsp water (to thin)</td>
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Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C.
2. Combine oats, pecans, almonds, dates, and coffee grinds in a large mixing bowl.
3. In a small pot on the stove over medium-low heat, combine the butter, maple syrup, vanilla extract, salt, and water. Whisk until smooth. If the mixture seems to thick still, add additional water 1 tbsp at a time until pourable.
4. Pour the butter mixture over the oat’s mixture. Stir really well to ensure all the dry ingredients are moistened.
5. Spread the mixture in fairly even layer onto a rimmed baking sheet, but with very little, if any, space between the ingredients. This is how you’ll get the nice big clumps of granola!
6. Bake for 25-28 minutes, shaking the pan and flipping the mixture over as best you can about halfway through.
7. The granola will continue to crisp up as it sits, so don’t over-bake or it will burn.
8. Allow to cool before eating. Store any leftovers in an airtight container to keep it fresh.
Overripe Banana bread
Kerry Pearce, Ettington Chase Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon

An overripe banana turning an unsightly shade of brown is a common sight in fruit bowls. The ripe banana window is short and we get caught short! It might not be a tasty snack anymore but it can be mashed and used up in this brilliant recipe!

**Ingredients**
- 100g butter
- 175g caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3 overripe bananas, (the blacker the better)
- 225g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 2 tbsp milk

**Method**
1. Lightly grease the loaf tin and line it with non-stick baking parchment. Pre-heat the oven to 180°C.
2. Measure all the ingredients into a mixing bowl and beat for about 2 minutes, until well blended; an electric mixer is best for this but of course you can also beat by hand with a wooden spoon.
3. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and level the surface. Bake for about 45-50 minutes, until well risen and golden brown. A fine skewer inserted in the centre of the cake should come out clean.
4. Leave the cake to cool in the tin for a few minutes, then loosen with a small palette knife and turn the cake out. Remove the lining paper and leave on a wire rack to cool completely.

Go Beyond
For an extra treat try adding nuts or chocolate chips
ABOUT US

The UK’s largest collection of diverse venues, connected by great tasting food and memorable experiences.

Lime Venue Portfolio launched in 2008 and since then we’ve become the leading group venue finder for unique venues. Today we’re proud to represent over 80 independent venues from all four corners of the UK.

We bring together individual venues, all operated by Compass Group UK & Ireland, in pursuit of a common purpose - to build their meeting, incentive, conference and event business.

Venues include zoos, museums, castles and stately homes; leading sporting stadiums and race courses alongside the UK’s premier exhibition and conference centres, purpose built training and residential venues; providing event professionals with a variety of spaces to suit different event objectives.

Operating just like a hotel group central reservations service, our award-winning team search the portfolio of venues to save you time and money. Our venue experts will provide complimentary, detailed e-proposals to suit your deadlines and make booking an event with us hassle free.

Brands choose our iconic spaces to make a statement about their event and they choose Lime Venue Portfolio because of our unrivalled reputation.

Elevating experiences. It’s why we exist.

At BCD Meetings & Events, we work with you to create moments that elevate, motivate, celebrate and inspire.

As a world-leader in experience design and execution, we use our global network, vast connections and buying power and combine it with our relentless passion, our unmatched knowledge and our wild imagination. The result? Experiences that are memorable, tangible, surprising, stress-less, beautiful and perfectly suited for your organization’s needs and strategic intent.

Choosing to work with BCD M&E, simplifies your world – one partnership, as opposed to many. Our team will design a smart, flexible solution that will positively impact the way your company approaches meetings management moving forward.

For large events, small meetings and everything in between, we design a program unique to your needs-and anticipate what to expect down the road. Like most companies looking closely at their meeting program, you want to find the best way to manage your meetings. You need an experienced partner to develop a scalable solution customized to your needs and culture.

Find out more:
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