

14th September 2011

It's 'Fare' to Share: Relieving Food Poverty and Reducing Waste

Tillery Valley, the national meal provider to the healthcare, education and local authority sectors, has been working with the national food poverty and food re-distribution charity, FareShare, for over two years, to provide nutritional food to the homeless and needy. Tillery Valley was one of the first companies in Wales to support the recent opening of FareShare's Cardiff depot by providing both food and training assistance.

As a leading provider of chilled and frozen food across the UK, Tillery Valley's production plant has the capacity to produce up to one million meals per week. Working with the team's expert dietitians, each meal is tried and tested to ensure its consistency, temperature and nutritional value is of the highest possible quality within budget. However, when menu changes are made, meals are inevitably wasted. Instead of throwing these meals in the bin, providing the food is fit for consumption, Tillery Valley delivers these 'overs' to FareShare who then redistributes the food to some of the 700 community organisations and charities it supports across the UK.

Through the new Cardiff depot, chilled 'overs', which usually cannot be redistributed due to their short life at the point of release, will be collected and distributed by FareShare's Cymru operation in Cardiff before becoming unusable. To further support the scheme Tillery Valley also donates £5 for every pallet of product it supplies to FareShare. This donation, however small, is essential in supporting the training of FareShare's 330 volunteers throughout the UK and thus is a perfect example of how a little bit can go a long way. Tillery Valley also hopes to send members of staff to volunteer with FareShare at the end of the year to further show its support.

Tillery Valley, Technical Director, Chris Woodbridge says:

"The scheme we have set up with FareShare has proven a huge success and one which we hope to build upon and develop in the future. It feels great that perfectly good food that would otherwise have been wasted will go to a worthy cause, and it is essential that

everything we do is aligned to our STOP Hunger campaign and our Better Tomorrow Plan sustainability strategy

He continues:

“We are continually working hard to cut CO₂ emissions and food delivery miles, and through schemes like FareShare our recycling rate now operates between 70 and 80% - a result which we are very proud of!”

Keith Manson, FareShare Cymru Depot Director says:

“We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from Tillery Valley so far in helping us to set up our new depot in Cardiff. We hope that by developing our relationship over the coming years, together we will be able to continue to support communities to relieve food poverty.”

Sustainability is high on the agenda for Tillery Valley and the company has many programmes in place, not only supporting the community but reducing its carbon footprint, cutting CO₂ emissions and supporting local businesses. The company has recently set up a Welsh Lamb Procurement programme, for example, in which lamb is sourced directly from two local farms thus reducing food miles and supporting local businesses. Although more costly for the business, this scheme further represents Tillery Valley's commitment to sustainability.