

Cook, Connect, Create Change

A Unique Team-building Experience with Real and meaningful Impact – Big Lunch Special Edition



Imagine your team stepping into a professional kitchen, rolling up their sleeves, and working together to create a delicious three-course meal—from scratch. The twist? All ingredients are surplus food, and the end result feeds people facing hunger and loneliness.



Welcome to the FoodCycle Food Invention Challenge

An unforgettable team experience inspired by Ready, Steady, Cook!—blending creativity, collaboration, and community impact.



Why Book This Experience?

1. Unrivalled Team Building in a Real Kitchen

This is not your average awayday. Your team will:

- Collaborate under time pressure
- Innovate with unpredictable ingredients
- Step into the role of head chefs, planners, and problem-solvers

All in a professionally equipped kitchen, guided by FoodCycle's expert team.

2. Make a Real Difference

Every meal your team creates goes directly to local people experiencing food poverty and social isolation. You'll help:

- Serve over 30 nutritious meals to vulnerable communities
- Reduce food waste by using surplus produce
- Support FoodCycle's mission to build stronger, healthier communities through food

3. Strengthen Company Purpose

This challenge supports your ESG goals, boosts employee engagement, and gives your team the satisfaction of cooking for a cause - together.





Why Book The Big Lunch Experience?

Get involved in the UK's biggest celebration of community, friendship, and food!



What is The Big Lunch?

The Big Lunch is an annual celebration, coordinated by our friends at The Eden Project, which brings teams and colleagues together to share food, fun, and friendship, all while raising funds for a great cause. At FoodCycle, we know just how powerful food can be in bringing teams and colleagues together.

This is your chance to build connections, create memories, and celebrate the power of community spirit amongst your team.

Your team will:

Not only cook a three-course meal for a local shelter but will also sit down together to enjoy the same meal you've created. This shared lunch adds a powerful new layer of connection, celebration and purpose to your experience.

Did you know?

You can amplify your influence by orchestrating your very own Big Lunch gathering within your company this summer—fostering a vibrant team culture while championing FoodCycle's noble endeavours across the UK.



"If you're a company looking for a meaningful way to give back, and bond as a team, then look no further. You'll leave feeling accomplished and full of innovative ideas to use up fruit and veg."

Martha Jensen,
Rude Health



"Volunteers really enjoyed getting creative, using fresh surplus food to make nutritious meals for those who may be lonely and isolated, on low incomes or homeless whilst also thinking about their own food habits and practices. Huge thank you to the FoodCycle Team for providing us with such fun and informative volunteering days."

Fon Browndy
Volunteering Partnerships Manager,
Wellcome Trust



What's Included

- Exclusive use of a professional kitchen
- Support from trained FoodCycle staff
- All cooking equipment and ingredients
- Post-event Impact Report for your team
- Feel-good factor guaranteed

A portion of your fee goes directly towards FoodCycle's work, helping fund over 400 community meals every week across the UK.



How it works

The Challenge:

Prepare a nutritious, three-course meal using only surplus ingredients. Teams plan, cook, and plate - then meals are judged and delivered to a local homeless shelter or community partner.

Logistics

- The events take 3.5 hours and are held Monday - Friday (AM or PM).
- Morning sessions run 9:30am-1pm. Afternoon sessions from 1:30-5pm.
- We can host groups of up to 12 people.

Schedule

- Arrival, welcome, introductions and health and safety briefing (30 mins)
- Menu planning (15 mins)
- Cooking up a storm in teams (2 hours)
- Packaging and labelling meals (30 mins)
- Meals delivered to community where it will feed around 30 people (30 mins)

* NB - Timings may vary slightly



Locations

We have two locations for your team to join us,
both easily accessible by public transport.

London



Mission Kitchen, London

5 minute walk from Nine Elms
Underground Station

15 minute walk from Vauxhall
Train/Underground Station

Birmingham



Kitchen by Liquid, Birmingham

6 minute walk from New Street Station

9 minute walk from Snow Hill Station



Frequently Asked Questions

Is the event safe?

We ensure that our sessions are as safe as possible and restrict group sizes to 12 people to ensure there is adequate kitchen space. FoodCycle staff present have a Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate and First Aid Training. Before every session we share information on volunteering safely and hold a health and safety briefing for participants.

Where does the food go?

The food you cook will be delivered to a nearby homeless shelter, in time to provide nutritious lunches or dinners to vulnerable people who may otherwise go without.

How can we share our team's impact?

After your session, you will receive an Impact Report highlighting the number of hours your team have contributed to FoodCycle as well as the number of meals you donated to the shelter.





Ready to Book Your Big Lunch Kitchen Takeover?

As a charity we rely on funding so we can provide our essential services across the country. The price includes our event costs and staff time, plus a donation to support FoodCycle's vital work.

Please complete our Enquiry Form for more information and prices.

Bring your team together to cook, connect, and share a meaningful meal—all while supporting people experiencing food poverty.

Whether you're looking to host a unique team-building day or take part in FoodCycle's Big Lunch campaign, this experience offers the chance to give back, bond as a team, and enjoy a three-course meal you've created together.



fundraising@foodcycle.org.uk



020 77 292775

**Let's turn surplus food into something extraordinary –
and share the joy of a Big Lunch**

