



Dear Cotswold Taste Member,

Please find below the latest Food from England newsletter.

Clearly the recent announcement from the government on ensuring supplies of CO2 to business is welcome news for the food and drink sector.

You may be interested to know that a Food Allergens Knowledge Hub has recently been set up to provide further support on this important issue.

A new Plastic Packaging tax comes into force next April which obviously has implications for our sector. DEFRA is currently asking for feedback on this and if you would like to participate in the research you can find further details in the newsletter.

Finally, with COP26 coming up shortly, October is Sustainable Food Month. Find out how your business can contribute or become involved below.

If you have any feedback, comments, further questions or would like support from Cotswold Taste please do get in touch.

Fiona Scott Chair – [fiona@cotswoldtaste.co.uk](mailto:fiona@cotswoldtaste.co.uk)

Richard Baines Director – [richard@cotswoldtaste.co.uk](mailto:richard@cotswoldtaste.co.uk)

Nicola Hardy/Caroline Topping – Joint Secretary

[nicola@cotswoldtaste.co.uk](mailto:nicola@cotswoldtaste.co.uk) [caroline@cotswoldtaste.co.uk](mailto:caroline@cotswoldtaste.co.uk)

Chris Leibbrandt – Interim Treasurer [chris@cotswoldtaste.co.uk](mailto:chris@cotswoldtaste.co.uk)



### **UPDATES FROM DEFRA:**

#### **Agreement reached to ensure supplies of CO2 to businesses**

The carbon dioxide (CO2) industry has come to an agreement to ensure UK businesses have access to a sustainable supply of CO2 - an essential component of the national economy.

CO2 suppliers have agreed to pay CF Fertilisers a price for the CO2 it produces that will enable it to continue operating while global gas prices remain high, drawing on support from industry and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

This price for CO2 reflects the vital importance of this material to everything from our nuclear industry to hospitals to the food and beverage industry. CF Fertilisers produces around 60% of the UK's commercial CO2 requirements.

Please find further detail in the press release on GOV.UK [here](#).

#### **Agri-Food guidance and updates**

##### **Government Chemist contributes to Institute of Food Science Technology food allergens resource**

The Institute of Food Science Technology has launched a new Food Allergens Knowledge Hub to help consumers, food businesses and educators source best practice advice. Read more [here](#).

##### **Project launched to tackle greenwashing in food and drink sectors**

The Environment Agency has [launched a project](#) to standardise metrics for environmental performance for the food and drink sector.

##### **£500 million Plan for Jobs expansion**

Hundreds of thousands of people are to be supported as part of the more-than £500 million expansion of the Government's Plan for Jobs. The Government is also extending its £3,000 incentive payment for every apprentice a business hires up until 31 January 2022. Read more [here](#).

##### **Plastic Packaging Tax**

A new Plastic Packaging Tax comes into force on 1 April 2022.

##### **Invitation to participate in research**

We are looking to get feedback on the Plastic Packaging Tax, and will be conducting research sessions during October and November 2021, with further research sessions being held through to April 2022.

If you or your organisation would like to participate in a research session, please contact [ruth.clark@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.clark@hmrc.gov.uk) with a contact name and email address of a suitable person who we can speak



with. If you have already participated in research sessions, thank you, and please get in touch as we would appreciate your continued support.

You can find full details on the Plastic Packaging Tax page at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

#### Statements with invoices

In light of helpful feedback from industry, the requirement to include a Plastic Packaging Tax statement with invoices will not be commenced when the rest of the tax takes effect on 1 April 2022.

We encourage businesses to consider how they can address this on a voluntary basis in the short term. In the medium term, HMRC will work with industry to agree an effective and practical requirement.

Further guidance and support to businesses will be provided in the near future.

#### **Notices for traders**

##### Public Sector Food Procurement - Buying Better Food

Defra are working in collaboration with the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) to encourage more local businesses to supply the public sector. As part of this development, CCS is in the process of engaging with customers and suppliers to inform the procurement strategy for their new public sector food agreement, Buying Better Food. If you would like to speak with the CCS Food Team, please contact [food@crowcommercial.gov](mailto:food@crowcommercial.gov) and a member of the team will get back to you. More information and progress updates on the procurement agreement can be found on the [CCS website](#).



### **COP26 UPDATE:**

While Speciality Food and Too Good To Go are encouraging the fine food industry to consider making sustainable changes to their business throughout October with Sustainable Food Month, world leaders and climate experts will join the sustainability conversation from 31st October to 12th November for the 26th Conference of the Parties, or COP26.

For information about COP26 and how the food sector fits into it, click [here](#).

### **KTN Updates:**

#### **Manufacturing Made Smarter Innovation: Opportunities**

Made Smarter Innovation Network: Making Manufacturing Smarter Webinar Series

Tues 12th Oct - Tues 2nd Nov, 12:00 - 13:30

This Made Smarter Innovation Network webinar series will showcase a range of manufacturing opportunities and resources that will significantly benefit your innovative manufacturing business. We will introduce and explain what the Made Smarter Innovation programme is, explore future advanced digital manufacturing technologies, discuss the upcoming collaborative R&D funding competition, share specialist advice for scaling a manufacturing business into new marketplaces, and learn about the ecosystem of UK Manufacturing Hubs & Accelerators. Register [here](#)

#### **Made Smarter Manufacturing Competition**

Find out about all the activities that Innovate UK and KTN are working together on for the Made Smarter Innovation Sustainable Smart Factory Competition. We are working with Innovate UK to help scope a £20m competition on this theme of digitisation for energy and resource savings. It's to be called "Made Smarter Innovation: Sustainable Smart Factory" and you can hear more about it at [our event on 19th October](#).

The full online competition briefing webinar will be on the 9th November 2021 to introduce the funding competition "Made Smarter Innovation: Sustainable Smart Factory". Register [here](#). [Read this article](#) for more information on the competition.

**Sustainable Smart Manufacturing Technology Showcase:** KTN is co-ordinating a Technology Showcase that will give you as a technology developer a platform where manufacturers can find you. We, therefore, [invite you to record and share a short video pitch](#).

#### **UK5G Manufacturing campaign**

UK5G is here to help manufacturers, of all types and sizes, find the right resources and connections to map a clearer path to utilising 5G so you can unlock the added productivity, flexibility, resiliency, security, sustainability and transformative benefits it, along with industrial digital technologies, can bring.