



IGD Social Impact

Net Zero for Commercial Leaders learning programme

Understanding net zero in a commercial context

2026

IGD

A net zero learning programme, designed specifically for senior commercial decision-makers across the food system

Climate change is reshaping commercial reality – understanding net zero is essential to business resilience, security of supply and long-term growth.

Net Zero Transition Plan for the UK Food System

The Transition Plan was launched in 2024 by IGD and WRAP. It sets out how the whole food system could work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions reductions and achieve net zero by 2040.

Net zero cannot be delivered by sustainability teams alone

To turn ambition into action, organisations need their commercial leaders to understand the challenge, make informed decisions and embed emissions reduction into everyday commercial decisions.



Who should complete the net zero learning programme and why



Who is it for?

The programme is designed for senior commercial leaders in the food industry, including:

- Directors of Commercial, Category, Account, Sales, Trading and Procurement
- Leaders responsible for shaping supplier relationships and commercial strategy

Please note that places are limited to two participants per company.



Why take part?

By completing the programme, you will:

- Build a practical understanding of net zero, the agricultural transition and why they matter to your business
- Learn how emissions reduction can support good growth and reduce risk
- Gather guidance on how to align net zero targets to everyday commercial decisions and engage key stakeholders
- Start to identify clear actions to reduce emissions e.g. through sourcing, production and consumption
- Network with industry peers, hear from inspirational speakers and experience an in-person farm visit

What's involved in the net zero learning programme



Timeline (4th September to 16th October)

- The programme starts with a **farm visit** to G's Fresh on **Friday 4th September**
- Following this, participants complete three self-paced **online modules** and join three **live webinars**
- The programme concludes on **Friday 16th October**



Cost

- **Free** to complete



Farm visit (6 hours)

- Full-day on **Friday 4th September**
- **G's Fresh** are hosting the farm visit – they're located in Cambridgeshire
- G's Group is a family owned, vertically integrated, food and farming business that grows salads and vegetables and operates in five countries
- G's 4,000ha Cambridgeshire farm has been transitioning to regenerative farming during the last five years, aiming to grow the same yields on lower inputs, whilst enhancing the farm
- **Morning:** guided farm tour of G's Fresh and neighbouring beef livestock farm, learning about the commercial realities from a farmer's perspective
- **Afternoon:** expert insights and facilitated group discussions



Online learning (5 hours)

- Three self-paced **online modules** (approx. 1 hour each)
 - **Net zero and corporate action** – what net zero means for the food system and businesses, and how corporate commitments translate into commercial action
 - **Changing how we produce** – where emissions arise across agriculture and land use, and what this means for commercial decision-making
 - **Changing what and how we consume** – shaping market demand to support net zero, while driving long-term commercial value
- Three **live webinars** with fellow participants (40 minutes each, including time for discussion – on 17th September, 1st and 15th October)

IGD piloted the Net Zero for Commercial Leaders learning programme with a small group of food businesses last year

We have further developed the programme for 2026, expanding the online content, adding more real-world case studies and taking feedback on board – we're now ready to open up to a bigger group of participants

Feedback from the 2025 course

- I feel **inspired** by what I have learnt on this course
- I am now **more informed** about net zero
- I plan to **implement** some of what I have learnt within my business
- I believe aspects of net zero can help me **deliver value for my business**

Companies that completed the 2025 course



Job titles of attendees included Directors of Category, Commercial, Procurement, Sales and Supply Chain





Register your interest to take part in the Net Zero for Commercial Leaders learning programme

Places are limited and demand is expected to be high. Please register your interest as soon as possible and we will be in touch.



Register your interest

Please note that this does not guarantee a place on the programme. If you have any questions please contact sustainability@igd.com.

Separately, we will also be launching an online 'Introduction to Net Zero' course in Autumn, which will be open to everyone in the food industry. More details will be shared with you when available.

You may also be interested in....



A climate risk assessment of the UK food system

Assessment aiming to quantify the financial impact of physical climate risks on the UK food system up to 2050, based on ten critical commodities.

⇒ [Download report](#)



Unlocking commercial value from environmental data

Insights into the commercial value of environmental data across the food system, which is a valuable and underused asset.

⇒ [Read article](#)



Eatwell economics report

Analysis on the opportunities and challenges of moving the population to the Eatwell Guide, the UK's dietary guidance.

⇒ [Download report](#)



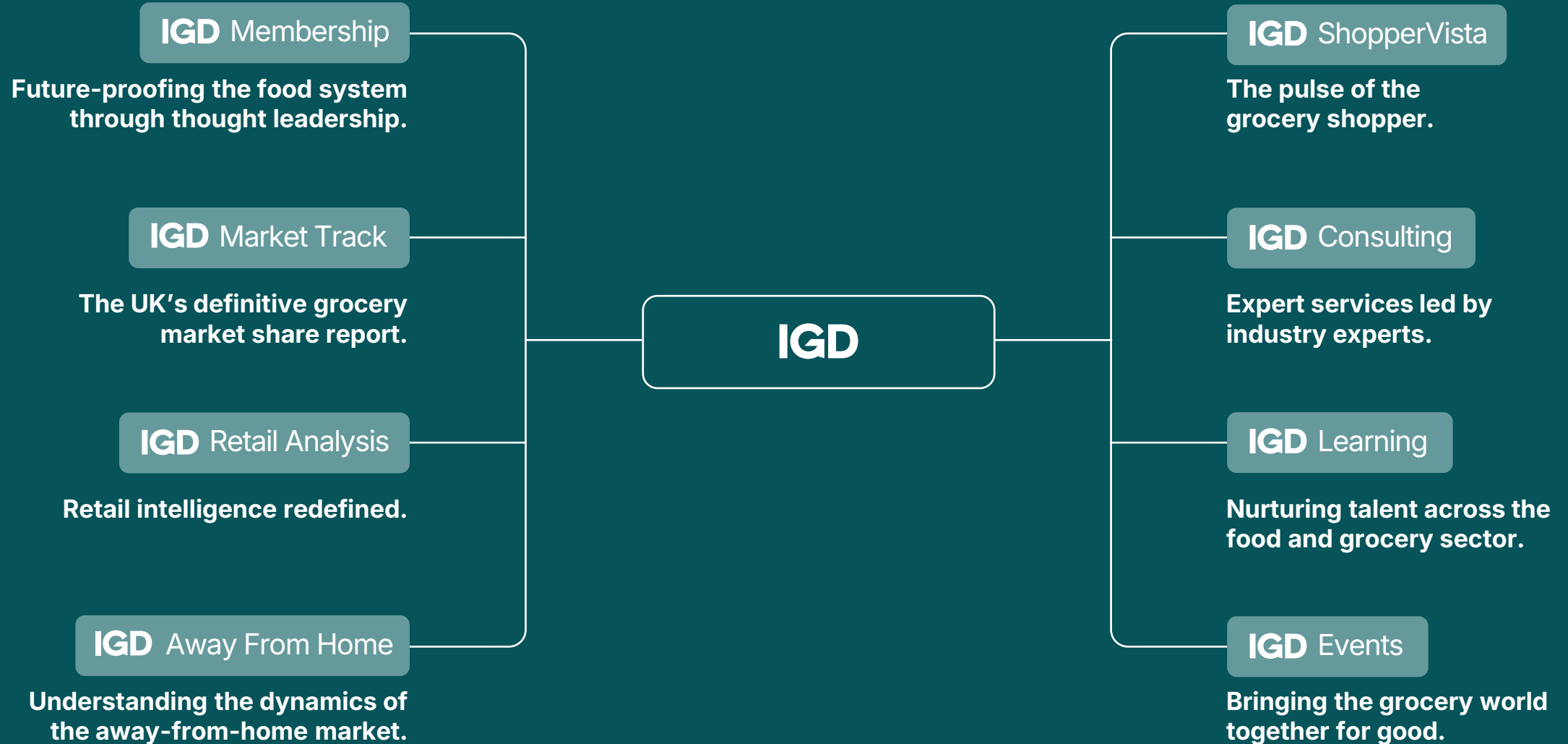
Viewpoint special: Where does your food pound go?

Key findings and context on where the food pound goes across nine products and explains why recent food inflation is cost-driven, not margin-driven.

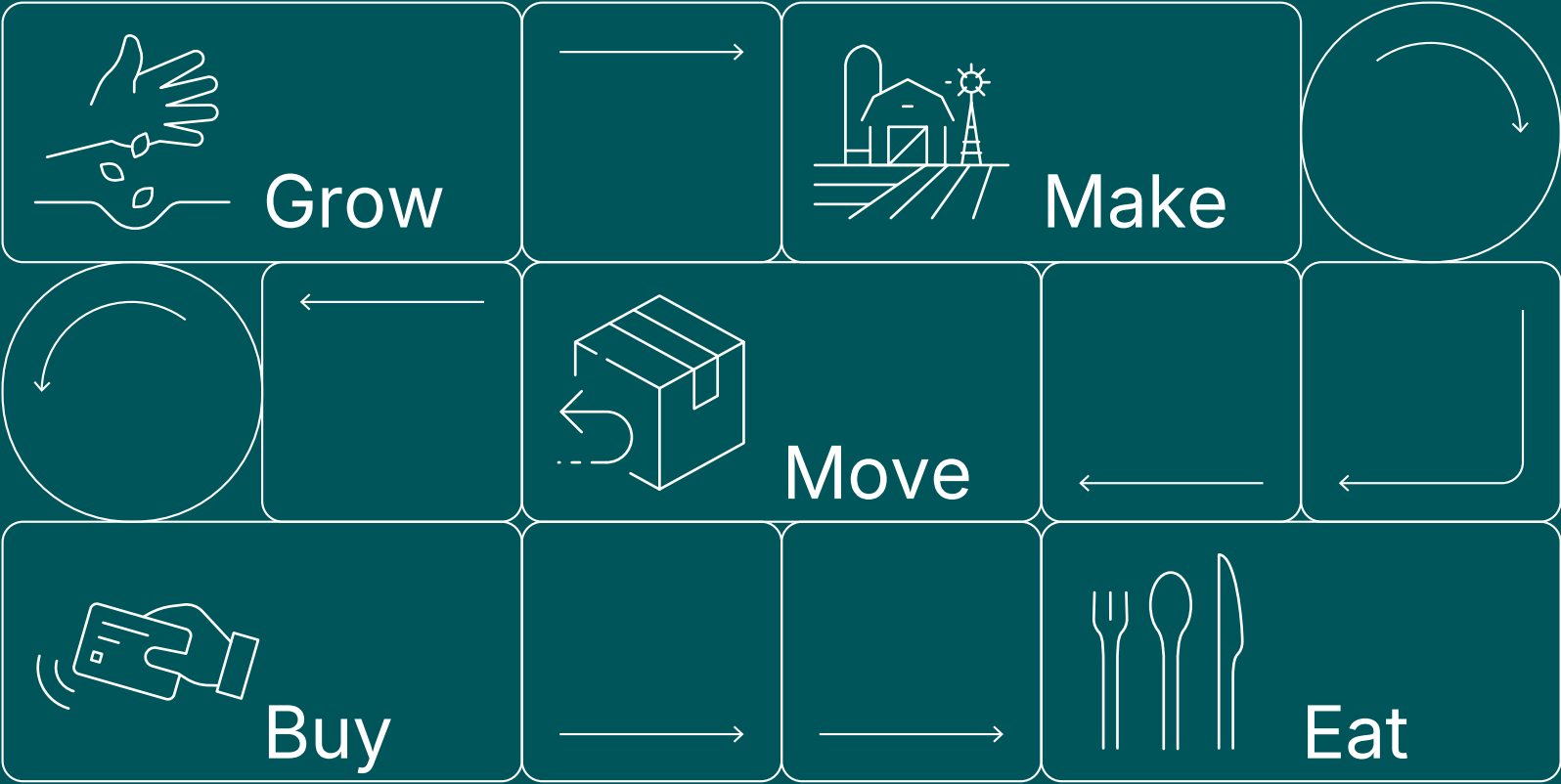
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