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Sent: Wednesday 9 June 2021 16:41
To: circulareconomy
Cc: Seamus Clancy; Tony O'Sullivan
Subject: Repak Ltd.'s submission to Ireland's First Whole-of Government Circular Economy Strategy Public Consultation on the Proposed Publication of the Strategy
Attachments: Repak Submission Circular Economy Strategy 4 June (003).pdf; Repak Members' Plastic Pledge Report 2020.pdf

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached Repak Ltd.'s submission to Ireland's First Whole-of Government Circular Economy Strategy Public Consultation on the Proposed Publication of the Strategy together with Repak Members' Plastic Pledge Report 2020 as Appendix 1 to this report.

We would be obliged if you could confirm your receipt of same.
Thanking you in advance.

Kind regards

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Repak Ltd Submission

Ireland's First Whole-of Government Circular
Economy Strategy Public Consultation on the
Proposed Publication of the Strategy

11 June 2021

Ireland's First Whole-of Government Circular Economy Strategy Public Consultation

1. Introduction

Repak Limited welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the public consultation on the preparation of Ireland's First Whole-of Government Circular Economy Strategy Public Consultation.

1.1 Repak Background

As an environmental not-for-profit organisation, with a social mission, Repak's purpose, on behalf of its members, is to;

- lead the recycling and sustainability of Ireland's packaging waste,
- advocate for a new circular economy,
- educate businesses and consumers on reducing and recycling packaging waste.

Repak is an Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) scheme set up by business in 1997 and currently has over 3,400 members. The members are producers of packaging, and the threshold is any company who places more than 10 tonnes of packaging onto the Irish market with a total turnover greater than €1 million in the calendar year. Repak's fees are based on a pay-as-you-produce basis i.e., the more packaging placed on the market by a producer, the higher their fee.

The fees paid to Repak by members are used to subsidise the collection and recovery of waste packaging through its network of registered recovery operators, who collect waste packaging from households, civic amenity sites and bottle banks across Ireland, for sorting, separation for recycling. This is how individual member companies comply with the Packaging Regulations and joining Repak is the most efficient and cost-effective way for them to meet their compliance obligations, under the Packaging Regulations.

Repak members have funded over €475m for the recovery and recycling of packaging waste in Ireland since 1997. Repak is approved under licence by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to operate as a compliance scheme for packaging recovery. Since Repak was set up in 1997 packaging recycling in Ireland has grown from a very low base to the point where Ireland is now one of the leading recycling countries in the EU.

2. Consultation Questions

The following are Repak's responses to the consultation questions:

Question 1: Do you agree with the draft Strategy's proposed key objectives? In your view, are there further or alternative objectives that should be included?

Reply: Repak agrees in principle with the key objectives proposed in the consultation document. The key objectives should position us to plan the theoretical steps of moving towards a more circular economy and also highlight some of the potential challenges and obstacles which we will need to overcome. From a simple results orientated focus, the first two objectives to provide a national policy framework and to support implementation measures are the most important by far and need to command the majority of the attention. This will highlight the actions needed to be taken and the metrics in which to measure the success/progress.

Some other objectives which should be included are the following:

- Increase recycling infrastructure locally on the island of Ireland, with more reprocessing facilities, rather than dependence on international (less traceability) markets.
- The licensing & permitting process and timeframe in securing an environmental approval needs addressing as currently it is not conducive to encouraging investment in the sector.
- Strengthen EPA to provide end of waste criteria for the outputs from new and proven technological solutions to support circular infrastructure development.
- Explore co-operation with Northern Ireland (NI) on grant aiding of suitable facilities.
- Provide an integrated approach with NI for the export of materials for recycling that do not have solutions locally.
- Establish a specific start up unit in Enterprise Ireland or the IDA to promote new technological solutions.
- Provide a forum for closer cooperation between the current waste contractor/MRF operators to specialise on certain products like plastic film.
- Investigate the feasibility of setting up specialist MRF's which would require a guaranteed supply of materials from across Ireland to make their enterprises commercially viable.

Question 2: Do you agree with the overall level of ambition set out in the draft Strategy? If not, is further ambition needed or is the draft Strategy overly ambitious?

Reply: The strategy may not be ambitious enough to mirror the urgency or time sensitivity of the challenge associated with transitioning to a more circular economy. We need to assess and get a more complete picture of where we are starting from and focus initially on some quick wins to build momentum for the strategy.

It is a question of trying to achieve the correct balance in setting realistic but ambitious targets against a clear timeline. Given our weak start point (with 1.6% circular material use rate) tight

timelines, the frequent monitoring of key metrics is essential to ensure that steady progress is achieved.

Question 3: Should Ireland measure its progress in achieving a more circular economy relative to its European Union peers? If not, what alternative benchmark should Ireland adopt and why?

Reply: While allowing for local circumstances, Ireland should of course benchmark its progress against its European Union peers. However, the measurement criteria applied in bench marking progress should be the same across the EU, otherwise it will not be possible to have a valid comparison and the bench marking process will be flawed. It also has to be appreciated at the outset that Ireland in comparison to other EU member states is starting from a somewhat low base with regard to the Circular Economy.

Question 4: Would you rate Irish public awareness of the circular economy as high, medium or low? And how important do you think raising public awareness is to further developing the circular economy?

Reply: Anecdotally the overall level of Irish public awareness of the circular economy appears to be quite low. The level of understanding of what the Circular Economy is varies from person to person and it is really important to broaden that knowledge with a public awareness campaign, incorporating more easily relatable facts and statistics.

There may be a perception that circular economy is something that central government does, at umbrella level but "it doesn't apply to me". There has to be more of a sense of ownership, that it relates to each individual and is not some 'pie in the sky' aspiration, or something spoken about at national/international level. Achieving a high level of engagement and buy in from the public is essential to success.

There is a lot of change on the horizon with the new EU Directives being transposed into Irish law. It is important that these changes are presented and communicated to the public in a user-friendly manner with the minimum of legal speak. A co-ordinated approach, at Government level, with clear messaging and a call to action to the public is essential to raise public awareness.

Question 5: What are the most effective awareness raising measures that could be taken under the Strategy?

Reply: In order to drive the transition to a circular economy, a comprehensive communications strategy across all media platforms/channels (i.e., press, TV, radio, digital etc.) incorporating all the key elements/components of such a campaign is essential. This would need to be rolled out in a co-ordinated manner over a significant period of time, with built in progress reviews.

Some of the elements that could be considered are:

- Appointment of ambassadors/champions that appeal to different demographics.
- Co-ordinated activities by County & City Councils.
- Basic simple messaging targeted at a low base of consumer understanding.

- Use of constant messages with consistent collateral, logo's livery etc. – like Covid messaging – simple, replicated at all levels.
- A logo like Guaranteed Irish used to be – e.g., Green Ireland – instantly recognisable meaning the product and company are on board with Circular Economy.
- Reporting a health check to households & businesses based on their weekly/monthly output versus the Circular Economy principles - this would tell them whether their recycling is improving or getting worse – this has already been partially trialled and works very well.
- Councils to lead by example in how waste is managed locally and councils adhering to green procurement contracts etc.

In any awareness raising exercise it is important to consider the target audience. In this regard the norms are changing with technology becoming such a dominant part of everyday life. TV and radio advertisement campaigns are a common method for raising awareness and will reach an older age group effectively, but their reach is limited. It is important to focus on children, teenagers and young adults as they will be a highly effective group to target to help achieve the best results over the long-term. Using influencers and advocates in targeted campaigns would be most effective in reaching young adults, while for children and teenagers a combination of school campaigns and engagement of sports/social clubs would have the most impact.

Question 6: Are you satisfied with the proposed stakeholder engagement arrangements in the draft Strategy? Which additional stakeholders (if any), not already part of the Waste Action Group, do you think should be included in the Strategy's implementation?

Reply: Stakeholder engagement seems good, and a Circular Economy Advisory Group is a good idea to involve stakeholders in the conversation. As stakeholder engagement will be a large part of the success of moving to a circular economy, it is important that all stakeholders are fully on board and are behind the message to give a united front on how we achieve our targets.

Some areas around stakeholder engagement that need to be clarified are;

- who reports to who,
- who is the lead,
- who has executive decision making,
- where does the buck stop when there is under or over achievement against ambitious targets etc.?

Question 7: What do you see as the major economic and/or social co-benefits of moving towards a more circular economy in Ireland, so that environmental improvements also provide economic and social opportunities, and vice versa?

Reply: The point of a circular economy is to move away from a model that's all about single use consumption towards something much more sustainable. The primary reason behind this is that, globally, we have finite resources that we are depleting at an exponential (and unnecessary) rate.

When we look at Ireland specifically, as an island we are highly dependent on overseas trade and imports/exports. Circularity should be a priority for us, as it is a way for to increase our level of self-sufficiency as a country and lessen our dependence on imports. At its core, a Circular Economy gives the ability to reuse and extend the life of products. The economic and social benefits are many and wide ranging, touching on the following:

- employment opportunities,
- national pride,
- cleaner living environments,
- tourism,
- tidy towns,
- cleaner water
- less dependence on exports,
- influence on placing difficult materials on the market in the first place,
- mental health improvements (there are many studies on this).

Question 8: What do you see as the major regulatory barriers to the further development of the circular economy in Ireland? In answering this question, please feel free to address economy-wide issues or those affecting your sector in particular.

Reply: There are many regulatory barriers in relation to packaging waste and the funding of recycling. Repak as a compliance scheme serves as a representative of obliged industry in collecting funds (i.e., members' fees) for packaging placed on the market and subsidising the collection/recycling of packaging waste. This link between both ends of the cycle is crucial for circularity with packaging, as we look to move away from single use and improve recovery/recycling performance. The regulatory gaps allow for unfunded tonnes to be placed on the market, with the bill being picked up by Repak members who pay a higher fee for their own tonnes to compensate for the unfunded tonnes.

The *De Minimus* is a threshold that determines whether a business has an obligation to contribute towards their packaging placed on the market (currently only present in the UK and Irish Schemes). This currently stands at businesses with at least €1m turnover and at least 10 tonnes of packaging. While none of the businesses that fall below this threshold are large individually, there is a large collective number of those that fall below which results in significant amounts of unfunded tonnes being placed on the market. With the reduction in *De Minimus* to €500k and 3 tonnes, we could see an additional 120,427 tonnes contributing to

the national target. This would help Repak deliver on its aim of equity in “Businesses Funding Recycling”.

Another regulatory barrier exists in relation to parent companies of multiple legal entities (i.e., franchises). Currently the packaging obligation lies with separate legal entities so that multiple franchises and symbol groups underneath the head office need apply for individual membership. Similar to *De Minimus*, this results in a large number of businesses narrowly falling below the criteria but who collectively combine to represent a significant amount of unfunded tonnes (circa 60,214 tonnes).

Self-Compliance is also an area which does not contribute to the development of a circular economy in Ireland. Self-Compliant companies do not have responsibility to fund all of their tonnes they place on the market, rather just the target percentage of their tonnes related to material. The WAPCE does indicate that this will be removed by 2024 but with the time sensitivity of a move toward improving circularity in the Irish Economy, the financial contributions to fund all of their tonnes is becoming more and more important. We estimate this is worth an additional 45,160 tonnes towards the national recycling target.

There is also a large regulatory gap currently in relation to Online Retailers or Distance Sellers. With the prominence of online shopping in recent years, there is a gap whereby foreign sellers are placing products and packaging directly on to the Irish market which results in an additional 51,612 tonnes of packaging. The Packaging Regulations require some amendment here to obligate retail distance sellers of goods direct into Ireland to comply with the Packaging Regulations similar to the legal obligation required by Revenue. This may also be needed to include third party delivery companies that handle and deliver packaged items onto the Irish Market.

As the landscape is beginning to change for packaging compliance with Net Necessary Costs which feeds into Eco Fee Modulation, these are some examples of Regulatory barriers to a more circular economy in Ireland. Higher cost materials (which in turn have higher fees) is a useful way to help drive behaviour away from the less desirable materials and away from single use items to promote circularity and more environmentally friendly behaviour.

It should be recognised that DECC are reviewing the Packaging Regulations to address the above issues and to enhance and strengthen the Regulations which will assist in the effort to move towards a Circular Economy.

Question 9: What do you see as the major non-regulatory barriers to the further development of the Circular Economy in Ireland? In answering this question, please feel free to address economy wide issues or those affecting your sector in particular.

Reply: Some of the obvious major non-barriers are;

- lack of awareness and appreciation of the benefits of a circular economy,
- modern throwaway society, overly focused on convenience,
- attitude and acceptance of the status quo and that this cannot be improved,

- reliance on single use products,
- lack of effort/ incentives in the reuse sector,
- market being flooded with difficult to recycle materials leaving consumers with few options to choose between products - based on packaging,
- feeling of being demotivated because messaging is consistently a dressing down on under achievement rather than a call to arms to do better,
- lack of financial stimulus or incentive to change,
- the lack of leadership and a national circular economy champion.

Question 10: How important do you consider Green Public Procurement is in supporting the development of new circular goods and services?

Reply: Green Public Procurement plays a crucial role in moving to a more Circular Economy. This is a simple case of leading by example and practicing what you preach. It is not possible for the Irish economy to become more circular if the Government, as one of the major spenders in the economy, is not seen to lead the way and encourage others to follow.

Contract awards need to be less weighted towards costs and more towards environmental benefits and need to be long enough to allow start-ups to write down investments sustainably.

Question 11: What would be the most effective action Government could take to promote/support and incentivise the further development of the circular economy?

Reply: The lesser the financial burden the more circular individuals and businesses will become. So, reducing the financial burden through incentives will expedite the shift to a circular economy (e.g., The EV subsidy). Similarly, a penalty on those that are slower to move to a circular model will speed them along (E.g., Plastic bag environmental levy and the “Latte Levy”). This is a basic “Carrot and Stick” concept.

Some other actions worth considering are:

- the establishment of a Price Monitoring Group for the commercial waste sector,
- the publication of enforcement against groups, businesses and individuals,
- the auditing of all sectors of the Circular Economy links – e.g., achievements against targets for EPR schemes,
- adaption of appropriate best practice across Europe and the implement of that in a robust fashion – e.g., on the go waste recycling,

- driving a positive attitude amongst stakeholders like in Covid “We are all in this together”.

Question 12: Which sectors do you think can make the biggest contribution to making Ireland’s economy more circular?

Reply: Every sector has a part to play towards making our economy more circular. The following sectors have the capacity to make the biggest contribution to making Ireland’s economy more circular;

- agriculture,
- construction,
- retail,
- pharmaceutical,
- manufacturing,
- waste industry,
- energy.

Question 13: Do you broadly agree with the policy areas listed for future development in the draft Strategy? If not, which areas would you remove/add to the list?

Reply: Yes, we are in broad agreement with the policy areas listed for future development in the draft strategy.

The introduction of environmentally targeted levies will be of huge benefit as levies will greatly raise awareness of problem areas we face as a country and can encourage a change in behaviour while raising funds for the Environment Fund. For instance, the Plastic Bag environmental levy was introduced to tackle the cheap single use plastic bags often used in independent retailers. This reduced littering of this item from 5% of litter pollution in 2001 to 0.13% of litter pollution in 2015. This also has resulted in a popular alternative of “Lifelong Bags” which are much more durable plastic bags that are intended for reuse.

Question 14: Any other comments?

In order to make progress on this front, the transition to a Circular Economy has to become a national priority. The benefits of becoming more circular have to be explained and sold to the public and businesses. It is essential to get buy in at all levels. This will be a long-term project and a Whole-of Government Circular Economy Strategy with clear goals and joined up thinking is to be welcomed at this stage in the process.

3. Case Studies

2020 saw another year of achievements by Repak's members in helping to deliver the actions set out in Repak's Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy 2018 – 2030 <https://repak.ie/driving-change/plastic-strategy-2030> The number of businesses signed up to the Repak Members Plastic Pledge has now increased to 134 and the momentum in relation to tackling avoidable plastic packaging waste, increasing the recyclability of plastic packaging and incorporating recycled content continues to move forward.

We are delighted that our members have continued to tell us about the work they have been doing throughout 2020 and the plans they have for 2021 against the five Plastic Pledge objectives. Below are just some of the highlights shared by our Plastic Pledge signatories.

The achievements and plans of individual businesses can be found in more detail in Appendix 1 – Repak Members' Plastic Pledge Report 2020, attached.

Objective 1 – Prioritise the Prevention of Plastic Packaging Waste:

This objective combines all aspects of waste prevention which can be achieved through the removal, minimisation or reuse of plastic packaging. As a result, it also covers any initiatives that meet the requirements of the Single Use Plastics Directive.

In 2020 Plastic Pledge signatories:

- Eliminated single use plastic items from their businesses in advance of the ban on the sale of these from July 2021.
- Over 55 million avoidable plastic items removed by members.
- Major plastic packaging light weighting programmes continued with members removing plastic that will lead to reductions of up to 1,400 tonnes of plastic per annum.

Objective 2 - Support Ireland to Deliver the CEP Plastic Recycling Targets:

This objective depends on the support of our members to deliver the plastic packaging recycling targets of 50% by 2025 and 55% by 2030. Businesses can help to achieve this through their actions in terms of recycling on site at their own premises as well as through their support in educating staff and customers on the importance of increasing plastic recycling.

In 2020 Plastic Pledge signatories:

- Recycled an average of 67% of plastic packaging at their business premises.
- Continued their engagement with staff members and supported Repak's Team Green initiative to help increase plastic recycling.
- Rolled out on pack recycling labels to more ranges in order to help educate consumers on packaging recycling.

Objective 3 – Reduce Plastic Packaging in the Plastic Packaging Supply Chain:

For many businesses the priority over the past number of years has been identifying those plastics and laminates that are complex or difficult to recycle prior to setting plans to remove them from the business.

- Many members have made huge progress in relation to this during 2020 and developed “red” or “negative” lists of these materials that their suppliers must not use. This is often a large piece of work for larger businesses in particular but will have significant benefits for the recycling of plastics in Ireland.

Objective 4 – Incorporate Recycled Content to build a Circular Economy:

Incorporating recycled content into plastic packaging helps to build a secondary market for these materials and therefore helps to build a circular economy. Again, we continue see some real results in this area.

Some highlights for 2020 include:

- The use of food trays with up to 100% recycled content.
- The removal of over 2,000 tonnes of virgin plastic by one business.
- The average recycled content going into PET bottle projects exceeding the required 30% by 2030 at 36.5%.

Objective 5 – Ensure our approach aligns to the EPA’s Food Waste Charter:

Reducing food waste is a key component of the EPA’s National Waste Prevention Programme and the government’s Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020 – 2025.

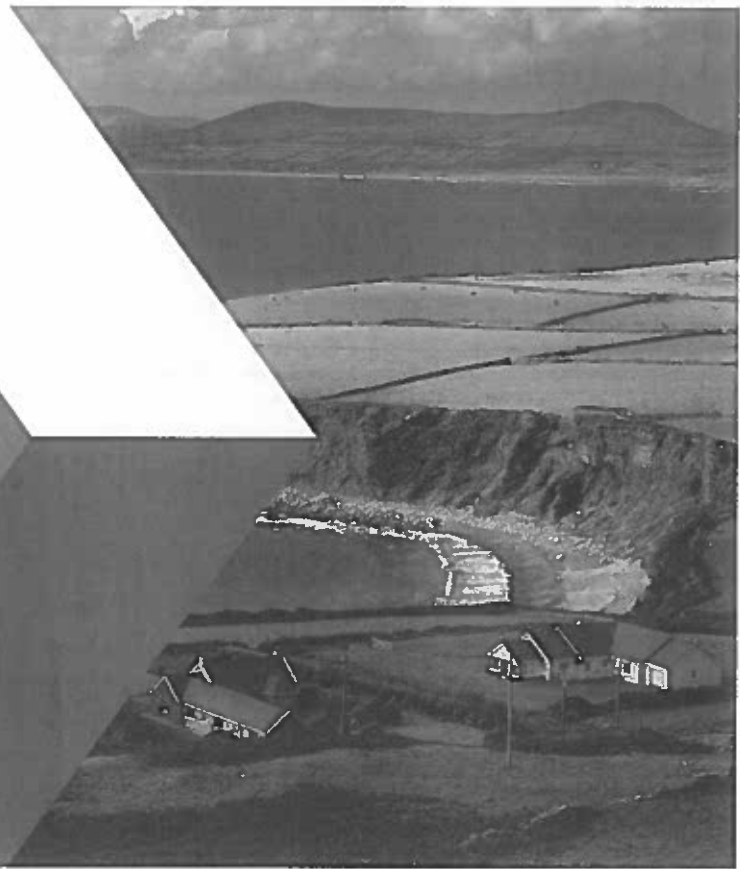
Repak’s Plastic Pledge signatories continue to ensure that all changes that eliminate or reduce plastic packaging do not do so at the expense of product shelf life and that all steps are taken to ensure that food waste does not increase.

Detailed case studies with outcomes in objective achievements are included in the attached Appendix 1, Repak Plastic Pledge Report 2020.

Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy
2018 – 2030

Repak Members' Plastic Pledge Report 2020

REPAI 
Business *funding* recycling



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ACRONYMS

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CEP	Circular Economy Package	OPRL	On Pack Recycling Label (UK Packaging Labelling System operated by WRAP)
CEWEP	Confederation of European Waste to Energy Plants	PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	PP	Polypropylene
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	PS	Polystyrene
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility	PPWD	Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive
EPS	Expanded Polystyrene	PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride
EU	European Union	rPET	Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene	RO	Recovery Operator (waste contractor registered with Repak Payment Scheme)
IWMA	Irish Waste Management Association	RPS	Repak Payment Scheme
LDPE	Low Density Polyethylene	SUP	Single Use Plastic
MRF	Material Recovery Facility	WRAP	Waste & Resources Action Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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2020 saw another year of significant achievements by Repak's members in helping to achieve the actions set out in Repak's Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy 2018 – 2030.

The number of businesses signed up to the Repak Members' Plastic Pledge has now increased to 135 and the momentum in relation to tackling avoidable plastic packaging waste, increasing the recyclability of plastic packaging and incorporating recycled content continues to move forward. This is despite the often difficult circumstances created by the Covid 19 pandemic during 2020 which in many cases reduced the opportunity for businesses to conduct on site trials on new packaging formats.

- Many members are now fully prepared for the ban on certain single use plastics included in the Single Use Plastics Directive with items already replaced or no longer available for sale well in advance of the July 2021 deadline.
- Members also continue to remove complex packaging from their supply chain and continue to move us closer to achieving the EU's goal of all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable by 2030.
- In 2020, Repak funded plastic recycling of 89,253 tonnes and sent 219,417 tonnes for recovery – a total of 97% of the estimated plastic packaging placed on the market by all businesses¹.
- Actions to date when accumulated will result in the reduction or replacement of over 23,000 tonnes from the estimated 318,760 tonnes of plastic packaging waste generated in 2020. Repak members placed 141,083 tonnes on the market, representing 44% of the total.
- On average plastic packaging reductions of 18.6% were achieved by businesses.
- Members who reported their recycling rates for plastic packaging captured at their premises are achieving an average of 67%.
- Members who reported projects to increase recycled plastic in packaging have achieved an average of 54% recycled content. Since 2019 over 26,500 tonnes of recycled plastic has also been reported as used in components or packaging. Importantly beverage producers, who must meet the recycled content targets set out in the Single Use Plastics Directive of 25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030 reported an average of 36.5% for their projects.
- In 2019 our Plastic Challenge Working Group was established and comprises of Repak, Plastic Pledge Signatories, policy makers and waste industry representatives. A number of the projects initiated by this group now form part of the government's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.

1. Data from Repak estimates

FIVE KEY OBJECTIVES

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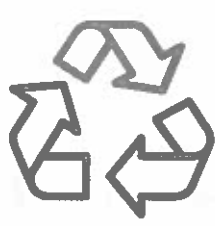
1. Prevent Waste

Focus on prevention of plastic packaging waste by minimising single use packaging and promoting reuse.



2. Support the Circular Economy

Support Ireland to deliver the Circular Economy plastic packaging recycling targets of: 50% of all plastics recycled by 2025 and 55% of all plastic packaging recycled by 2030, as set out by the European Commission.



3. Simplify Polymers

Reduce complexity within the plastic packaging supply chain by simplifying polymer usage and eliminating non-recyclable components in all plastic packaging by 2030.



4. Use Recycled

Help build the circular economy for used plastic packaging by increasing the use of plastic packaging with recycled content.



5. Avoid Food Waste

Ensure the reductions in use of plastic packaging do not jeopardise opportunities to achieve Ireland's goal of a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030, as set out in Ireland's Food Waste Charter.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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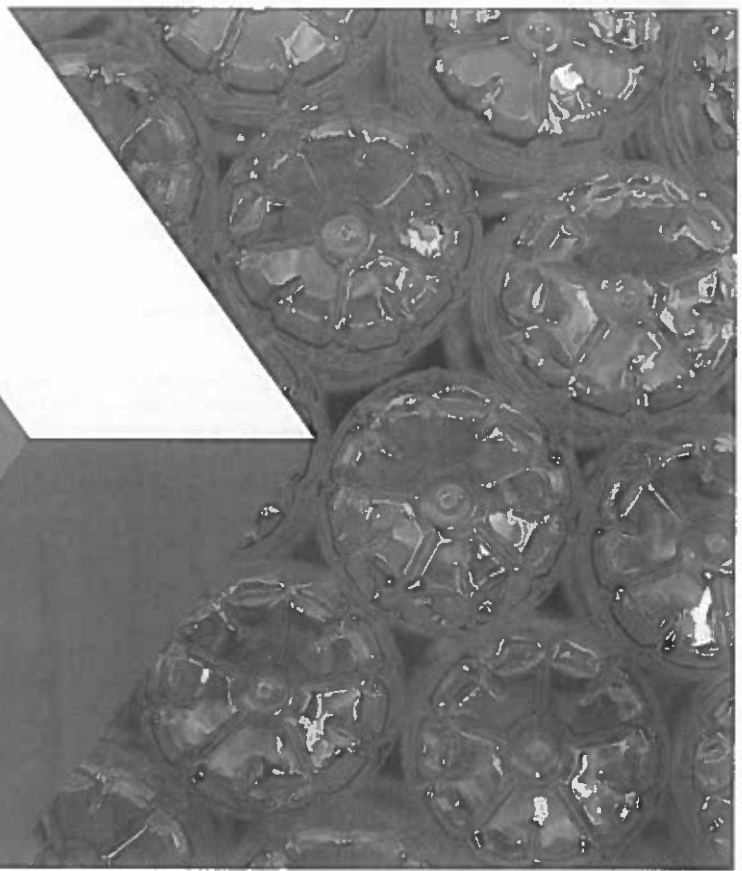


Thank you to the Members who contributed to this year's report and for the work that you are doing to support Ireland in reaching our Circular Economy Targets for plastic packaging. A full list of our Repak Members' Plastic Pledge signatories, can be accessed [here](#).

Members included in this report



INTRODUCTION



1.0 INTRODUCTION

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1.1 NEW PLASTIC PACKAGING RECYCLING TARGETS BECOME IRISH LAW

2020 saw the transposition of a number of key EU packaging and waste directives into Irish law.

The updated recycling targets for packaging and plastics included in the EU Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive are now enshrined in the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations (SI 322/2020). Ireland must now recycle 65% of all packaging by 2025 increasing to 70% by 2030 and must meet a recycling target of 50% for plastic packaging by 2025 increasing to 55% by 2030.

As this report shows, yet again Irish businesses have continued to support these recycling targets through their packaging design activities by either removing difficult to recycle plastics from their supply chains, educating staff and consumers or ensuring that recycled plastics have a stable market by incorporating recycled content in their packaging.

Repak continues to support the work of our members in optimising their packaging systems and designing for recycling through our Packaging Optimisation and Design Programme "Prevent & Save".

1.2 WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE AND FEE IMPACTS

In addition, the Waste Framework Directive now requires producers of packaging to fund 80% of the net cost of waste management (also known as Net Necessary Cost). This net cost takes account of any income or cost associated with the handling of waste materials. As the cost of handling non-recyclable materials is higher, this will be reflected in Repak fees on a phased basis. The Waste Framework was transposed into Irish law through SI 323/2020 European Union (Waste Directive) Regulations 2020.

Advice on reporting categories for plastic and composite packaging can be found in our Packaging Design Guide at <https://repak.ie/members/packaging-optimisation-design/>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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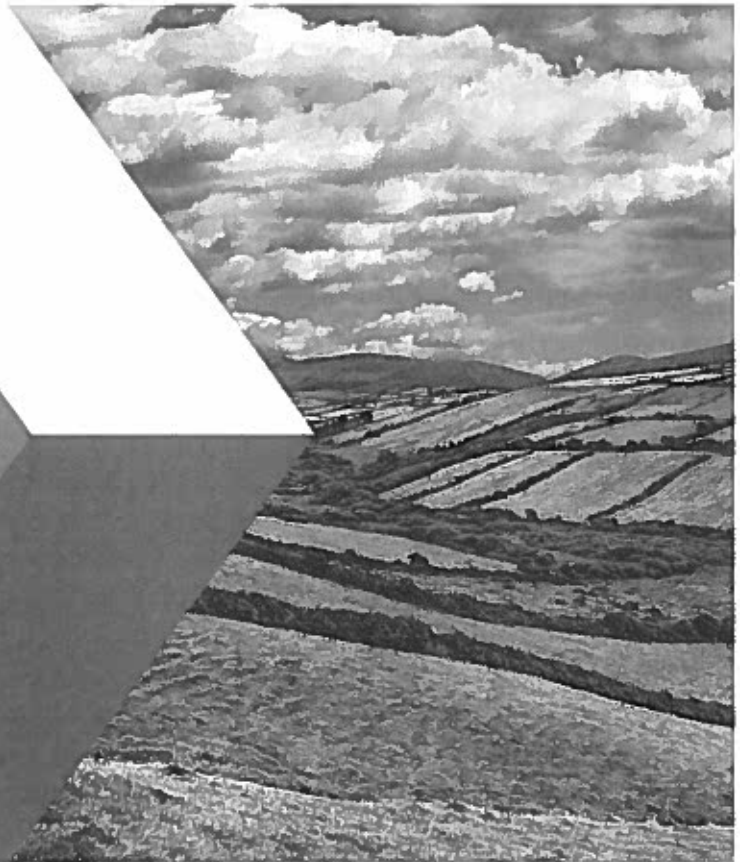
1.3 SINGLE USE PLASTICS DIRECTIVE

In September 2020, the Irish Government launched its Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020 – 2025. This included a number of key initiatives designed to bring the revised legislative framework to life. It is expected that the Single Use Plastics Directive will be transposed into Irish Law in July 2021 which will bring with it bans on single use plastic items such as cutlery, straws and expanded polystyrene items. It will also have significant implications for producers of beverage products with new separate collection targets, recycled content targets and requirements for cap tethering on plastic bottles. In addition, legislation governing a planned Deposit Return Scheme for Ireland is currently underway.

It will also result in the set up of new EPR schemes for items such as wet wipes and tobacco products. Guidance from the EU on plastic definitions and banned single use plastic items has now been issued.



2020 ACTIVITIES



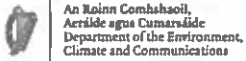


2.0 2020 ACTIVITIES

Plastic Challenge Working Group

We would like to thank all of our Plastic Pledge Members, Partners and Stakeholders who have contributed to our Plastic Challenge Working Group meetings throughout 2020.

PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS



MEMBERS



BROWN THOMAS | ARNOTTS





2.0 2020 ACTIVITIES

2.1 PROGRESS OF THE PLASTIC CHALLENGE WORKING GROUP

In 2020, the work of the Plastic Challenge Working Group continued with three Working Group meetings held virtually in February, May and September. Further workshops in relation to on pack labelling in Ireland and waste prevention opportunities were held in November 2020.

The following projects have now been completed:

- A list and toolkit for what can be recycled at a business premises to be made available at www.mywaste.ie/business.
- A Packaging Design Guide including advice on designing packaging for recycling and Repak's fee modulation categories is now available on the Repak website.
- Reintroduction of flexible plastic packaging to household recycling collections.

A number of the projects fed into a high level Waste Advisory Group which was chaired by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and now form part of the Government's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020 - 2025.

These projects continue to be monitored by the Working Group and are as follows:

- Improving the sharing of information amongst key stakeholders to optimise data accuracy.
- Incentivised Pricing Waste collection for Commercial Businesses to help maximise recycling.
- Metrics and assessment of business performance on waste.
- Standardisation of bin colours to reduce potential confusion.
- Financial support for increasing our recycling infrastructure.

2.2 PAKMAN AWARDS - PLASTIC PLEDGE CATEGORY

Unfortunately due to the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic, we were not able to come together to celebrate the achievements of Irish businesses and organisations in the areas of waste management and recycling at the Pakman Awards during 2020. However in order to recognise the significant efforts of our Plastic Pledge signatories, a virtual awards ceremony took place on 9 December to announce the winners in the Plastic Pledge category.

A total of 13 businesses were shortlisted in the category, all of whom had a chance of winning a Gold, Silver or Bronze level award for their work to date in implementing Plastic Pledge commitments.



2.0 2020 ACTIVITIES

Overall Pakman Award winner, Aldi Stores (Ireland) Ltd, alongside Coca Cola HBC Ireland & N. Ireland, Mannok Pack Ltd and Tesco Ireland were all awarded Silver in the Plastic Pledge category. ABP Food Group, Britvic Ireland, Heineken Ireland and Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard were awarded Bronze in the Plastic Pledge category.

Aldi was awarded the overall 2020 Pakman Award by demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the objectives outlined in the Plastic Pledge, including the removal of 600 tonnes of plastic from packaging, making 820 tonnes of plastic packaging more recyclable and increasing recycled content in their meat trays to 80%.

2.3 SUPPORTING IRELAND'S PLASTIC RECYCLERS

The Circular Economy Package (CEP) has set ambitious recycling targets for reuse and recycling of all plastic packaging waste of 50% by 2025 (55% by 2030). In order for Ireland to achieve these targets, an increase in plastic reuse and recycling of 5% or 15,000 tonnes is required in 2021 with a subsequent increase of 4% per year up to 2025. Repak aims to achieve this through a number of different initiatives and incentives which we expect to positively impact both recovery operator and consumer actions.

Changes to Plastic Subsidies

To achieve the necessary increase in plastic recycling this year, Repak initiated a transformational change to plastic subsidy rates was required and a net increase in funding of €3.2 million was made available. This year, difficult to recycle plastics (pots,

tubs and trays & plastic films) in both the commercial and household streams have been targeted.

Within these streams the required tonnages are readily available if we can incentivise both consumers to better segregate, and recovery operators to capture more of these difficult materials. With this in mind, Repak announced that soft plastics are to be accepted in Household recycling collections.

The Key Changes in Funding

2021 Plastic Subsidies – €3.2m Additional Funding – Target an additional 15,000 tonnes
From 2 January 2021 - Commercial Plastic tonnes additional to budget increased from €90 to:

- €250 per tonne reprocessed in the Republic of Ireland
- €200 per tonne reprocessed in the EU or UK
- €150 per tonne reprocessed outside the Republic of Ireland/UK/EU.

From 1 April 2021 - Household Film/Other Plastic Packaging rate rises from €200 to €300 per tonne.

It is expected that 75% of the required tonnes will come from the Commercial Sector. This will be achieved through additional focus on source segregation, enforcement of the minimum service requirements on recovery operators and the provision of better multi-bin collection services.

2.0 2020 ACTIVITIES

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The remaining 25% is expected from the Household Sector using the reintroduction of soft plastics in the mixed dry recyclable bin as an opportunity to increase collection rates. 55% of available funding is now targeted at capturing plastics which is expected to drive up plastic recycling rates.

Promoting Proximity Principles and Developing Recycling Infrastructure in Ireland

In addition to these subsidies, all plastic re-processing in the Republic of Ireland will be funded at €35 per tonne, an increase on the previous year. These funding changes are designed to offer greater investment security and provide opportunities to upgrade existing facilities. Irelands current capacity for reprocessing plastic is around 25,000 tonnes. This additional funding should also increase plastic recycling capacity within Ireland and reduce our dependency on exports. A number of operators have already completed facility upgrades with additional upgrades scheduled for later this year.

Export Traceability

A secondary strand of the drive to promote recycling within Ireland has been a tightening of regulations on plastic exports due to changes to the Basel Convention earlier this year, and the uncertainty in the market due to Brexit. Repak has taken this opportunity to improve our own export reporting process with improved export traceability built into the new Recovery Operator contracts which were issued for 2021.

Eco-Fee Modulation and Net Necessary Costs

Repak have designed an eco-fee modulation structure, to facilitate delivery of the Circular Economy Package. This will boost recycling by incentivising eco-design of products in a fair and cost-effective manner and one which will stand up to scrutiny.

To achieve this, Repak have been gathering Net Necessary Costs from key operators as producers are now required to fund 80% of the Net Necessary Cost of the collection, processing and recycling of packaging materials.

Data submissions are currently being analysed and the project is progressing on schedule. Repak have hired an independent consultant to verify Net Necessary Cost data which will be collated annually.

Communications

Repak is always actively encouraging better behaviours and improved recycling awareness. The media and communications department has increased engagement on social media platforms and the Recovery and Recycling Department continues to conduct interactive Recycling Talks with Schools, colleges and business online, due to restrictions over the last year. The talks include information on the importance of recycling, what materials should be placed in recycling bins as well as how to present recycling bin materials correctly.

2.0 2020 ACTIVITIES

Engagement with other stakeholders around recycling messaging has greatly improved over the last year with a number of working groups set up to continue to build on progress made so far.

Sending a unified message is crucial when it comes to recycling and alignment on National Recycling campaigns have been supported by Repak, the EPA, WERLAs and the DECC.

Waste Characterisation Studies

Repak conduct Waste Characterisation Studies every year to measure packaging content and quality of recycling at Registered Material Recovery Facilities. We have continued to conduct our contractually obligated Waste Characterisation Studies but have also commenced additional Independent MSW Studies, giving us the ability to better monitor plastic packaging content of material going to recovery.

Due to a change in calculation of recycling rates at a European level, recovery can no longer be counted as recycling so increasing the frequency of these studies to give the most accurate waste generation figure as possible is extremely important, and will be crucial to determining Ireland's Plastic Tax.

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SDCC Club Bag Trials & Tidy Towns

Four South Dublin Sports clubs were given bags to collect plastic bottles and aluminium cans that may have otherwise been deposited in general waste bins. Each club gets €3 per bag collected and a lot of interest has been shown in this initiative by Tidy Towns all over the country.

Team Green Recycling Machines

Team Green is an initiative that encourages individuals, schools, communities, businesses and organisations to come together to reduce waste, recycle better, and protect our environment. Repak currently operates 10 Team Green Recycling Machines in locations nationwide such as third level colleges, a hospital and shopping centres. The Team Green compactor is suitable for both PET bottles and aluminium cans and compresses the bottles and shreds the cans, separating liquid from the solid waste with the material being collected by operators in the local area.

**OBJECTIVES
AND PROGRESS**





3.0 OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS

We are delighted that our Members have continued to inform us of the great work carried out during 2020 and plans for 2021. Below are just some of the highlights shared by our Plastic Pledge signatories.

(Appendix 1 shows the achievements and plans of individual businesses in more detail.)

3.1 OBJECTIVE 1 – PREVENT WASTE

This objective combines all aspects of waste prevention which can be achieved through the removal, minimisation or reuse of plastic packaging. As a result it also covers any initiatives that meet the requirements of the Single Use Plastics Directive.

In 2020, Repak Members' Plastic Pledge signatories:

- Eliminated single use plastic items from their businesses in advance of the ban on the sale of these from July 2021
- Removed over 55 million avoidable plastic items
- Continued implementing major plastic packaging lightweighting programmes, removing plastic that will lead to reductions of up to 1,400 tonnes of plastic per annum.

3.2 OBJECTIVE 2 - SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

This objective depends on the support of our members to deliver the plastic packaging recycling targets of 50% by 2025 and 55% by 2030. Businesses can help to achieve this through their actions in terms of recycling on site at their own premises as well as through their support in educating staff and customers on the importance of increasing plastic recycling.

In 2020, Repak Members' Plastic Pledge signatories:

- Recycled an average of 67% of plastic packaging at their business premises
- Continued their engagement with staff members and supported Repak's Team Green initiative to help increase plastic recycling
- Rolled out on pack recycling labels to more ranges in order to help educate consumers on packaging recycling.

3.0 OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS

3.3 OBJECTIVE 3 – SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

For many businesses, the priority over the past number of years has been identifying those plastics and laminates that are complex or difficult to recycle prior to setting plans to remove them from the business.

Many members have made huge progress in relation to this during 2020 and developed “red” or “negative” lists of these materials that their suppliers must not use. This is often a substantial piece of work for larger businesses in particular but will have significant benefits for the recycling of plastics in Ireland.

3.4 OBJECTIVE 4 – USE RECYCLED

Incorporating recycled content into plastic packaging helps to build a secondary market for these materials and therefore helps to build a circular economy.

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There continues to be positive results in this area and 2020 highlights include:

- The use of food trays with up to 100% recycled content
- The removal of over 2,000 tonnes of virgin plastic by one business
- The average recycled content going into PET bottle projects exceeding the required 30% by 2030 at 36.5%.

3.5 OBJECTIVE 5 – AVOID FOOD WASTE

Reducing food waste is a key component of the EPA's National Waste Prevention Programme and the Government's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020 – 2025.

Repak Members' Plastic Pledge signatories continue to ensure that all changes that eliminate or reduce plastic packaging do not do so at the expense of product shelf life and that all steps are taken to ensure that food waste does not increase.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS



4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

This year, the final piece of waste legislation impacting packaging will become Irish law with the transposition of the Single Use Plastics Directive. This is in addition to the transposition of the Waste Framework Directive and Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive in July 2020.

It is clear from this year's report that many of Repak's members are already well prepared for the impact of these changes. However Repak's membership team will continue to work with key stakeholders to ensure that support is available to our Members during this transition.

We also look forward to working with our Plastic Pledge signatories, partners and stakeholders throughout 2021, ensuring progress continues on projects enabling our waste management and recycling programmes to capture more plastic packaging, and reach the circular economy targets for plastic packaging recycling.

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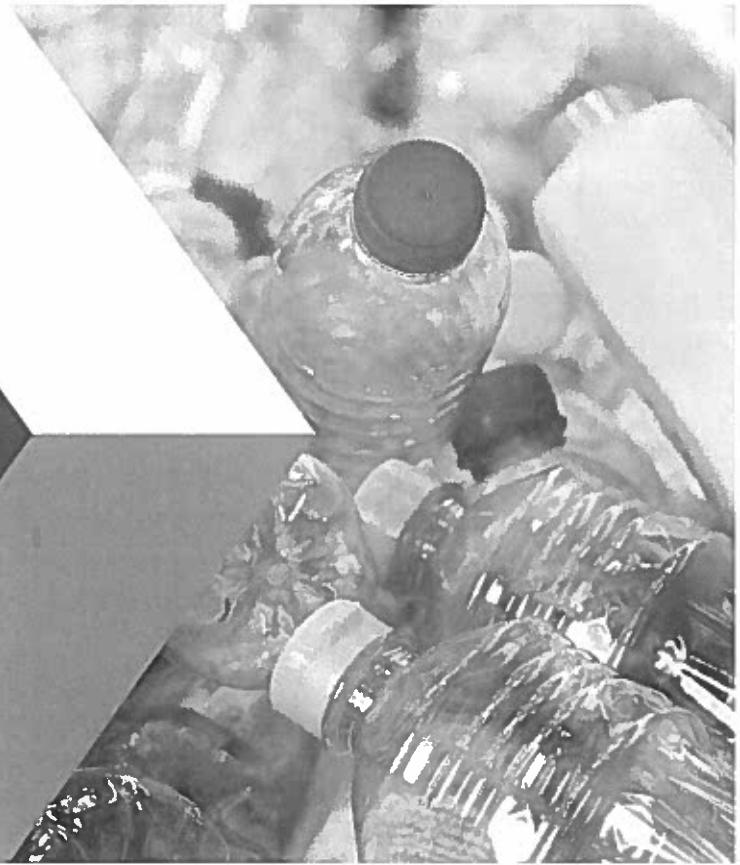
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**APPENDIX:
MEMBER
ACHIEVEMENTS
AND PLANS**

**OBJECTIVE 1:
PREVENT WASTE**



OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

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2020 Achievements

Last year ABP worked with one of its customers to reduce the plastic tray footprint that was used for their steaks. Moving their steak to a smaller sized dimension tray resulted in a saving of 3.7 tonnes of plastic packaging.

They were also able to reduce the amount of plastic in top film used for mince product resulting in 5.75 tonnes of plastic, by moving to a thinner gauge film. This resulted in a total of 9.45 tonnes of packaging avoided.

2021 Plans

Projects focusing on reducing the amount of packaging used both internally and sent to customers. These are constantly reviewed by ABP's retail production team and implemented where possible.

The focus for 2021 is working with suppliers on reuse options for transit packaging aiming to reduce both secondary and tertiary packaging quantities that end up as waste in the retailer's stores.

ABP plan to re-evaluate machine pallet wrap usage as they are changing the structure of their retail pallets. The business hopes to make further reductions in this area. Covid 19 delayed the roll out of the single use plastics elimination across the sites, this is being currently being re-implemented and will be completed ahead of regulation.



2020 Achievements

In July 2020, Aldi Ireland updated their Plastic and Packaging pledges into six consolidated and interwoven pledges:

1. Eliminate problematic plastic packaging (black plastic, PVC and EPS) from Core Range Food by 2020
2. 100% of own label packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2022 (and branded products by 2025)
3. Reduce plastic packaging by 50% by 2025
4. Reduce all packaging by 50% by 2025
5. 50% of plastic packaging to be made of recycled content by 2025
6. 100% pulp-based packaging across Core Range must be FSC or PEFC Certified or made of minimum 70% recycled content by 2020

Aldi Ireland achieved Pledge 1 and Pledge 6 in December 2020.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

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2020 Achievements

Britvic has consistently shown a commitment to minimising avoidable single-use packaging.

Britvic continues to be the only soft drinks supplier in Ireland selling Returnable Glass Bottles in the Licensed Trade. They are also one of the leading suppliers of Returnable Watercooler bottles into offices through the Ballygowan Watercooler Division. Watercooler bottles are refilled an estimated 40 times through their lifetime before being recycled and this allows the business to supply Ballygowan Natural Mineral Water without any single-use plastic packaging.

In 2020 Britvic acquired 'The Boiling Tap Company' which supplies a range of premium water filters which include the option of hot, cold sparking and even flavoured beverages which eliminate the requirement for packaging altogether. There is also a process of continuous improvement with regards to lightweighting Britvic's bottles. The biggest reduction delivered in 2020 was a 6.4% reduction in the weight of their 7Up 500ml bottles which is estimated to reduce plastic usage for these bottles by >15 Tonnes annually.

2021 Plans

The Boiling Tap Company has been rebranded Aqua Libra and Britvic have ambitious plans for the business with Sustainability and packaging reduction at its heart. The Aqua Libra brand is the first in Britvic that has pledged to never use plastic packaging. The biggest single project for 2021 with regards to reduction in packaging weight is on Ballygowan. The business has fully redesigned the Ballygowan PET bottles, moving to

In 2020, plastic was reduced from many products including:

- 43 tonnes of plastic removed from the 3L milk carton range
- Removed 3.7 tonnes of plastic from Christmas range, such as plastic free packaging on Christmas Crackers, Cards, Ribbon, Tags & Decorations
- 1kg Roosters have moved to 100% compostable bags, which can be disposed in compost heap or home compost bin, removing over 5.5 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic.
- 4 Pack Baby Haas Avocados have moved from plastic trays to cardboard trays, removing over 5.8 tonnes of plastic.

2021 Plans

This year Aldi's main objective is to reduce plastic packaging wherever possible and to work on reaching Pledge 2, making 100% of its own brand packaging reusable, recyclable or compostable by the end of 2022

Packaging changes in 2021 include:

- Over 150,000 pieces of plastic has been removed from Aldi's Easter egg range.
- Organic bananas are being trialled in a 100% recyclable and compostable FSC certified paper band, with the potential of removing over 10 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic, equating to 2.7 million plastic bags
- Aldi's 1kg Rooster trial was successful therefore, the home compostable packaging is being rolled out across the entire 1kg potato range.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

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100% rPET bottles and achieving a 20% reduction in weight on average through smart design and a lower tether-cap-ready neckfinish. This is a 245 Tonne reduction in plastic annually. These bottles went into production in January.

Britvic have further significant lightweighting plans across their portfolio which estimates indicate will reduce usage of plastic in the remainder of their PET bottles by >100 Tonnes annually.



2020 Achievements

In 2020, CCHBC continued their journey to deliver the commitment laid out in their Repak Members' Plastic Pledge on packaging design. These were aligned with the company's World Without Waste strategy. The business made several ambitions, including reducing plastic packaging waste by minimising avoidable single use packaging.

Due to the ongoing economic challenges presented by the pandemic, some of the original projects planned for 2020 were postponed until 2021, however listed below are projects that were implemented as planned.

- In 2020, CCHBC continued their focus on primary packaging and reducing the overall plastic needed in bottles. Through 'light-weighting', via the continued use of

smaller cap and closure, their plastic bottles use 10% less plastic. Light-weighting initiatives reduce plastic use by approximately 1,000 tonnes annually.

- Furthermore, in October 2020 CCHBC eliminated 'single-use' plastic shrink wrap from multi-packs of up to eight cans through the introduction of The KeelClip™. This move eliminates over 215 tonnes of plastic from the supply chain annually.
- The business also continued to source sourced point-of-sale materials made from recycled materials and focused on shifting from single-use point-of-sale materials to permanent solutions.
- Working closely with their larger retail customers to increase the use of shelf-ready packaging for their stores, by way of 'mobile units' (MUs). In a large supermarket chain, the move to mobile units will continue to eliminate the use of single use plastics from their tertiary packaging annually.
- 1,400 tonnes of Plastic Packaging Waste Avoided.

2021 Plans

As referenced above, due to the ongoing economic challenges presented by the pandemic, some of the original projects planned for 2020 were postponed until 2021. Listed below are the company's ambitions for 2021.

- Their most popular Deep RiverRock 500ml bottle will be light-weighted further, making it one of the lightest on the market. This pack will achieve a 34% reduction in plastic use versus 2016.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

- In May, CCHBC will also be eliminating all 'single-use' plastic shrink wrap from larger multipack cans through the introduction of Q-Flex Card Carton Packs. This move will save 370 tonnes of plastic from their supply chain annually.
- In 2021, the company will adopt the 'Best-In-Class' bottle for their larger Take-Home Coca-Cola owned portfolio. This will see their 1.5ltr bottle move from a 39.7g to a 37.2g bottle and their 1.75Ltr packs move from a 41.7g to a 39.7g bottle; saving 108T of plastic.
- The company will also explore opportunities to expand packageless dispensed formats, which currently accounts for 7% of their packaging footprint, through trailing this solution with their 'At Work' customers.



2020 Achievements

Danone wants to offer nutritious, high-quality food and drinks in packaging that is 100% circular, keeping materials in use and out of nature. Danone's goal for 2025 is for every piece of packaging—from bottles to yogurt pots—to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

1. Packaging designed for circularity –main commitment:
 - 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging by 2025
2. Reused, recycled or collected in practice –main commitment:
 - Initiated or supported collection and recycling initiatives in each of our top 20 markets by 2025
3. Preservation of natural resources – main commitment:
 - Average of 25% recycled material for all our plastic packaging by 2025 (50% for our water and beverage bottles)

Eliminating those avoidable Single Use Plastics covered by the Single Use Plastics Directive.

- Activia: Replace plastic cutlery with a wooden spoon
- Aptamil & Fortisip Nutricia: Remove unnecessary plastic such as straws from 61 Specialised Nutrition products. This has taken 40 million straws out of circulation and has avoided 19 tonnes of plastic going to landfill in our UK & Ireland region.

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OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

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Reducing the overall weight of plastic packaging by 20% where appropriate.

- Across brands: Apply eco-design principles during packaging development and develop alternative delivery or reuse models that eliminate single use packaging.

2021 Plans

Over the coming year Danone plan to further develop and refine their plans in relation to single use plastics, minimising waste and therefore increasing circularity. Their process will involve designing products in a way that optimises material use and eliminates waste.

To achieve this, Danone will be looking into the development of alternative delivery or reuse models which eliminate the need for single-use packaging and applying eco-design principles with a view to ensure that the company does not use more packaging than needed. Furthermore, Danone will be addressing any items and materials that firstly, are unnecessary and do not bring any additional value to the product or its protection e.g. straws, and secondly, polymers and materials that can cause problems in the recycling process in that they are impossible or unlikely to be recycled.

The business has also made a commitment to co-create a second life for all plastics. As plastic is the most used material in their packaging (70%), they are committed to creating a second life for the product materials and plastics used, as this 'waste' can, should, and will be used as a resource to create a circular economy.

For example, in Danone's Essential Dairies and Plant-based business (yogurts), they have developed a plastic roadmap for their brands. The business is targeting 30% rPET across all brands before moving to 100%.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE



2020 Achievements

In 2020 Ei Electronics made considerable reductions to reduce the amount of plastic packaging used to approximately 12 tonnes across all markets on shrink-wrap.

2021 Plans

The business is currently testing a new recyclable clingwrap. If this clingwrap is feasible to use it will convert this 12 tonnes to recyclable plastic.



2020 Achievements

In 2020 Hilton Foods removed netting from certain meat joints. They also removed the absorbent pad from all black or coloured plastic trays. A move which also helps improve their recyclability.

These projects resulted in an annual reduction in plastic of 3.25 tonnes.

2021 Plans

In 2021 Hilton Food Group plan to remove absorbent pads from an additional range of products or replace these with a certified compostable alternative. They will also remove pallet wrap from primal pallets resulting in approx. 2 tonnes of plastic removed annually.

They also aim to change all their tray footprints with the objective of removing 10 tonnes of plastic packaging.

In addition they plan to downgauge material used in the production of both MAP and Skinpack format trays.

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OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE



Irish Distillers
Pernod Ricard

2020 Achievements

- Reusable bottles have been given to all staff on site and water fountains have been installed, where they can refill their bottles. By doing so, to date the business has prevented over 39,000 single use plastic bottles from being used, equating to approx. 1.16T of plastic.
- They have eliminated the sale of most drinks in plastic bottles onsite at their Fox and Geese production plant. This has reduced single use plastic by 3,800 plastic bottles annually, equating to approx. 0.11T of plastic and the business are in the process of looking for an alternative for any remaining products.
- Tin cannisters were previously supplied in single use polybags, these have been replaced with recyclable tissue paper. This resulted in a 0.70T reduction in single use plastic annually. The cannisters also had a plastic insert that has now been replaced with a paper pulp alternative, resulting in an additional 1.04T reduction in single use plastic annually.
- The Powers capsule has moved from a non-recyclable poly laminate capsule to a recyclable PET capsule. This eliminated 0.18T of non-recyclable plastic and replaces it with recyclable PET.
- The thickness of pallet wrap has been reduced and pallet wrap machines have been optimised to reduce the amount used by 7.78T annually.
- The plastic capsule from 4.5L bottles has been eliminated, resulting in a 0.03T reduction in plastic waste.

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- All Value Added Packs (VAPs) are now plastic free, reducing plastic waste by 15.11T and going forward no new packs will contain plastic.
- The company have started the process of moving some label backing plastic from 100% virgin PET to 30% rPET, resulting in a 2.68T reduction in the use of virgin plastic annually. This will increase when more label materials become available on label backing plastic that contains rPET.
- That is an overall reduction of 28.79T of plastic.
- In addition all glass bottles come in from suppliers with plastic layer pads between each layer of glass which are reusable to prevent waste. Reusable plastic slip-sheets are used on pallets which keeps 72T of plastic in a recycling loop with no waste.

2021 Plans

- Their 50ml PET bottle is classified as a single use plastic. The company is therefore in the process of testing bottles with 30% recycled content which would result in 2.25T reduction in the use of virgin plastic annually.
- Work is ongoing with glass suppliers to reduce the thickness of the polyfilm layer used on glass pallets. The thickness of the plastic will be reduced from 50µm to 40µm. This will result in a 0.71T reduction in plastic annually and will be implemented in 2021.
- Any components identified as non-recyclable are being replaced with recyclable components where possible.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

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2020 Achievements

To increase the % of product sold in packaging that is 100% renewable and 100% recyclable by 5% from the 2019 figure by December 2025.

Projects completed in 2020

- School plastic milk bottle replaced with carton.

Carton alternative to the Lee Strand branded 2.5 litre bottle provided.

2021 Plans

Investigate other opportunities to extend the range of products packed in renewable and recyclable packaging.



2020 Achievements

Lidl Ireland have pledged that by the end of 2022, they will reduce the volume of plastic packaging by 20% by reducing and removing plastic wherever feasible or creating reusable alternatives. Examples of implemented projects aligned with the Repak goals are:

Since 2018 all the plastic sticks in cotton buds have been substituted with paper alternatives and the sale of single use plastic products such as plastic drinking straws, plastic cups, plastic plates and plastic cutlery has been stopped.

- The size of the trays on four of their main fresh fish lines has been reduced to better adjust the packaging to the size of the product, reducing plastic by 11 tonnes per year.
- The weight of 3 litre milk bottles has been reduced, avoiding roughly 54 tonnes of plastic per year.
- Together with a beef supplier Lidl implemented a packaging solution for two premium steak lines which replaces plastic with a FSC certified cardboard 'Paperseal' tray that can be separated from the plastic film and then recycled. This has reduced the amount of plastic per tray by 75% per product and avoids roughly 17 tonnes of plastic per year.
- The plastic lids have been removed from cottage cheese avoiding 4.5 tonnes of PS plastic per year.

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- The packaging size on premium bacon lines has been reduced, avoiding circa 3.5 tonnes of plastic per year.
- The size of the trays for our organic chicken fillets has been adjusted to better fit the product avoiding 1.6 tonnes of plastic per year.
- A weight reduction of the bags for Stir Fry Vegetables has avoided 2.2 tonnes of plastic per year.
- The weight of the Saskia Sparkling mineral water bottles has been reduced, avoiding roughly 4.5 tonnes of plastic per year.
- Customers are offered reusable fruit and veg netted bags for sale as an alternative to single use plastic fruit and veg bags.
- Trials have been conducted to remove the single use plastic fruit and veg plastic bags in six stores from October to December 2020, during which circa 250 Kg of plastic was avoided.

The volume of plastic packaging reduced by these projects is just over 98 tonnes of plastic.

To ensure that Lidl are capturing all reductions taking place across their business, they are currently carrying out a detailed packaging analysis.

2021 Plans

In 2021 Lidl plan to analyse their whole packaging range and identify possible optimisations to lightweight or remove plastic packaging and find reusable alternatives. Examples of some of the planned projects aligned with the Repak goals are:

- All the single use plastic cutlery and straws that are included within or attached to own-brand products are currently being changed over to alternative non-plastic materials, removing all the SUP items that will be banned from July 2021.
- A full analysis of our packaging footprint will be completed, identifying and focusing on high volume categories and working with suppliers to remove plastic packaging wherever possible. The weight of fresh meat trays will be reduced wherever possible by reducing the material thickness or tray height/shape.
- The potential for additional reductions in the packaging of 6 lines of fresh fish has already been identified and will be carried out in 2021.
- A second trial will also be conducted to remove or replace the single use plastic bags for fruit and veg for a non-plastic alternative.
- At the start of 2021, Lidl launched their new plastic bags strategy introducing sturdy, reusable carrier bags made with 100% recycled plastics and removing their current line of 'bags for life' from sale. With this move, 6.3 million 'Bags for Life' are being removed annually from circulation, saving 300 tonnes of plastic a year. These new heavy-duty reusable carrier bags are made from 100% recycled plastic which has been collected from Lidl's own stores. The new bag strategy focuses on the importance of reusing shopping bags and plans to reward customers who bring their own bags.
- Lidl are working collaboratively with the government and other stakeholders to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme and Reverse Vending Machines in stores in line with the forthcoming legislation.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

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2020 Achievements

Mannok Pack has introduced a new initiative at site level where all single use PET drink containers used at the various water dispensers units across the site are now internally recycled on site and used in the production of R-PET meat trays. This initiative will ensure that the circa 25,000 single use PET drink containers used on site every year are now recycled back into food packaging.



MUNSTER PACKAGING LTD

2020 Achievements

Munster Packaging is a corrugated cardboard manufacturer. The company produces corrugated packaging for a wide range of industries. Munster Packaging are constantly working with their customers to develop and design innovative packaging solutions to help eliminate plastic packaging and to increase the use of 100 % recyclable cardboard packaging.

This was successfully achieved in 2020 and the business are committed to continue this in 2021.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

Musgrave

2020 Achievements

SuperValu has launched a new, more sustainable option for bagging loose produce. The new bags are washable and certified food safe. This reusable option will keep food fresher for longer, as the breathable material doesn't sweat in the fridge.

All Growing Herbs packaging moved to a more sustainable alternative. The outer plastic sleeve has been replaced with one made from paper, which is 100% recyclable.

The black pot has been replaced a grey pot which can now be recycled. These changes result in the removal of 3.18 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic packaging.

2021 Plans

In addition to compliance with the requirements of the Single Use Plastics Directive, Musgrave will continue to work with suppliers to reduce single-use plastics across all its portfolios.

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npp

NON-PLASTIC PACKAGING

2020 Achievements

Every person in the company is involved in its drive to reduce its impact on the environment. Through promoting awareness, and encouraging our people to continually reduce waste and save energy.

- Reusable coffee cups have been supplied to staff and customers
- Reusable water bottles have been supplied to staff and customers

NPP do not sell or use any item that is subject to a ban/reduction target under the SUP Legislation.

2021 Plans

NPP will continue to supply staff with reusable items.

The business also works with its customers to reduce their plastic usage and lightweight their packaging. Customer projects that are in the pipeline for 2021 will reduce plastic usage by 93 tonnes.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE



2020 Achievements

Nestlé have introduced a "Negative List" for hard to recycle plastics and are continuing to phase out their use across all packaging to be compliant with the EU Single Use Plastic Directive. In 2020 this included the removal of plastic straws from SMA ready to drink infant formula, while within confectionery, black trays were phased out in packaging and the PVC seal was removed from several product and packaging formats. Nestlé expanded their innovative paper packaging, first used for the YES! snack bar range, to new products including Nesquik All Natural, which moved from recyclable plastic to recyclable paper pouches, and Smarties sharing block.

2021 Plans

In 2021 Nestlé will be exploring further packaging innovations. Following the successful transition for Smarties block, in January Nestlé announced that the remainder of their Smarties confectionery range will be moving to paper packaging this year which will be completed by April 2021. This makes Nestlé the first global confectionery brand to switch to recyclable packaging.

In February Nestlé Cereals announced packaging reductions across Shreddies, Cheerios and Shredded Wheat. These ranges are now using between 13-15% less packaging, which will save an estimated 618 tonnes of plastic and cardboard each year.

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Nomad Foods

2020 Achievements

Nomad Foods have moved their pack of 8 Chicken Burgers from a plastic bag to carton board removing 1.45 tonnes of plastic packaging.



2020 Achievements

Paramount has launched a range of poly bags suitable for food or pharmaceutical use, utilising additive resins to allow down gauging by up to 40%. While this technology is not new Paramount have added an equivalence gauge rating to the product descriptions and carton markings. The thickness in microns is stated but the equivalent strength performance to an LDPE bag is stated in gauge.

For Example "PB22 is 22mu equivalent to 120g". This has enhanced the customer understanding of the product and accordingly the take up.

2021 Plans

Continuation of the above across this range but also with bespoke bags & materials.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

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2021 Plans

In 2021 Shannon Vale Foods plan to:

- Reduce the weight of pallet wrap by optimising the material used and examining the feasibility of lighter weight wrap.
- Examine the efficacy of using reduced micron plastic liners
- Only using reusable tea/coffee cups and no single use cups in Canteens on site



2020 Achievements

Stonehouse Marketing have removed the plastic sleeve from their Homestead Heavy duty refuse sack and replaced it with a fully recyclable paper label. This project has removed 1 tonne of plastic over a 12 month period.

2021 Plans

In 2021 the business plans to move their Homestead Luxury Toilet Tissue and Homestead Kitchen Towel retail packs from plastic to paper and replace the plastic outer packaging with packaging made from 30% recycled material.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

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SUNTORY

BEVERAGE & FOOD IRELAND

2020 Achievements

SFBI are committed to reducing their use of plastic and over the last 10 years have reduced the plastic used across their packaging by 18%, equating to a 5,500 tonnes reduction. In fact, an average Lucozade bottle weighed 3.1 grams less in 2019 versus 2010.

In May 2020 SFBI were the first major juice drink brand to launch a paper straw on Ribena Cartons to understand consumer reaction and gather feedback. Building on that trial the full roll out of the paper straw across the entire carton portfolio started in Feb 2021. This removal of plastic straws represents a 16-tonne annual reduction.

Unfortunately the Lucozade Sport events in Ireland were cancelled due to the Pandemic. However once they are restarted the company hopes to mirror the activity that took place in the UK where 10,000 Lucozade Sport Oohos (edible seaweed pouches) were distributed in the Vitality Half race (London), reducing plastic waste.

The company will also explore new occasions e.g. in gyms to explore consumer openness to purchasing Oohos via a vending machine.

2021 Plans

The transition to Paper straws on Ribena cartons is being rolled out, though unfortunately slower than planned due to COVID. This will remove 40 Million plastic straws from circulation in Ireland & UK.

If Lucozade Sport sponsored events are allowed to run in 2021 the company hopes to distribute Oohos to runners to reduce plastic waste.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

CONTENTS



TESCO

2020 Achievements

The following are some key deliverables achieved in 2020:

- From March 2020, Tesco removed plastic-wrapped multipacks, sold across their 151 stores and online, replacing them with plastic-free multibuy. This eliminates the plastic film and will see 1.5 million multipacks of Tesco own-label and branded tinned beans, tuna, soup, and tomatoes sold without plastic wrap each year. Tins are available individually with plastic wrap no longer used to hold them together. They'll still be eligible for multibuy deals, representing the same great value for customers, just without the plastic. This move resulted in almost 10 tonnes of single use plastic no longer being produced each year.
- The goal to remove all single use plastic straws from Tesco own-label products was achieved by end-March 2020. Single-use cutlery was also removed.
- All Tesco Christmas crackers were free of plastic in 2020 and will be for Christmas 2021.
- On pack recycling information was introduced on all own label products.
- Other examples of plastic removal across the business include:
- The plastic clip has been removed from two Rice Cake lines - Salt & Vinegar and Lightly Salted - removing over 4.31 million pieces of plastic.

- 7.1 tonnes of plastic was removed from the Tesco Irish Cheddar Cheese Range. This has been communicated on pack through the use of our 'R' logo strategy.

Also in 2020, a new 'Red, Amber & Green' packaging preferred materials list was launched, with the addition of more 'hard to recycle materials' such as Plywood & MDF, Glitter, Composite Drums, Paper & Board coated or laminated on both sides, to the 'red' list. Tesco are committed to not accepting new products in packaging from our red list of materials.

The business recognises that more needs to be done and continue to work hard to meet these challenges. A remote supplier conference was held in September 2020 bringing together suppliers from across Ireland to engage them on Tesco's packaging strategy for Ireland and what the business would like them to do to support their packaging ambitions.

Approx 418 tonnes of hard to recycle plastic have been removed to date as well as moving approx. 448 tonnes to detectable plastic for further recycling.

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT WASTE

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2021 Plans

In 2021, Tesco's packaging plans will continue to be based on their 4R approach - Reduce, Remove, Recycle, Reuse. The 4R strategy is based on the following:

- Remove all non- recyclable and hard to recycle materials
- Reduce packaging where we can
- Look for opportunities to reuse packaging
- Ensuring all packaging is recyclable

This 4R approach will allow the business to deliver and communicate a clear message to customers on the great work they have achieved. This will be done by applying an 'R' logo to packaging.

In 2021, Tesco plan to continue their Red, Amber Green list of preferred materials and work in conjunction with suppliers to continue making packaging more easily recyclable, and further remove hard-to-recycle materials.

The reduce and remove programme has been launched, where any excess packaging has been reduced and/or removed from products across primary, secondary and tertiary packaging.

Secondary Packaging Plans: Tesco have developed a secondary packaging document to help suppliers deliver reductions in secondary packaging. This was launched to all suppliers at the most recent supplier conference in September 2020.



**OBJECTIVE 2:
SUPPORT THE
CIRCULAR
ECONOMY**



OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CONTENTS



2020 Achievements

The waste hierarchy is implemented at every site to identify key waste outputs. Waste segregation is also used throughout ABP's processes which helps to increase both the recycling and recovery of materials.

Last year ABP contacted its suppliers to investigate opportunities to reduce the packaging they use on goods sold to the plants. All incoming goods and packaging delivered to site were assessed to identify goods that potentially could have been over packaged. Many improvements have been seen since focusing on this waste packaging hotspot, examples include; removing excess bubble wrap from individual rolls of hand wrap and removing outer bags that were not needed for ingredients. So far the business has prevented half a tonne of incoming supplier packaging that would have been wasted at ABP's premises.

Approximately 7% of plastic packaging waste is recycled with the remaining going to energy recovery due to high levels of contamination.

2021 Plans

Waste audits are continuously carried out on sites to ensure that all waste streams are captured. These will be completed again throughout 2021, as to maximise the recycling rates on ABP sites.

The business will also continue to work with its suppliers, encouraging packaging reductions and reuse options where possible for delivery of our goods. ABP are constantly reviewing new developments and will trial any solutions that fit the circular economy package.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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2020 Achievements

All flexible film and card is baled at the back of house in all Aldi stores, backhauled to Aldi's RDCs and then sent for recycling.

- Aldi's Eco-Loop shopping bags are made from 100% recycled content, 80% being from Aldi stores.
- Aldi is currently trialling a Repak Machine in its store in The Elysian, Cork.
- Aldi's Head Office has segregated bins in all canteens (General, Recycling and Compostable).
- Aldi uses its internal communications application, MyALDI, to give tips on how to recycle correctly and reduce waste.
- The app is also used to keep colleagues up to date on plastic and packaging projects taking place in the business.

- With more than 4,500 employees in Ireland, Aldi have a number of programmes to ensure staff are aware of Aldi's approach to sustainable energy, reducing energy use and CO2 emissions. The Colleague Engagement Programme is an initiative that provides colleagues with communications, guidance and training on the simple actions they can take to reduce energy and waste in day-to-day activities in order to reduce their environmental impact.

2021 Plans

- Aldi's Buying Teams are working with suppliers and packaging consultants to communicate improved, more accurate guidelines on the back of packaging about recycling.
- Aldi will continue to educate its colleagues on how to recycle and how to reduce their plastic use in their day to day lives.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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2020 Achievements

Education of customers and consumers is central to achievement of recycling targets and Britvic is committed to using the power of its brands to ensure that all their packaging is recycled. Brand advertising, when featuring any form of packshot, now features a 'please recycle me' logo and this a mandatory part of any advertising brief across all channels.

In 2020 Britvic Ireland completed the roll-out of the 'Please recycle me' logo on the top of all bottle caps ensuring that a prompt to recycle is visible to all consumers. Brand communications are also used to encourage consumers to recycle their bottles through engaging media content and working with sponsorship partners to showcase their sporting heroes recycling responsibly.

Britvic are also looking to the future of recycling and in 2020 Britvic Ireland announced the sponsorship of a trial of Smart DRS technology in Whitehead, Northern Ireland through the Reward4Waste scheme. The company are using this trial to research consumer attitudes to recycling, barriers to recycling and how they can be motivated to ensure that 100% of plastic bottles are recycled. In particular a key element of the funding related to ensuring that coding of bottles allowed "On The Go" to be distinguished from "Take Home" packs. This helped the business gain additional insight into how recycling rates can be increased outside of the home.

2021 Plans

Britvic Ireland remain committed to communicating the importance of recycling to its customers and encouraging responsible recycling behaviour. This will form part of above the line campaigns across all brands.

Recycling remains central to the messaging on the Ballygowan brand, including a new campaign launching this summer to support the brand's relaunch. It will form a greater part of communications across the wider portfolio in line with other circularity initiatives, the details of which will be shared in Britvic's next report.

The work on the Smart DRS trial continues this year and Britvic are working with their partners Cryptocycle and Queens University to conduct further Quantitative and Qualitative research into recycling behaviour and motivations.

Britvic is also working closely with our industry partners in the Irish Beverage Council to finalise the details of the proposed DRS for Ireland. The company enthusiastically supports all measures to increase recycling and ensure the collection of high quality materials as this resin will be needed in order to fulfil ambitions around recycled content.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Coca-Cola HBC
Ireland & Northern Ireland

2020 Achievements

CCHBC's World Without Waste strategy also sets out an ambitious target for packaging collection. By 2030, the company will collect and recycle the equivalent of every bottle or can it sells.

To achieve a true circular economy for packaging, the company are exploring how best to support improvements to the existing packaging collection system, with a focus on enhancing infrastructure for packaging recovery.

The business continued to work closely with Repak and the wider beverage sector via the Irish Beverage Council to achieve this ambition. Some initiatives included:

- Continued support to Repak by facilitating meetings with customers in order to explore ways to expand the reach of Team Green. Following the success of the relationships built with Trinity College, Lidl & The National Ploughing Championships in 2019, in 2020 CCHBC facilitated further meetings with Dunnes who aim to introduce Team Green recycling machines at their locations. This initiative will have a credible impact on increasing future recycling rates.
- Worked closely with the wider beverage sector via the Irish Beverage Council, commissioning an independent study to determine the merit, feasibility, and cost of introducing and operating a Deposit Return Scheme in Ireland. This work will continue work into 2021.

- An internal campaign went live in January to encourage all employees to sign up to the Team Green pledge; committing to recycling just one more bottle each week to help achieve future targets. This campaign saw the improvement of recycling infrastructure across office sites and was activated across internal wall branding, emails and desk drops for maximum impact.
- The Team Green campaign was also activated across social media channels throughout the year and integrated the campaign messages into video content to outline CCHBCs shared commitment to a World Without Waste.
- Through funding from the Coca-Cola Foundation, the company worked with their system partners The Coca-Cola Company on a collaboration between Dublin City Council and environmental charity Hubbub on the Dublin #CircleCity campaign. The city-wide #CircleCity campaign aims to 'build a culture of on-the-go recycling' in Dublin City Centre by bringing on-the-go recycling bins to the streets.
- The campaign was also supported and delivered on-the-ground by local partners, including Big Belly, Voice Ireland, the RPS Group and Dublin Town.
- Finally, CCHBC are using the power of their brands to encourage greater behavioural change and consumer awareness.
- The company have continued to integrate recycling messages across all Coca-Cola and Deep RiverRock advertising and on-pack, and are working closely with retail partners to raise awareness of these actions in-store, among consumers.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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- Messaging on 'Deep RiverRock' bottles continued with the '100% Recycled Bottle' logo replacing branding to help change consumer mindsets in relation to the value and importance of recycling and using recycled materials.

2021 Plans

- In Q4 2021, CCHBC will move to tethered closures on all beverage containers of up to three litres in line with the EU SUP Directive.
- The company are also further exploring the role of technology as an enabler in a 'traditional' DRS, to further understand how deposit systems can change recycling behaviour.
- Work will continue on the Dublin #CircleCity campaign.
- Coca-Cola will invest in a communication campaign as part of the wider 'Open For Better' integrated marketing campaign focused on the World Without Waste strategy and achievements alongside encouraging consumers to play their part in recycling and keeping our environment free of litter.
- Greater messaging will be visible instore and on packs with bold messaging in relation to recyclability and recycled content.

2020 Achievements

Danone are constantly looking for ways to improve and reduce waste at their Wexford plant.

Danone worked with Envirogreen on a processing technology that allows label backing paper to be recycled back into label backing paper and re-used. This has helped the Wexford factory reduce general waste by 15 tonnes a year, reduce CO2 by 30 tonnes and save 555m3 of water. The project won a Nudge Global Impact Award in 2019. Wexford is also a paper free site as another initiative to reduce their environmental impact.

2021 Plans

In October 2020, Danone worked with a fellow B Corp, Too Good To Go (TGTG) on an internal campaign on food waste and our Danone x TGTG campaign as well as ways our colleagues could reduce food waste in the home.

Danone's UK and Irish teams are looking to launch further internal and external activations on recycling and food waste reduction in 2021-2022.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Through their Essential Dairy and Plant-based (yogurt) business, there is also an internal focus on the circular economy as part of Danone's One Planet One Health vision. The ambition in Ireland is to reduce waste and increase awareness of Danone's packaging transformation journey. Here are some of the actions Danone are taking:

- Educating staff about Ireland's recycling infrastructure and Danone's own packaging roadmap.
- Enabling them to become recycling champions in their own lives and for Danone.
- Informing customers and consumers on more positive recycling habits for instance, addressing contamination rates in household municipal waste which prevents recycled materials being recaptured properly.
- Hosting a recycling initiative in May 2021 with internal Danone Ireland teams focussing on above.

2020 Achievements

All clean uncontaminated plastic waste generated on site is recycled. Most of the plastic waste generated on site is contaminated and goes for recovery through waste to energy. This plastic does a very important job in extending the shelf life of the product and allows Hilton Foods to meet their objectives for food waste of less than 1%.

2021 Plans

Hilton Foods are exploring ways of recovering this contaminated soft plastic material that is generated by the operation.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Irish Distillers
Pernod Ricard

2020 Achievements

- In 2020 Irish Distillers recycled 87.5 tonnes of plastic from onsite operations. The company receives over 200,000 pallets of dry goods each year, produces 110m bottles of product and zero waste goes to landfill. The business ensures that any waste that cannot be reused or recycled is processed through RDF (Recovered Derived Fuel).
- A full review of all packaging used on site has been completed to determine its recyclability and the company are in the process of finding alternatives to non-recyclable components where possible.
- 500ml PET bottles sold in travel retail contain 30% rPET since December 2019, removing 8.1T of virgin plastic (obj 4).
- All PVC capsules were replaced with recyclable PET, this packaging redesign resulted in 1.39T of PVC being removed from waste streams.
- 98% of the total volume of products supplied are fully recyclable.
- A Jameson recycling section has been added the Jameson website to educate customers on sustainability and how packaging can be recycled, along with recycling tips.
- Sustainability and Responsibility guidelines have been provided to all staff to educate them about packaging materials that should not be used and may cause issues during recycling. A Jameson fact sheet has also been distributed to ensure people know that Jameson Original is circular from glass to grain and 100% recyclable.

- Irish Distillers continue to be members of Eco Vadis, a supplier sustainability network which provides sustainability ratings for their suppliers. This helps procurement teams monitor Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices in the supply chain.

2021 Plans

- A removable closure has been trialled for 500ml PET bottles. This ensures that the metal ring is removed, and all bottles can enter the recycling stream. Production with this closure is due to start in April 2021.
- The business is now planning trials of a removable closures for their 50ml PET bottle. This will ensure that all 50ml bottles can enter the recycling stream.
- The company are in the early stages of working with a company who will take their PET23 label back plastic and process it into a viable alternative material to virgin PET that can be used to produce polyester fibre.
- A project is currently underway which will determine how the company can clearly communicate recycling information about their products to consumers. This is to ensure that all components end up in the correct waste stream and enter the circular economy. This project should be complete in 2021 and will then lead to updated advice on labels.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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2020 Achievements

100% of all plastic is recycled on site by Lee Strand

Projects completed in 2020

An extensive advertising campaign (newspaper, radio, social media), in combination with competitions, was run to promote the new 2 Litre 100% recyclable milk carton made from 100% renewable materials. The aim is to encourage the consumer to replace 2L plastic bottles with the carton offering.

2021 Plans

Promote recycling as part of Lee Strand's school initiative.

Challenge will be set for school children to make a short video of something they have created by recycling Lee Strand's 100% Renewable cartons. Certificates will be issued to the children and cash prizes for their school.



2020 Achievements

By 2025, Lidl Ireland have committed that 100% of their own-brand packaging will be widely recyclable, reusable or renewable. Examples of specific projects that have been implemented aligned with the Repak goals are:

- Customer recycling stations have been installed in all their stores. With these, customers are invited to dispose of unwanted excess packaging before leaving the store which is then recycled on their behalf. 3 bins are offered for 'Cardboard and Paper', 'Plastics' (rigid and flexible), and 'Other Recyclables' such as cans. A clearly outlined segregation process is in place in stores and warehouses to ensure that all materials are segregated and recycled properly. All plastics are returned from stores to distribution centres where they are baled and sent to external providers for further recycling. This allows Lidl to segregate and recycle materials such as flexible plastics, which are not currently recyclable at a household level. In 2020 were able to recycle approximately 875 tonnes of plastic from stores and warehouses.
- This is an integral part of achieving Zero Waste to Landfill.
- In November 2020, Lidl recruited an internal packaging technologist in the house for the first time. Part of the responsibility of this new role is to conduct regular packaging and recyclability training with staff.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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- A detailed packaging guidance document for the design of packaging for recyclability has been distributed to all national and international suppliers. This guidance aims to inform suppliers of the specific requirements for the most common packaging solutions to assure maximum recyclability and to offer them personalised support if required.
 - Lidl use their packaging artwork to raise awareness on the sustainability features of their packaging and to effectively communicate how to dispose of the packaging once the product is consumed. Please see examples of these communications below:
 - Lidl's Packaging responsibility label: In 2020 a label for Lidl's own-branded products was created to highlight and inform customers when a product's packaging has been improved. This was implemented by all Lidl countries and will help to educate customers on the work that Lidl is doing to ensure that products are packed responsibly and encourage them to make buying decisions influenced by the sustainability of products. It consists of a front and back of pack label, which highlights the packaging change in a bespoke message when the following criteria have been met:
 - The packaging contains at least 30% recycled materials.
 - The packaging is made of a more sustainable alternative material.
 - The packaging volume or weight has been reduced by at least 10%.
 - Milk Cartons - Since May 2020 all 1l milk cartons are made from 100 % renewable resources. The fossil based plastic used on the coating, neck and cap of the cartons, has been replaced by a plant-based material made from sugar cane resulting in a reduction in emission of 160 tonnes of CO2 equivalents per year. The benefits and disposal instructions are highlighted on pack.
 - 'Paperseal' trays for steaks - A detailed graphic on how to dispose of this new packaging solution properly is printed on the packaging.
 - Heavy-duty reusable shopping bags made from 100 % recycled plastic. Lidl's Packaging responsibility label is also included here featuring the benefits of the bags along with the message "it's good to reuse" to encourage the multiple use of these. Their shopping bags communication campaign included a children's colouring competition encouraging children to submit designs based on the 'reduce, reuse and recycle' theme with winners finding their designs on the bags themselves. This helped customer and colleague engagement and raised awareness for the importance of reusing and recycling our plastic.
 - Lidl aim to maximise the recyclability of our packaging and its recycled content, to help create a market for the recyclability of these materials, contributing to the circular economy and helping to increase the financial and sustainability viability of the recycling facilities and the recycled materials.
- In 2020 95.9% of the segregated plastic waste from Lidl's premises was washed, palletised and recycled.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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2021 Plans

Examples of specific projects that are planned aligned with the outlined Repak goals are:

- Specific hard to recycle flexible and hard plastics, will now be segregated and used for the creation of products such as garden furniture and fencing posts in 2021. That will allow the recycling of 100 % of the segregated plastic waste from premises going forward in a closed loop system.
- Continue to conduct training, provide information, and involve both colleagues and customers on the recyclability and general sustainability of packaging.
- Continue to implement Lidl's packaging responsibility label on products that have been optimised as well as give additional information on pack if it helps the customer make more informed decisions.
- Communicate updates on packaging progress in customer leaflets and sustainability reports.
- Collaborate with the government and other stakeholders such as Repak and its working groups, to make sure that packaging related projects align with and support the development of Ireland's circular economy plans and recycling and infrastructure.
- Work collaboratively with the government and other stakeholders to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme and Reverse Vending Machines in stores while making sure to adhere to upcoming legislation.

2020 Achievements

Mannok Pack was a main sponsor of Ireland's first Reverse Vending Machine, an environmental initiative launched by Carrickmacross Tidy Towns which aims to boost the recycling of plastic PET bottles. The project was hugely successful with over 100,000 PET drink bottles recycled in the first 3 months of the project.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Musgrave

2020 Achievements

Musgrave continues to focus on reducing waste at source and maximising recycling across its business with the aim of sending zero recoverable materials to landfill. The majority of plastics within operations are soft plastics (pallet wrap), which are baled for collection and recycling by Repak-approved waste contractors. Currently, Musgrave recycles around 98% of all waste.

2021 Plans

Musgrave will continue minimise the use of pallet wrap and to maximise recycling across its business and aims to send zero recoverable materials to landfill.

npp

NPP GROUP LIMITED

2020 Achievements

Currently 93% of the products supplied by NPP are recyclable. They aim to increase this figure over the next few years by working with manufacturers to develop new materials that will maintain or improve product protection. Customers are supplied with information on the recyclability of each product sold to them and staff and customers are educated on the sustainable agenda.

2021 Plans

NPP will be running campaigns throughout the year that educate customers on different types of packaging and their recyclability.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Nestlé

2020 Achievements

Across all sites Nestlé segregate waste and are working towards ensuring that no waste is sent to landfill.

In October 2020 they joined forces with chemical recycling company Plastic Energy to explore the scope for developing a chemical recycling plant in the UK.

Their recycling technology offers a sustainable solution for hard-to-recycle packaging and an innovative source of high quality recyclate to use in Nestlé products, and a feasibility study is currently underway.

2021 Plans

Nestlé are part of a number of initiatives, exploring the expansion of recycling for flexible packaging to boost the recyclability of these currently hard to recycle materials.

They are also exploring the expansion of “Designed to be Recycled” on-pack logos across their product categories, demonstrating a commitment to the development of future recycling infrastructure.

Nomad Foods

2020 Achievements

Nomad Foods recycle ~80% of the plastic packaging waste generated at their site. In order to provide customers with clear recycling information they also include recycling information on their packaging.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Paramount Packaging

2020 Achievements

Paramount fully supports the circular economy targets subject to the availability of recycling outlets and capacity of “soft” plastics. Paramount do not receive in, for their own use, a high volume of plastics and recycle in the region of 90% of plastic removed.

2021 Plans

As regards plastics Paramount place on the market – they are committed to the recycling of soft plastics & look forward to reprocessing of post-consumer soft plastics in Ireland and the very positive progress that will make towards achieving a circular economy.



2021 Plans

- Ensure that all trays are recyclable.
- Capture any plastic waste material on site and segregate from general waste.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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SUNTORY

BEVERAGE & FOOD IRELAND

2020 Achievements

All of SBFi's drinks' containers are recyclable and consumers are encouraged to recycle with on-pack messages.

SBFi has committed to ensuring the new OPRL recycling instructions are updated across the portfolio by the end of 2022.

Suntory Beverage and Food GB & Ireland use brand communications to encourage consumers to recycle more and litter less. In 2020 both Lucozade and Ribena launched communication campaigns across social media celebrating the use of 100% recycled plastic (rPet) for its bottle and encouraging consumers to 'Keep Recycling'. SBFi recycle over 90% of waste discarded on their site.

2021 Plans

In 2021 SBFi will continue to use the power of its brands to encourage recycling using packaging and communications.

TESCO

2020 Achievements

From February 2020 Tesco Ireland made changes to their waste management process which will allow a greater recovery and reuse of previously unrecovered plastic packaging from food waste. Contaminated packaging materials from back of store food waste would previously have been sent to waste to energy when separated during the anaerobic (AD) process. By working in partnership with Green Generation, an anaerobic digestion plant in Kildare, and with Paltech, a start-up company focused on recovering and reusing soft plastics to make products, a process was introduced whereby food waste is separated from its packaging and processed through AD, creating bioenergy. The packaging is then segregated, and where required, washed and dried to remove impurities/food contamination. Plastic/packaging that can currently be recycled is managed appropriately to ensure a continued closed loop.

For soft packaging materials that cannot currently be recycled, Paltech use an enclosed pressure moulding system to turn large volumes of mixed-waste plastic into heavy-walled large products, such as poles, median motorway barriers and more.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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2021 Plans

In 2021, Tesco plan to continue their Red, Amber Green list of preferred materials and work in conjunction with suppliers to continue removing packaging or making it more easily recyclable, helping to close the loop. Packaging plans continue to be based on the 4R approach:

- Reduce
- Remove
- Recycle
- Reuse

This approach will allow for the delivery and communication of a clear message to customers on the great achievements to date. This will be done by applying a 'R' logo to packaging. The 4R strategy is based on the following:

- Remove all non- recyclable and hard to recycle materials
- Reduce packaging where we can
- Look for opportunities to reuse packaging
- Ensuring all packaging is recyclable (repeat from Obj 1)

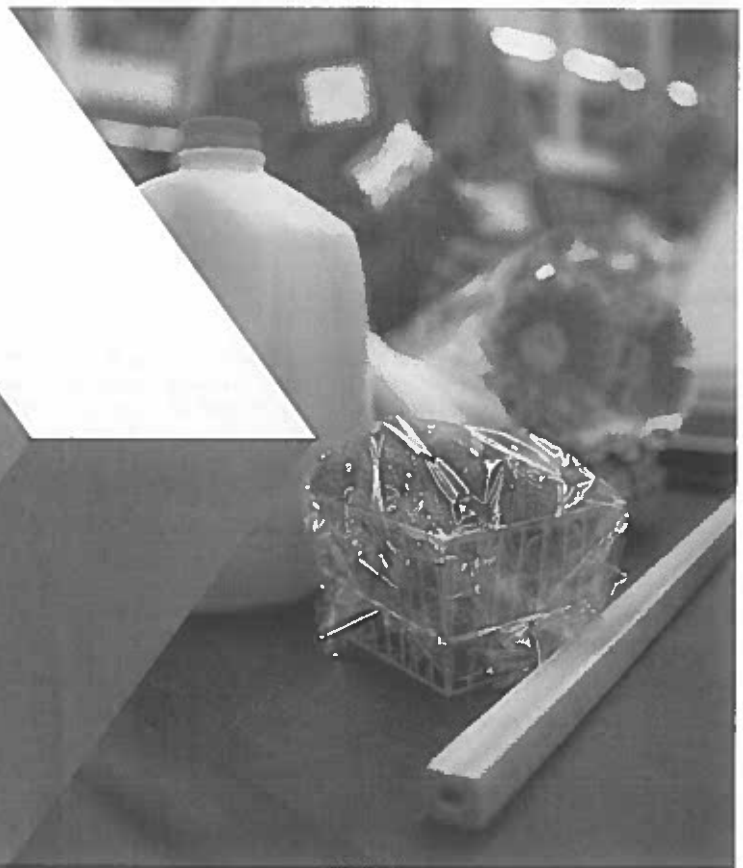
Working to these objectives, in February 2021, Tesco announced that they were the first retailer in Ireland to create a recycling solution for soft plastics which to date have not been recyclable through the national household recycling bin infrastructure in Ireland.

Plans include the roll out of in store collection to all stores by March 2021 where customers can simply remove unwanted soft plastic packaging - such as cling wrap or outer wrap from water bottle multi-packs - at the end of their shopping trip.

Customers can also leave behind hard, recyclable plastic packaging, such as multi-pack fresh produce packaging, which will be recycled as normal. Partnering with Irish manufacturing company, Paltech, these soft plastics will then be flaked and prepared for processing into construction materials to be used in Tesco's store network - for example as car-park barriers and signage.

Waste plastic processed in this way has already been used to produce the in-store collection points themselves. As work continues towards 2025 packaging targets, this announcement is an important step in ensuring that soft plastics are recycled, rather than sent to waste to energy plants.

**OBJECTIVE 3:
SIMPLIFY
POLYMERS**



OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

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2020 Achievements

A key focus for the business in 2020 was the elimination of PVC in retail packs. PET/PE trays were used as a replacement, as the PET material trials were successfully carried out showing no negative effect on the meat product for quality and shelf life's tests this change was successfully made at the end of 2020.

ABP have removed over 165 tonnes of PVC/PE material from the supply chain in 2020 versus 2019.

In 2020 ABP completed a research partnership project with Athlone Institute of Technology. This work provided findings on waste disposal routes for the current shrink bag that is used for product. The multi laminate bags used onsite are critical for ensuring food quality is ensured over the maturation time needed for our product. Although no new possible sustainable routes for disposal were identified due to the structure of the bag, it allowed the company to be assured that the bag was being disposed of in the most sustainable manner possible and highlighted the importance of the bag for the product in preventing food waste and delivering on quality of the product.

Approximately 13% of difficult to recycle plastics have been removed from the business based on 2019 packaging data.

2021 Plans

ABP are currently carrying out a plastic transformation data collection for 2020 – this has proven an extremely valuable tool in understanding their packaging, identifying areas where improvements need to be made.

ABP aims to progress with further trials in order to provide customers with fully recyclable packaging solutions – one of the focuses for 2021 is trials for fully recyclable shrink bags to see how they perform on quality and shelf life tests.

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

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2020 Achievements

Currently 90% of the Aldi Core Range is 100% recyclable.

In 2020, a large amount of packaging moved from non-recyclable to recyclable plastic. Examples include:

- The removal of all black plastic from stores, amounting to a reduction of 410 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic
- 500,000 non-recyclable black plastic pots moved to clear pots, which are 100% recyclable across its fresh herb range, the film that wraps around these pots moved from non-recyclable plastic to 100% home compostable film, removing 5.5 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic
- Over 3.5 tonnes of non-recyclable polystyrene trays were removed from the Specially Selected Pizza Range
- Aldi's own label yoghurt range moved to recyclable pots, removing 64 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic from stores annually
- Over 107 tonnes of non-recyclable sliced meat PVC trays moved to recyclable Mono aPET trays

- 20 tonnes of non-recyclable trays moved to recyclable PET trays in the sliced cheddar cheese range
- Turkey and Chicken sausages moved from non-recyclable PVC trays to recyclable Mono aPET trays removing 16 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic
- Two lines of kitchen roll and toilet paper moved from non-recyclable plastic to FSC certified paper wrap which is 100% recyclable, removing 33.8 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic, the equivalent of almost 3.5 million pieces of plastic
- Over 930 tonnes of non-recyclable packaging has moved to recyclable.

2021 Plans

- In February 2021, Aldi became the first retailer to move to 100% recyclable packaging across its own label White Sliced Family Pan and 100% Wholegrain Loaf, removing over 18 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic.
- Soft drink cans are moving from plastic shrink wrap to 100% recyclable card wrap, removing over 2.7 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic
- Three lines of Aldi's nut range are being trialled in FSC certified 100% recyclable paper packaging, potentially removing over 5 tonnes of non-recyclable packaging annually from stores

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

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2020 Achievements

Sustainability considerations form a core part of our innovation process and decision making – Project Managers must complete a review of Sustainability implications of all innovation projects including confirming recyclability and ensuring the full environmental footprint of packaging is taken into consideration during development and projects can (and have) been halted or changed in scope due to concerns around the recyclability of the proposed packaging.

While all of plastic bottles are made from recyclable materials, the business is continuously working to update packaging to increase the ease of recycling. This includes reviewing the use of coloured preforms and switching to clear where possible as well as reducing the height of sleeves. This summer Robinsons Refresh'd products will be redesigned from a fully sleeved bottle to one with a 40% coverage sleeve with perforations and strong messaging to remove the sleeve before recycling.

2021 Plans

Continue to review any non-recyclable materials in the system and have projects actively addressing any outstanding gaps in meeting the goal of 100% recyclable packaging by 2025.



Coca-Cola HBC
Ireland & Northern Ireland

2020 Achievements

- CCHBC have interrogated all aspects of their supply chain to ensure that packaging is as sustainable as possible. All primary packaging, bottles and cans, are 100% recyclable and the business is committed to maintaining this.
- The introduction of KeelClip™ eliminates over 215 tonnes of hard to recycle plastic from the supply chain annually.
- CCHBC have also been assessing the wider use of 'single use' plastic shrink on tertiary packaging, actively seeking solutions to reduce and/or eliminate the non-recyclable plastic within their supply chain.

2021 Plans

- As outlined above, from May all 'hard to recycle' plastic shrink wrap will be eliminated from larger multipack cans through the introduction of Q-Flex Card Carton Packs. This move will save 370 tonnes of plastic from the supply chain annually.
- R100 100% recycled plastic film will be trialed for multipack bottles across the Deep RiverRock portfolio.

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS



2020 Achievements

Danone are investing in new technologies and processes to help build a circular economy.

The impact of packaging and how to optimise recycling and reuse is continuously assessed,

Yogurt pots have moved from PS to PET or PP plastic to improve opportunities for recycling.

Working alongside global packaging teams and local partners Danone investigated, trialled and invested in new technologies to produce new yogurt pots from PET plastic.

The rigid clear plastic pots are fully recyclable, and importantly allow for the inclusion of recycled plastic content into the pots in the future.

The recently launched Danone brand is the first to transition into these plastic pots, with the rest of the portfolio of yogurt pots to follow. Going forward, all new products will be in more recyclable pots.

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2021 Plans

- Recyclability by design to be embedded within the innovation pipeline across the business.
- Complete the phase out of Polystyrene for yoghurt pots by the end of 2021.
- Continue to work globally to improve recyclability, reusability, compostability and/or circularity of products. Danone factories in Wexford and Macroom are key to leading this innovation and are involved in several projects on Specialised Nutrition products – with look at Nutricia and infant formula brands.

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS



2020 Achievements

Hilton Foods have removed PVDC from their vacuum packed bags and films. 14 tonnes annually has been removed and replaced with more environmentally friendly alternatives. This has removed a further 2.5% of difficult to recycle plastics from the business.

2021 Plans

The business is in the process of trialling mono MAP films. Resulting in single material retail packs.

Explore possibility of using fully recyclable vacuum packed plastic bags.

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Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard

2020 Achievements

- Under the Pernod Ricard 2030 roadmap numerous materials that can cause recycling issues, for example PVC, have been prohibited. All PVC capsules were replaced with recyclable PET, resulting in 1.39T of PVC being removed from waste streams. Any PVC stickers previously used have also been replaced with recyclable alternatives.
- Reviewed all packaging and established that 98% of the total volume of products supplied are fully recyclable.
- The Powers capsule has moved from a non-recyclable poly laminate capsule to a recyclable PET capsule, eliminating 0.18T of non-recyclable plastic from our waste streams annually.
- Commenced the process of moving some label backing plastic from 100% virgin PET to 30% recycled content, resulting in a 2.68T reduction in our use of virgin plastic annually. This will increase when more of our label materials become available on label backing plastic that contains rPET.

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

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2021 Plans

- Work with a company who will take PET23 label back plastic and process it into a viable alternative material to virgin PET that can be used to produce polyester fibre.
- Some of our Spot range tubes have a thin plastic laminate layer which renders the packaging non-recyclable. Remove the laminate layer from Spot range tubes and add paper bases in place of metal which will ensure they are fully recyclable.



2020 Achievements

Projects completed in 2020

- School plastic milk bottle replaced with carton
- Carton alternative to the Lee Strand branded 2.5 l bottle provided.

2021 Plans

Investigate other opportunities to extend the range of products packed in renewable and recyclable packaging.

2020 Achievements

- Created training and guidelines for both suppliers and employees to make sure that the recyclability of packaging is an integral part of the new product development.
- In the past Lidl has conducted trials in waste sorting facilities to ensure that packaging is designed for the Irish sorting and recycling capabilities. A specific example of those trials was conducted on detectable black trays for beef products to assure they are sortable by the current technologies available in Ireland. This trial was successful and led to the implementation of detectable black trays in 2020.
- Lidl are members of the Waste Action Group which was established to assist in the drafting of the Waste Action Plan for the Circular Economy. The group is chaired by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).
- By conducting training, creating guidelines for recyclable packaging, and working directly with suppliers, Lidl have targeted packaging with unrecyclable plastics and composites, and these have been identified and replaced with easier to recycle alternatives. The created guidelines contain specific information for the most relevant packaging formats giving preferences on used materials, their treatment, and properties. The guidelines outline what is 'preferred', what is 'accepted' for certain exemptions and what 'must not' be used in Lidl's own-brand packaging going forward. Suppliers are encouraged to evaluate their packaging considering these guidelines and revert with packaging optimisation potentials as an addition to Lidl's own efforts.

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

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- All plastic packaging with black carbon pigment has been removed from fresh lines and has been substituted with clear recyclable plastics or other detectable pigments. In 2020 these included:
 - Jan 2020 - All Deluxe beef and duck lines all moved to detectable black or grey trays.
 - March 2020 – Removed black plastic in our poultry range.
 - To assure recyclability and to avoid the creation of micro plastics, expanded polystyrene and oxo-degradable plastic are both not in use.
 - In 2020 PS over-lids were removed from international cottage cheese products which avoids 4.5 tonnes of unrecyclable plastic.
 - Two lines of yogurt replaced PS pots with PP pots. This replacement avoids 9.27 tonnes of difficult to recycle plastic per year.
- 2021 Plans
- Make packaging requirements a bigger part of the new product development and tender process. Re-evaluate internal processes to ensure that packaging and social responsibility targets are prioritized in the development of new products and the renewal of the existing ones.
 - Continue to switch all packaging to mono PE, PP and PET or other recyclable materials, while keeping the total packaging footprint as low as possible and avoiding hard to recycle materials and composites.
 - Lidl will take part in a new 'Plastic Challenge' Repak working group. This working group addresses the problems and solutions in plastic sorting and recycling and therefore helps inform and shape the Irish waste industry. Continue to take part in the prevention and labelling groups.
 - Continue and expand work with waste sorting facilities and recycling companies both inside and outside of Ireland to assure maximum recyclability. .
 - Review the current assortment and remove unrecyclable plastics, unnecessary barriers, and composites wherever possible. A special focus is put on meat, sausage, snacks, cheeses, and other product ranges traditionally packed in composite materials that have a big plastic footprint.
 - Remove all black plastic regardless of the detectability by the end of 2021 to assure maximum recyclability and create valuable recycled materials. This includes the move over to non-black recyclable pots for plants and flowers.
 - Build a packaging database containing verified information on packaging with the help of a third party to have a better overview of all packaging.

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

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2020 Achievements

Mannok Pack made the decision in 2020 to stop the production of all non-recyclable or difficult to recycle plastic products. This included:

- An exit from the polystyrene market where the company had supplied 500 tonnes in 2019
- An exit from the carbon black PET market where the company had supplied 500 tonnes in 2019.



2020 Achievements

- Musgrave has begun assessment of all own-brand, in-store and fresh produce packaging with the aim of ensuring that it will be 100% re-usable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.
- The business ran a training programmes for our product development and trading teams on packaging and developed a matrix and set of guidance documents for them, which includes recommendations as to the most appropriate materials and formats for different packaging requirements as well as the selection of simpler mono materials.
- Musgrave have also undertaken significant work to establish a more accurate packaging database, which will enable them to target packaging elimination/replacement/reduction and to measure and track progress.
- Mandarins oranges moved to recyclable cardboard boxes as opposed to the previous non-recyclable MDF wood, resulting in a diversion of 16.8 tonnes of MDF.
- Packaging across 6 key Own Brand potato lines is now 100% recyclable and compostable. The paper potato bags can now be recycled or composted, while plastic netting has been removed and replaced with cotton netting, avoiding a further 380kg of plastic.

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

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- Non-detectable Black Plastic removed from our prepack fish range and replaced with a recyclable clear plastic alternative saving 21.0 tonnes of black plastic per annum, with a further 44.0 tonnes of black removed from fresh meat per annum.

2021 Plans

- During 2021 the business will continue to train teams and will also begin rolling out training to suppliers.
- As work continues through product portfolios, packaging on the Red/Amber list will be targeted in order to move towards simpler mono materials.



2020 Achievements

- A Recyclable Barrier Film was introduced. This film provides a high barrier but some laminate structures have been replaced so the film can be recycled.

2021 Plans

- In 2021 NPP will launch the EcoFishBox. Made of mainly renewable wood fiber and delivered flat, EcoFishBox contributes to using less fossil resources and requires significantly less space in storage and transport, translating into considerable environmental savings. EcoFishBox has minimal plastic content and is completely free from EPS.
- TempGuard will also be launched in 2021. It is a kerbside recyclable material developed for shipping pre-packaged, temperature sensitive goods. TempGuard™ is a highly customisable box liner that can be optimised through thermal modelling to meet the needs of one and two-day shipping. This capability ensures perishable items arrive fresh, and food waste is reduced. TempGuard™ liners are made from kraft paper and paper fibres, providing consumers with completely kerbside recyclable packaging.

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

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2020 Achievements

- Throughout 2020 Nestlé increased packaging recyclability across a range of products. Changes included transitioning to a new cap colour for Aero Hot Chocolate jars to ensure they were easier to recycle and launching Nesquik ready to drink with paper straws.

2021 Plans

Continue to simplify packaging and eliminate non-recyclable components across our categories.

Nomad Foods

2020 Achievements

To date Nomad Foods have removed -76% of difficult to recycle plastics and composites from their business and in 2020 moved their natural vegetable range to a mono material plastic film.

2021 Plans

Peas and Steamfresh product to move into a mono material plastic.



2020 Achievements

Oakpark Foods have replaced their plastic base web with a Mono APET recyclable web. This change has led to a 69% reduction in Non - recyclable plastic in 2020, exceeding the target set by the business by a further 39%.

2021 Plans

The business hopes to further improve this figure in 2021 and is looking at recyclable options for top films and skin packs.

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

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Paramount Packaging

2020 Achievements

Laminates or complex co-extrusions form a very small part of the Paramount product offering and do not plan to add any new complex polymer combinations without :

- a. Identifying a recycling waste stream that the customer can avail of OR
- b. Offering customers other more environmentally friendly (more easily recycled) packaging solutions.

SUNTORY

BEVERAGE & FOOD IRELAND

2020 Achievements

As a signatory to the UK Plastics Pact, all of SBFi's plastic packaging will be 100% recyclable by 2025. Their UK production plant supplies all Irish product and therefore will share the same recyclability goal.

To comply with the EU Single Use Plastics Directive, the business developed and trialled a paper straw solution for replacing the plastic straw on Ribena cartons in 2020 with the full roll out underway in 2021.

Full sleeves on ready to drink plastic bottles are to be removed with Ribena the first brand to launch its new redesigned bottle and reduced label in Nov 2020. This iconic new design for this much-loved brand will help to optimise bottle to bottle recycling and reduce plastic used by 202 tonnes annually. Making Ribena the largest juice drink brand made from 100% recycled plastic and 100% bottle to bottle recyclable.

2021 Plans

2021 will be the year of redesign on Lucozade, with Lucozade Sport launching with a reduced sleeve in October 2021, again optimising the design for bottle to bottle recycling and reducing the amount of plastic used by 177 tonnes.

Meanwhile as an interim step Lucozade Energy will also see bold new designs with 60% transparent areas added to Full Sleeves to ensure easier sorting at recycling centres into the Clear PET stream to unlock bottle to bottle recycling.

OBJECTIVE 3: SIMPLIFY POLYMERS

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TESCO

2020 Achievements

- At Tesco the aim is to ensure that packaging will be fully recyclable by 2025. As part of this the aim was to remove hard to recycle materials from packaging. The business is on track to achieve this by end February 2021. To do this a list of preferred packaging materials have been identified to use in Tesco own-label product packaging (as outlined above) through which polymer usage will be simplified and non-recyclable components removed.
- So far, 359 tonnes of PVC and 40 tonnes of Polystyrene has been removed, while 450 tonnes of black plastic was converted to detectable black plastic.
- For areas where moving to black plastic was not possible, we moved 97 tonnes to clear, making it easier to recycle. We also removed single use plastic straws and cutlery.
- Approx 19 tonnes of MDF have been removed
- Approx 0.18 tonnes of plywood removed
- Composite drums, Plywood, MDF and Glitter have also been removed from own-label products. Other examples of plastic removal across the business include:
 - The plastic clip has been removed from two Rice Cake lines - Salt & Vinegar and Lightly Salted- removing over 4.31 million pieces of plastic.
 - 7.1 tonnes of plastic was removed from the Tesco Irish Cheddar Cheese Range. This has been communicated on pack through the use of our 'R' logo strategy.

100% of difficult to recycle plastics and composites of our 2020 targets removed from the business.

2021 Plans

- Continue to develop the Red, Amber Green list of preferred materials and work in conjunction with suppliers to continue to reduce polymer use in packaging, making it more easily recyclable.
- Continue the reduce and remove programme to reduce and/ or remove any excess packaging from products across primary, secondary and tertiary packaging.

**OBJECTIVE 4:
USE RECYCLED**



OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

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2020 Achievements

- As a food processing company, ABP need to ensure that the packaging used for their products is certified to food contact standard. This is something that limits the business in increasing the amount of recycled materials used within packaging.
- Last year the focus was to increase the recycled content in trays used for minced meat product. For the PVC replacement tray, a PET material containing recycled material, increased recycled content by nearly 100 tonnes based on 2019 data.

This project increased recycled content from 0% (PVC tray) to an rPET material containing 60% to 80% recycled content.

2021 Plans

ABP is working with its suppliers to see where they can increase the amount of recycled content used. In 2021 the focus will be on films to see if it's possible to make improvements.



2020 Achievements

- Aldi Ireland has pledged to have 50% of plastic packaging to be made of recycled content by 2025.
- Aldi's fresh meat trays contain 80% recycled PET (rPET).
- Aldi's Eco-Loop shopping bags are made from 100% recycled content, 80% being from Aldi stores.
- Aldi trialled reusable produce bags made from 100% recycled water bottles, encouraging customers to bring these or their own reusable bags for loose produce.
- Over 2053 tonnes of virgin plastic has been removed from Core Range.

2021 Plans

- Aldi sent a letter to all of their Irish suppliers in February 2021 to encourage the use of recycled plastic in order to reach the 2025 pledge of 50% of plastic packaging to be made of recycled content.
- Glenpatrick water bottles are moving from 100% virgin plastic to 100% recycled PET in Q2 2021, affecting almost 30 million plastic bottles. This will remove over 1,500 tonnes of virgin plastic .
- The remaining PET water bottles are moving to 30% recycled plastic/rPET in Q3 2021.

OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

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2020 Achievements

In 2020 Britvic Ireland made a major step-change in this area by launching 100% rPET Ballygowan 500ml bottles. By switching to 100% rPET preforms for both Still & Sparkling Ballygowan 500ml, bottles this put the overall brand at 50% rPET content.

Last year also saw the building of a new PET recycling line in a joint venture with Esterpet which will provide a dedicated source of recycled PET in order to fulfill our commitments to hit 50% recycled content in all of our bottles by 2025.

2021 Plans

- This year will see Britvic Ireland building on the achievements of 2020 and adding momentum to their journey in the use of recycled materials.
- In January 2021 Britvic completed the planned transition into 100% rPET on the Ballygowan brand, transitioning to 100% rPET preforms for the whole range.
- This year will see the roll out of recycled content across the full portfolio of Carbonated PET products and will also see the introduction of recycled content to flexible shrink packaging.



Coca-Cola HBC
Ireland & Northern Ireland

2020 Achievements

- Over the last number of years, CCHBC have continued to invest extensively in recycled plastic (rPET) which is significantly more costly than virgin PET (the average price of rPET is 55%1 higher than virgin PET).
- To date, 46% recycled PET integration across has been achieved across the plastic portfolio. By converting post-consumer waste into a valuable resource, rPET excels in sustainability, keeping resources in use for as long as possible and creating a closed loop.
- A study by ALPLA confirms that rPET is one of the lowest carbon-dense packaging types to produce and will reduce the end-to-end carbon footprint of CCHBC's packs by as much as 79% compared to virgin material.
- Deep RiverRock remains the first mainstream water brand on the island to adopt to adopt a 100% rPET bottle across its full PET portfolio; the first a fully recycled PET bottle portfolio. The move eliminates approximately 1,500 tonnes of virgin plastic from the supply chain annually.
- All On-the-Go Packs (500ml or less) for Coca-Cola, Fanta, Sprite, and Oasis now contain 50% rPET, while larger Take-Home Packs contain 25% rPET.
- Through this integration of recycled content, 3,450 tonnes of virgin plastic is eliminated from the supply chain annually.

OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

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2021 Plans

- Explore the feasibility of increasing recycled PET use in 'on-the-go' packs to 100%.
- Explore the potential to establish a local source of rPET supply in Ireland with the development of Ireland's first bottle-to-bottle plastic recycling plant. This will enable a fully closed loop on PET recycling.

2020 Achievements

- In 2020, 500ml and 1.5 Litre evian bottles made from 100% recycled plastic (rPET) were launched in the Irish market to Tesco Ireland – and 750ml rPET bottles were sold to all Irish customers.
- The new range of yogurt pots, launched under the Danone brand in January 2020, are made from PET plastic with 30% recycled content. These were made available to Irish Customers in 2020.

2021 Plans

At Danone, we want to offer nutritious, high-quality food and drinks in packaging that is 100% circular, keeping materials in use and out of nature. By 2025, Danone globally has a commitment for all our packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable.

Across the UK and Ireland Danone's goal is to reach 30% recycled content by 2025 in line with the UK Plastics Pact.

- In 2020, Danone worked with industry working groups through REPAK, IBEC and Origin Green to support initiatives across Ireland to find solutions to standard grade recycled plastics; and this is informed by the work Danone globally is doing with other markets including in Europe. This includes working to support implementation of a deposit return scheme (DRS) in Ireland.

OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

- Irish Dairy Circular Economy Sustainability Taskforce: Danone continue to work with their internal sustainability taskforces which are made up of cross-functional teams within brand teams. The Irish dairy team's Circular economy taskforce has a range of initiatives to reduce packaging waste, improve recycling and reduce food waste - which are aligned with their KPIs.



2020 Achievements

- In 2020 Hilton Foods converted from clear trays to detectable black and coloured trays increasing the recycled content and allowing for a lower grade of recycled content that could not be used elsewhere, diverting it from recovery or landfill.
- Detectable coloured trays - Moved all tray supply to supplier of detectable trays. Resulting in all retail trays leaving the plant being kerbside recyclable.
- As a result recycled content in trays is at 95%.

2021 Plans

- In 2021 Hilton Foods plan to introduce so called 'Jazz' recycled material derived from pots, tubs and trays, which is currently not considered to be a high enough grade of material. This material will be recycled into our black and coloured trays. Potentially diverting this material from recovery or landfill.

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OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

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Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard

2020 Achievements

- As of December 2019, 500ml PET bottles which are sold in travel retail contain 30% rPET, removing 8.1T of virgin plastic and improving the circular economy of our packaging.
- The process of moving some label backing plastic from 100% virgin PET to 30% rPET has commenced, resulting in a 2.68T reduction in the use of virgin plastic annually. This will increase when more label materials become available on label backing plastic that contains rPET.
- 30% Average Recycled Content.

2021 Plans

- Investigate the use of recycled content in 50ml PET bottle range. Product integrity guidelines currently restrict the amount of recycled content that can be used but this may change in the future based on the results of successful testing. This would result in a 2.25T reduction in the annual use of virgin plastic.

Lee Strand

TASTE THE FRESHNESS

2020 Achievements

- Lee Strand are planning a project to use bottles with recycled content. This project is currently on hold due to shortage of recyclate normally sourced from the UK.



2020 Achievements

We have pledged that by 2025 50% of the materials used in our own brand packaging will come from recycled materials. Examples of implemented projects are:

- When introducing packaging solutions that allow a recycled content, Lidl try to maximise the amount of post-consumer materials. In PET bottles and trays, in packaging without direct food contact and in frozen products the business has reached a considerable amount of post-consumer recycled content while making sure the product is protected.
- In 2020 Lidl increased the percentage of post-consumer recycled PET in bottles for chilled Milbona and Solevita coffee drinks and smoothies to 50%, and to 55% in our ambient Solevita and VitaFit juices. The recycled content of Italamo Lemon juice bottles has been increased to 30% post-consumer recycled material.

OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

- Two own-brand bottled water lines are made with 100% post-consumer recycled content from Lidl's own recycling facilities. These are in use in multiple Lidl countries and come from sorting plants in Europe owned by the Schwarz group, Lidl's parent company.
- The Schwarz group has an overarching strategy for packaging with the focus on reducing plastic and closing loops called REset Plastic. Part of this strategy is PreZero and GreenCycle which manage their own waste sorting and recycling facilities to ensure a closed loop on packaging. In 2020 two new waste sorting plants were added. One in Zwolle, Netherlands and another one in Bremen, Germany.

2021 Plans

Continue to increase the recycled content in our packaging. Examples of specific projects that are planned are:

- Increase recycled content in Irish water lines, with the goal of implementing at least 30% recycled content to all lines by 2024.
- Continue maximising the recycled content wherever the packaging functions and food safety allow it, focussing on PET packaging, packaging without food contact and packaging for frozen products.
- In 2021 a new reusable heavy-duty shopping bag was introduced which is made from 100 % recycled material taken from Lidl's own plastic waste.
- To meet the demand for the high amounts of recycled material, the Schwarz group invested in a new sorting facility in 2021 in Evergem, Belgium.



2020 Achievements

- Mannok Pack used over 1000 tonnes of recycled material in its PP food packaging products in 2020, this represented more than a 100% increase versus 2019.
- Mannok Pack have also continued to manufacture all of its PET food packaging products with over 80% recycled material content, using over 8000 tonnes of recycled PET in 2020.



OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

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Musgrave

2020 Achievements

In 2020, Musgrave introduced EVOLVE trays into our SuperValu and Centra Chilled Ready Meals Ranges, converting 58 tonnes of plastic packaging to this new range of trays. Evolve trays contain a minimum of 80% recycled plastic and are a range of muted pastel style colours.

2021 Plans

In line with their ambition, Musgrave will continue focus on plastics reduction, but also on maximising the recycle content of all plastic packaging.

npp
THE NAME IN RECYCLED PACKAGING

2020 Achievements

- Customer A: Reduction of sack thickness from 135mu to 120mu (11%) and (2) inclusion of 30% recycled material within blend.
- Customer B - (1) Reduction of sack thickness from 120mu to 100mu (17%) and (2) inclusion of 30% recycled material within blend.
- Customer C - Inclusion of 30% recycled material within blend – only customer advertising this on their printed sack.
- In 2020 NPP launched Eco Fiber Film. Eco Fiber Film is an innovative stretch film with reinforcement elements (fibers) that increase tear resistance.
- Eco Fiber Film contains 30% Recycled Raw Materials (post-industrial) and is 100% Recyclable. The film also results in 50% less CO2 emissions than the market average and at least 50% less plastic waste.
- Average Recycled Content of 30%.

2021 Plans

- Continue to work with customers to include recycled content in their packaging blend.
- Currently trialling a mattress film with 30% recycled content with a customer. 164 tonnes annually.

OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

- Also trialling a shrink film with 30% recycled content. 55 tonnes annually.
- Another customer in the drinks business will be moving to 50% PCR material in 2021 – This will be 300+ tonnes of recycle use in shrink film.
- An NPP customer in the building materials industry will be moving to 30% recycle material in 2021 – this will be 150T of recycle.
- Launching Carbon Free Fiber Film. Fiber Film results in 50% less CO2 emissions than the market average and at least 50% less plastic waste. However the CO2 emissions from Fiber Film can now also be offset with tree-plantation. The calculation for the number of tree's required is based on the type of tree and the average lifespan (Calculated by Tree Nation). For example if a customer uses 10 tonne of material in 2021, which equates to 30,000kg of CO 2, 10 trees will be planted to offset the CO 2 for our customer for 2021. The customer will receive a certificate from Tree Nation to show the number and type of trees that were planted, where the trees have been planted, along with a small back story.

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2020 Achievements

In January 2020 Nestle announced a CHF 2 billion (EUR 1.8bn) global investment to lead the shift from virgin plastics to food-grade recycled plastics and to accelerate the development of innovative sustainable packaging solutions. This included a CHF 250 million sustainable packaging venture fund to invest in start-up companies focused on developing innovative packaging solutions including new materials, refill systems and recycling.

2021 Plans

Nestle are also planning action in the following areas:

- PP caps on glass jars and tins – target 30% recycled content by 2025.
- PE shrink films – target 50% recycled content by 2025.
- PET bottles – target 35% recycled content by 2025.

OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

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Nomad Foods

2020 Achievements

Ready meals now have an 80% recycled content. Plastic trays across the business now have a 90% Average Recycled content.

2021 Plans

The majority of plastic used within the Nomad Foods business is films/bags. Currently there are food contact challenges with incorporating recycled content. The business will continue to work on and challenge to see what is possible in this area.

Paramount Packaging

2020 Achievements

Paramount have offered recycled content plastics for over 30 years. These vary from originally up to 100% recycled Industrial Waste to 100% recycled post consumer waste.

Customers are made aware that where appropriate recycled content can be added to their product and has a dual advantage of recyclate reuse & price reduction. One large volume range has been converted from 30% recycle to 100% recyclate with no real loss of quality and good customer feedback.

2021 Plans

The success of building a successful circular economy in recycled product in Paramount's view remains reliant upon the local processing & recycling of good quality soft plastics and would like to see reliable Irish waste streams of recycled soft plastics established.

OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

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2021 Plans

Working with supply partners of plastic trays to examine the feasibility of using trays with the maximum inclusion of recycled material.

SUNTORY

BEVERAGE & FOOD IRELAND

2020 Achievements

- Recycled plastic is a valuable resource that SBFi want to use more of.
- SBFi led the soft drinks industry in creating the first ready-to-drink bottle from 100% recycled plastic for Ribena in 2007.
- By 2030 SBFi plan to have fully moved away from new virgin plastic derived from fossil fuel. The ambition is to solely use 100% sustainable plastic that has either been previously used (i.e. recycled) or is bio-sourced (i.e. plant based).
- An interim target of 50% recycled plastic by 2025 has been set and are well on the way to achieving this brand by brand.
- In 2020 Suntory Beverage & Food Ireland continued to celebrate the achievement that Ribena Core has been using 100% recycled plastic in its bottles for over 13 years.
- Brand communications from the packaging to the TV creative, encourages consumers to recycle and help turn bottles back into bottles.
- Took the first step into proving a carbonated liquid can use recycled content with the new product range Ribena Sparkling launching with 30% recycled content in its bottles.
- All Lucozade Sport 380ml bottles given out at any Irish and UK race events that SBFi partnered with were made from 100% recycled PET as well.

OBJECTIVE 4: USE RECYCLED

- Successfully added in 30% recycled content into to all PE films manufactured at our Coleford plant during 2020.

2021 Plans

In September 2021 Lucozade Sport will be transitioning to use 100% recycled content in all of its bottles taking the total % of recycled content for SBF1 to an average of 32%.

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TESCO

2020 Achievements

Tesco continue to prioritise environmental impact as a central aspect in their ever-changing innovation pipeline. The preferred materials list already includes materials that are easily recycled and can be made from recycled content, including PET plastics, PP plastics for non-food applications, metal, glass and sustainably sourced board and paper. New technology is being used and working with Green Generation to adopt their own products into our closed loop system by repurposing our increasingly wide range of recyclable packaging.

2021 Plans

Tesco UK packaging plans for the year ahead are still being worked on with the aim to have these agreed in the next few weeks. Top line objectives: Relaunch a new 'Red, Amber, Green' list and continue with the 4R strategy, continue to work with our

**OBJECTIVE 5:
AVOID FOOD
WASTE**



OBJECTIVE 5: AVOID FOOD WASTE

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2020 Achievements

ABP became a signatory of Ireland's Food Waste Charter in 2020.

ABP set an ambitious company target of 50% food waste reduction by 2030, aligned with the SDG target 12.3 - ABP has a huge focus on food waste, following the "Target Measure Act" approach across all sites in Ireland, UK and Poland to work towards improving measurements and reducing quantities of food waste.

Packaging materials not implemented as trials showed that the packaging did not maintain the shelf life of the product.

2021 Plans

This year ABP hope to get involved with the development of a standard methodology for measuring food waste that is being developed by Ireland's Food Waste Charter in line with EU reporting directives.

Although processes are already lean in ABP's operations, the current focus is to get more detailed breakdown on food waste quantities throughout sites so that hotspot areas to make improvements and reduce food waste can be pinpointed.



2020 Achievements

Aldi is a member of the Retail Action Group and have signed the Food Waste Charter committing to reduce Irelands food waste by 50% by 2030.

Before any of packaging changes mentioned above were implemented, trials and shelf life tests took place to ensure that the quality of the product would not be impacted, consequently leading to a higher probability of food waste

- Over 2020, Buying Teams worked on moving Polypropylene (PP) and laminate films to higher quality Polyethylene (PE) film, where there was no other alternative
- However, this was only done across products where shelf life would not be affected, for example, crisp bags were not moved to PE packaging as a result of shelf life testing proving that moving to PE reduced the shelf life of the product due to the foil barrier being removed

OBJECTIVE 5: AVOID FOOD WASTE

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2021 Plans

A number of Aldi's suppliers are currently carrying out trials and shelf life tests to ensure the quality of the product is not affected by the changes in packaging

- To date Aldi have donated over 2.16 million meals to charities across Ireland through the FoodCloud partnership Aldi is continuing to work with FoodCloud to donate any surplus food to local charities.
- Aldi will expand the scope of store donations to charities and community groups in 2021 which will result in more food being redistributed and less food waste in store
- Aldi will begin donating on Saturdays and Sundays, therefore donating will take place 7 days a week giving charities more opportunities to collect product from Aldi stores, again reducing food waste at store level.
- Aldi will continue to promote reduction of food waste to customers by including tips on reducing food waste in our weekly leaflets via the Stop Food Waste logo and website link
- Food waste reduction tips are also shared with Aldi colleagues on their internal communications platform, MyALDI.



2020 Achievements

There is very little food-waste related to our business. All plastic reduction initiatives are conducted in line with the principle that all improvements must continue to protect the high quality of our products and reduce or eliminate waste of all kinds.

2021 Plans

Britvic Ireland continue to maintain their standards and work on a process of continuous improvement in all areas.

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Coca-Cola HBC
Ireland & Northern Ireland

2020 Achievements

Our work to improve the sustainability of our packaging has been achieved without compromising on the quality or shelf-life of our products.

- In 2020, CCHBC doubled donations of short-dated stock to the Simon Community's foodbank, FoodCloud and Fareshare to eliminate food waste. Throughout this time, the business redirected over 500,000 drinks that would have otherwise been destroyed.
- During the pandemic regular donations of drinks were made, including short-dated stock, to front-line healthcare workers across more than 30 hospitals and COVID 19 test centres - in total more than 750,000 bottles of water and soft drinks were donated.

2021 Plans

- Maintain the integrity of packaging throughout 2021 as sustainability initiatives are accelerated.
- Continue to donate stock to the Simon Community's foodbank, FoodCloud and Fareshare throughout the year to reduce food waste in our supply chain.
- In the first 2 months of 2021 we have already donated of 50,000 drinks to Inner City Dublin Homeless.



2020 Achievements

All our packaging objectives have been achieved without compromising on the quality or shelf life of products. For all packaging changes, rigorous quality testing undertaken to ensure no impact of product quality and shelf life, or on health and safety for our customers, and this is achieved through projects with cross-functional teams across our regions, global and factories.

2021 Plans

Through the Consumer Goods Forum, Danone has committed to reduce food waste across operations by 50% by 2030 in line with the UN Sustainable development goal 12.3. In Ireland the business continues to look to re-distribute surplus products via charity networks such as FoodCloud.

In line with our One Planet One Health vision and B Corp commitments, Danone UK & Ireland are proud to be partnering with fellow B Corp, Too Good to Go, to help fight food waste through their 'Look Smell Taste Don't Waste' campaign. The campaign aims to help demystify date labelling confusion with consumers which causes 10% of Europe's food waste, or 9 million tonnes of food waste (Too Good To Go). This causes waste of not just food, but the food product in its packaging as well as the wider supply chain emissions released through producing food that ends as waste. Danone Essential Dairies and Plant-Based (EDP) is one of the first amongst 25 brands, including Nestle and Arla, have signed up to the campaign so far.

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Our yogurts are safe to consume beyond the 'Best Before' date. Therefore, our packs will also include reminders to consumers to use their senses to decide whether to eat food beyond this date. The on pack labelling will go live on our UK & Irish dairy products by 2022 – with it first going live on Danone Yogurt in 2021.

The EPA's national food waste attitudes survey in 2020 found that Around 3 in 4 people understand what 'use by' means and about 9 in 10 understand what 'best before' means. However, passing the 'use by' (68%) and 'best before' (55%) food dates are the main reasons why people throw out food in their household (EPA). Our Irish EDP teams is exploring how will activate this campaign further in the Irish market in 2021.



2020 Achievements

- Hilton Foods overall aim is to reduce their food waste by 50%.
- In 2020 5.7 tonnes of waste was diverted to Food Cloud, a food surplus recovery initiative providing food to charities nationwide.
- 16% annual reduction in food waste.
- Hilton Foods are a signatory to Ireland's Food Waste Charter.

2021 Plans

- Target a 10% reduction which would allow the business to maintain process towards an overall 50% reduction within 5 years.

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2021 Plans

- Lee Strand plans to become a signatory to Ireland's Food Waste Charter in 2021.



2020 Achievements

As a food retailer, Lidl recognise their responsibility to take leadership for minimising food losses and effective food waste measurement systems. Examples of actions taken to reduce food waste are:

- For every new loose fruit and veg product, the performance of that product is assessed in terms of sales, write-offs and how much of it is donated to ensure demand is met with adequate supply and the protection and shelf life of the product meets the demands.
- Conduct a full analysis with the supplier to make sure that optimisation of packaging does not impact on the quality and shelf life of the product and lead to increased food waste.
- Donated almost 650,000 meals through FoodCloud, surpassing the 2 million total meals redistributed milestone in the lifetime of this partnership.

2021 Plans

Examples of plans for 2021 for making sure food waste is minimised are:

- Continue to retain the shelf life and protection of the products while conducting packaging removals, reductions, and simplifications.
- Trial a 7 food donation window across stores to increase the level of food donated and redistributed to local charities and community organisations through our partner FoodCloud.
- Introduce new technology for stores with FoodCloud called 'Foodiverse' which will increase the functionality with the aim of increasing donations from stores.
- Continue the Waste Not section in the chiller wherein chilled products at best before dates (and perfectly safe to eat) receive a huge price reduction.
- Even though all colleagues are avoiding food waste wherever possible and processes and donations make sure as much food as possible is sold or donated, some products can't be sold or donated. The waste management provider will collect this residue food waste from stores to feed their Anaerobic Digestion plant to fuel their fleet of vehicles.

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Musgrave

2020 Achievements

A priority in all packaging change is that there is no increase in food waste. Any changes to plastic packaging must ensure that no reduction in shelf life. Real-world trials are conducted of any new format or material before launch to ensure that there was no growth in food waste.

2021 Plans

As part of plastic reduction, the performance of packaging will be monitored closely to ensure that there are no unintended consequences of pack changes.

npp

THE NESTlé PACKAGING COMPANY

2020 Achievements

- Recyclable Barrier Film provides a high barrier but some laminate structures have been replaced so the film can be recycled. Barrier film helps to increase shelf life.

2021 Plans

- Launch Vac 95+. Vac 95+ is a side seal vacuum bag which is 100% recyclable. It has the same barrier properties as the classic PA/PE vacuum bags and keeps food fresh and maintains shelf life. The VAC 95+ is manufactured from a recyclable polypropylene structure.
- Cryovac BDF Film for packaging cheese. BDF is a Ultra-thin overwrap film that is 3 times thinner than thermoformable materials. It results in 75% packaging weight reduction compared to thermoforming film.
- Cryovac Shrink Bags are designed for recycling, thinner and lighter than commonly used thermoformed materials and pouches. They can reduce use of plastic material by up to 60% vs. thermoformed materials and reduce carbon footprint by 60% thanks to lower sealing temperature and less food waste vs. thermoformed materials.

OBJECTIVE 5: AVOID FOOD WASTE



2021 Plans

- In January 2021 Nestlé joined Too Good to Go's 'Look, Smell, Taste, Don't Waste' campaign to tackle Best Before food waste. The partnership aims to educate consumers about date labels and reduce reliance on Best Before labels by encouraging people to use their senses to check food when it is past its Best Before date.
- Nestlé will be rolling out new labelling on a progressive basis across key products encouraging consumers to take action on unnecessary food waste.

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Paramount Packaging

2021 Plans

Paramount notes the importance of high barrier complex plastics but also supports the NON use of high barrier complex plastics where the packaging is used only for visual or non-preservative reasons.

They support this aspect of the Pledge in principle but are mindful of the limitations in implementing the reductions without adversely effecting food waste figures.

SUNTORY

BEVERAGE & FOOD IRELAND

2020 Achievements

- SBF GB&I take reducing all waste streams seriously and are a zero to landfill site.
- The business works with Food Cloud in Ireland and Champions 12.3 and WRAP's Food Waste Reduction Roadmap in the UK to reduce food waste from owned manufacturing operations by 50% by 2030. A target which is aligned to Ireland's Food Waste Charter.
- Total food production was 464,669 tonnes for this period. Food waste was 6,500 tonnes, which is 1.4% of total production. Note that our SBF food waste definition includes food sent to animal feed. In line with Champions 12.3 best practice, when food waste sent for animal feed is excluded, our food waste figure is 751 tonnes.

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- This year total food waste has marginally increased from 5,780 tonnes to 6,500 tonnes, an uplift of 0.1 percentage points from 1.3% to 1.4% of food handled. This increase is due to trials that have taken place on a new high-speed aseptic line which, though their validation has resulted in a small increase in food waste, the new technology will result in 40% water and energy savings per unit produced compared with the previous technology now replaced.
- During 2019 12% of food waste was sent to anaerobic digestion believing this to be the best environmental option, but further to a robust trial period the yield has been deemed insufficient and not a viable option for our Coleford operations.
- For some, anaerobic digestion is seen to be an inefficient route for the management of food waste and laboratory testing has confirmed that the co-product is a more sustainable solution for animal feed, which is higher up the waste hierarchy.
- The business remains committed to exploring alternative routes that may present greater efficiencies than the existing food waste solution, although animal feed is the preferred option for 2020.

2021 Plans

Undertake a number of projects and working with industry experts, as well as on-site experts, on ways to reduce waste:

- Surplus product is given to local charities via Food Cloud in Ireland, who have been a partner since 2017
- Ensure daily management of stock solutions to continuously monitor usage on site.
- If any issues or faults are identified with a bottle or cap, the liquid product is manually tipped back into the process so that it can be rebottled to avoid unnecessary waste. This equates to less than 1% of total concentrate product but represents approximately 20,000 tonnes per annum.
- The Coleford factory operates under the ISO 9001 (Quality), 14001 (Environmental) and ISO 2200 (Food Safety) standards. The prerequisites of all three standards is the correct management and reduction of all wastes.
- The Coleford plant supplies all of Ireland's product is zero to landfill and all waste streams are recycled, including cardboard, poly, bottles and paper.
- Donated to the local services - fire, ambulance, police, hospitals, GP surgeries and nursing homes during the Covid 19 Pandemic.

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TESCO

2020 Achievements

Packaging and food waste are two important parts of the Tesco Little Helps Plan, Tesco's sustainability strategy to tackle the most pressing environmental and societal issues in Ireland and globally. Tesco want to:

- Reduce the amount of food waste generated and support suppliers and customers in reducing the amount of food they waste too.
- Ensure that no more packaging than needed is used and that what is used is from sustainable sources and goes on to be reused or recycled.

Make informed decisions on both agendas that do not have unintentional knock-on effects is very important to the business.

Throughout 2020, Tesco continued to focus on reducing food waste in their business by minimising surplus through better ordering and availability and maximising surplus donations through their partnership with FoodCloud. To date over 12 million meals have been donated to more than 380 causes through this partnership, the first of its kind in Ireland.

The business are clear that tackling food waste is a shared responsibility wherever it occurs. The approach is based on a simple principle: understand where food is wasted from farm to fork, and in what quantities, before acting together to tackle it.

A major part of Tesco's work to reduce food waste has involved working in partnership with suppliers.

At a global level, Tesco chairs a coalition of leaders from government, businesses, international organisations, research institutions, and civil society called Champions 12.3. This group is dedicated to accelerating progress towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3 to halve food waste by 2030.

Tesco Ireland is working in partnership with fifteen of its largest Irish fresh food suppliers on the Champions 12.3 initiative to support them to share the amount of food waste in their operations and use this insight to take action farm to fork. Led by Tesco Ireland, these Irish food suppliers have committed to publicly target, measure and act to tackle the issue of food waste at their manufacturing sites and to working collaboratively to adopt the UN's SDG12.3.

On 24 September 2020, the first twelve suppliers to sign up to this commitment with Tesco Ireland each published their food waste data for their own operations for the first time. Also in September 2020, three further suppliers signed up to this commitment, and will now target, measure and act on food waste at their manufacturing sites and work collaboratively to adopt the UN Goal.

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With regards to food waste management, in 2020, the business also introduced a new way to manage food waste from stores, backhauling it to a single point before sending it to anaerobic digestion with Irish company Green Generation. This process change means less trucks on the road collecting bins from stores, and an annual reduction of 250 tonnes of CO₂. As part of this partnership, Tesco have also become the first Irish retailer to purchase renewable gas made from their own surplus food to power stores. Green Generation process any food surplus - which is not donated to FoodCloud, or given free of charge to colleagues - and the outputs are fed into the gas network. The renewable gas outputs are then purchased by Tesco via Naturgy, taking a circular economy approach to minimising carbon footprint.

2021 Plans

Tesco's ambition is to halve food waste, from farm to fork by 2030, aligned to Sustainable Development Goal 12.3.

- Reduce the amount of food waste that we generate as a business and support our suppliers and customers in reducing the amount of food they waste too.
- Alongside that, ensure that only the packaging than needed is used, and what is used is from sustainable sources and goes on to be reused or recycled.
- Explore the possibility of having a larger core range of packaging-free products.
- Work closely with our partners to ensure that, while reducing plastic use, that all the plastic used is detectable, reusable and that our products are constructed using as much recycled material as possible, without compromising packaging quality or impacting on food waste.



Repak is a not-for-profit packaging recycling scheme funded by contributions from over 3,400 participating Member companies. Since 1997, Irish businesses have invested over €425 million through their Repak membership to support packaging recycling in Ireland. Working with our Members, Repak has helped to grow packaging recycling and recovery from under 15% in 1997 to an estimated 93% in 2018.

Repak funds the recovery and recycling of packaging waste collected by Repak-approved 'Registered Recovery Operators', who are waste management companies and Local Authorities that provide waste management services to the commercial and domestic sectors.

Supporting our Members is a key part of Repak's Prevent & Save Programme and Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy 2018 – 2030.

If you would like to sign up to the Plastic Pledge, or require support in delivering your Plastic Pledge objectives, please do not hesitate to contact the author of this report, Mr. Brian Walsh, Packaging Technologist or Mr. Colm Munnolly, Membership Manager.

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