

Dear members of the Economy Energy and Fair Work Committee,

Further written submission Scotland's Climate Change Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to give oral evidence to the committee on Scotland's Climate change plan on behalf of the food and drink manufacturing industry.

During the evidence session, I agreed to write to the committee with further evidence on the following topics:

Food and Drink industry progress towards our sustainability ambitions.

FDF's [Ambition 2025 – Shaping Sustainable Value Chains](#) (A2025) was published in October 2016 to build on the success of our [Five-Fold Environmental Ambition](#) (FEA), as the next step on our journey to help deliver a more sustainable food system.

The Ambition is predominantly focused on environmental sustainability across Great Britain as this is where we as a sector believe we can make the biggest positive impact, with an emphasis on collaborative action. As such it comprises two key elements: Resource Efficiency and Green Growth, supported by wider FDF work on nutrition, social and economic issues. The table below highlights the achievements by FDF members across the UK.

	Current ambition	2019 progress
CO ₂ Emissions	Achieve a 55% absolute reduction in CO ₂ emissions by 2025 against a 1990 baseline.	FDF members reported an absolute reduction of 55.5% in CO ₂ emissions from their use of energy in manufacturing operations in 2019, compared to the 1990 baseline.
Food Waste	Send zero food waste to landfill from members own direct operations and reduce food waste across the whole supply chain from farm to fork, including within members own operations.	FDF members have contributed to further progress under the Food Waste Reduction Roadmap Progress Report 2020 . The Report showed that Roadmap members contributed to 180,000t of food (worth £300 million) being saved from becoming waste. 37 FDF members are now signatories, with 34 of these providing evidence of implementing Target, Measure, Act.
Packaging	Minimise the impact of used packaging associated with food and drink products and to encourage innovation in packaging technology and design that contributes to overall product sustainability.	FDF and several members are founding signatories to the UK Plastics Pact . The Pact's annual report published in December 2020 shows the progress being made against targets and included case studies from several FDF members.
Water	Deliver continuous improvement in the use of water across the whole supply chain and take action to ensure sustainable management and stewardship whilst contributing to an industry-wide target to reduce water use by 20% by 2020 compared to 2007.	Between 2007 and 2019, reporting FDF members reduced their absolute water consumption by 41.5%; the amount of water consumed per tonne of product was reduced by 44.5% over the same period.

Transport	Reduce the environmental impact of our members' transport operations, whether from own fleet operations or third-party hauliers, in terms of both carbon intensity and air quality aspects and embed a 'fewer and friendlier food miles' approach within food transport policies.	FDF continues to promote the fewer and friendlier food miles agenda, encouraging the implementation of FDF's 10 Point Checklist for Greener Transport .
Sustainable Supply Chains	To promote the recognition and uptake of sustainability standards and initiatives in the food and drink sector.	FDF has updated the Sustainability Resource Hub web tool containing information on voluntary certifications, collaborative platforms and practical tools available to businesses looking to further their sustainability agenda.
Natural Capital	Work to increase awareness of natural capital amongst members, promoting the business benefits and supporting a shift towards integrating natural capital into decision making.	FDF continues to work with its member companies to understand and protect natural capital, especially considering the 25-year environment plan, which places natural capital at the centre of future environmental policy.

Food Waste statistics

I mentioned that we had raised concerns about the accuracy of the 2013 baseline data for Scotland's food waste reduction target which we felt was not representative of food and drink manufacturing and based on assumptions¹.

In addition, when the Scottish target was announced, we queried the need for a specific target for Scotland. Many food and drink manufacturers are signed up to the Courtauld Commitment – a ten year, UK-wide voluntary initiative to identify priorities, develop solutions and implement changes to cut the carbon and waste associated with food & drink by at least one-fifth.

- 2015: Courtauld Target – to reduce food waste by 20% by 2025 – By mid-September 2020, 171 businesses had provided evidence to WRAP of their food waste reduction actions. The combined turnover of these businesses is over £200bn, representing 50% of the overall turnover for UK food manufacture, retail and hospitality and food service.²

As raised at the committee, splitting the Scottish specific data from this overall report is challenging. I contacted the research team at Zero Waste Scotland to better understand the Scottish data contained within this progress report. The most recent data Zero Waste Scotland have from Wrap is a 9.6% decrease between 2018³ and 2019 for food and drink

¹<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/How%20much%20food%20waste%20is%20t here%20in%20Scotland%20Final%20v2.pdf>

² <https://wrap.org.uk/content/food-waste-reduction-roadmap-progress-report-2020>

³ • Very few manufacturers submit data on the quantity of food waste collected separately in Scotland. Therefore, Courtauld signatory waste arisings for Scotland are estimated by weighting the waste arisings reported by each signatory by the proportion of that signatory's operational premises

manufacturers with at least one premises in Scotland. Unfortunately, they are unable to compare the 2015 data as the responding signatories cannot be compared.

There is a clear opportunity for supporting agencies like Zero Waste Scotland to work closely with the UK Courtauld Commitment (led by WRAP) to gather more accurate data for Scotland and to encourage food and drink businesses to sign up to the Commitment.

Once again, I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to give evidence on behalf of the food and drink manufacturing industry, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information

Yours sincerely



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that are situated in Scotland (signatories exclusive to Scotland will be counted in the Scottish total and signatories with no Scottish presence will be omitted).

- The figures are based on small numbers of response so uncertainty is higher.