



FDF's Ambition 2025:

# SHAPING SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS PROGRESS REPORT 2019

2019 has been an exciting year for environmental policy and the sustainability agenda, not least because the UK became the first major economy to enshrine a Net Zero emissions target into law. Unabated public and political interest in packaging has continued. Government published four consultations linked to reforming the packaging producer responsibility system and aimed at promoting a more circular economy. Food waste has also been in the policy spotlight, with the launch of the Government's Step up to the Plate initiative and the first progress report for the UK Food Waste Reduction Roadmap showing a significant increase in business commitment. Food and drink manufacturers also made a significant contribution to the progress recorded in the first [Courtauld 2025 milestone report](#).

Since last year, FDF members have reported a further reduction in CO2 emissions, down 53.2% since 1990, and a reduction in water consumption, down 38.5% since 2008. FDF and our members have demonstrated progress under industry initiatives, including the UK Food Waste Reduction Roadmap and Courtauld 2025, and FDF signed the Step up to the Plate Pledge. Our members continue to

engage with the UK Plastics Pact and are contributing to a breadth of other actions to tackle plastic waste.

Even with this progress, the global food system still faces unprecedented pressures over the coming decades. These will require a transformation in the way we do business at all levels – from the ingredients we source and products we make, to how they are packaged and transported. We anticipate energy policy will be a priority for 2020 as we work to shape future policies aligned with meeting the Net Zero emissions target for 2050. FDF will undertake a mid-term review of Ambition 2025 in 2020 to ensure it reflects changes in the regulatory and political landscape. We look forward to embracing this opportunity with our members, who continue to show dedication to achieving sustainability goals.

Supporting case studies can be found on the [FDF website](#).

# OUR AMBITIONS

## CURRENT AMBITION

## 2019 PROGRESS

### CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS



Achieve a 55% absolute reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2025 against a 1990 baseline.

FDF members reported an absolute reduction of 53.2% in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from their use of energy in manufacturing operations in 2018, compared to the 1990 baseline. Over 2020 we will increase our work in the energy policy area with a focus on how to decarbonise heat in the manufacturing process. This will be alongside the wider narrative on how the sector can meet the Net Zero emissions 2050 target.

### 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.

WRAP's first Courtauld 2025 milestone report for 2015-2018 shows that FDF members, along with other food and drink manufacturers, have reduced food waste by 15.9% per capita over this period and by 31.4% per capita against the UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 target baseline (2011, excluding inedible parts).

FDF contributed to the [Food Waste Reduction Roadmap Progress Report 2019](#). The Report showed that 35 FDF members are now signatories, with 32 of these providing evidence on Target, Measure, Act.

FDF and several members signed up to the Government's [Step up to the Plate Initiative](#) fronted by Government's [Food Waste and Surplus Champion](#), Ben Elliot.

FDF and members have continued to support other food waste reduction initiatives, such as the work under [Courtauld 2025](#) to increase redistribution of surpluses.

### 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.

In 2019, FDF responded to the four Government consultations published under the [Resources and Waste Strategy](#) on reforming the packaging producer responsibility system and related issues. FDF members support the need for reform and to build a truly circular economy for food and drink packaging in the UK. The recent hike in Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) costs has further underlined this need. FDF has undertaken a considerable amount of Ministerial and media advocacy to press Government to look at short and medium-term solutions.

FDF and several members are founding signatories to the [UK Plastics Pact](#). FDF's role is to encourage wider member engagement in this programme of work, as set out in the [UK Plastics Pact Roadmap](#), and help deliver the targets. The Pact's first [annual report](#) was published in December 2019 and showed work being done and progress being made, including case studies from several FDF members.

FDF and several member companies have contributed to the development of the Industrial Challenge Fund Wave 3 submission '[Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging](#)' through scoping workshops.

### 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 2018, reporting FDF members reduced their absolute water consumption by 38.5%; the amount of water consumed per tonne of product was reduced by 39.6% over the same period.

FDF supports the [Courtauld 2025 Water Ambition](#). The first [Courtauld 2025 Water Ambition Progress Report](#) was published in September 2019 which includes detail on 6 catchment projects across the UK, South Africa and Kenya; these reach more than 500 suppliers with >£1.5 million direct and leveraged funding.

FDF continues to engage in high level discussions with Defra and the EA, including by being accepted on to the Catchment Based Approach Water Abstraction Working Group.

### 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. New initiatives include: Step Up to the Plate Pledge, Consumer Goods Forum: Plastic Waste, UK Circular Plastics Network, NatCap Checker, Accountability Framework initiative, UK Plastics Pact and One Blue Dot.

### 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. Please see FDF's [Natural Capital Awareness Document](#) to understand the latest policy developments and member activity.

FDF continues to engage with the [Natural Capital Coalition](#). Several member companies also work directly with the coalition.