



# FDF's Ambition 2025: SHAPING SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS PROGRESS REPORT 2020

The year of 2020 has been a challenging period for the food and drink sector, with the pressures of EU-exit and the Covid-19 pandemic. However, as talk of a green recovery continues, the FDF and our members remain committed to the sustainability agenda and delivering environmental improvements across all areas of our Ambition. So much so, we have met and exceeded the CO2 reduction target five years ahead of schedule and this has resulted in us upgrading the commitment in our Mid-Term Review report.

With regards to Net Zero, the FDF has continued to develop our understanding and what it means for the food and drink sector. In June 2020, we published our decarbonisation of heat report. We have also undertaken the FDF Net Zero Narrative Project to inform our 2021 work programme.

Packaging of food and drink products remains top of public and political interest. The FDF and its members remain highly engaged with Government and other stakeholders and are committed to engage with any future policy changes.

Despite this year's challenges, FDF members have made great progress. Since last year, FDF members

have reported a further reduction in CO2 emissions, down 55.5% since 1990, and a reduction in water consumption, down 41.5% since 2008. FDF and our members have also demonstrated progress under industry initiatives, including the UK Food Waste Reduction Roadmap and Courtauld 2025. Our members are also demonstrating an on-going commitment to the UK Plastics Pact.

The FDF and our members still face 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.

This year, we remain committed to work with Government on the wide-ranging policy changes we expect, including The Environment Bill which covers primary legislation to reform the packaging producer responsibility system and due diligence for forest risk commodities as well as Part 2 of the National Food Strategy, the Energy Whitepaper and our Net Zero narrative.

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

# OUR AMBITIONS

## CURRENT AMBITION

## 2020 PROGRESS



CO<sub>2</sub>  
EMISSIONS

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

Great progress has been made here by the FDF's members. Members reported an absolute reduction of 55.5% in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from their use of energy in manufacturing operations in 2019, compared to the 1990 baseline, exceeding the 2025 target five years early. With this in mind, we have now extended our commitment and set a new target to reach 60% reduction target by 2050, which will put the FDF and its members in a strong position to meet the legal deadline of achieving Net Zero.

Furthermore, the FDF published its [report on decarbonisation of heat across the food and drink manufacturing sector](#) in June 2020, which outlines how a net zero transition by 2050 could be achieved in scope 1 and 2 emissions, the challenges, and the policy and regulatory enablers needed to help make it happen.

FDF's programme of work on net zero continues to gather pace, COP26 is a priority for 2021 and the FDF recognises its responsibility to engage with this and plans to do so using our developing Net Zero narrative.



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 [Courtauld 2025 Annual Report 2020](#) shows that the food and drink industry continues to make progress to achieve the target of a 20% per person reduction in food and drink waste by 2025.

FDF members have contributed to further progress under the [Food Waste Reduction Roadmap Progress Report 2020](#). The Report highlighted that Roadmap members contributed to 180,000t of food (worth £300 million) being saved from becoming waste in 2019 compared to 2018.

Over 35 FDF members are now signatories, with 34 of these providing evidence of implementing Target, Measure, Act.

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

Despite the difficult year industry faced in 2020, the FDF's members also supported food redistribution efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic, while keeping the nation fed, and contributed to [WRAP's new Best Before Guidance](#).



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.

We have continued throughout the year to build our relationships with key stakeholders and with UK Governments including through engagement around various consultations.

In 2020, FDF responded to a range of consultations including the Government's second [consultation](#) on a Plastic Packaging Tax.

FDF is now also represented on a number of industry engagement groups, including the HMRC-led Industry Working Group and was invited to join the Defra Packaging and Collections Working Group. This Group has been advising officials on issues relating to the next round of Defra consultations on reforming the packaging producer responsibility system and related issues expected early 2021.

FDF has also joined the project leadership team set up to oversee the UK Governments/Industry project on modulated fees due to complete in December 2021.

FDF also undertook policy advocacy on the need for measures in the near-term to help reduce the volatility of the Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) market.

FDF continues to support stakeholder programmes in this space, including the [UK Plastics Pact](#). The Pact's latest report highlighted the progress being made. An example of this is that Pact members are on track to [eliminate 6 out of 8 of the items classed as problematic or unnecessary](#) by the end of 2020. The report itself also included case studies from several FDF members.

In collaboration with the British Plastics Federation (BPF) and the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association (CTPA), FDF also launched new guidelines entitled ['Recycled Content Used in Plastic Packaging Applications'](#) and setting out the important technical and legal considerations specific to these sectors.

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# OUR AMBITIONS

## CURRENT AMBITION

## 2020 PROGRESS



### 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 are making good progress, reducing their absolute water consumption by more than a third (41.5%); the amount of water consumed per tonne of product was also reduced by 44.5% over the same period.

FDF supports the **Courtauld 2025 Water Ambition**; an update on collective action projects in key food and drink production areas is given in the **Courtauld 2025 Annual Report 2020**.

FDF continues to advocate for industry and its members by engaging in high level discussions with Defra and the EA, including through its participation in 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.

Embedding a fewer and friendlier food miles approach within food transport practices is key. In 2016, the FDF created a '**10 Point Checklist**', covering a range of environmental standards, including those which contribute to a reduction of nitrogen oxide and particulate emissions. The FDF continues to work with members to encourage them to embed this approach within their own and outsourced operations.



### 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. 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.