

October 2007



TheVoice

FDF: Speaking for the food and drink manufacturing industry

FDF members unveil five-fold ambition for the environment

FDF members have launched a bold plan to make a real difference to the environment by targeting the five areas where they feel they can have the biggest impact.

Working collectively, our members' five-fold environmental ambition is to:

- Achieve a 20% absolute reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2010 compared to 1990 and aspire to a 30% reduction by 2020;
- Send zero food and packaging waste to landfill from 2015;
- Make a significant contribution to WRAP's work to achieve an absolute reduction in the level of packaging reaching households by 2010 compared to 2005;
- Achieve significant reductions in water use and contribute to an industry-wide absolute target to reduce water use by 20% by 2020 compared to 2007;
- Achieve fewer and friendlier food transport miles.

The plan has been backed by Defra. Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Hilary Benn told FDF members: "You have set out an ambitious programme to improve the environmental sustainability of the food manufacturing industry. As you strive to achieve these goals, you are providing an example for other industries to follow."

Industry reformulates products worth £15bn

The country's food and drink manufacturers continue to make massive progress in reducing the levels of fat, sugar and salt in their products, according to a new snapshot survey of leading FDF members.

Our survey confirms that the recipes used for at least £15bn worth of foods have less fat, sugar and salt, compared with 2004. In addition, a further £11.5bn worth of products have been launched as 'lower in' versions.

Foresight to debate its obesity report at industry seminar

The Foresight team will share the learnings from its groundbreaking report 'Tackling Obesities: Future Choices' at an industry seminar being organised by FDF.

The seminar, which will take place early next year, will provide an opportunity for the food and drink industry to digest the findings of this important piece of research; explore the implications for our sector; and identify ways in which it can feed into our ongoing work in the health and wellbeing area.

As the Foresight report says, there is no silver bullet that can be fired at the complex and multifaceted issue of obesity. But the food and drink industry is already playing a positive role – through the reformulation of products, the development of 'better for you' lines and improved nutrition labelling.

www.fdf.org.uk

Food and Drink
Federation



If you want information about anything in this newsletter, please call Luke Gibbs 020 7420 7125

Reducing additives is a key trend for food manufacturers

One of the biggest trends in the market is for food manufacturers and retailers to remove additives from their products, according to new research from Mintel.

It shows that one in every four products launched in the UK this year were free of artificial colourings and preservatives (up from just 8% in 2004). In the first six months of this year, almost 1,000 such products hit supermarket shelves – considerably more than the 800 or so that were launched during the whole of 2006.

The report confirms how our industry has been responding to consumer concerns about the use of additives, particularly the colours highlighted in a recent study published by the Food Standards Agency.

How FDF works for its members

The Food and Drink Federation speaks on behalf of one of the most important manufacturing sectors in the country, directly employing almost 500,000 people.

In promoting and protecting the interests of our members, FDF is focusing on the issues that matter most to their businesses and to the consumers our industry serves:

- Food Safety and Science
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainability and Competitiveness

Our front cover picture was taken at the Scarborough factory of McCain Foods, an FDF member since 2004.

FDF highlights industry's vital economic contribution

The vital contribution made by the food and drink manufacturing sector to the success of the UK economy was praised at a high profile Labour Party Conference fringe event organised by FDF and the GMB trade union.

Chaired by Melanie Leech, FDF Director General, the event's speakers were Stephen Timms, Minister of State for Competitiveness; David Lammy, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills; Professor Bruce Traill from the University of Reading; and Keith Hazlewood, a national secretary with the GMB.

Issues debated at the fringe event included the progress being made in reducing the regulatory burden on manufacturers; the Government's commitment to work with industry to boost skills and training; and the challenge of how best to raise the image of manufacturing to ensure it attracts the talent it needs to prosper.

Leech said: "The fact two ministers spoke at our event is a sign of the interest in our industry – which is the largest manufacturing sector in the UK. They made clear that the Government is serious about supporting UK manufacturing – and we hope to work with both their departments to develop that agenda."

Stephen Timms, Minister of State for Competitiveness, takes questions at an event organised by FDF and the GMB trade union



Workplace wellbeing scheme backed

FDF is one of the key partners of Business in the Community's (BITC) Action on Health Campaign and will be playing an active role in promoting the business case for investing in healthy workplaces.

The campaign's vision is to increase UK business competitiveness through improving employee health. With a proven return on employee health and wellbeing investment of three to one, BITC is calling for at least 75% of all FTSE 100 companies to publicly report on employee wellbeing by 2011.

Our members have long recognised the importance of ensuring the wellbeing of their workforce, developing workplace schemes that promote healthy diet and lifestyles.

We are proud of the positive actions already taken by our members to promote workplace wellbeing. This summer, for instance, FDF published a report outlining the schemes run by our members employing 40,000 people in the UK.

www.fdf.org.uk

Food and Drink Federation 

If you want information about anything in this newsletter, please call Luke Gibbs 020 7420 7125