



FDF's Ambition  
2025:

# SHAPING SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS PROGRESS REPORT 2021

In 2020, the Food and Drink Federation (FDF) and our members achieved the target of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions set in the Ambition 2025 commitment – five years earlier than planned. In 2021 we set our sights even higher.

Alongside contending with an international pandemic and the resulting supply chain issues, our members continued to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – now down 58% since 1990 – and have slashed water consumption by 39.4%, successfully contributing to an industry-wide target to reduce water use by 20% by 2020 compared to 2007.

This year, the FDF has stepped up its engagement with the UK and devolved governments to drive sustainability, with packaging reform and decarbonisation at its heart.

Departments across Whitehall are being urged to recognise the role chemical recycling can play in delivering improved circular economy outcomes for plastics and meeting their own environmental goals. Legislation must continue to allow chemically recycled plastic to be used in food packaging and to ensure the mass balance approach for calculating the amount of chemically recycled plastic is recognised under the Plastic Packaging Tax.

The [Environment Act 2021](#) includes regulation for packaging reform, setting the precedent for continuous

improvement and future targets on waste, water, air quality and biodiversity. We also hope the publication of the National Food Strategy will take a holistic approach to reforming the food system, including an emphasis on sustainable production.

The FDF and our members will continue to advocate for a robust food chain that is fit for the future and to work with government to deliver positive environmental outcomes. Industry initiatives, including [Courtauld 2030](#), [UK Food Waste Reduction Roadmap](#) and [UK Plastics Pact](#), are vital to building a more sustainable and resilient global food system.

COP26 was a defining, global moment and we will use it as a springboard to further build momentum on coordinated actions across the farm-to-fork supply chain. During the event we published our ['Achieving Net Zero' Handbook](#) providing advice to food and drink manufacturers on how to reduce emissions. This will help businesses to achieve the shared ambition of achieving Net Zero by 2040.

As we move out of the Covid-19 pandemic, the FDF will be working across the sector to drive innovation, collaboration and alignment, focusing on a green recovery.

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

# OUR AMBITIONS

## CURRENT AMBITION

## 2021 PROGRESS



To achieve a 60% absolute reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2025 against a 1990 baseline.

Members have reported an absolute reduction of 58% in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from their use of energy in 2020 compared to a 1990 baseline. In 2021, the FDF published the '[Achieving Net Zero](#)' Handbook. It outlines how the food and drink sector can address the challenges on their journey to Net Zero, providing practical guidance for manufacturers, particularly those at the early stages of developing their climate strategy.



FOOD WASTE

To reduce food waste across members' own direct operations and supply chain by adopting the 'Target, Measure, Act' approach of the UK Food Waste Reduction Roadmap, and to contribute to the UN SDG 12.3 food waste reduction target.

Over 80% of the 181 food and drink manufacturers who committed to the [Food Waste Reduction Roadmap](#), developed by IGD and WRAP, to tackle food waste in the UK have implemented 'Target, Measure, Act'.



PACKAGING

To deliver improved environmental outcomes relating to the production, use and disposal of food and drink packaging, in particular plastic packaging, while recognising its essential protective functionality.

The FDF worked closely with all UK governments and value chain partners to ensure ongoing work to reform packaging producer responsibility. This includes ensuring that the mass balance approach for calculating the amount of chemically recycled plastic is recognised under the Plastic Packaging Tax. The FDF also supports the inclusion of all plastic films and other plastic flexibles in Consistent Collections, making Extended Producer Responsibility cost-effective for business and for the Deposit Return Scheme proposed for England, Wales and Northern Ireland to be aligned with the scheme in Scotland.



WATER

To support and contribute to the Courtauld 2025 water ambition.

In the last reporting year, FDF members reduced their absolute water consumption by 39.4%. The amount of water consumed per tonne of product was reduced by 47.5% over the same period. Members have successfully contributed to an industry-wide target to reduce water use by 20% by 2020 compared to 2007.



TRANSPORT

To support and contribute to the Government Road to Zero Strategy.

The FDF continues to promote the fewer and friendlier food miles agenda, encouraging the implementation of [FDF's 10 Point Checklist for Greener Transport](#). On 14 July, government published the Transport Decarbonisation Plan. The FDF remains engaged with the work as government begins to implement actions and explore options for HGV transport including the end of sale of new non-zero emission HGVs.



SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS

To promote the recognition and uptake of sustainability standards and initiatives in the food and drink sector.

The FDF continues to promote voluntary certifications, collaborative platforms and practical tools available to businesses looking to further their sustainability agenda. The FDF recorded a Sourcing Sustainable Commodities podcast series with instalments on [sustainable palm oil](#) and [soya](#), the [bigger picture](#) and how [sourcing sustainable commodities works in practice](#).



NATURAL CAPITAL

To increase awareness of natural capital amongst members, promoting the business benefits and supporting a shift towards integrating natural capital into decision making.

The FDF continues to work with its members to understand and protect natural capital. The FDF's [Natural Capital Awareness](#) document explains the latest policy developments and member activity.