

REPAK

Business *funding* recycling



151 Signatories
All of them *Changemakers*

2023
REPAK MEMBERS'
PLASTIC PLEDGE REPORT

ACRONYMS

CEP

Circular Economy Package

DCCAE

Department of Communications, Climate
Action and Environment

EC

European Commission

EPA

Environmental Protection Agency

EPR

Extended Producer Responsibility

EPS

Expanded Polystyrene

EU

European Union

HDPE

High Density Polyethylene

IWMA

Irish Waste Management Association

LDPE

Low Density Polyethylene

MRF

Material Recovery Facility

NGO

Non-Governmental Organisation

OPRL

On Pack Recycling Label (UK Packaging
Labelling System operated by WRAP)

PET

Polyethylene Terephthalate

PP

Polypropylene

PS

Polystyrene

PPWD

Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive

PPWR

Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulations

PVC

Polyvinyl Chloride

RPET

Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate

RO

Recovery Operator (waste contractor
registered with Repak Payment Scheme)

RPS

Repak Payment Scheme

SUP

Single Use Plastic

WRAP

Waste & Resources Action Programme

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As of May 2024, 151 Repak Members have become Plastic Pledge signatories, 20 of whom made submissions to this year's report. In 2023, these signatories continued to achieve significant milestones in line with the Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy 2018–2030.

The Plastic Pledge Report measures the impact of the Plastic Pledge initiative on signatories' behaviours and design choices, tracking progress in reducing plastic waste and adopting sustainable packaging solutions. Their efforts significantly contributed to the national recycling and recovery effort. Notably, the total packaging placed on the market by Members decreased by 8,390 tonnes, a reduction of 1.34%, reflecting their dedication to minimizing unnecessary packaging.

From 2022 and continuing through 2023, The Plastic Pledge repositioned to acknowledge the "Changemakers" and "the changes you can't see". This highlighted the work done by signatories who removed significant volumes of plastic from their operations and supply chains and how that cannot always be visible due to the materials absence. In addition, a series of Hero Stories, captured as short video clips and promoted on Repak's communications platforms, brought coverage to those best in class examples in their respective Plastic Pledge Objective categories. This represents the future of how Repak will promote and spotlight signatories' endeavours in this area.

As a whole, Repak Members demonstrated a strong commitment to the environment by funding the recycling of 69% of the plastic packaging they placed on the market. This effort is part of their broader initiative to minimize unnecessary packaging and reduce their environmental footprint, aligning with the objectives set out in the Plastic Pledge.

The submissions received this year illustrate that signatories who reported their recycling rates for plastic packaging captured at their premises are achieving an average of 72%. This is well above the Circular Economy Package recycling targets of 50% by 2025 and 55% by 2030. Also, for those who reported on recycled content, the average was 43% on a range of projects. This is above the highest category of minimum recycled content in Article 7 of the upcoming PPWR which stands at 35% by 2030. From those businesses reporting the relevant data, almost 600 tonnes of plastic packaging has been removed from their operations. This is in addition to several successful and ongoing projects where complexity within plastic packaging has been reduced in efforts to simplify polymer usage and remove non-recyclable components from packaging.

Key Metrics and Achievements

- Total plastic packaging recycled: 69%
- Plastic Packaging recycled by Plastic Pledge signatories: 72%
- Total tonnes of plastic recycled: 746,000 tonnes
- Change from 2022: Decrease of 3,865 tonnes
- Members surpassed EU recycling targets for 2025 and 2030, with overall recycling at 102%, and plastic at 69%.

Legislative and Policy Developments:

- Single Use Plastics Directive: Repak, as the appointed compliance scheme, began data monitoring and reporting for the directive in 2023.
- Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation: Expected to be implemented in 2024/2025, this regulation aims to reduce packaging waste and increase the use of recycled plastics.

Recognition and Awards:

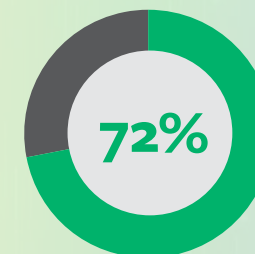
The 2023 Plastic Pledge Pakman Award was awarded to Lidl Ireland for their innovative packaging solutions, such as replacing PVC stretch-wrap with OPP flow wrap, eliminating over 20 tonnes of unrecyclable PVC annually.

Future Directions

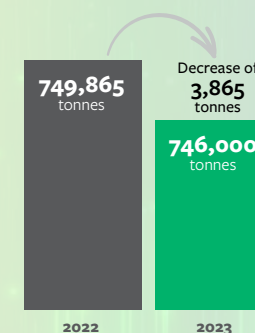
Repak's Plastic Pledge is evolving to meet new legislative challenges and industry needs, focusing on increased ambition, innovation, circular economy integration, supply chain collaboration, consumer engagement, policy advocacy, and enhanced monitoring and reporting. Repak will strive to develop Plastic Pledge into a Members platform for sharing best practice and innovation.

By continuing to drive these initiatives, Repak and its members are committed to reducing plastic waste and promoting a circular economy for packaging in Ireland.

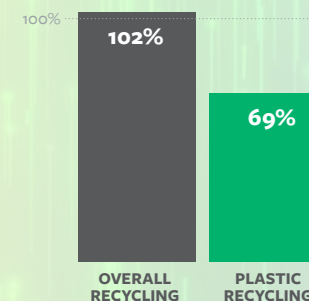
KEY METRICS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Total
Plastic Packaging
Recycled by Plastic
Pledge signatories



Total
Plastic Recycled



Members surpassed
EU recycling targets
for 2025 and 2030

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following Plastic Pledge Partners and Stakeholders who contributed to our Plastic Challenge Working Group Meetings during 2023:

PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS



1.0 PLASTIC PLEDGE OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVES OVERVIEW

Throughout 2023 our Members have continued to work towards reaching the goals of Plastic Pledge and some of their achievements and plans have been shared with us for publishing in this Report. Repak Members' Plastic Pledge Report 2023 is built around four objectives. In previous years there were 5 objectives for Members to consider. The former fifth objective – aimed at aligning packaging principals with the EPA's Food Waste Charter – has been removed so that Plastic Pledge is primarily packaging-focussed and ensures non-food industry Members are not excluded from any aspect of the pledge.

We have selected a Hero Story for each Plastic Pledge Objective. These will be featured on Repak's social media and promotional platforms to tell the story of the "Changemakers". The Hero Stories for this year are from Lidl Ireland, The Culinary Food Group, Aldi Ireland and Nestle Ireland.

The four objectives that set the framework for the submissions are as follows:

Objective 01: To Prevent

Prioritise the prevention of plastic packaging waste by minimising avoidable single use packaging and promoting packaging reuse where possible.

Objective 02: To Support

Support Ireland to deliver the Circular Economy Package plastic recycling targets of 50% of all plastic packaging by 2025 and 55% by 2030, as set by the European Commission.

Objective 03: To Simplify

Reduce complexity within the plastic packaging supply chain by simplifying polymer usage and eliminating non-recyclable components in all plastic packaging by 2030.

Objective 04: To Increase

Help to build a circular economy for used plastic packaging in Ireland and Europe by increasing the use of plastic packaging with recycled content.



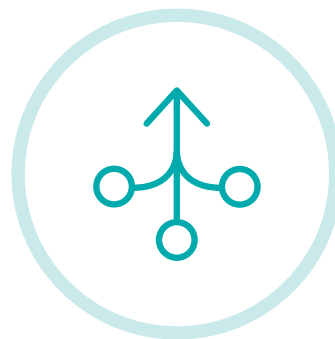
TO PREVENT

Businesses can implement measures to prevent excessive plastic usage in their packaging, such as optimizing packaging design to minimize material usage and avoiding the use of unnecessary packaging components. Minimising avoidable single use packaging and adopting packaging reuse systems where possible are at the core of any successfully functioning packaging policy. By adopting a “reduce” mindset, companies can proactively lessen their environmental impact and reduce resource consumption.



TO SUPPORT

Businesses can support the recycling of plastic packaging by using recyclable materials and promoting proper recycling practices among consumers. Considerations for additions to policies can include providing clear labelling and instructions on packaging, partnering with recycling facilities and waste management organizations and collaboration with suppliers to reduce and eliminate input packaging where possible. Being a Plastic Pledge signatory also represents a significant commitment in taking responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products and packaging.



TO SIMPLIFY

Businesses can simplify packaging materials and formats to make recycling easier for consumers and technically and economically feasible for industry. Avoiding materials that are difficult to recycle, using mono-material packaging designs, eliminating multi-layered or complex packaging structures, ensuring layers are easily separated, limiting a business’s marketing function of packaging so that it does not add to material complexity. By simplifying packaging, companies can increase the likelihood that their products will be recycled and reduce contamination in the recycling stream.



TO INCREASE

Businesses can increase their use of post-consumer recycled material which will support Circular Economy for used plastic packaging in Ireland. This in turn can further contribute to reduced demand on fossil fuels. Policy should ensure minimum targets are set for use of available PCR plastic packaging materials that are more sustainable than virgin plastics.

2.0 MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS & PLANS

OBJECTIVE 01: TO PREVENT

Prioritise the prevention of plastic packaging waste by **minimising avoidable single use packaging and promoting packaging reuse** where possible.



Aldi



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

ALDI is continuing to work towards a plastic and packaging target of a 40% reduction of own label plastic packaging by 2025 against a 2020 baseline.

ALDI works closely with its business partners to introduce new, innovative, sustainable packaging solutions that has resulted in over 3,500 tonnes of total plastic being removed from its stores since 2020.

Throughout 2023, ALDI has had the following successes in plastic reduction:

- Reduced the plastic in ALDI's own-brand Roisin's Easter Egg by 94%.
- Lid removal on our Pasta Salad, reducing plastic packaging by 49%.
- Bottle and cap weight reductions on laundry detergent, saving 17 tonnes of plastic.
- Moved our 2kg cat food from plastic to a plastic paper blend, saving 13 tonnes of plastic.
- Scent Boosters has moved from PET to Recycled Board packaging, saving 14 tonnes of plastic.
- Bottle and cap weight reductions on bleach, saving 10 tonnes of plastic.

- Moved the lid on our Soft Cheese from PP to rPET, saving 6 tonnes of virgin plastic.
- Changed the outer bag on our Easy Singles Cheese from LPDE to paper, saving 5 tonnes of plastic.
- Outer bag film on our crisps moved to cavitated PP, saving 30 tonnes of plastic.
- Plastic sleeve removal on our tinned tuna, replacing it with a cardboard sleeve, saving 3 tonnes of plastic.
- Micron reduction on inner bags across our cereal range, saving 15 tonnes of plastic.
- Material, laminate, and label reductions across our wet wipes, saving 8 tonnes of plastic.
- Interleaves removal on Prosciutto/Serrano Ham, saving 2 tonnes of plastic.
- Micron reduction on outer bag across our freezer range, saving 14 tonnes of plastic.
- Moved nuts from plastic to paper film, saving 3 tonnes of plastic.
- Reseal removal from our mini tortillas, saving just over 1 tonne of plastic.

ALDI Ireland has reduced plastic packaging by a further 12.50% in 2023.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, ALDI will work towards its plastic and packaging target of a 40% reduction of own label plastic packaging by 2025 against 2020 baseline.

Key projects for 2024 include:

- Fig rolls are to move to a cardboard tray that will save 6 tonnes of plastic per year.
- Bottle and cap reduction across our condiment lines, saving 39 tonnes of plastic.
- Laundry sachets moving from plastic to paper box, saving 28 tonnes of plastic.
- Bottle and cap weight reduction on our washing up liquid, saving 16 tonnes of plastic.
- Micron reduction across our frozen veg lines, saving 13 tonnes of plastic.
- Micron and film length reduction on our bagels, saving 1.5 tonnes of plastic.
- ALDI also remains committed to exploring the implementation of pooling systems as a viable avenue for deploying reusable solutions for secondary packaging across our entire store.

Aramark



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Removal of all single use cups in Aramark head office, removing 1500 cups which were previously used weekly. Approx 72,000 cups avoided annually.

Aurivo



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In our consumer foods site, we have changed the label for one of our cream customers from PVC to paper, this will result in an annual reduction of 2.5 tonnes of PVC.

Ballymaguire Foods



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

This year, we achieved a 45% reduction in plastic packaging per tonne for chicken fillets and a 49% reduction for diced chicken. Overall, supplier engagement saved 3.14 tonnes of plastic packaging. Additionally, adjusting the quantity of leeks per bag reduced plastic usage per tonne by one third, resulting in a saving of 28kg of plastic this year.

Changes in film thickness on a product resulted in significant weight savings. By reducing the film thickness from 44 micron to 27 micron, we achieved a 21%

reduction in the weight of film used on the product. In total, the savings for this year amounted to 3.19 tonnes.

PLANS FOR 2024

Utilize the packaging database to identify high-waste items and implement targeted strategies for further plastic waste reduction.

Barry Packaging



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In Barry Packaging 2024 warehouse staff are putting in place systems to recycle all plastic used on site, separating out SUP and recyclable plastics. Reducing and avoiding where possible single use plastic is used. 0.8 tonnes of plastic packaging have been saved.

PLANS FOR 2024

Recycle as much plastic as possible on site and reduce the use of SUP where possible.

Bewley's



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Single-Use paper cups have been removed from the coffee machines in the staff canteen area, and from the coffee bar. All Bewley's staff have been given a reusable cup to minimise the use of disposable cups. Reminder

emails have been circulated by the HR team, and information has been included in the weekly newsletter to explain the importance of the initiative. Bewley's also joined the Cup Collective to collect and recycle any cups used by visitors and recycle them.

PLANS FOR 2024

Continue to discourage single-use cup usage at the Bewley's NX site and continue work with the Cup Collective.

Blenders



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Blenders complies with the EU Single Use Plastics and during 2023, completed the following:

Trial on a lighter jerrican which is still in progress but looks promising. A completed trial on a recyclable sachet material was unfortunately unsuccessful. Also completed was a third trial on use of filling/dispensable options for larger catering opportunities.

PLANS FOR 2024

Blenders continue working on the use of a lighter jerrican and reusable filling/dispensable options which are both safe and acceptable for our customer's use.

Britvic Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

At Britvic Ireland we have traditionally excelled at manufacturing and selling packaged beverages to customers across Ireland in plastic, glass and aluminium can formats. We have light-weighted across many of our brands as well as made a conscious effort and significantly invested in our Aqua Libra brand in recent years to start moving beyond single use packing and promote refillable solutions in pubs, hotels, restaurants etc. across Ireland.

Aqua Libra finely filtered taps and infused canned water were launched in Ireland in 2022. In 2023, we installed 100 Aqua Libra Taps across the workplace and hospitality sectors, helping our customers to move away from single-use packaging. Aqua Libra is a brand committed to remaining plastic free and the brand is a strong focus of our sustainable growth plans in the coming years.

We are also promoting a move to move to refillable solutions for soft drinks in the hospitality trade and installed 75 carbonated soft drinks dispense units into new outlets the hospitality trade in 2023. We continue to innovate to improve the quality of our dispensed product offering and are working to change perceptions among publicans that dispensed options are a poor-quality alternative to single-use packaged drinks. As part

of this we invested in a piece of in-outlet research to share with the trade which showed that 90% of consumers are happy with the quality of the product and 67% of those surveyed considered it to be superior to a drink from a bottle.

We also continue to work to lightweight all plastic used in our products.

- We have reduced micron gauge of Pepsi can shrink packaging to reduce the weight and overall usage of virgin PET shrink in our cans packaging.
- Robinsons 1 litre preform light-weighted from 38 grams to 28 grams
- Miwadi 1litre preform light-weighted from 32 grams to 29 grams.

PLANS FOR 2024

With the implementation of tethered caps, we are using the opportunity to move to a lightweight neck finish across all our brands except Ballygowan (which already went through significant light-weighting in 2021). With these new neck finishes we anticipate an annual plastic savings of approximately 360 tonnes across the brand portfolio. Each bottle will on average lose over 2 grams of plastic, this will be multiplied by tens of millions of units annually.

Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Coca-Cola HBC has consistently invested in measures which reduce our use of single use plastic. This was achieved through a combination of light-weighting, elimination of plastic and the move to fully recycled plastic.

Packaging remains the single most significant element of our carbon emissions profile, it amounts to approximately 56% of our emissions. Reducing single use plastic is a key element of our NetZero by 40 Strategy. It is also embedded in our system World Without Waste, a commitment which seeks to collect one bottle for every one collected.

Recent years have seen a range of investments, including the development of Keel Clip and Q Flex packaging systems which reduced just under 500 tonnes of plastic per year. We also significantly light-weighted packaging, both aluminium and plastic.

In 2023 we took further steps in this regard:

- **Eliminated:** We built on the success of the Keel Clip project by extending this card multi-pack format to our Schweppes 250ml range. While this is a significantly smaller product in volume terms, it is a crucial step in a new market, where Keel Clip has not been previously used. It is estimated that this will reduce plastic packaging by 10.4 tonnes in 2023 (13 tonnes FY saving).

- **Light-weighting:** We continued our progress with light-weighting this year. We reduced the thickness of our film used on Monster Energy drinks from resulting in film weight per case moving from 16.2gm to 12.1gm, this resulted in a 10.8 tonnes reduction in plastic use.
- We also continued the light-weighting of our PET bottles. Pre-forms used in the creation of 1litre Deep River Rock bottles were reduced by 3.7g which resulted in a 7.64 tonne reduction in plastic.
- **Re-use:** We have begun trials and will continue to work on Re-usable vessels for at work and away from home settings.

PLANS FOR 2024

Progress in 2024 will continue around light-weighting. We have light-weighting projects underway in relation to several Deep River Rock products including Deep River Rock 250ml, 500ml and 450ml Vital ranges. We will also be further reducing the plastic content of our pallet wrap.

Dawn Farm Foods



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Single-Use packaging

Over 100 plastic bags are being used daily, these were sent to general waste to transport product to the sample room, these have now been replaced with reusable jugs. Deliverables of over 36,000 single use bags eliminated per year and €4000 per year savings.

Single-Use quality control sample bags

Reduction in the size of the quality control samples taken from the factory floor has enabled a reduction in the use and size of quality controls sample bags. This has resulted in the elimination of 1 tonne of single use plastic per annum.

PLANS FOR 2024

Single-use plastic covers from quality books used on production floors will be eliminated. This will result in an elimination of approx. 2,000 plastic covers per year.

Irish Distillers



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

- We have replaced the PET sleeves on our West Coast Cooler Original and Rosé 750ml bottles with paper labels and moved the 250ml sleeve wrapped bottles to aluminium cans. This has resulted in an average annual reduction of 27.81 tonnes of plastic.
- The majority of our Jameson Original 50ml bottles have moved from a shrink-wrapped tray to a board box which has resulted in a 0.45 tonne reduction in plastic annually.
- We have removed NRF closures from markets where possible which has resulted in 6.07 tonnes of plastic being eliminated.

The above represents an overall reduction of 34.33 tonnes of plastic. Removing single-use plastic from our

packaging has many environmental benefits, including reducing the carbon footprint as less plastic is being produced and preventing it from entering our waste streams so it will not go to landfill.

We have a zero waste to landfill policy for our production sites in Irish Distillers. We receive over 200,000 pallets of dry goods each year, producing 110m bottles of product and zero waste goes to landfill. All our glass bottles come in from suppliers with plastic layer pads between each layer of glass which are reusable to prevent waste.

We have done a full review of all packaging we use on site and its recyclability and are in the process of finding alternatives to non-recyclable components where possible.

PLANS FOR 2024

- We will be eliminating our 50ml PET bottle, which is a single-use plastic, this will eliminate 9.43 tonnes of PET annually.
- We have trialled the removal of shrink wrap from incoming pallets of dividers, which are now delivered in reusable board boxes and if approved they will be rolled out in 2023 and result in an annual reduction of 2 tonnes of plastic from our supply chain.
- We plan to the remainder of our 50mls from a shrink-wrapped tray to a board box which should result in an additional reduction in plastic of 0.46 tonnes annually.

→ As mentioned above we are removing NRF closures from markets where possible, we are exploring additional markets these can be removed from and will further implement where possible. Any components identified as non-recyclable in the review of all packaging that we conducted are being replaced with recyclable components where possible.

Jacobs Douwe Egberts



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Kenco specialties total pack size reduced by 26% which includes plastic and paper/card.

Plastic weight per serving of Kenco specialties and mixes products have reduced by 22% year on year. This reduction has led to a 3.8 tonne reduction in plastic usage in 2023 from 2022 for this SKU alone.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024 JDE Peet's launched Kenco, Douwe Egbert and L'Or home recyclable paper refill packs to the Irish market. These are the first of its kind paper packaging in the coffee category, designed to reduce packaging overall by 97% vs a glass jar. They will also reduce plastic material usage by 86% vs the old plastic pouch and 96% vs the glass jar (with plastic lid). The refills will encourage consumers to use less plastic packaging and promote refill and reuse of existing jars or their own containers.

The paper refill pouches were well received by Irish consumers, and we expect to see continued plastic savings as they are adopted by more consumers throughout 2024.

Lidl



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023 the below projects resulted in savings of 65 tonnes of plastic packaging.

- **Plastic reduction target achieved:** In 2018 Lidl Ireland & Northern Ireland committed to reducing plastic packaging consumption by 20% by the end of 2022, against a 2017 baseline. We reached our target one year ahead of schedule in 2021. To allow for continuous and comparable reporting while our business grows, we calculate the plastic reduction on a revenue adjusted basis.
- **Single use plastic:** Items banned under the directive include plastic cutlery, straws, plates and expanded polystyrene containers. These were removed from sale as single products in 2019 and in combination with products (juice pouches, ready meals etc.) in 2021.
- **Reusable Bottles for Fresh Orange Juice:** In September 2021 we started offering a reusable glass bottle for our fresh orange juice machines next to the current PET bottles in store. Lidl customers pay the same price for 500 ml orange juice in single use

plastic bottles as they do for 650ml in the reusable glass bottle, thereby getting 30% more juice for their money which incentivises the use and reuse of the new glass bottles. This has resulted in the sale of almost 150,000 refills in a 2.5-year period to date. Assuming customers would have otherwise bought the same amount of 500ml single use plastic bottles, this avoided approximately 3.8 tonnes of plastic and – considering the bottle, label, and cap of the bottles – avoided the equivalent of almost 450,000 pieces of single use plastic.

- **Plastic-free Wet Wipes:** In 2023 we used up our last wet wipes containing plastics and are now exclusively offering plastic free and biodegradable wet wipes made from viscose. This prevents almost half a billion pieces of plastic from being put into circulation annually.
- **Removed clamshell on Freshways Pasta Salads clamshell:** We removed the “clamshell”, an attached, rigid lid, from three of our tertiary pasta salads in favour of a lighter film. This change has reduced the plastic weight of the pasta salads by almost 50% resulting in an annual plastic saving of 16.5 tonnes.
- **Ready to eat Salads PET lid:** We removed the rigid PET lid and replaced it with a top seal on 3 of our ready to eat salads. This action reduced the weight by 15% or 9.1 tonnes of plastic.
- **Potato and carrot bag reduction:** The thickness of potato and carrot plastic bags has been reduced in varying amounts resulting in more than 10 tonnes of plastic being avoided annually.

- **Refill pouches:** In 2023, we extended our offering of refill packs for hand soaps and washing up liquids. We now offer 3 different refill packs as alternatives to the plastic bottle versions of our highest selling items in those ranges. This allows customers to save on plastic and is a cheaper alternative. For example: buying one of our 1 litre Gentle Hand Wash Refill packs instead of buying 2 x 500l soap dispensers will save 76% in plastic.
- **Cooked white meats:** We have reduced the tray thickness of our cooked white meats which resulted in 3.5 tonnes saved annually.
- **Removed reseal strip from cheese blocks:** We moved from bags with a reseal strip to simple bags, resulting in a 27% plastic reduction on average across the different size packs and a reduction of approximately 10 tonnes of plastic annually.
- **Reusable beverage crates:** Since 2022, we changed the tertiary transport packaging on certain beverage lines. We moved to a circular collection system instead of using single-use plastic pallet wrapping and cardboard layer pads on a pallet. Lidl stores receive reusable beverage crates that saves 3 tonnes of single use plastic per year. We are currently exploring rolling this out to further lines.

PLANS FOR 2024

Define new reduction target: Our next step will be to develop and publish updated target(s) in 2024 to ensure we are continuing our focus is on reducing and removing packaging where sustainably possible. We are committed

to continuously striving to reduce the detrimental impact of unnecessary and unsuitable packaging formats and materials on our environment.

New focus: Over the last 12 months we have utilised our new packaging database to give clear and detailed information on our packaging footprint, track our continuous improvements and are currently using these valuable insights to identify high-impact products and projects. This information will continue to enable us to focus our efforts on products and projects that have a substantial influence on our plastic footprint. We use this data to inform our short term, medium-term and long-term packaging strategy.

We have aligned several optimisations and trials that will go live in 2024. These will remove and reduce packaging while focussing on high volume items across our range to maximise our impact.

Liffey Meats



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Plastic packaging was reduced by implementing measures such as purchasing bags and shrink wrap from suppliers who use less plastic which can have a positive impact on reducing plastic.

By opting for suppliers who prioritize minimizing plastic usage, businesses can contribute to reducing their carbon footprint and promoting eco-friendly practices.

Additionally, this can lead to cost savings in the long run, as less packaging material is needed, potentially lowering expenses related to waste management and disposal.

25 tonnes of plastic packaging were recycled, which is a significant achievement that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. By sending the plastic packaging to a waste contractor like ROC Recycling, where it is shredded and then repurposed into new plastic packaging effectively closing the loop on the plastic lifecycle.

PLANS FOR 2024

- In Liffey Meats we are currently in the process of implementing a comprehensive strategy to transition to 100% recyclable and/or compostable material. At this Liffey meats can demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability while meeting the needs and expectations of consumers.
- The initiative not only reduces the environmental impact of packaging but contributes to building a more sustainable future for generations to come.
- For this to make progress supplier engagement is important several conversations have taken place to discuss the transition to 100% recyclable material or compostable material.
- Our vacuum pack trays are currently manufactured from 100% recycled material.

Nestle Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023 Nestlé Professional transitioned MAGGI Professional Tubs from yellow with red lid to white with white lid. With the shift to all PP components, the tubs are dishwasher-safe and can be reused to store food or other kitchen items

Nomad Foods

Nomad Foods

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Fishfingers stretch wrap has been reduced by 2 microns, enabling us to remove 150kg annually. Potato LDPE Bags and films reduction (Birdseye & Aunt Bessie's) have also been reduced by 10micron. This has removed 1.46 tonnes annually.

PLANS FOR 2024

Plastic downgrade projects are running across Birds Eye and Aunt Bessie over 2024 and trials are ongoing currently.

NPP Packaging Systems Ltd.



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023 we continued to work with customers to help reduce the amount of pallet wrap they are using.

We conducted numerous pallet wrap audits with the objective of reducing film consumption and costs whilst maintaining or improving load stability. In most cases, we will also look to reduce the number of revolutions per wrapping cycle, speeding up the production process. In 2023, we removed over 120 tonnes of pallet wrap from the market.

Working with Climate Partner we have taken comprehensive steps to avoid and reduce carbon production emissions associated with the supply and manufacture of EcoWrap. All unavoidable emissions are offset with a fully certified carbon offset programme. This low micron pallet wrap also contains 30% PCW.

PLANS FOR 2024

Our focus for the next 12 months is to continue to work with our customers to reduce the amount of wrap and packaging they are using and to also introduce recycled content where possible.

Oliver Carty



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Together, Oliver Carty and their biggest customer Musgraves, designed two generic top printed films across six different products. Unsmoked and Smoked version were created to use across multiple finished products, which allowed us to reduce the number of changeovers and eliminate waste created during change over. The estimated reduction in plastic for this project is around 6 tonnes.

PLANS FOR 2024

We are planning to make a €500,000 investment on brand new machinery which will help with productivity and reduction on plastic waste.

Tesco Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023, Tesco's proactive steps helped eliminate more than 172.3 tonnes of plastic from its packaging through the following projects.

- Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP) tray in mince packs that used plastic packaging to a new non-plastic flow wrap packaging format which removed 92 tonnes of plastic annually.

- Tesco eliminated plastic packaging and made a significant change to its own brand pocket tissue multi-packs by replacing the plastic with recyclable paper, resulting in the saving of over 55 million pieces of soft plastic. Both individual packs and multi-packs transitioned to FSC-certified paper packaging. This initiative, a first among supermarkets, prevented the creation of almost 35 tonnes of new soft plastic annually.
- Tesco moved its own brand's strawberries to new trays made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET). The trays weight was reduced, and the plastic pad was removed to achieve a reduction of 2.32 gram of weight per tray, resulting in 3.48 tonnes of plastic reduction in last Irish season. The trays and are made of up to 50% recycled content (Recycled PET) and such changes are also introduced to other berries, thus leading to a plastic saving of 16 tonnes of plastic per year.
- Tesco moved white and red cabbage to loose, which were previously wrapped in soft plastic. This step eliminates the use of 1.3 tonnes of plastic packaging material each year.
- Tesco introduced plastic free own label crackers for the first time. They included non-plastic presents and are now sold without plastic in cardboard packaging. This cuts over 14 million pieces of plastic from the seasonal range.

- Tesco rolled out 100% plastic free Christmas gift wraps.
- Tesco downgauged the sheets used on steak skin-pack trays from 600 micron to 480 micron which resulted in eliminating 28 tonnes of plastic per annum.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, trials will take place to study the feasibility of extending pad-less trays to lamb and pork liver. Additionally, pad-less trays will continue to be used on any new product that comes into business.

The Culinary Food Group



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

As part of our engaging employees staff initiatives, reusable company branded water bottles are being distributed to several of our employees. This initiative alongside the provision of drinking water coolers on site aim to reduce plastic and promote reuse of water bottles.

PLANS FOR 2024

- Continued investigation and training on recycling possibilities within the team via team meetings, brainstorming and the Green Lean initiative being rolled out this year also.
- Continued distribution of company branded water bottles to employees through various initiative.

OBJECTIVE 02: TO SUPPORT

Support Ireland to deliver the Circular Economy Package plastic recycling targets of 50% of all plastic packaging by 2025 and 55% by 2030, as set by the European Commission.



Aldi



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

99.20% of our packaging is now recyclable, an increase of almost 2% since 2022.

ALDI Ireland, in partnership with the ALDI South Group, has also announced itself as an endorser of a Global Plastics Treaty to End Plastic Pollution. Over 80 global businesses across the plastics value chain, financial institutions, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), have committed to supporting the development of a legal UN treaty to end plastic pollution. ALDI's Head Office has segregated bins in all canteens (General, Recycling, Compost).

Throughout 2023, ALDI has had the following successes in improving recyclability:

- A portion of our sliced meats have moved to an 85% paper-based web, with further plans to expand it across the range.
- Eliminating the use of non-recyclable string on a portion of our whole birds.
- We removed PS from our yoghurt range.
- Plastic windows have been eliminated throughout our entire range, with a notable achievement of over 1 million windows removed from our Easter Egg range alone.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, ALDI will work towards its target of a 100% of our own label packaging will be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2025. Key projects for 2024 include:

- Introduction of a 90% paper-based web on sliced meats.
- Fully recyclable Ziplock will be implemented across our cheese range.
- ALDI will implement dual labelling to distinguish between GB and IE recycling guidelines, ensuring accurate information for customers.
- Nylon, rubber, and other non-recyclable materials will be removed from our range.
- A recyclable butter wrap is being investigated.
- A comprehensive review of in-store and back-of-house recycling initiatives is underway to enhance recycling rates and implement solutions for challenging-to-recycle products, such as blister packs and coffee pods.

Aramark



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

- During 2023, Lunch & Learn sessions were delivered by Waste subcontractors on our client sites for customers to understand waste segregation correctly. 3 Bin Systems were installed in all sites across our estate, with different signage for all bins to allow customers to differentiate. Some bins include images of all items consumed on our sites allowing customers to understand how to segregate waste correctly.
- A Sustainability Brochure of reusable items was created as an alternative to single use plastic packaging, the guide is available for all client sites to avail of.

- 28% of total waste generated by Aramark was plastic packaging and all was recycled through waste subcontractors, this was equivalent to 6,393 tonnes.

PLANS FOR 2024

Further Education Workshops from waste subcontractors and others will be delivered to engage and educate customers on waste segregation and recycling responsibilities.

Aurivo



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In our liquid milk manufacturing plant in Killygordon, Co. Donegal a focus has been placed on increasing the recycling rate on-site over the last 12-18 months. Working with the sites' waste management, a full review of the waste management processes, resources and facilities on site took place. The review identified that increased awareness, enhanced signage, and additional waste storage was required to increase the recycling rate.

Over the last 12 months, awareness training was carried out, additional signage was erected along with additional waste bins being distributed, an extra compactor was added onsite. The recycling rate in 2022 was 53% and we have a target of 62% in 2023. As a result of the work, we are on track to achieve a recycling rate of 82% for 2023.

Ballymaguire Foods



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

This year, we extended segregated recycling efforts from the back door to the factory premises, ensuring consistent recycling practices throughout the entire facility. As part of this initiative, we implemented a multi-lingual recycling PowerPoint presentation in the canteen area.

PLANS FOR 2024

We aim to undertake a thorough investigation into the recyclability of incoming food contact primary packaging to identify opportunities for enhancing packaging materials' recyclability in our products.

Additionally, we strive to reduce the amount of in-house packaging used for ingredient storage, aiming to minimize waste and optimize recycling processes.

Barry Packaging



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

5% of plastic was recycled during 2023.

- Every workstation has a recycling bin.
- The canteen has a fresh drinking water waste station and management gifted all employees a Klean Kanteen insulated flask, with a policy of no SUP drinking bottles.

- Brown bins are available for all compostable food waste.
- Mywaste.ie is followed for information and tutorials.
- A new waste project in our warehouse to recycle all plastic and eliminate SUP packaging.
- Working to find an alternative to single use plastics where possible.

Bewley's



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

A zero waste to landfill audit was conducted by Bewleys in June 2023 and certification was achieved. Several site bin audits were conducted by the Quality & Facilities Manager to ensure suitable bins were in place and correctly sign-posted around all areas of the building and Zero waste to landfill was achieved in June 2023.

PLANS FOR 2024

Training with all staff on correct waste segregation will be conducted in 2024.

Blenders



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Ninety percent of plastic is recycled, and colour coding of waste receptacles is in operation and continued work with a trusted waste contractor to optimise recovery of

salvageable waste, including plastic is ongoing. Use of discontinued plastic packaging for work-in-progress materials.

PLANS FOR 2024

Educate staff about the colour coded receptables and the waste streams in place.

Britvic



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

- Data analysis with our waste handling partners: We have asked for and received a much higher level of detail from our waste handling partners which shows what type of waste we are creating each month and how it is processed i.e. recycling (recovery), recycling (energy recovery).
- Elimination of single-use hot drinks cups in the canteen facilities: We have moved to a system of keep cups for the onsite hot beverages, this has reduced the usage of thousands of single use cups from our canteen.
- Introduction of filtered water taps to reduce staff usage of packaged beverages on-site: We fitted Aqua Libra taps into our onsite catering facilities so that employees can have still water and sparkling water on demand without using any plastic or aluminium beverage containers.

- Introduce an EWM system: This was implemented to improve material tracking to keep the planners in the company better informed in how we manage our materials and allow us to reduce and eliminate waste when possible.
- We operate a zero waste to landfill with 83.8% to recycling (recovered) and 16.2% to recycling (energy recovery). Total waste was reduced by 25.7% between 2022 and 2023. Waste per litre of outputted product reduced by 31.7% between 2022 and 2023.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, we have already embraced the launch of the Deposit Return Scheme. We are a key manufacturer of beverages in Ireland and so we took responsibility to be fully supportive of and compliant with the incoming DRS. We have moved our stock to all DRS compliant before the deadline and have met with and supported customers across the country in engaging with the scheme and making it a success.

We launched our first tethered cap products in March 2024 in preparation for the July 3rd deadline this year of all in scope single-use beverage containers having a tethered cap. We have also decided to add tethered caps to all our Miwadi and Robinsons bottles despite having no legal obligation to do so. Tethered caps will help a higher percentage of our plastic to be kept within the circular economy and recycled appropriately.

Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

- **Promoting Recycling:** Over the last year, we have worked closely with the wider beverage and retail sector to establish DRS Ireland (Re-Turn), an organisation that has been created to ensure the smooth roll-out and successful operation of Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme. With representation on the Board of Re-Turn, Coca-Cola HBC has played an integral role in bringing together key operational partners from right across the drinks supply chain, including producers and importers right through to retail businesses. We are collaborating with them to ensure the scheme is designed and implemented effectively and delivers a world leading deposit return system for Ireland. We have also taken a central role in the development of schemes in GB and NI. While these schemes are outside Repak's jurisdiction, achieving an interoperable scheme in NI is critical to achieving maximum recycling on both sides of the border.
- We are continuing to work with colleagues in Romania and Italy to examine the development of a PET2PET or 'bottle-to-bottle' recycling facility in those markets and to see how a similar system could operate in Ireland.
- **Educating Consumers:** In 2023, we increased the visibility of our recycling 'call to action' by placing a

RECYCLE ME message on PET bottles. This was used in addition to the normal recycling iconography on bottle.

- We engaged in extensive PR activity in relation to the launch of our 100% rPET bottles, indicating the importance of recycling as part of the creation of circularity. As part of this we undertook paid for activity in national newspapers, as well as activity on social media.
- We continued to promote our Circle City campaign with Dublin City Council encouraging citizens to place their cans and bottles into distinctive yellow bins. We have also launched a similar project in Belfast city. These campaigns can be seen as an important precursor to the DRS scheme.
- **Educating Staff:** As part of preparation for Deposit Return Scheme we held a series of team on-boardings and capability sessions to prepare staff for the scheme. We had a particular focus on business developers to ensure that our customers (retailers etc.) could be supported for the introduction of the scheme.
- **Reducing Waste:** In all our premises we operate 3-bin systems to increase recycling and reduce waste. We have achieved a 0% waste to landfill in recent years. We have a highly proactive programme around food waste.
- Food Cloud are our charity partners, and we provide them and the Simon Community with excess product and short dated stock. In the case of Food Cloud, we also make a significant donation of both funds and volunteer time to help build their capacity as an organisation.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024 we will launch a campaign in line with DRS, moving our on-bottle 'Recycle Me' logo with a 'Return Me' logo, specifically supporting the DRS scheme at launch.

In terms of customer education, we will intensify efforts of ensuring that DRS launches successfully. This will include working closely with the Re-turn team and running a specific in – trade programme where all staff will go into stores and support a fast start through merchandising and refreshing existing point of sale.

Ambassador 3.0: At a staff and customer level we will begin an Ambassador 3.0 Programme to promote sustainability in our business. The Ambassador programme seeks to empower our employees to deliver our key messages and build their confidence in answering question on mission critical business issues.

We will be delivering the training programme in Q2 2024, firstly to our commercial teams, before rolling out to the wider organisation. The programme will cover the following topics:

- The significance of sustainability
- Industry trends
- Sustainability at CCHBC
- The Circular Economy
- Sustainable packaging
- Collaborating with customers in sustainability

Roundtable & White Paper: The Coca-Cola system will host a Roundtable discussion between environmental stakeholders including VOICE, CIRCULEIRE, DECC and Repak, facilitated by the IIEA. The output of this roundtable will be a White Paper on the future of packaging. This White Paper will help inform our own policy on packaging and contribute to the broader policy debate.

We will take the opportunity of our position within the industry to promote the Irish DRS system as a means of promoting the system to UK stakeholders.

Dawn Farm Foods



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

A recycling rate of fifty percent was achieved for 2023. Mixed dry recycling increased by 37% and clear plastic increased by 13%.

- **Recycling Campaign:** In Quarter 1 2023, we ran a Recycling Campaign across the business to further drive awareness.
- **Environmental Awareness Day:** An onsite Environmental Awareness Day was carried out whereby all staff can bring in recycling material to dispose of for free which is then either recycled or donated to local charities. This also involves guest speakers/representatives from our local Recycling plant, Repak and Kildare County Council to further awareness on recycling.

- **Recycling Plant visit:** We took a trip to the recycling and general waste plants we sent out material to, this raised awareness about the segregation of materials onsite.
- **Segregation Systems:** Segregation systems were further implemented on site with signage and awareness specific to the area and facility.
- **Recycling Audits:** Monthly Audits were carried out by the Environmental Department to further drive recycling awareness and targets are reviewed regularly to assess further opportunities.

PLANS FOR 2024

Packaging Campaign: In Half 1 2024, we will run a Recycling Campaign to further drive awareness. As part of this campaign, we plan to investigate the potential recyclable opportunities on the production floors with regards to packaging coming in and out of the plants.

Skip Pack Compactor: We plan to increase from a five tonne compactor to a ten tonne compactor to allow for further recycling in 2024.

Packaging Policy: We plan to implement a packaging policy in 2024 which will outline the standard we have set for supplier material coming to our site.

Environmental Awareness Day: We plan to hold an Environmental Awareness Day and collection in 2024 where recycling will be a key topic.

Waste Segregation in P2: Two waste champions will be assigned to de-box area to segregate the good plastics that can be recycled and soiled plastics that can't be segregated. This initiative is projected to increase the volume of recycled materials by 50% in this area of the plant.

Irish Distillers



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

- In 2023 we recycled 130 tonnes of plastic from onsite operations. We have a zero waste to landfill policy for our production sites where we fill more than 100 million bottles each year. By collaborating with Panda Waste, we ensure any waste that cannot be reused or recycled is processed through RDF (Recovered Derived Fuel). This is a green alternative to landfill and is used to produce electricity which reduces the quantity of fuels imported into a country.
- We have reviewed all our packaging and established that over 98% of the total volume of products we supply are fully recyclable.
- We have been collaborating with a company that take our PET23 label back plastic and process it into a viable alternative material to virgin PET that can be used to produce polyester fibre. In 2023 we sent them 12.16 tonnes of PET23.
- Sustainability and Responsibility guidelines were provided to all staff to educate them about packaging materials that should not be used and may cause issues during recycling.
- We are members of Eco Vadis, a supplier sustainability network which provides sustainability ratings on our suppliers. This helps procurement teams monitor Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices in the supply chain.

→ We follow the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) guidelines, which aim for a circular economy which keeps resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recovering and regenerating products and materials at the end of each service life. This allows us to be more collaborative with our plastics suppliers, packaging manufacturers to innovate new ways to build the circular economy. Internally we have a 3 bin System and signage implemented to ensure we can recycle and compost where possible.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024 we will continue to increase the quantity of PET23 label back plastic processed into a viable alternative material to virgin PET and used to produce polyester fibre.

We will be replacing our plastic slip sheets used when sending out our products, with a cardboard slipsheet alternative. This would replace 72 tonnes of plastic currently used with a cardboard alternative, initial trials have already taken place.

Jacobs Douwe Egberts



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

JDE Ireland provides pod recycling services for consumers through an online An Post service. Plastic Tassimo pods can be sent free post to JDE, where they are then sent for sorting and the material is recycled.

PLANS FOR 2024

Podback UK is in discussions with Irish partners to roll out its pod recycling service in Ireland, providing a nationwide drop off service for consumers.

Lidl



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

- Lidl Ireland Commitment: By 2025, 100% of our own-brand packaging will be reusable, designed for maximum recyclability, or made from renewable resources.
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS): In 2021, Lidl was the first retailer in Ireland to introduce a reverse vending machine trial, piloting the upcoming deposit return scheme in Ireland. The initial trial launched in our store in Glenageary, Co. Dublin and we have since expanded it to two more stores. The trial was concluded when the Re-Turn scheme officially launched on 1st February. During the trial we processed more than 2 million PET bottles and aluminium cans, customers received 10cent in store credit for every empty PET beverage bottle placed into our machines, without paying a deposit.
- As a next step, Lidl was the first retailer in Ireland to introduce the PET bottle material into the packaging for our Silver Hill duck products in 2022. This allowed Lidl customers to buy back the material they inserted into our reverse vending machines while contributing

to the Irish circular economy. This project ran as a collaboration across the Irish packaging recycling as well as packaging and food manufacturing supply chain.

- We are proud to have collaborated with Shabra Plastics & Packaging, Waddington Europe, Versatile Packaging, and our direct supplier Silver Hill Foods. The PET bottles have been cleaned, flaked, and manufactured back into food-grade PET trays, filled with our own-brand Crispy Duck, and delivered back to store. This was completed by stakeholders based in Ireland and 30% of the total tray weight was made from our collected PET bottles.
- By completing this trial and launching the packaging, we demonstrated how recyclable packaging is not “waste” but an important and highly sought-after raw material, that brands and retailers value by requiring recycled content in their products.

Plastic waste segregation and recycling: **Since 2021, 100% of the segregated plastic waste from our operations was recycled.** Our waste management provider has been able to create innovative solutions for hard to recycle flexible and rigid plastics which are now being used to create products such as garden furniture, fencing posts, pallets, and flowerpots.

Customer recycling stations: We installed customer recycling stations in all our stores, with these, we invite customers to dispose of unwanted excess packaging before leaving the store. These are sent from stores to our main distribution centres and sent to external providers for further sorting and recycling together with our warehouse waste.

- Sustainability Summit for our suppliers: In September 2023, Lidl hosted our third annual Sustainability Summit for our key suppliers and business partners. At the event we awarded suppliers who champion packaging innovations and packaging reductions. As part of the agenda, our Senior Responsible Sourcing Manager conducted a workshop on how Repak’s eco modulated fees incentivise brand holders to move to more easily recyclable and lightweight packaging. He covered how these fees could be used to determine the ideal packaging solution for products by calculating the packaging compliance cost per tonne of material of the available alternatives and choose the packaging that has both the lowest financial and environmental impact. A speaker from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications spoke about Packaging and Circular Economy legislation that may impact suppliers.

Packaging optimisation initiative – workshops: Since 2021, Lidl’s Responsible Sourcing department has run workshops and trainings with buyers and suppliers, to communicate the need for mono materials and to design packaging with the end of life in mind in order to increase recyclability, reduce the amount of packaging used and favour recycled material use where possible.

- By conducting trainings, creating guidelines for recyclable packaging, and collaborating directly with our suppliers, we have targeted packaging containing unrecyclable plastics and composites which have been replaced with easier to recycle alternatives.
- 100 % of the plastic waste occurring at our sites is segregated and sent to our waste provider for sorting and recycling.

PLANS FOR 2024

New focus: Our new, improved packaging database will continue to help us communicate the status and progress of our packaging KPIs. We plan to communicate updates on our packaging progress in our customer leaflet and sustainability reports.

New to market: We will continue to consider further removal of packaging components and new to market packaging solutions by running trials to gather supply chain and customers’ feedback. This will help to educate customers and make them aware of the ecological benefits of these solutions compared to the current standard. The goal is to raise awareness and accelerate the adoption of more sustainable packaging into the market.

Liffey Meats



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023 a training program was implemented to focus on improving waste segregation among operatives which is an excellent step toward promoting sustainability and reducing environmental impact. The program covered 3 main areas:

Introduction to waste segregation:

- Define waste segregation and its importance.
- Explain how proper segregation contributes to environmental conservation and resource recovery.

Understanding types of Waste:

- Educate staff on different types of waste (e.g. recyclables, organic waste, hazardous waste).
- Provide example and guidelines for identifying each type of waste.

Benefits of proper segregation:

- It highlights the environmental, social, and economic benefits of effective waste segregation.
- It showcases success stories or case studies from organisations that have implemented efficient waste segregation practices.

In 2023 Liffey Meats achieved a plastic recycle rate of 65% on site which is a positive step towards sustainability and reducing environmental impact. The remaining 35% goes towards energy generation as we are a zero waste to landfill facility. Going forward Liffey Meats can work towards achieving their goal of recycling over 80% plastic in 2024, further contributing to a more sustainable future.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, implementing the use of new light weighting plastic trays will be a significant step towards reducing plastic usage and minimising environmental impact.

There are many advantages that need to be considered while the use of these new light weighting plastic trays.

Recyclability:

- Many lightweight plastic trays are designed to be recyclable, allowing for the recovery and the reuse of materials.

Cost Saving:

- By using less material, manufacturers can achieve cost savings in both material procurement and transportation, leading improved efficiency, and profitability.

Improved handling:

- Despite their reduced weight, lightweight plastic trays maintain excellent handling characteristics, making them easy to stack, transport, and display in retail environments.

Reduced Material usage:

- Lightweight plastic trays are engineered to use less material while still maintaining the strength and durability required to support and protect meat products during transportation and storage.

Nestle Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Across all our sites we segregate waste, and we are working towards ensuring that none of our waste is sent to landfill.

Following the roll-out of kerbside recycling for flexible plastics, we now include additional on-pack guidance for Irish consumers on all our products. This points them to www.mywaste.ie and clearly states that these materials should be recycled at home. This is used alongside the On-Pack Recycling Label (OPRL) in the UK.

Nomad Foods

Nomad Foods

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2022 following REPAK's advertising campaign to raise awareness of the inclusion of flexible plastic with domestic household recycling collections, as a business we have updated messaging on all Goodfella's branded consumer packaging to include specific recycling information for the Irish market. Instead of only carrying UK only OPRL based 'Don't recycle at home' instructions for plastic packaging (see below), instructions are now relevant for IE market.

As a business we also continue to run 'learning vitamins' on what can and can't be recycled at home with consumers. This is to improve the education of colleagues on what they can also do at home.

PLANS FOR 2024

Education of colleagues will continue through 2024 as part of townhall meetings.

NPP Packaging Systems Ltd.



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Currently 93% of the products we supply to our customers are recyclable. We are actively recycling as much waste as possible from the business including corrugate, wooden pallets, plastic waste etc. All waste is segregated and on average 0.5 tonne of plastic is collected per week for recycling.

PLANS FOR 2024

Our focus for the next 12 months is to continue to educate the NPP team and our customers on recycling and identify areas for improvement.

Oliver Carty



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Our business segregates dry and wet plastic waste. We have placed signage on the floor for different types of waste and have a cleaner team based on the floor to manage and segregate the waste before it goes to the waste compactors.

Total tonnage of plastic packaging waste avoided in 2024 was 17.4 tonnes and, 31 tonnes of cardboard.

PLANS FOR 2024

All new products for 2023 use current packaging to avoid introducing any new plastic requirements. It means if we have one type of bag, we use the same bag across multiple products.

Reduce purchasing requirement, meaning less deliveries to the factory, resulting in reduced cardboard, and shrink-wrap which used for palletising deliveries. This will also reduce deliveries, meaning a reduction of the trucks on the road.

Tesco Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

- Sleeves to Labels: Tesco moved from using sleeves to using labels on its range of Finest Steaks which effectively resulted in a removal of 1.6 tonnes of paper on annual basis.
- Tethered caps: Tesco worked with one of its major packaged water suppliers to adopt the concept of tethered caps, that will cause the caps of bottles to remain attached with the bottles, thus facilitating the recyclability of the bottle caps.
- Tesco Ireland has invested over €15 million in the installation of reverse vending machines, for each of its 170 stores nationwide, as part of its commitment to the national Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). This will include charging a small refundable deposit on plastic bottles, aluminium, or steel cans, which customers can then claim back by returning the empty container.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, we plan to continue our Red, Amber & Green list of preferred materials and work in conjunction with our suppliers to continue removing packaging or making it more easily recyclable, helping to close the loop.

Our packaging plans continue to be based on the 4R approach:

- Reduce
- Remove
- Recycle
- Reuse

This approach will allow us to deliver and communicate a clear message to our customers on the great work we have achieved. This will be done by applying a 'R' logo to our packaging.

The 4R strategy is based on the following:

- Remove all non- recyclable and hard to recycle materials.
- Reduce packaging where we can.
- Look for opportunities to reuse packaging.
- Ensuring all packaging is recyclable.

The Culinary Food Group



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Our recycling rate increased to 56%.

We have increased the quantity of recyclables in one of our plants and successfully signed off on the blue chicken liners to be recycled.

The ongoing level of general waste in this plant had triggered the team to review options for improvement in this area. The blue liners in the chicken delivery boxes from our suppliers were risk assessed to investigate the possibility of them becoming recyclable.

There are 60 tonnes of chicken carcass delivered for 50 weeks of the year into the plant, 172 boxes a week on average. These blue liners weigh approximately 0.7kg so

we have converted an average of 0.12 tonne a week from general waste to recyclable waste over 50 weeks saving 6 tonnes of plastic going to general waste and is being recycled instead.

Recyclable Packaging: We have an ongoing product packaging project with a target aiming convert 50% of our product packaging to recyclable film by 2025. This project is going well and taking traction gradually.

Recycling Campaign: In quarter 1 2023, we will run a Recycling Campaign to further drive awareness. As part of this campaign, we will take our colleagues to visit a MRF plant to understand the segregation process of recycling to further drive segregation awareness on site.

Environmental Awareness Day: An onsite Environmental Awareness Day was carried out whereby all staff can bring in recycling material to dispose of for free which is then either recycled or donated to local charities. This also involves guest speakers/representatives from our local Recycling plant, Repak and Kildare County Council to further awareness on recycling.

Recycling Plant visit: We took a trip to the recycling and general waste plants we sent out material to, this raised awareness about the segregation of materials onsite.

Segregation Systems: Segregation systems were further implemented on site with signage and awareness specific to the area and facility.

Recycling Audits: Monthly Audits were carried out by the Environmental Department to further drive recycling awareness and targets are reviewed regularly to assess further opportunities.

PLANS FOR 2024

Recyclable Packaging: We are continuing to convert all our products to recyclable material. We are currently conducting customer trials for conversion of some of our larger volume products that will have a huge increase on recyclable material moving forward.

Packaging Campaign: In Half 1 2024, we will run a Recycling Campaign to further drive awareness. As part of this campaign, we plan to investigate the potential recyclable opportunities on the production floors with regards to packaging coming in and out of the plants.

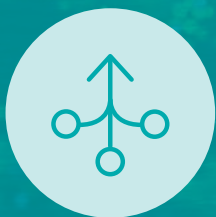
Skip Pack Compactor: We plan to increase from a 5 tonne compactor to a 10 tonne compactor to allow for further recycling in 2024.

Packaging Policy: We plan to implement a packaging policy in 2024 which will outline the standard we have set for supplier material coming to our site.

Environmental Awareness Day: We plan to hold an Environmental Awareness Day and collection in 2024 where recycling will be a key topic.

OBJECTIVE 03: TO SIMPLIFY

Reduce complexity within the plastic packaging supply chain by **simplifying polymer usage** and **eliminating non-recyclable components** in all plastic packaging **by 2030**.



Aldi



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

ALDI works with its suppliers to introduce new, innovative, sustainable packaging solutions. This has enabled ALDI to replace or remove over 3,500 tonnes of non-recyclable packaging materials since 2020.

Several initiatives took place in 2023 moving packaging from non-recyclable to recyclable plastic, such as:

- ALDI was the first major Irish retailer to move to clear caps on our milk range, allowing for 70 tonnes of plastic being turned back into food-grade packaging.
- Water has also begun the switch to clear caps which will result in a further 200 tonnes of plastic being turned back into food-grade packaging.
- First major retailer to introduce a fully recyclable handwash pump, saving 30 tonnes of packaging per year.
- Moved the lid on our Soft Cheese from PP to rPET, saving 6 tonnes of plastic.
- Changed the outer bag on our Easy Singles from LPDE to Virgin Board, saving 5 tonnes of plastic.
- ALDI has started removing all string and rubber across our fresh meat, produce and flowers.

99.20% of ALDI's packaging is recyclable.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, ALDI will work towards its plastic and packaging target of maintaining the position of zero tolerance of problematic plastics and to continue working towards 100% recyclable, reusable or home compostable packaging by 2025.

We will continue to work with our suppliers to get our packaging as optimised as possible.

- ALDI will continue to explore non-recyclable string removal on our entire range.
- ALDI plans to remove tape from our nappy sacks saving just under 1 tonne of plastic per year.
- ALDI's own brand Irish Easter Egg will move to 100% plastic free.
- Plastic tray removal across our biscuit range.

Aurivo



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Transparent Cap Project (Consumer Foods site): Coloured caps hamper the recycling process as some pigments can contaminate recycled plastic and certain colours also interfere with the sorting process. Minimising colour also helps to reduce the level of tint that is transferred into the natural colour stream when caps are recycled with the bottles thus increasing the circularity of the material.

Annually we use close to 65 million tetra caps, from November 2023 we started the process to migrate towards using transparent caps on all our cartons

Ballymaguire Foods



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

This year, we transitioned one of our product packaging films from laminate to mono film.

Barry Packaging



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

We have implemented a plastic recycling project to recycle Pallet wrap, Plastic sheeting, Shrinkwrap.

Approximately 10% of difficult to recycle plastics and composites removed from the business.

Bewley's



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023 Bewleys have worked to convert as much non-recyclable foil coffee packaging to a mono PE film. This material is widely recyclable.

We have also explored the idea of removing BOPP outer wrap on all individual retail tea products. Unfortunately, this has been deemed un-feasible currently as it requires a significant investment in machinery (approx. 500k)

81% of the material purchased for Bewleys Foodservice bean products was PE film in 2023.

74% of the material purchased for Bewleys Foodservice ground products was PE film in 2023.

24% of the material purchased for the Bewleys Caffè La Scala bean products was PE film in 2023.

PLANS FOR 2024

100% of all material being purchased for the three lines above will be recyclable in 2024.

Plastic APET valves are currently being used on most coffee bags. In 2024 Bewleys are planning to trial recyclable PP or PE valves.

Blenders



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

During 2023, Blenders completed the following:

Trial on a lighter jerrican (still in progress but looks promising) and a trial on a recyclable sachet material, which unfortunately was unsuccessful.

PLANS FOR 2024

Continue working on the use of a lighter jerrican.

Britvic



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Britvic has a long-standing commitment to eliminate non-recyclable components and all our consumer-facing packaging is recyclable.

We have eliminated colour PET from the bottles of our brands except one ongoing, this has been a phased approach in recent years. The latest changes have come to the 7up and Fruit Shoot brands.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024 we will be transitioning some of our portfolio from paper to PET wrap-around labels, this will further improve recyclability of our PET bottles.

Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

We have interrogated all aspects of our supply chain to ensure that our packaging is as sustainable as possible. All our primary packaging, bottles, and cans are 100% recyclable, and we are committed to maintaining this.

In 2022, we began the roll-out of R100 100% recycled plastic film for our multipack bottles across our Deep RiverRock portfolio.

We continue to access our wider use of 'single use' plastic shrink for tertiary packaging, actively seeking solutions to reduce and/or eliminate the non-recyclable plastic within our supply chain.

PLANS FOR 2024

As referenced previously we will be further reducing the weight of our plastic pallet wrap in 2024.

Dawn Farm Foods



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Print on Pack

Label elimination by printing labels directly onto packages known as our "print on pack project". To date this has achieved a 34-tonnes reduction in paper and cardboard and 20 tonnes reduction in non-recyclable backing paper.

Blue Flexi Web Packaging

Converted from clear semi rigid packaging to blue flexi packaging. This new pack uses 50% less paper per pack, resulting in 45 tonnes less plastic per year.

Southwest Packaging

Changeover to clear plastic bags allowed for plastic packaging reduction of 7 tonnes per annum.

144 tonnes of difficult to recycle plastics and composites removed from the business.

PLANS FOR 2024

End of Use Recyclable Tops

Divert approximately 93 tonnes of plastic into the recycling stream by switching thermoformed lines to end of use recyclable top and base web by 2026.

Packaging used on all thermoformed lines (Slicing Lines Plant 1 & Plant 2) is currently not suitable for end of use recycling, so we are looking to change these top & base webs to recyclable material. This will involve process testing and shelf-life testing to ensure the food safety of our products. This is planned to begin in 2023 and will likely run into 2024.

Thermoformed lines (Slicing Lines Plant 1 & Plant 2) – Process Testing

Thermoformed lines (Slicing Lines Plant 1 & Plant 2) – Shelf-Life Testing

Thermoformed lines (Slicing Lines Plant 1 & Plant 2) – Customer Acceptance.

Thermoformed lines (Slicing Lines Plant 1 & Plant 2) – Finalise switch to end of use recyclable top & base web.

Plastic Sample Packaging

Replace non-recyclable plastic sample packaging used for customers with recyclable sample bags, tape, boxes, and insulation packaging. The replacement of all customer bubble wrap and non-recyclable pouches. To be rolled out by the end of 2024.

Irish Distillers



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

- We moved some of our label backing plastic from 100% virgin PET to 30% rPET, resulting in a 2.68 Tonnes reduction in our use of virgin plastic annually.
- We have been working with a company that take our PET23 label back plastic and process it into a viable alternative material to virgin PET that can be used to produce polyester fibre. In 2023 we sent them 12.16 Tonnes of PET23.

We have reviewed all our packaging and established that 98% of the total volume of products we supply are fully recyclable.

PLANS FOR 2024

- In 2023 we will continue to increase the quantity of PET23 label back plastic that is processed into a viable alternative material to virgin PET and used to produce polyester fibre.

More of our label materials are becoming available on label backing plastic that contains rPET. In the coming months we will move additional labels onto label backing plastic that has 30% rPET content and this will reduce our use of virgin plastic by an additional 28.72 Tonnes annually.

Lidl



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Lidl Ireland Commitment: By 2025, 100% of our own-brand packaging will be reusable, designed for maximum recyclability or made from renewable resources.

Mushroom Packaging Optimisation: The replacement of PVC stretch-wrap with OPP flow-wrap on all fresh mushrooms in 2023 will lead to a removal of more than 20 tonnes of unrecyclable PVC every year. *Flow-wrapping applies less pressure on the punnets than stretch-wrapping. Less sturdy punnets are therefore needed for protection, which allows for a reduction in plastic weight.*

The secondary cardboard tray carries the load in transport so there is no stability needed to protect the mushrooms in transport. The reductions in punnet weights will commence over the coming months. There is no influence on shelf-life because the flow wrap is perforated, allowing excess water to evaporate while not letting the mushrooms dry out. This was previously achieved by utilising the breathability of PVC.

Material Simplifications: Throughout 2023, the ongoing work was continued across Lidl's product ranges to replace mixed materials (e.g., PET/PE mixes) with easier to recycle mono materials focusing on projects across our fresh as well as sliced cooked meat and poultry ranges.

Black Plastic Removal: In line with our international strategy, in 2021 we successfully removed all black single use plastic packaging from our listed assortment which amounted to 500 tonnes of black plastic.

Since then, we continue to implement our “clear first” policy, where we prefer the use of clear and lightly coloured plastic to increase the usability as a raw material and allow for a high value material when recycling.

Packaging Material Preferences: We have developed a concise overview of our material preferences to give our existing and potential suppliers a quick and easy way to identify preferred packaging materials, accepted and not accepted now and in the future. This information is provided to every supplier at the tendering stage to inform them of our expectations, requirements, and projects to meet our packaging targets.

PLANS FOR 2024

New Focus: Our new and improved packaging database informs us about which products in our range contain the highest tonnes of mixed and undesired plastics and allows us to focus specifically on finding solutions for those ranges. We continue to look at innovations in the market and work with our product and packaging suppliers delivering to them.

Optimisations: We have already aligned several packaging optimisations and trials focussed on recyclability that are to go live in 2024.

MONO PE, PP and PET are our preferred materials when a plastic inclusion is necessary to fulfil packaging functions because of their existing international recycling streams – we will continue to switch all our packaging to mono PE, PP and PET where feasible – moving away from difficult to recycle plastics and composites.

Waste Sorting Facilities: We will continue to expand our work with waste sorting facilities and recycling companies both in and outside of Ireland to ensure maximum recyclability of our packaging range. Multiple visits and regular meetings are being planned.

Liffey Meats



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Introduction of the new lightweight plastic trays in 2024.

The light weighting of plastic trays brought many benefits when introduced in 2024.

As manufacturers continue to innovate and optimise packaging designs, the adoption of lightweight plastic trays is something that would be expected to become increasingly prevalent driving positive change across the country.

8-10% of plastics within the organisation are deemed difficult to recycle. The factors that make recycling difficult comes down to the likes of mixed material, food residue and ink and labels.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024 we hope to reduce our plastic usage by reducing the size of the trays used. Reducing plastic packaging usage by 40% by reducing the plastic tray sizes from D13 to D2 is a commendable objective with clear environmental benefits. To achieve this goal affectively in 2024 we must consider the following points.

- **Supplier Consultation:** Engage with suppliers to explore options for sourcing D2 trays or modifying existing trays to meet the requirements.
- **Training & Awareness:** Comprehensive training should be provided to all employees involved in the packaging process to ensure a smooth transition to the new trays.
- **Evaluation & Monitoring:** Establish key performance indicators (KPI's) to monitor progress towards the 40% reduction target.

Nestle Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023 Nestlé Professional transitioned MAGGI Professional Tubs from yellow with red lid to white with white lid. All the components of this new packaging – container, lid, and label – are now built from PP. This means the whole packaging is fully recyclable, and shifting to white packaging means the packs are more easily recycled.

Nestlé Confectionery initiated a transition from complex laminate to mono PP for all pouches. As part of our commitment to ensure packaging is as close to 100% designed for recycling by 2025*, we have actively removed metallised material from our portfolio when used for non-functional purposes. Metallised films have a higher CO₂e impact and are not optimised for recycling, by removing this we are positively driving circularity of our packaging.

**While working towards 100% recyclable or reusable*

Nestlé Coffee began transitioning frothy coffee sachets to mono-material, completing the switchover of 17% of production in 2023.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, Nestlé Confectionery will continue shifting Confectionery pouches from complex laminate to mono PP, and transition shrink collars on Quality Street tubs from PET to PE.

Nestlé Coffee will continue the transition of frothy coffee sachets to mono-material packaging.

Nomad Foods

Nomad Foods

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

As a business any packaging materials for new product development must be in line with recyclability criteria or guidelines for specific markets and meet Nomad CSR objectives. New packaging for projects cannot be

progressed if not recyclable. Existing packaging portfolios are being reviewed to increase recyclability.

Our focus is on removing multilayer laminates from our plastic range. This year we have seen increased sales of non-recyclable products leading to a decrease in our recyclability. The *% is based on annual Sales volumes and doesn't account for Secondary/Tertiary packaging.

2022 – 96.5% of difficult to recycle plastics and composites removed from the business.

2023 – 96.1% of difficult to recycle plastics and composites removed from the business.

PLANS FOR 2024

We are working towards 100% of packaging being recyclable. This is currently on track. Key focus areas are our cook in pack products (Steamfresh) and Bagged Poultry. We are still trialling to deliver recyclable films across these final areas.

NPP Packaging Systems Ltd.



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

NPP works closely with our suppliers and customers to identify and introduce packaging solutions to improve sustainability in the Irish market. In 2023, we replaced 8 tonnes of non-recyclable vacuum bags and 2 tonnes of lidding film with recyclable options.

PLANS FOR 2024

We continue to review any non-recyclable materials and will replace with recyclable options where possible.

Oliver Carty



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023 we were able to change 90% from PVC to mono aPET, but there is still 10 % left which more likely will be completely gone by the end of 2024.

We changed suppliers for our plastic requirements. For example:

Mono aPET base web was bought in from an Irish Supplier every 4 weeks, currently we are buying from overseas every 12 weeks. It means that based only on this introduction we reduced deliveries for this material from 13 trucks down to 4 per annum which is a massive reduction on transport and plastic waste (shrink wrap) required for shipping.

We maximised the plastic build on the pallets, previously 24 reels per pallet, now using 36. That means less cardboard required for packaging protection, less shrink wrap, and less pallets.

We removed 90% of PVC/PE which would be equivalent to 3.5 Tonnes non-recyclable plastic.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024 we will try to move away from PVC/PE materials and change them over to clear mono aPET.

Currently using two different thickness of Mono Apet base web, 300- and 400-micron. In 2024 we are planning to stop using the 400-micron base web, which will mean a reduction of a further 6 tonnes of plastic.

Tesco Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

- Tesco introduced pad-less trays on its range of diced lamb, diced pork, lamb chops, pork chops, lamb and pork mince, lamb escalope.
- Tethered caps: Tesco worked with one of its major packaged water suppliers to adopt the concept of Tethered caps, that will cause the caps of bottles to remain attached with the bottles, thus facilitating the recyclability of the bottle caps.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, Tethered caps will be rolled out for all the products in scope for example juices, milk, and beverages.

The Culinary Food Group



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

We have integrated a new bucket washing system in 2 of our plants which has increased our plastic recycling immensely. Prior to this system being implemented all the buckets that the ingredients were delivered in would have gone to general waste as they were largely soiled with food. The bucket wash system enables us to wash these properly and redirect them to the recyclable waste stream instead.

Previously, several of our finished products would have been distributed in 10kg buckets with lids – we have now converted these to IBC's instead reducing the amount of plastic we put on the market dramatically.

Historically, we would have been transporting all our product samples in non-recyclable polystyrene boxes. In 2023, we converted all these boxes to a fully recyclable cardboard box option, removing the polystyrene option from our process completely. On average we could use 25 large boxes and 25 small boxes for samples weekly, so this has removed a significant amount of polystyrene from our process.

PLANS FOR 2024

Print on Pack

We are currently in the process of launching a project where we will be printing using inkjet labelling on the packaging now rather than having separate adhesive product labels.

OBJECTIVE 04: TO INCREASE

Help to build a circular economy for used plastic packaging in Ireland and Europe by **increasing the use of plastic packaging with recycled content**.



Aldi



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

ALDI's Buying Teams are actively collaborating with suppliers to enhance the recycled content in our plastic range, striving to achieve our goal of having 30% of own-label plastic packaging made from recycled materials by 2025.

Several initiatives took place in 2023 to incorporate recycled content into plastics, some examples are:

- Added 100% recycled content added to our kid's water bottles and 30% added to the remaining range saving a combined total of 143 tonnes of virgin plastic per year.
- 50% recycled content has been added to our bleach bottles, saving 80 tonnes of virgin plastic per year.
- Added 60% recycled content to our Jelly Pots, saving over 2 tonnes of virgin plastic per year.
- Moved the PP lid on our soft cheese to 85% rPET saving 17 tonnes of virgin plastic per year.
- 50% recycled content has been added to our laundry liquid saving 35 tonnes of virgin plastic per year.
- Produce punnets have added 30% recycled content saving 60 tonnes of virgin plastic per year.

19.67% recycled content currently within our plastic packaging.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, ALDI will work towards its plastic and packaging target of 30% of own label plastic packaging to be made of recycled content.

- ALDI is preparing to add additional recycled content to our water and chilled juice ranges.
- Recycled content will be added to our oils and dressings.
- Our Suncreams will move from 30% to 50% recycled content.
- Mouthwash will move from 30% to 50% recycled content.
- Handwash pumps will also move from 30% to 50% recycled content.

Aurivo



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

As a result of a successful bag trial that was carried out at our animal feeds mill, all new plastic animal feed bags that are purchased from June 2023 will contain 30% recycled plastic. Based on 2022 figures this will mean that in the region of 1.7 million bags that we purchase on an annual basis will be made with recycled content.

Total annual plastic reduction ≈46 Tonnes.

Ballymaguire Foods



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

All our PET trays now contain a minimum of 65% recycled content, with at least 58% sourced from post-consumer recycled material. This year, we saw an increase in the average post-consumer waste content in plastic trays, rising from 59% to 61%.

61.4% P.C.W. – Average recycled content.

Barry Packaging



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Increased use of post-consumer recycled material.

PLANS FOR 2024

Increase plastic recycling through the business and eliminate SUP where possible.

Bewley's



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Bewleys are currently using a mono PE bag for our retail and foodservice coffee products. In August 2023 we trialed a PP ground coffee bag which contained 49% PCR. We are currently conducting a shelf-life trial on this material.

One production trial of PP material with 49% PCR completed in 2023.

PLANS FOR 2024

Further production trials are planned for 2024 on bean coffee products, and ongoing shelf-life analysis.

Blenders



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Use of discontinued plastic packaging for work-in-progress materials.

Ongoing conversations with suppliers on how to safely increase the level of recycled content. Food safety needs to be safeguarded.

PLANS FOR 2024

Continued use of discontinued plastic packaging for work-in-progress materials.

Ongoing conversations with suppliers on how to safely increase the level of recycled content or reduce weights. Food safety needs to be safeguarded.

Britvic



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Using recycled PET in our bottles: The Ballygowan brand is in 100% rPET and we are rolling out increased use of recycled PET across our wider portfolio including Lipton, Robinsons, Fruitshoot and Ballygowan Hint of Fruit.

Using recycled flexible plastics: 50% Recycled Shrink has been a big step in increasing recycled content in our secondary packaging.

Supporting a Well-Designed DRS: Britvic has been an active supporter of the DRS launch. Our MD sits on the Re-Turn board and our Head of Planet Orlagh Geraghty heads up the IBEC DRS Taskforce

We have achieved an average recycled content across the portfolio of 35.6% in mid-2023

PLANS FOR 2024

We plan to move the Ballygowan Hint of Fruit sub-brand from 30% rPET to 100% rPET in 2024.

Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

At the heart of our sustainability strategy are two key commitments. *World Without Waste*, which is our commitment to ensuring of bottles are used, recovered, recycled, and reused, again and again and our goal of Net Zero by 2040 delivered via our carbon targets that are aligned with a 1.5-degree pathway and guided by our approved Science Based Targets.

Lowering the carbon impact of the business is our top priority and alongside announcing our NetZeroBy40 we also signed Business in the Community's Climate Action Pledge.

With a holistic approach to sustainability, we understand the interconnected challenges of packaging waste and climate change. Approximately 56% of our overall carbon footprint attributed to packaging, so evolving our packaging approach is key to achieving both our World Without Waste and our Net Zero by 2040 goals.

One of the most significant ways we can reduce the carbon footprint of our packaging is by replacing virgin material (PET) with recycled content, and in October 2023, we announced that all plastic bottles across our soft drinks portfolio in Ireland and Northern Ireland are now made with 100% recycled plastic (rPET).

By converting all plastic packs to 100% recycled PET packaging, we are reducing the amount of virgin fossil-based plastic used in our PET bottles by 7,100 tonnes per year, which in turn saves over 10,750 tonnes of CO₂ annually (Bottles made from recycled PET have an ~80% lower carbon footprint than virgin PET resin).

Recycled PET is also which is significantly more expensive than commonly used virgin PET, and although the price differential is decreasing, the price of recycled PET remains on average 40% higher than virgin PET. This is driven by the demand for recycled PET for food-grade applications, which currently exceeds supply. So, alongside our focus on designing more sustainable packaging solutions, we also have ambitions to recover and recycle every single can and bottle placed on the market by 2030, helping build sustainable pipeline of high-quality material.

To support his ambition, over the last 3-years, we have been working with local government, NGO and the wider

beverage and retail sector to boost PET recycling and collection via the collection system available in the given area; for example, in the newly launched Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in Ireland, or Wheelie Box Schemes in Northern Ireland.

Our overarching ambition is to drive a more circular, lower carbon packaging approach. We have already increased recycled content in our packaging and will continue to improve the collection of packaging for recycling.

The introduction of rPET happened in late September. This move saw the total recycled content rise to 67% by year end. This will rise to 99% in 2024.

Average Recycled Content 67%.

PLANS FOR 2024

In early 2024, we fully introduced **tethered closures** on all beverage containers of up to three litres. This is in line with the EU SUP Directive's tethered closures rule to have lids that 'remain attached' to the container during its lifetime, to reduce the caps ending up in the environment as litter and increase their recycling. While tethered caps will, in the short term, increase the weight of plastic, it will significantly increase the simplicity of recycling.

We will also increase the recycling ability of our sports bottles by introducing flip top closures.

In addition to this, in 2024, we will introduce 100% rPET in Schweppes one litre and BPM ranges.

Dawn Farm Foods



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Supplier Materials: Engage with suppliers to convert non-recyclables to recyclable material.

Machine Stretch Wrap: Diverted the machine stretch wrap to 30% recycled content reducing 2 tonnes of plastic per annum and the use of 10 tonnes of 30% recycled content plastic per annum.

10 tonnes of 30% recycled content in the business.

PLANS FOR 2024

Identify further opportunities to introduce recycled content plastic into the business.

Irish Distillers



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

→ We have moved some of our label backing plastic from 100% virgin PET to 30% recycled content, resulting in a 2.68 Tonne reduction in our use of virgin plastic annually.

We have been working with a company that take our PET23 label back plastic and process it into a viable alternative material to virgin PET that can be used to produce polyester fibre. In 2023 we sent them 12.16 Tonnes of PET23.

Average Recycled Content) 30%.

PLANS FOR 2024

- More of our label materials are becoming available on label backing plastic that contains rPET. In the coming months we will move additional labels onto label backing plastic that has 30% rPET content and this will reduce our use of virgin plastic by an additional 28.72 Tonnes annually.
- In 2024 we will continue to increase the quantity of PET23 label back plastic that is processed into a viable alternative material to virgin PET and used to produce polyester fibre.

We are in the process of reviewing all remaining plastic packaging and the available options to introduce recycled content where possible.

Jacobs Douwe Egberts



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

JDE Peet's has significantly increased the use of recycled content in plastic packaging. We have been able to do this across our instants range as we work towards our target of 35% recycled content by 2030.

2022 – 0.65 tonnes. 2023 – 2.49 tonnes. 283% increase in recycled content.

PLANS FOR 2024

JDE Peet's will continue to increase its use of recycled content year on year in order to reach our target of 35% recycled content usage by 2030.

Lidl



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Lidl Ireland commitment: We have pledged that by 2025, 50% of the materials used in our own-brand packaging will be made using recycled materials.

Prevented Ocean Plastic (POP): Lidl were the first retailer in Ireland to include Prevented Ocean Plastic (POP) into its own brand range. In 2021, we moved over the PET bases of 5 lines of our fresh seafood products to contain 30% POP. This equates to almost 19 tonnes of plastic being prevented from entering the oceans annually – the equivalent of approximately 750,000 plastic bottles.

In 2022, we updated the punnets for our Irish seasonal strawberries to have ridges instead of gluing in an LDPE bubble pad. That eases recycling because the punnet is made from mono PET without added components other than the lidding film. The innovative design not only provides protection but also allows for drainage of water, reducing the risk of spoilage.

At the same time, we added 30% Prevented Ocean Plastic to the punnets, removing an expected 9.3 tonnes or the equivalent of 370,000 empty plastic bottles from entering the ocean during the Irish strawberry season in 2023.

In addition, in 2023 we introduced 30% POP into our San Celestino water bottles. We expect an additional 26.4 tonnes from the equivalent of more than 1 million empty plastic bottles prevented from entering the ocean.

The new strawberry initiative and the POP introduced into Lidl's fish packaging, together with the instruction into our San Celestino water bottles will result in an expected 2 million bottles to be prevented from entering the ocean in 2024.

30% of Prevented Ocean Plastic in above project.

PLANS FOR 2024

New focus: Our new and improved packaging database helps us to pinpoint the highest impact product ranges using materials that allow the use of recycled content. We continue to look out for innovations in the market and work with our product suppliers and packaging suppliers delivering to them. Lidl already uses a high percentage of recycled plastic where it is safe to do so (mainly PET packaging for foodstuff and multiple plastics for non-food-contact materials). We are constantly considering opportunities to extend the use of recycled content across our range.

Optimisations: We have already aligned several packaging optimisations and trials focussed on recyclability that are to go live in 2024.

Legislation Recycled plastic in food contact: The new EU regulation for recycled plastic in food contact from September 2022 affects the way we look at recycled plastic. It places more emphasis on ensuring food safety and therefore can restrict the use of recycled content. This will open the possibility of new recycling processes for food contact materials that Lidl will explore with our suppliers.

Liffey Meats



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023 Liffey Meats launched the 4 R's principle throughout the organisation.

Remove it where possible:

The first step involves identifying and eliminating unnecessary or excessive plastic usage where possible. This could entail replacing single use plastics with more sustainable alternatives, such as biodegradable or compostable materials or finding innovative ways to package products without relying on plastic altogether.

Reduce where we can't remove:

In cases where complete removal of plastics is not feasible, the focus shifts to reducing the amount of plastic used. This may involve redesigning packaging to be more minimalist or lightweight, optimising product packaging sizes to reduce material consumption, or streamlining production processes to minimise waste.

Reuse More:

The reuse component encourages finding opportunities to extend the lifespan of plastic materials by implementing reuse strategies. This could involve implementing refillable or returnable packaging systems, encouraging customers to return packaging for reuse.

Recycle what's left:

Finally, any remaining plastic waste is directed towards recycling efforts. This involves ensuring that all recyclable plastics are properly sorted, collected, and processed to maximise recovery and minimise environmental impact.

In 2023 we used 45% plastic packaging made from recycled material.

PLANS FOR 2024

The plan in 2024 is to use 75% plastic manufactured from recycled material.

- Setting a target of 75% means that Liffey Meats plans to significantly increase the proportion of recycled plastic packaging for their products in comparison to previous years. This demonstrates a proactive approach to reducing reliance on virgin plastics and promoting the use of recycled plastic packaging.
- Meeting the 75% recycled material may require innovation in product design, manufacturing processes and packaging solutions. It may also be necessary investment in recycling infrastructure and technologies to support and technologies to support increased use of recycled material.
- Liffey Meats will likely need to establish metrics and tracking mechanisms to monitor progress towards the 75% target. Regular evaluation of performance and adjustment of strategies may be necessary to overcome challenges and ensure the goal is met successfully.

Nestle Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023 Nestlé Confectionery continued its rollout of rPP wrappers across the KitKat 2-finger range. Purchased by more than 6 in 10 households in the UK, KitKat used the highest proportion of recycled food-grade plastic of any major UK & Ireland confectionery brand (at 80%).

Nestlé Coffee introduced pallet stretch film wrap with 30% recycled content across all European Coffee sites which saw a 155 Tonnes reduction in virgin plastic usage. The rollout of rPP (sourced through mass balance) across the Nescafé Dolce Gusto portioned coffee business saw 4% recycled content usage across European NDG pods.

PLANS FOR 2024

Nestlé Confectionery will continue its rollout of rPP across the KitKat range.

Nomad Foods

Nomad Foods

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

Priority area is recyclability. No additional plastic materials have recycled content, all rigid plastic already have a high level of recycled content.

PLANS FOR 2024

Trial on chemically recycled content on some products across the group in food contact are planned for this year. No more details can be shared as this is commercially sensitive. We are however working on non-food contact materials with recycled content that we are trialling over 2023.

Projects are underway on both bale and pallet wrap to include minimum 30% post-consumer recycled content for various production sites.

NPP Packaging Systems Ltd.



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

In 2023 we continued to work with our customers to include recycled content in their packaging.

- 50% recycled content was added to 286 tonnes of shrink film.
- 30% recycled content was added to 132 tonne of pallet wrap.
- 30% recycled content was added to 200 tonnes of bags.
- 30% recycled content was added to 148 tonne of pallet hoods.

PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024 we will continue to work with our customers to introduce recycled content where possible.

Tesco Ireland



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

We continue to prioritise environmental impact as a central aspect in our ever-changing innovation pipeline. Our preferred materials list already includes materials that are easily recycled and can be made from recycled content, including PET plastics, PP plastics for non-food applications, metal, glass and sustainably sourced board and paper.

PLANS FOR 2024

Plans are in place for one of Tesco's major suppliers of packaged drinking water to shift towards recycled polyethylene terephthalate (rPET) from the currently used virgin plastic. The step is expected to be realised in 2024.

The Culinary Food Group



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023

We have successfully converted all our pallet wrap to material made from 30% recycled content – we use approximately 11,000 rolls of pallet wrap annually.

PLANS FOR 2024

We are currently taking part in a project with students from UCC on sustainable packaging. They are investigating various packaging options that may be available to us suitable to our specific products. We hope to use these findings to make positive steps in moving away from non-sustainable packaging options in the future.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

Conclusions

These Member submissions provide us with valuable data and insights into how industry is using plastic as a packaging material and the ongoing progress businesses are making to ensure responsible use of plastic. They also offer insight into the waste recovery and recycling industry and how it is responding to the challenges of recycling the plastic packaging materials on the market. In addition, these submissions highlight any noteworthy innovation in packaging design.

While the stories shared with us are positive and inspiring, it's clear from the numbers involved that we are only seeing a small portion of the work being done. More submissions and their associated data are required to ensure that Repak Members Plastic Pledge becomes a reliable and consistent source of best practice and innovation that can be shared, studied, implemented and improved with the goal of driving plastic packaging use towards Circular Economy goals.

Next Steps

Repak will continue to work on developing the Plastic Pledge platform so that it is designed for ease of access for our Members and their success stories. Initiatives such as Prevent & Save visits to enhance packaging optimisation and continued updates of the Packaging Design Guide to align with legislation and best practice in packaging design for recycling, will serve to support Members to create, manage and review their packaging policies and strategies. We will also work closely with our Recycling and Recovery Team to create a clear pathway from packaging development through to the recovery operators and the recycling streams.

As we enter an era of extensive new and upcoming legislation, such as the Single Use Plastics Directive and the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, it's essential that Plastic Pledge evolves to encapsulate the principals and activities that will allow industry and economy to transition to the challenging new framework that legislation and Circular Economy requires.

REPAK

Business *funding* recycling

COMMIT TO THE PLEDGE AND TOGETHER WE CAN BE THE CHANGEMAKERS.

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