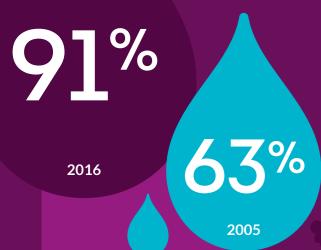
A BETTER RETAILING CLIMATE PROGRESS REPORT 2015



SINCE 2005 RETAILERS HAVE...

> **INCREASED THE MEASUREMENT** OF WATER USE BY 28% FROM 2005 TO 2016



THE AMOUNT

RELATIVE TO GROWTH

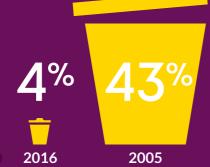
OF WASTE BY 26%

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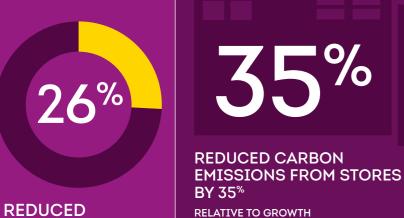
WATER USED IN STORES BY 23%

RELATIVE TO GROWTH

REDUCED ENERGY-RELATED **CARBON EMISSIONS FROM** STORE DELIVERIES BY 40% **RELATIVE TO GROWTH**



REDUCED THE PROPORTION OF WASTE SENT TO LANDFILL BY 39% FROM 2005 TO 2016





REDUCED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM REFRIGERATION BY 50%

RELATIVE TO GROWTH

REDUCED **ABSOLUTE CARBON EMISSIONS FROM** STORES AND TRANSPORT BY 19%

INTRODUCTION

2015 was a pivotal year for discussions on sustainability and environmental issues, with the unprecedented COP 21 climate change agreement in Paris, the announcement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations, and the publication of a revised circular economy package by the European Commission. These global developments will give retailers the confidence and certainty to continue innovating and lead the way in environmental sustainability, while consistently meeting the evolving demands of their customers who sit at the heart of retail businesses.

UK retailers operate within a regulatory framework: 2015 saw government consultation on proposals to reform the business energy efficiency tax landscape and associated regulations, EU proposals to rescale the EU A-G energy efficiency label for appliances, and EU proposals on waste targets and producer responsibility.

There was a huge slump in oil prices in 2015, from \$115 per barrel in Summer 2014 to less than \$40 per barrel by the end of 2015. While this has resulted in lower energy costs, it has also posed economic challenges for plastics recycling with virgin polymers becoming more cheaply available at the expense of recycled plastics.

We capture these developments and their impact on retail through the BRC's A Better Retailing Climate initiative, which highlights a clear and thorough commitment to reduce the environmental impact of the retail industry. Our current voluntary targets and commitments build on previous achievements, and confirm how retailers are meeting the challenges of sourcing in a global market, such as supporting suppliers to produce more responsibly, and coping with climate change.



Our members are exploring ways to reduce carbon, waste and water in the retail supply chain, considering the entire lifecycle of the products they sell.

This updated report marks the progress UK retailers have made in reducing their environmental impact over the past decade (since 2005/06) and looks ahead to 2020, when the current targets end. It also demonstrates how retail and retailers are evolving and leading the way in reducing their environmental impact against a backdrop of increasing resource scarcity, a growing national and global population, overseas sourcing, commodity price fluctuations, unpredictable weather conditions, changes in shopping habits and the continuing growth in digital retail.

The environmental sustainability landscape has changed immeasurably in the last ten years. While retailers have delivered significant environmental achievements within their own operations, the focus of retail environmental initiatives has broadened to address the fact that the environmental impacts that arise at retail are relatively minimal compared to those that arise from the production and consumption of products. Our members are exploring ways to reduce carbon, waste and water in the retail supply chain, considering the entire lifecycle of the products they sell and are investigating business models, which will enable them to move away from a largely linear economy towards a more circular economy.

Looking ahead to 2020, assuming that our voluntary targets and commitments are achieved, retail signatories to A Better Retailing Climate will have reduced absolute carbon emissions from retail operations by 25 per cent, putting it on a trajectory beyond the UK and EU carbon reduction targets. Retailers will be sending less than one per cent of their waste direct to landfill and will have reduced emissions from refrigeration gasses by 80 per cent relative to growth. In addition, retailers' individual targets and membership of other initiatives will have driven significant changes in how the products we buy are produced, sold and consumed.



A Better Retailing Climate A Better Retailing Climate 1



RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

Supporting a healthy environment in our supply chain is vital for a successful retail industry. Our members continue to work with suppliers and stakeholders to ensure the products we sell are sourced responsibly.

WHAT RETAILERS ARE DOING

Making improvements in supply chain traceability and transparency continues to be a key focus of many retailers. This involves working with suppliers at different parts of the supply chain. Here are some examples from 2015:

PALM OIL

Leading members sourcing palm oil aim to be using 100 per cent certified sustainable palm oil by the end of 2015.

Reports show that by the end of 2014, BRC members were sourcing 91 per cent sustainable palm oil, 87 per cent of which was physically certified sustainable palm oil.



FISHERIES

In partnership with the Environmental Justice Foundation and WWF we have produced an advisory note for the UK supply chain on how to avoid Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishery products. IUU fishing is one of the leading causes of depletion of fish stocks.

We followed this up with a roundtable discussion with Fisheries Minister George Eustice and stakeholders, which resulted in a series of recommendations for tackling IUU fishing.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals agreed at the end of 2015 to provide a focus for global efforts to improve our environment and society. Building effective partnerships between retailers and suppliers, governments and civil society will help to leverage improvements in some of the more challenging or complex supply chains across the world.

We will look to build upon our work on palm oil, fisheries and other raw materials to drive further improvements in the sourcing of products we sell.



Our members continue to work with suppliers and stakeholders to ensure the products we sell are sourced responsibly.

POLICY POSITIONS

We are leading the way by sourcing products more responsibly and working with other supply chain partners to support improvements in good practices. For key commodities and raw materials sourced globally, retailers are increasingly using multi-stakeholder initiatives, certification systems and other types of collaborative industry partnerships to help build security into supply chains and to incorporate social and environmental value into systems of production and trade.

We recognise that the key risks and impacts on biodiversity are in the supply chain. We understand the importance of valuing natural capital and will review appropriate commitments once there is more clarity on how to measure biodiversity. Our members have also set their own challenging targets and commitments on responsible and ethical sourcing, water stewardship, and biodiversity.

We are working with dedicated suppliers and supporting them across the supply chain, to reduce their environmental impact, both in the UK and overseas.

CARBON IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

The direct environmental impacts of retail are overshadowed by the carbon emissions relating to the products and services in the retail supply chain¹. By engaging with their supply chain and demanding higher environmental standards, retailers can change the behaviour of both direct and indirect suppliers, helping them to become more sustainable.

WHAT RETAILERS ARE DOING

UK retailers have implemented information exchange mechanisms with their suppliers in order to share best practice policy. These exchanges have enabled retailers to share knowledge, experience and tools on carbon reduction with suppliers and suppliers to share information with one another. Here are some examples from 2015:



A number of leading retailers have set targets for the **reduction of carbon emissions within their supply chains** and are working with their suppliers through workshops, internet forums and knowledge hubs to achieve them. **Clothing retailers are engaging in collaborative projects to reduce carbon emissions** associated with textile production through the Sustainable Apparel Coalition and WRAP's Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP).

WORKING WITH VULNERABLE

COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Several retailers are working with rural supply chains to reduce carbon emissions. Initiatives include: the recently launched Fairtrade Carbon Credit Scheme whereby carbon credits are purchased from vulnerable communities in developing countries which are implementing sustainable initiatives; and bespoke projects to provide safe water and cut carbon emissions within supply chain communities.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The December 2015 COP climate change agreement in Paris, which limited the average increase in global temperatures to 2° C, provides a focus and supports the business case to continue reducing carbon emissions across the supply chain. Collaboration within and across supply chains and with local and regional experts will become increasingly important as businesses and other stakeholders will need to pull together to achieve the carbon reductions needed.



COMMITMENT

We will collaborate with suppliers to promote best practice and learning in carbon management across the retail supply chain.



A number of leading retailers have set targets for the reduction of carbon emissions within their supply chains and are working with their suppliers through workshops, internet forums and knowledge hubs to achieve them.

WATER IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

In 2015, the World Economic Forum ranked water crises as the top risk to global growth². WWF has identified that businesses (including retail) face physical, regulatory and reputation risks, both domestically and internationally, if fresh water resources are not adequately managed³. The environmental impact of water is far greater during the production and consumption of products compared to the process of retailing those products, with a recent WWF UK study citing retail as the sector most exposed to water risk from imports⁴.

WHAT RETAIL IS DOING

A growing number of BRC members are estimating the amount of water used across supply chains and identifying target areas, funding specific research and development, working with farmers and growers and investing in projects to improve access to clean water and sanitation. Here are some examples from 2015:

WORKING WITH PARTNERS AND SUPPLIERS TO DEVELOP WATER MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

Retailers are identifying water scarcity and water quality hotspots for their business and adopting a range of approaches such as working with farms and factories to reduce water risk within the supply chain. Water initiatives undertaken by suppliers include using probes when growing soft fruit, which release water when needed by the plant, conversion of sprinkler practices to drip irrigation, and specially constructed drainage ditches that divert rainwater run-off.

DEVELOPING WATER

STEWARDSHIP APPROACHES
Leading retailers are also recognising
the importance of going beyond the
farm gate and developing catchmentwide water stewardship approaches
to water management, often in
partnership with NGOs. Examples
include soft stone fruit in South Africa,
coffee in Peru, and leather tanneries
in Kanpur, India.



WHAT'S NEXT?

The United Nations 17 Strategic Development Goals to 2030, agreed in September 2015, include a goal to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Water management and stewardship across the supply chain will form a key part of sustainable business models in the future. The challenge for retail is to: determine what water management and water stewardship means for retailers; map its often complex supply chains; identify priorities for action and develop approaches with relevant partners.



COMMITMENT

We recognise that the water footprint within our supply chain is many times that of our direct operations. We will work with our suppliers to reduce water use in the retail supply chain.



In 2015, the World Economic Forum ranked water crises as the top risk to global growth².

¹The Carbon Trust estimates that around 70 per cent of the emissions from UK businesses are associated with upstream supply https://www.carbontrust.com/media/671990/carbon-trust-standard-for-supply-chain-launch-presentation.pdf

4 A Better Retailing Climate 5

 $^{^2}$ Global Risks 2015 - World Economic Forum, January 2015: http://reports.weforum.org/global-risks-2015/

 $^{^{\}rm 3}$ From Risk to Reslience: Does your business know its water risk? – WWF, May 2015:

http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/wwf020_from_risk_to_resilience.pdf?_ga=1.239368963.1450629061.1450397659

⁴ WWF UK Study on Imported Water Risk - WWF, April 2015:

http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/uk_import_water_risk.pdf?_ga=1.227966877.1450629061.1450397659

FOOD WASTE

The Sustainable Development Goals agreed in September 2015 contain a target to reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses. Globally, more than one third of the food produced today is lost or wasted and, if global food waste was a country, it would be the number three global greenhouse gas emitter after China and the United States⁵. Around half of the UK's food waste arises in the supply chain (including on farm and in food manufacturing).

WHAT RETAIL IS DOING

Supermarkets are working with farmers and producer groups to tackle food waste and losses in agriculture, making the most of the entire crop in the field or more of the carcass of animals. Other measures include reviewing current specifications for produce, smarter ways to forecast and opportunities to improve storage and transportation. Here are some examples from 2015:

LOOKING ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN FROM FARM TO FORK Retailers are increasingly taking a lifecycle assessment approach to reducing food waste and are identifying opportunities to reduce and prevent waste at all stages of a product's life from production to disposal.

WORKING WITH SUPPLIERS TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF SURPLUS FOOD WHICH IS REDISTRIBUTED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION Surplus stock from suppliers is still the property of the supplier. Several supermarkets have worked with their suppliers to enable this food to be to the supplier or disposed of as food waste. Retailers are also encouraging

redistributed to UK charities and community projects rather than returned their suppliers to redistribute supplier surplus if possible.

WHAT'S NEXT?

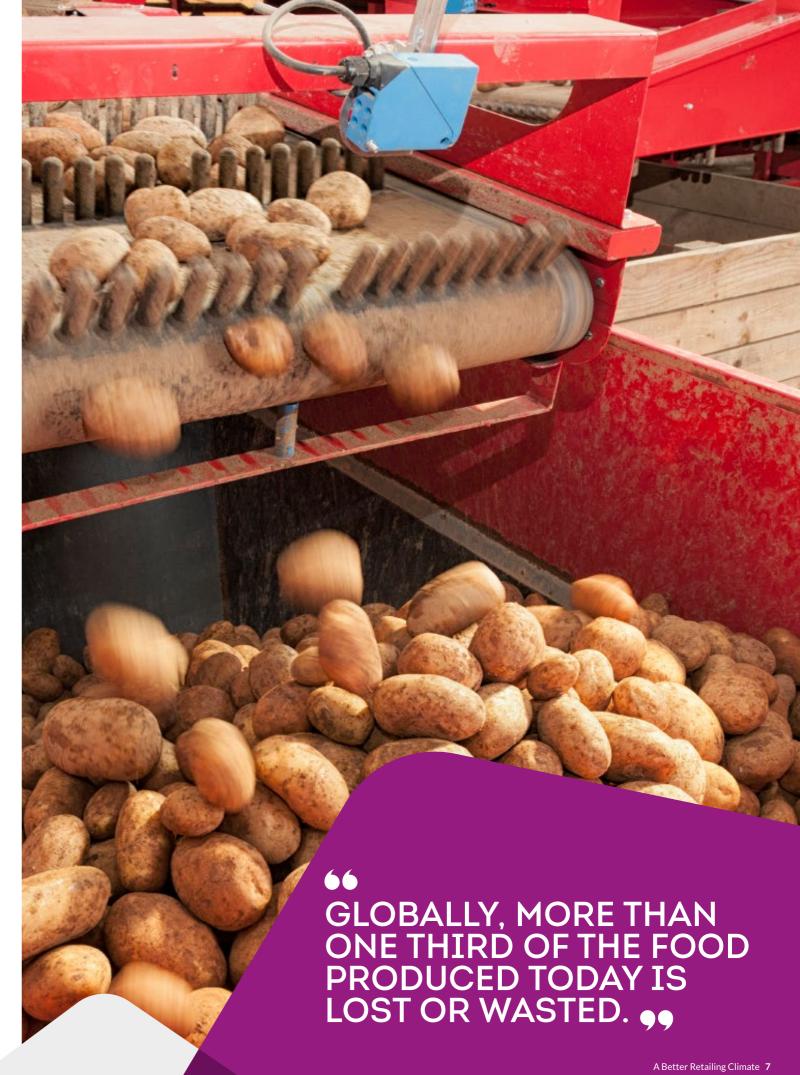
Given the large volumes of food waste in the UK grocery supply chain and the lack of detailed data on agricultural food waste, food waste on farms is becoming a focus of attention. We are working with primary producer organisations on issues such as definition, measurement and ways forward.

In addition, the European Commission has announced plans to develop a common EU methodology to measure food waste and define relevant indicators. In spring 2016, WRAP is planning to launch Courtauld 2025 – a new voluntary agreement covering food waste across the lifecycle, including production and supply, which will bring together food retailers and manufacturers and the hospitality and food services sectors.



Several supermarkets have worked with their suppliers to enable this food to be redistributed to UK charities and community projects rather than returned to the supplier or disposed of as food waste.





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ENERGY AND CARBON

It is widely recognised that energy efficiency is the most cost effective way of managing our energy and climate risks. Our members are continuing to build upon past successes in energy consumption and carbon reduction.

WHAT RETAIL IS DOING

We are investing in energy efficiency technologies and making changes to retail operations. Here are some examples from 2015:



ED

Lighting is the highest source of energy use for the retail industry and represents a clear opportunity in delivering energy efficiency in retail businesses. Switching to LED lighting typically delivers an energy cost saving of 20 to 40 per cent while also significantly reducing business carbon emissions. Our members have been investing in LED technology as a key part of their overall energy and carbon management strategy.

MODIFICATION OF DEMAND FOR ENERGY (DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT)

The retail industry is more exposed to peak time energy pricing than other sectors in the UK economy. Our members have been making significant investments in reducing their overall energy demand during the winter peak hours (4pm to 7pm). Retailers are also supporting the UK's approach to energy security through providing additional capacity during peak times.

TARGETS

We will reduce our absolute carbon emissions from retail operations by 25 per cent by 2020 based on 2005 levels.

We will cut energy-related emissions from buildings by 50 per cent by 2020, accounting for growth, compared with 2005 levels.

We will reduce emissions from refrigeration gases by 80 per cent by 2020, relative to floor space.

We will reduce energy-related emissions from store deliveries by 45 percent by 2020, compared with 2005 levels.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In the wake of the December 2015 COP 21 Paris climate change agreement to restrict a global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre industrial levels, retailers will be considering what the agreement means for their long term energy strategy. In the UK, further consultation is expected shortly on reforming the business energy efficiency tax landscape. We agree with the principle of moving towards a simplified, effective, consistent and fairer UK energy tax reporting scheme and believe this could help to establish energy management as a key strategic factor in both operations and investment.



WASTE

Oil prices are continuing to fall, making it harder to find markets for recycled plastics and leading to the closure of two of the UK's largest plastics recycling businesses in 2015. Retailers are continuing to move away from sending waste to landfill and over the period to 2020, this focus will move up the waste hierarchy to waste prevention and re-use. Retailers are exploring how to move away from a largely linear economy (in which resources are extracted for the creation of products which are disposed of at the end of their lives) towards a more circular model.

WHAT RETAIL IS DOING

Retail activities around waste reduction and diversion from landfill include the development of re-use initiatives, waste awareness programmes for staff and segregating waste at store level before backhauling it to distribution depots. In 2015 we published retail food waste figures for 2013 and 2014. Further detail can be found in our Autumn 2015 report, 'The Retail Industry's Contribution to Reducing Food Waste'. Here are some examples from 2015:

REDISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS FOOD FROM STORE

While supermarkets have continued to expand the redistribution of surplus food from distribution centres, the redistribution of surplus food from the back of retail stores poses a number of logistical issues as the amounts from an individual store are low and unpredictable. Some retailers are trialling and launching apps and online platforms which will connect local stores with new and existing charity partners and alert charities to the amount of surplus food available for redistribution.

TRIALLING INNOVATIVE
APPROACHES TO RECYCLING
AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY
Over the course of the past year,
retailers have announced a number
of initiatives trialling new approaches
to waste and waste prevention.
Examples include: recycling coffee
cups into brochures and packaging;
incorporating ryegrass into egg boxes;
recycling soft plastics waste into
warehousing packaging, bags and
benches, and using waste grapes
from the retail food supply chain
to produce beauty products.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The European Commission's circular economy package, published in December 2015, poses a number of challenges through its proposed changes to various EU waste directives. In the UK these changes could involve significant adjustments to producer responsibility regimes, including packaging, with the producer being required to cover most or all of the costs associated with recycling or disposal. While retailers welcome some of the thinking behind the package, there is a concern that the package is very waste heavy and that some of the new targets may be pushing recycling to a point where environmental and economic benefits are no longer achieved.

TARGET

We will divert waste from landfill so that less than one per cent of our waste is landfilled by 2020.

COMMITMENT

We will publish our total food waste figures as a sector and report on progress.



Some retailers are trialling and launching apps and online platforms which will connect local stores with new and existing charity partners and alert charities to the amount of surplus food available for redistribution.





WATER

Retailers understand the importance of water resource management and are monitoring and managing their own direct water use.

WHAT RETAIL IS DOING

Retailers are continuing to conduct audits and benchmarking exercises across their direct operations to improve water efficiencies and help set water reduction targets. Here are some examples from 2015:

CONTINUING TO IDENTIFY AND REPAIR LEAKS

Retailers are continuing to roll out automated meter reading (AMR) in order to receive **accurate readings and invoices** and spot leakages more often. This approach has resulted in significant reductions in water use.

MAKING PRACTICAL USE OF COLLECTED RAIN WATER AND INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE

Collected rain water is used for toilet flushing, washing vehicles, irrigation and watering plants. Retail stores are typically surrounded by highly impermeable surfaces; when designing new stores, retailers are trialling new approaches to achieve effective surface water management and as much bio diversity as possible.

WHAT'S NEXT?

From 2017 retailers will have the freedom to switch water and sewerage supplier and will be able to tender for one supplier across Great Britain. This provides retailers an opportunity to lobby a potential supplier for more regular and systematic billing across their estate.

TARGET

We will measure water usage in sites collectively anticipated as accounting for 100 per cent of usage by 2020.

We will set a reduction target when the targets are reviewed in 2015.



From 2017 retailers will have the freedom to switch water and sewerage supplier and will be able to tender for one supplier across Great Britain.

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A Better Retailing Climate

PRODUCTS AND CUSTOMERS

The direct environmental impact of retail is relatively minimal in comparison to the environmental impacts of the production and consumption of products sold by retailers. How goods are made, how resources are treated, and how they are packaged all make a difference to the overall environmental product footprint.

A recent report claimed that revenues from sustainable products or services are growing up to six times the rate of overall company revenues⁶. Commentators are expecting this trend to increase in 2016 as businesses transition to a sustainable, low carbon and more circular economy.

WHAT RETAIL IS DOING

Responsible retailers have developed product sustainability strategies and tools to assess the environmental impacts associated with a product throughout its whole lifecycle. Retailers have also entered into agreements and commitments to take collaborative voluntary action to make their products more sustainable such as Courtauld 2025, the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP) and the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP), all convened by WRAP.

Retailers are also supporting customers to make it easier for them to lead more sustainable lifestyles. This work includes the exploration of new business models such as product leasing rather than sale or product take-back schemes. Other initiatives involve seasonal consumer recycling initiatives and innovative approaches to products and packaging which often appeal to consumers on the basis of ease of use or improved quality. Here are some examples from 2015:

AN INCREASED FOCUS ON CONSUMERS

Retailers are using customer insight to understand where shoppers feel that retailers should be focusing when it comes to the environment and sustainability. Almost half of the UK's annual food waste is thrown away by households. Food retailers have been helping their customers to reduce household food waste for several years through a number of measures including communications work to support WRAP's Love Food Hate Waste campaign. 2015 saw retailers looking at new ways to engage households and communities in food waste prevention initiatives.

CONTINUING TO EXPLORE NEW BUSINESS MODELS

Retailers are continuing to explore the appetite for new business models and ways of working. Examples include schemes whereby unwanted clothes can be left in store where they will be sent for recycling or re-use and the development of trade in schemes for electrical products. A number of retailers have set internal targets to ensure that sustainable products become mainstream.

COMMITMENTS

We will reduce the environmental impact of our businesses and engage with our customers and suppliers to do the same.

We will continue to work with Government to drive forward a low carbon circular economy and develop alternative, sustainable business models.

We are working with consumers and are developing pragmatic, meaningful advice to make it easy for them to purchase environmentally friendly products.



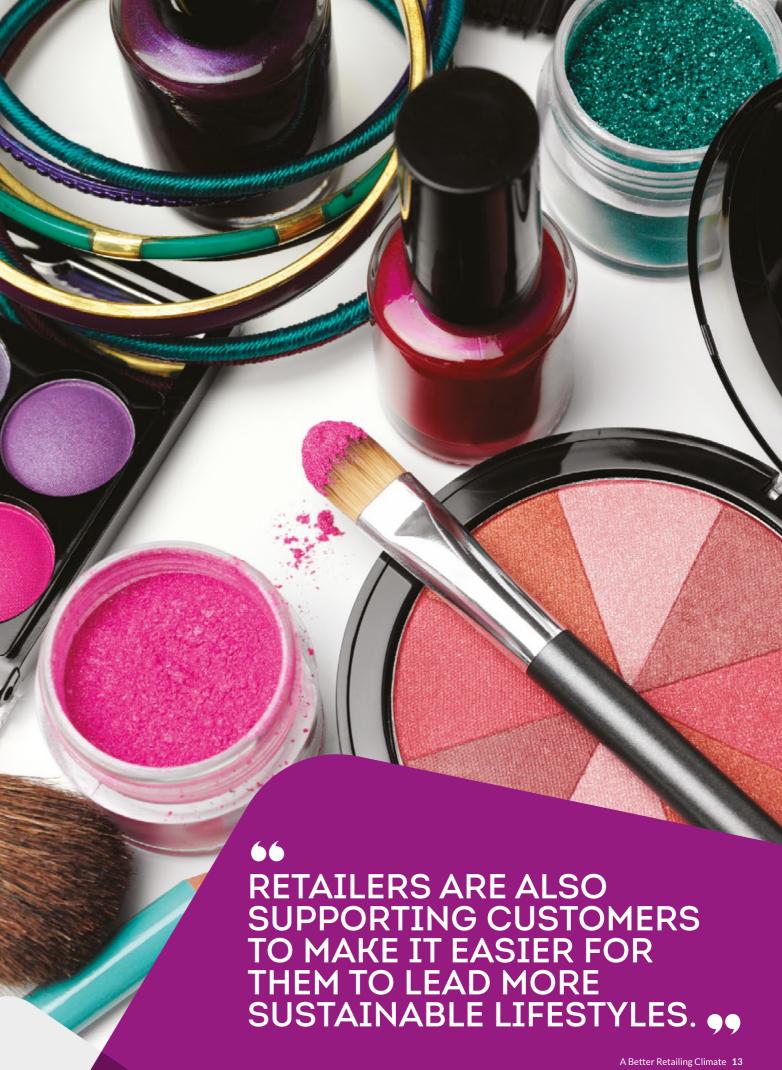
Retailers are using customer insight to understand where shoppers feel that retailers should be focusing when it comes to the environment and sustainability.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The challenge for retail is to make responsible production and consumption easy, affordable and tangible. Over the next few years, retailers will enter into more partnerships with other businesses and NGOs to help close the resource loop and make supply chains shorter and more transparent to customers. The European Commission's circular economy package published in December 2015 contains an action plan which addresses production and consumption issues in order to enable a less linear approach. The action plan will be agreed by June 2015 with various actions scheduled over the four year period to 2019.

⁶ Driving Revenue Growth Through Sustainable Products and Services - the Investor Responsibility Research Center Institute (IRRCi) & The Conference Board, July 2015:

http://irrcinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/FINAL-TCB-Sustainable-Products-July-20151.pdf



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A Better Retailing Climate



SIGNATORIES TO A BETTER RETAILING CLIMATE HAVE AGREED THE FOLLOWING TARGETS, COMMITMENTS AND POLICY POSITIONS

GENERAL COMMITMENTS

- We will continue to aspire to be leaders in environmental sustainability.
- We will reduce the environmental impact of our businesses and engage with our customers and suppliers to do the same.
- We will continue to work with Government to drive forward a low carbon circular economy and develop alternative, sustainable business models.
- We will report our achievements transparently and consistently and share learning and best practice.
- · We will review targets and commitments in two years' time to ensure they remain challenging.

| TARGETS | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Carbon (retail operations) | We will reduce our absolute carbon emissions from retail operations by 25 per cent by 2020, based on 2005 levels. |
| Resource efficiency in buildings | We will cut energy-related emissions from buildings by 50 per cent by 2020, accounting for growth, compared with 2005 levels. |
| Refrigeration | We will reduce emissions from refrigeration gases by 80 per cent by 2020, relative to floor space. We will begin phasing out HFC refrigerants by 2015 and replace them with non-HFC refrigerants, in line with the Consumer Goods Forum Commitment. |
| Transport | We will reduce energy-related carbon emissions from store deliveries by 45 per cent by 2020, compared with 2005 levels. |
| Water (retail operations) | We will measure water usage in sites collectively, anticipated as accounting for 100 per cent of usage by 2020. We will set a reduction target when the targets are reviewed in 2015. |
| Retail waste | We will divert waste from landfill so that less than 1 per cent of our waste is landfilled by 2020. |

| ISSUE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Carbon (supply chain) | We will collaborate with suppliers to promote best practice and learning in carbon management across the retail supply chain. |
| Building resilience to climate change | We will manage our climate risks. |
| Water (supply chain) | We recognise that our water footprint in the supply chain is many times that of our direct operations. We will work with our suppliers to reduce water use in the retail supply chain. |
| Food waste (retail and supply chain) | We will publish our total food waste figures as a sector, and report on progress (supermarkets only). |
| Household food waste | We will work with our customers to help them to purchase the right amount of food and identify ways to reduce the amount of food they throw away. |

ABOUT THE BRC

Retail is an exciting, diverse and dynamic industry undergoing transformational change. The BRC is at the forefront – enhancing, assisting, informing and shaping. Our mission is to make a positive difference to the industry and to the customers it serves. Our broad range of stakeholders demonstrates how retailing touches almost every aspect of our culture.

The BRC leads the industry and works with our members to shape debates and influence issues and opportunities that will help make that positive difference. We care about the careers of people who work in our industry, the communities retail touches, and competitiveness as a fundamental principle of the industry's success – our 3Cs.

SIGNATORIES

The following BRC members are signatories to A Better Retailing Climate















































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