

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021  
Ref: 10060471

Dear

Thank you for taking the time to contact us and express an interest in how we are reducing the use of plastic in Waitrose & Partners, I hope I have answered your questions:

## SINGLE USE PLASTIC

Following are some of the measures we have taken to reduce plastic in our business:

In 2019, we removed Sp single-use plastic carrier bags from all our stores. We've also replaced loose fruit and vegetable plastic bags with an alternative made from corn starch that can be home composted or used as a food waste caddy liner. We've introduced a reusable bag for life to use for fresh produce. Estimates suggest this will save 71 million plastic bags a year.

We've removed the plastic wrapping from multi-packs of Essential baked beans, tinned tomatoes and sweetcorn to save 18 tonnes of plastic a year.

We introduced the world's first home-compostable ready-meal tray for our Italian ready meals. It's fibre-based and made of tree pulp with a bio-laminate texture similar to cardboard, so if it cannot be composted, it can be recycled alongside paper. The supplier of the tray won the Waitrose 2019 sustainability award for its innovative design. It's 10% lighter, has a 50% reduction in CO2 emissions, saves 56 tonnes of black plastic annually and materials are sourced from Forest Stewardship Council-certified areas.

For more information, please do visit our website where there is a vast amount of information:

[https://www.waitrose.com/home/inspiration/about\\_waitrose/thewaitrose\\_way/packaging.html](https://www.waitrose.com/home/inspiration/about_waitrose/thewaitrose_way/packaging.html)

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Waitrose has recycled packaging materials such as cardboard and plastic from its shops and distribution centres for more than 20 years. In 2017 we recycled over 780 tonnes of plastic. 80% of our overall packaging is widely recyclable.

As part of our legal packaging obligation, Waitrose spends almost £1 million a year to help recycle consumer packaging. We also encourage customer recycling and our Waitrose shops offer recycling facilities for customers where feasible, the only limiting factors are space or local collection arrangements. As part of our commitment to encouraging customers to recycle, we provide recycling points for plastic carrier bags in Waitrose shops; our five Food & Home shops offer mobile phone recycling; and in 2010 we introduced battery recycling facilities in our shops.

Waitrose also supports websites Recycle Now and Recycle More that enable consumers to identify their nearest recycling centre and, importantly, the types of materials that can be recycled.

Working with WRAP, the British Retail Consortium and other leading retailers, we developed a standard on-pack recycling labelling scheme for packaging, which was launched in 2008. The initiative replaces the previous range of recycling symbols and messages with a single Recycle Now logo and an icon to indicate the recyclability of the packaging.

Over 85% of our own-brand packaging is now either recyclable, reusable or home compostable.

I do hope I have answered all of your questions, please do let me know if I can provide any further information.

Kind regards

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