



Nestlé Good food, Good life

Nestlé's pledge to the European Plastics Pact

Our vision is that none of our packaging, including plastics, ends up in landfill, in oceans, lakes and rivers. We are therefore fully aligned with the Pact's objectives. To achieve our vision we have made 3 pledges.

Pledge 1: Ensure 100% of our packaging is recyclable or reusable by 2025.

Nestlé uses many different materials to pack our products like glass, paper, metal and plastics. Today, plastics account for about one quarter of our packaging mix in Europe (expressed in tonnes). More than 60% of the plastic packaging is already recyclable or reusable according to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation definition. Our pledge includes the elimination of non-recyclable plastics.

As part of this commitment, Nestlé will reduce the use of virgin plastics by one third by 2025 by investing globally more than CHF 1,5 billion to lead the shift from virgin plastics to food-grade recycled plastics. Plastic packaging plays an important role in safely delivering high-quality food and drinks to consumers, and in reducing food loss and waste. Most plastics are currently difficult to recycle for use in food packaging, leading to a limited supply of food-grade recycled plastics. Our investment wants to create a market for those kinds of food-grade materials by paying a premium. We are therefore supportive of the Pact's goal to reduce virgin plastics by 20% by 2025.

We are also determined to develop alternative delivery systems, by introducing reusable packaging and innovative business models including bulk distribution options. We opened the Nestlé Institute of Packaging Sciences in 2019 to enable us to accelerate our efforts to bring functional, safe and environmentally friendly packaging solutions to the market. We also launched a CHF 250 million sustainable packaging venture fund to invest in start-up companies that focus on these areas. In parallel, we will continue to systematically optimize our packaging portfolio towards the least environmental impact.

The European Plastics Pact has proposed as an aspirational target to achieve an absolute reduction of plastic packaging with 10% by 2025. For Nestlé this would mean a reduction of 34.000 tonnes of plastics in Europe (European Union, EEA and UK). We appreciate that growth (including divestures and acquisitions) will not be penalised and that we will be able to restate the 2017 benchmark to ensure a fair comparison.

Nestlé will do its utmost to achieve this aspirational absolute reduction but we would like to re-iterate that this target is extremely challenging for food and beverage companies.

1. The delivery of high-quality and safe food and beverages is the top priority for us. Whilst the current 'food contact material' policy framework aims to achieve the same goal, more understanding of the food grade challenge will be beneficial to support innovation. We look forward to jointly address these gaps, also in the frame of the EU Circular Plastics Alliance and national plastic pacts.
2. When considering alternatives to current packaging we need to carefully assess their impact on the environment through a holistic life-cycle assessment that includes the impact of end-of-life / disposal of the packaging material. This is part of our commitment to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
3. Last but not least education must be provided for the consumer to understand their role in properly disposing packaging post-consumption and be open to trial and accept new delivery modes of food and beverages.



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We would appreciate if these challenges, particularly for food and beverage companies and less for non-food companies, are highlighted as part of the Pact's communication efforts.

Pledge 2: Contribute to set-up well-functioning collection, sorting and recycling schemes

We committed to play a leading role in the development of a circular economy for all types of packaging. This can only be achieved by setting up well-functioning collection, sorting and recycling schemes across the countries where we operate.

We very much appreciate the Pact's commitment to increase collection, sorting and recycling capacities across Europe by 25%. We are also ready to provide our expertise to harmonise design guidelines and standards for collection & sorting of packaging materials.

Pledge 3: Support behavioral change

Improving consumer information is also vital, and we are committed to helping improve it by labeling our product packaging with European standardised recycling information – to help ensure it is disposed of in the right way.

In conclusion, Nestlé is determined to be a strong contributor to create a circular economy for packaging. The European Plastics Pact can help to create momentum amongst all players. We will do our utmost to achieve the aspirational absolute reduction target, which is extremely challenging and highly complex for us as a food and beverage company.

Marco Settembri
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