

Our Ref 3339322



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Dear Ms Frei

Thank you for your letter addressed to Dave Lewis, our Chief Executive. As work commitments are currently keeping Dave away from the office, I am writing on his behalf. Please be assured he is kept informed of all contact received into this office.

We take the sustainability of our products and packaging extremely seriously and always consider the environmental impact of our business on the environment. We know that packaging plays an important role in protecting products and reducing food waste - but it shouldn't come at an unaffordable cost to the planet. As a business we remain dedicated to doing the right thing. Our target is to ensure we never use more packaging than is needed, and what we do use is from sustainable sources and goes on to be reused or recycled. Our packaging commitments set out below reflect this:

- Our packaging will be fully recyclable by 2025
- End the use of hard to recycle materials from our UK packaging by the end of 2019
- All paper and board used will be 100% sustainable by 2025
- Halve packaging weight by 2025

Overall, over 83% of the packaging weight on all our own brand products is recyclable depending on if the local authority collect it.

Our Progress: We are already making progress against our commitments in many markets and will look to accelerate this to achieve our targets sooner where possible. As part of making all our packaging materials recyclable, we will have fully removed non-recyclable or hard to recycle packaging materials by the end of 2019 in our Own Brand products. We've resurfaced one of our store car parks using the equivalent weight of 225,000 plastic carrier bags, saving over 900kg of plastic from going to landfill.

We have also begun trialling in-store recycling machines for plastic bottles in the UK, which will pay customers 10p for every bottle returned.

Our strategic priorities: We only use packaging where it serves a clear purpose. We are working towards all remaining packaging becoming part of a closed loop - meaning no packaging will go to waste. We recognise that we can do more in partnership with government and industry to help establish a robust, closed loop system for packaging materials. We have three strategic priorities to help reduce packaging waste and boost recycling across the UK.

1. **Materials and design:** In collaboration with our suppliers we can reduce and simplify the types of materials we use in our packaging so that less is used and packaging is easier for customers to recycle. We have reviewed every material used in our Own Brand packaging and as a result of our review and consultation process with our suppliers, we have developed a preferred material list for our product packaging - www.tescopl.com/little-helps-plan/products-packaging/preferred-material-list/ . So far we have removed 2,000 tonnes of hard to recycle materials from Own Brand packaging in the UK.
2. **Recovery and recycling:** We need to help create an integrated collection system for packaging in the UK. A cost-effective Deposit Return System (DRS) is one initiative in a broader holistic approach that could help achieve the broader goals of reducing waste. We are working with the industry to explore all the potential solutions.
3. **Changing customer behaviour:** With understood recycling infrastructure in place, we can help customers recycle more with simple, clear and consistent information on packaging. To help our customers recycle, we have recycling stations in many of our stores including front of store recycling for carrier bags. We have recently extended this particular service to allow films of the same material type (polyethylene) to be added, for example bread bags. A new logo has been introduced which can be found on bread bags and bags used for frozen products so our customers know what they can recycle at our stores.

I have shared your feedback with our Packaging team so that they can consider your view as we continue to review our work to ensure we continue to use packaging where it serves a clear purpose. Thank you once again for taking the time to contact us, I hope our response, outlined targets and priorities have reassured you of our commitment. For more information on our commitment to reduce packaging, please see our website: <https://sustainability.tescopl.com/sustainability/packaging/>

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Johnston
Customer Service Specialist
On behalf of the Chief Executive's Office