

# Repak Members’ Plastic Pledge

## 2018 Report



**Repak’s Plastic Packaging  
Recycling Strategy**  
2018—2030

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## ACRONYMS

CEP	Circular Economy Package
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
EC	European Commission
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPS	Expanded Polystyrene
EU	European Union
HDPE	High-density Polyethylene
LDPE	Low-density Polyethylene
MRF	Material Recovery Facility
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OPRL	On Pack Recycling Labelling (UK Packaging Labelling System operated by WRAP)
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
PP	Polypropylene
PS	Polystyrene
PPWD	Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride
SUP	Single Use Plastic
rPET	Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate
WRAP	Waste & Resources Action Programme (UK)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Repak's Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy 2018—2030 sets out a clear path of actions for Repak Members. A key action by Members is to commit to a Plastic Pledge which will make a significant contribution towards meeting Ireland's packaging recycling targets as set by the Circular Economy Package (CEP).
- The Plastic Pledge was launched in September 2018; to date 66 of Ireland's largest producers of packaging have signed the pledge and Repak will grow this number significantly throughout 2019 and beyond.
- The Plastic Pledge has five key objectives:
  1. *Prioritise the prevention of plastic packaging waste by minimising avoidable single use packaging and promoting packaging reuse where possible.*
  2. *Support Ireland to deliver the Circular Economy Package plastic recycling targets of 50% of all plastics by 2025 and 55% of all plastic packaging by 2030, as set by the European Commission.*
  3. *Reduce complexity within the plastic packaging supply chain by simplifying polymer usage and eliminating non-recyclable components in all plastic packaging by 2030.*
  4. *Help to build a circular economy for used plastic packaging in Ireland and Europe by increasing the use of plastic packaging with a recycled content.*
  5. *Ensure our approach to plastic packaging reduction is aligned to Ireland's goal of a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030 as set out in Ireland's food waste charter.*
- This first report highlights the proactive approach that the signatories of the Plastic Pledge are now taking to remove single use plastics from their businesses. Many of Repak's retail Members are also proactively delisting items from sale ahead of the proposed Single Use Plastics (SUP) Directive. In addition, businesses are examining where plastic use can be minimised during the course of their day-to-day operations. This will minimise waste arising during the production of their products. They are also actively reducing avoidable plastics associated with their consumer products.
- Repak in 2018 funded plastic recycling of 95,370 tonnes and sent for recovery 156,430 tonnes — a total of 87% of the estimated plastic packaging placed on the market by all businesses<sup>1</sup>.
- Actions to date when accumulated will result in the reduction or replacement of 10,600 tonnes from the estimated 289,000 tonnes of plastic packaging placed on the market in 2018. Repak Members placed 133,000 tonnes on the market in 2018, 46% of the total<sup>1,2</sup>.
- An average of 11% reduction in plastic packaging has been reported by Repak's Pledge Members as having been completed during 2018 with many significant reductions in the pipeline for 2019.
- Over 120 programmes designed to make plastic packaging more recyclable have been completed or are in progress by Pledge Members.

<sup>1</sup> Data from Repak estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Packaging Data at <https://www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics/packaging/>

- Innovations have been developed and commercialised that tackle issues during the sorting of plastics for recycling such as the detection of black plastics.
- Pledge Members actions and plans include incorporating an average of 45% recycled content between now and 2025 into plastic packaging manufacturing with many of our bottle producers exceeding SUP targets.
- Trials are continuing to ensure that the integrity of packaging is retained when such changes are made, aligned with our goal of preventing food waste. This is about ensuring that activities designed to reduce plastic waste align to Ireland's goals to halve food waste by 2030.
- Repak's Plastic Pledge is being complimented by Repak consumer communication on 'Join Team Green' which is encouraging all businesses and consumers to recycle one additional piece of plastic per week — equating to 250,000,000 pieces or 5,600 tonnes per annum more recycling. Repak's Team Green initiative was launched in September 2018 to create awareness of the importance of working together as a nation to reach the new ambitious plastic recycling targets that have been set by the EU. Since 2018's national Team Green campaign launched, Ireland has seen an increase of 11.4m additional pieces of plastic packaging recycled versus the same period of 2017.
- Repak's Members have optimised packaging for many years in order to prevent packaging waste. As highlighted in the PMCA report commissioned by Repak in 2017, Repak Members have prevented 857,000 tonnes of packaging from arising on the Irish market between 2006 and 2016 through packaging optimisation activities.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following Repak Members who as a group contribute over €12 million to packaging recycling in Ireland and have shown their commitment to creating a new plastics economy in Ireland by becoming the first businesses to sign the Repak Members' Plastic Pledge:

ABP Food Group Ltd., Aldi Stores (Ireland) Ltd., Arnotts Ltd., Aurivo Co-operative Society., Avery Dennison Ltd., Avoncourt Packaging Ltd., Ballymaguire Foods Ltd., Banaghan & Co. Ltd., Premier Stationery Ltd., Bewleys Ltd., Blenders Ltd., Britvic Ireland Ltd (Kylemore), Britvic Ireland Ltd. (Ballygowan), Brown Thomas Group, Business Electronic Equipment Ltd., Casey Tiles & Wooden Floors Ltd., Celtic Pure Ltd., Clada Group Ltd., Coca Cola HBC Ireland & Northern Ireland., Dairyglen Products Ltd., Danone Ireland Ltd., Dargan Tools Ltd., Eirebloc Ltd., EWL Electric Ltd., Fannin Healthcare Ltd., Fispak Ltd., Flahavans Ltd., Fyffes Ltd., Galway Natural Health Sales Co. Ltd.(Revive Active), Glen Aine Foods Ltd., Glenilen Farm Ltd., Heineken Ireland Ltd., IKEA Ireland, Irish Distillers Ltd., Irish Flexible Packaging Ltd., Jacobs Douwe Egberts Ltd., JTL Packaging (Interpac) Ltd., JVC Kenwood UK, Lidl Ireland GmbH, Lir Chocolates Ltd., L'Occitane Ireland Ltd., Lucozade Ribena Suntory Ireland Ltd., McCambridge Ltd., Meade Potato Company Ltd., Musgrave Plc., N.A.A Ltd., National Plastic Packaging Ltd., Naturalife Ltd., Nestle Ireland Ltd., Nutricia Infant Nutrition Ltd., Nutricia Ireland Ltd., P. Mulrine & Sons Ltd., Pepsico Ireland Ltd., Plastic Action Alliance Food business group, Quinn Building Products Ltd., Quinn Packaging Ltd., Richmond Marketing Ltd., Stafford Fuels Ltd., Stonehouse Marketing Ltd., Tesco Ireland Ltd., Total Produce Ireland Ltd., Tranio Investments -T/A Soundstore, Univar Ireland Ltd., VWR International Ltd., Waddington Europe Ltd., Wines Direct Ltd.

We would also like to thank the following ten Irish food businesses that form the Plastic Action Alliance for aligning their approach to the objectives of the Repak Members' Plastics Pledge:

ABP Food Group Ltd., Aurivo Co-operative Society., Ballymaguire Foods, Bandon Co-operative Society, C&D Foods, Country Crest, Irish Country Meats, Keelings, Manor Farm, Monaghan Mushrooms and Natures Best.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Plastics Challenge

The EU's Circular Economy Package brings with it new challenges that mean we must rethink our relationship with plastics in order to achieve new higher recycling targets included in resulting EU Legislation.

The Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD) was approved by the EU in July 2018 and sets new plastic packaging recycling targets of 50% by 2025 rising to 55% by 2030. These targets relate to mechanical recycling back into plastics only and will exclude any form of recovery in the future. This new legislation must be transposed into Irish law in 2020.

The Single Use Plastics (SUP) Directive also forms part of the EU's Plastic strategy and will restrict certain plastic items from being placed on the market where there is an alternative material available. Items subject to a ban will include plastic straws (often provided with beverage cartons), plastic cutlery (provided with on the go salad or fruit bowls for example) and certain packaging items made from expanded polystyrene.

In addition the legislation will also include consumption reduction targets for certain SUP items such as food containers made from plastics, binding targets for recycled content in plastic bottles of up to 30% by 2030 and design restrictions that mean that caps must be tethered to plastic bottles when discarded.

In addition, there will be increased collection targets set for plastic bottles of 77% by 2025 and 90% by 2029 and the possibility of extended producer responsibility schemes for certain SUP items. Additional producer responsibility will see producers who place certain SUP items on the market pay towards litter clean-up costs.

It is expected that the SUP Directive will become EU law during 2019 and therefore Irish law by 2021.

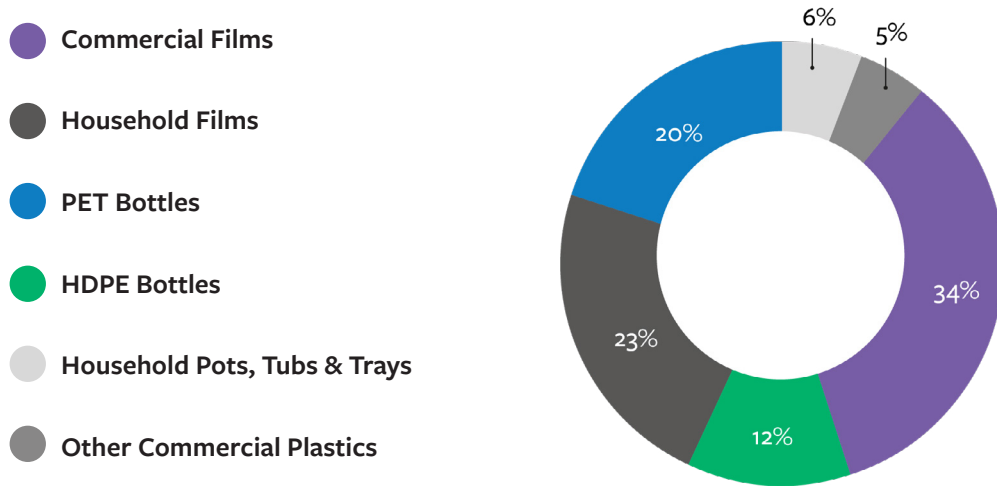
### 1.2 Achieving a Circular Plastics Economy for Ireland

In 2016, EPA packaging waste data showed that Ireland placed 991,298 tonnes of packaging on the Irish market. Of that total, 275,510 tonnes was reported as plastic packaging with Repak's Members accounting for 123,668 tonnes of the overall total (45%). It is therefore important to understand where the remaining plastic packaging comes from and assess the need for these other producers to contribute to the achievement of the revised targets.

During 2016, 98,238 tonnes of plastic packaging was recycled back into plastics (35.7%), 121,254 tonnes was recovered through Waste to Energy facilities (44%) with the balance of 20.3% sent to landfill<sup>3</sup>. With plastic continuing to grow, it is estimated that in 2030 Ireland will need to recycle an additional 77,856 tonnes to meet the 55% PPWD plastic recycling target.

<sup>3</sup> EPA Packaging Waste Data 2016 at <https://www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics/packaging/>



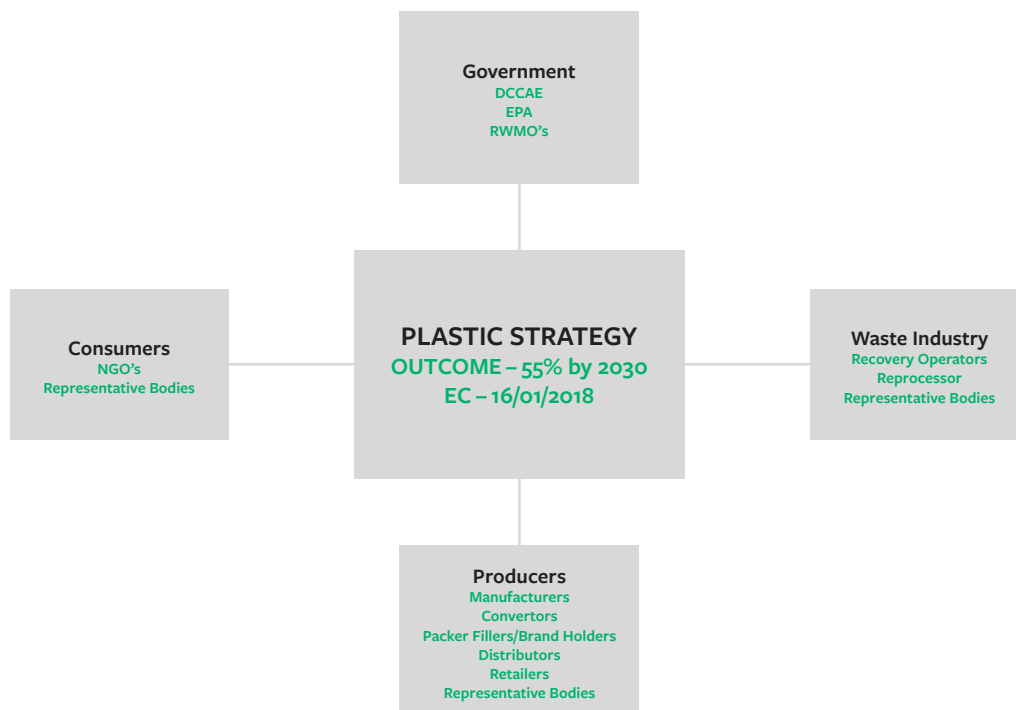


**Figure 1: Plastic Packaging Waste Recycling in 2016 (Source: Repak Contractors)**

Achieving a Circular Plastics Economy for Ireland will be a complex task requiring the engagement of many stakeholders from producers through to government, the waste industry and consumers.

Repak has taken the lead by setting out a roadmap for Ireland to follow from now until 2030 in order to help achieve the CEP targets through our Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy.





**Figure 2: Key Stakeholders required to deliver the Plastic Strategy in Ireland**

### 1.3 Repak’s Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy

Repak launched its Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy on the 19th of September 2018. The Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy sets out a two-phase approach to be achieved from 2018 to 2030 that will:

- Assist Ireland in meeting its recycling targets.
- Promote the design and production of plastic and plastic products that optimise use and recycling.
- Support the circular economy.
- Achieve the above in a cost effective manner.

Designing better and more recyclable plastic packaging is identified as a key step within our strategy to help close the gap between Ireland’s current plastics recycling rate and the PPWD recycling targets. This will be critical in helping to capture the additional 77,856 tonnes that we will need to recycle in 2030.

Two producer relevant actions recommended within the Repak strategy are to “commit to a **Plastic Pledge** to reduce plastic packaging waste and help Ireland to play its part in achieving the key goals set out within the EU Circular Economy Package” as well as “strengthening the benefits of green procurement”. Two of the four fundamental priorities of this strategy also relate to producer activities:

- Promoting better eco design of plastic packaging.
- Increasing the reuse and recycling of plastics.

The Repak Members' Plastics Pledge aims to achieve our strategic vision for a circular plastics economy in Ireland by helping us to:

- Minimise avoidable single use plastics.
- Improve the recyclability of plastic packaging components.
- Minimise complexity in the plastics supply chain by removing difficult or non-recyclable components.
- Increase recycled content in packaging.
- Avoid unintended consequences by ensuring that food waste continues to decrease.

To date, 66 Repak Members and business groups have signed the Repak Members' Plastics Pledge. Repak will continue to communicate with businesses during 2019. As section 3 and the case studies in Appendix 1 will highlight, these businesses have been extremely proactive with regard to the plastics challenge, taking many positive steps well ahead of the newly approved PPWD and proposed SUP Directive.

## 2. DESIGNING PACKAGING FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### 2.1 Repak Members' Plastics Pledge

Repak has asked its Members to sign up to the Repak Members' Plastic Pledge. The pledge includes five objectives in relation to the design, minimisation, reuse and recycling of plastic packaging. These objectives are to:

- 1. Prioritise the prevention of plastic packaging waste by minimising avoidable single use packaging and promoting packaging reuse where possible.*
- 2. Support Ireland to deliver the Circular Economy Package plastic recycling targets of 50% of all plastics by 2025 and 55% of all plastic packaging by 2030, as set by the European Commission.*
- 3. Reduce complexity within the plastic packaging supply chain by simplifying polymer usage and eliminating non-recyclable components in all plastic packaging by 2030.*
- 4. Help to build a circular economy for used plastic packaging in Ireland and Europe by increasing the use of plastic packaging with a recycled content.*
- 5. Ensure our approach to plastic packaging reduction is aligned to Ireland's goal of a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030 as set out in Ireland's food waste charter.*

Our **first pledge objective** — This aims to help reduce the quantities of avoidable SUP placed on the Irish market. This proactive step is being encouraged in advance of the proposed SUP Directive being approved by the European Commission.

Our **second pledge objective** — This relates directly to the new packaging recycling targets set out in the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive approved by the European Commission in July 2018. This objective is designed to help improve both commercial and household plastic packaging recycling rates through better packaging design.

Our **third pledge objective** — Plastics are often complex materials making them more challenging to recycle than other packaging materials. Reducing the complexity of our plastic supply chains whilst maintaining quality and safety is the key to achieving higher plastics recycling rates.

Our **fourth pledge objective** — Another key aspect of the EU's Plastic Strategy is about stimulating the market for recycled plastic materials in Europe by incorporating recycled content into packaging. The publication of End of Waste Criteria in Ireland will also be an important step in ensuring that there is clear guidance for the waste industry in transitioning plastic packaging from a waste back to a secondary packaging raw material.

Our **fifth pledge objective** — Finally, one of the most likely consequences of knee jerk reactions to the plastic challenge is an increase in food waste and it is critical that this is avoided. With over 1 million tonnes of food wasted annually in Ireland this is about ensuring that ongoing commitments to reduce food waste continue to proceed in the right direction. Ireland's Food Waste Charter was formally signed by the former Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment — Denis Naughten — in March 2017.<sup>4</sup>

Please see a copy of our Pledge in Appendix 3.

<sup>4</sup> See Ireland's Food Waste Charter at <https://foodwastecharter.ie/the-charter/>

## 2.2 Repak's Team Green Campaign

In 2018 Repak introduced Team Green as a communications influencing concept to the Irish market. The objectives of the campaign are as follows:

- To encourage all stakeholders including government, the waste industry, producers and consumers to collaborate together to help achieve the new plastic recycling targets.
- Educate all stakeholders about plastic recycling to help achieve our new ambitious plastic recycling targets.
- Ensure that the contribution of Repak and our Members is recognized.
- Reinforce Repak's and our Members' position, as businesses funding packaging recycling in Ireland since 1997.
- Ultimately, increase plastic recycling year on year to achieve our targets.

Joining Repak's Team Green is a commitment by all stakeholders to be responsible for their behaviour with plastics and reduce and recycle where possible. Through Team Green Repak is working with its Members to increase the recyclability of the plastic packaging they produce, and in turn, calling on the public to ensure they dispose of this packaging correctly.

## 2.3 Supporting our Members — Repak's Prevent & Save Programme

The waste hierarchy has for a long time formed the basis of EU waste policy. In relation to packaging this therefore placed the priority on prevention and minimisation of packaging.

This "stop waste before it happens" approach has always been a business priority for Repak's Members and industry has proactively reduced packaging material weights through packaging optimisation activities for many years. Repak's pay-by-weight fee structure has also rewarded Members for the minimisation of packaging and those that have implemented "closed loop" reuse systems through lower producer responsibility fees.

This has had significant benefits in preventing packaging waste from arising on the Irish market. In a study prepared for Repak by PMCA Economic Consulting, it was found that 857,000 tonnes of packaging waste was prevented by Repak's Members between 2006 and 2016 through their packaging optimisation activities. In 2016 alone this equated to 121,700 tonnes of packaging waste prevented<sup>5</sup>.

To achieve the Circular Economy Package targets, the prevention and minimisation of packaging will remain a key industry approach. However, as plastic has generally held the key to achieving lower packaging weight, the additional challenge for producers now will be to redesign plastic packaging that is less complex and therefore more recyclable, while also ensuring that their approach does not significantly increase the weight of packaging placed on the Irish market.

The Prevent & Save Programme assists Repak Members to examine all types of packaging, both into and out of a company and can help to guide businesses on packaging design and optimisation.

This service has helped Members to both design packaging for recycling and avoid packaging waste from arising, where it is possible to do so.

<sup>5</sup> Packaging Waste Prevention and Minimisation: The Quantity and Value of Savings by Repak Members at <https://repak.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/PMCA-Report-on-Packaging-Savings-August-2017.pdf>

### 3. REPAK MEMBERS' PLASTICS PLEDGE — OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS

Producers recognise the value of plastics to the economy in terms of ensuring that products get to their customers safely and offer the quality they expect and deserve. The complexity of plastic packaging versus other materials, compromises our ability to capture many of them for recycling.

Many of Repak's Members have recognised the need for a rethink on how we design plastic packaging but are conscious of getting the balance right to ensure that product stability or shelf life is not reduced.

By signing up to the pledge, Repak's Members have taken this challenge on board and many have agreed to share some insight into the work already completed in the past year in relation to the five individual pledge objectives.

In addition many of Repak's Members have committed to achieving their own corporate goals that are very much aligned to Repak's Plastic Pledge. Many also operate on a multinational basis and are therefore signatories to other pledges or pacts, for example in the UK (**WRAP Plastic Pact**) and Europe (**EU's European Strategy for Plastics — Voluntary Pledges**).

Below are some of the highlights shared by our Pledge Members. Please also see Appendix 1 — Member Actions & Plans for further details.

#### 3.1 Objective 1 — Prioritise the Prevention of Plastic Packaging Waste

Achieving this target will require the minimisation of avoidable SUP and the promotion of reusable or non-plastic alternatives where possible. This is a key step to enable Ireland to meet the requirements of the EU's SUP Directive.

Across Ireland Repak's Pledge Members have already taken steps to:

- Eliminate SUP items such as cups and cutlery from their business premises and product ranges.
- Replace SUPs with reusable versions.
- Reduce plastic packaging by an average of 11% through material lightweighting activities (where reductions are reported as a %).
- Numerous projects in 2019 that will reduce plastic packaging further.

#### 3.2 Objective 2 — Support Ireland to Deliver the CEP Plastic Recycling Targets

This target involves Repak's Members supporting Ireland to deliver the CEP plastic recycling targets of 50% of all plastic packaging by 2025 and 55% of all plastic packaging by 2030, as set by the European Commission in the Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive approved in July 2018. This is being achieved through:

- Improved source segregation of plastic packaging materials at business premises.
- Over 120 programmes designed to make plastic packaging more recyclable.
- Increased recycling messaging on pack and through media to promote positive consumer behaviour.

### 3.3 Objective 3 — Reduce complexity in the Plastic Packaging Supply Chain

By designing plastics with recycling processes and secondary raw material markets in mind we increase the opportunities for plastics recycling and create the potential for a more circular plastics economy. Repak's Pledge Members recognise this opportunity and are constantly examining the opportunities they have to reduce the amount of non-recyclable components used in packaging and simplifying polymers used within their supply chains. This needs to be balanced with ensuring the quality and safety of products to avoid unintended consequences.

Projects reported by Repak's Pledge Members include:

- Innovations developed and commercialised that tackle issues during the sorting of plastics for recycling such as the detection of black plastics and detection errors due to full body plastic labels made of different plastic materials.
- Numerous projects that involve the removal of difficult to recycle plastics such as Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) and composites consisting of different plastic types.

### 3.4 Objective 4 — Incorporate recycled content to build a circular economy

In line with the CEP Plastics Strategy, Repak has included a target for Members who have signed the plastics pledge to incorporate recycled content where regulation allows for this.

For bottlers this is particularly critical as the SUP Directive will bring with it binding targets of 25% recycled content in PET bottles by 2025 rising to 30% recycled content by 2030.

Many Repak Members have already undertaken projects to incorporate recycled content into their packaging as follows:

- Up to 100% recycled plastic incorporated into plastic bottles and food trays.
- Plans in place by bottlers to meet and exceed recycled content targets many years ahead of the proposed SUP Directive.
- Numerous pledges to increase recycled content across company product ranges to levels between 25% and 50% between now and 2025.

### 3.5 Objective 5 — Ensuring our approach aligns to our Food Waste Charter

Recognising that Knee jerk reactions to the plastic challenge can have a detrimental effect on shelf life. This can increase food waste and therefore must be avoided. An issue not often considered is that increased food waste can actually increase packaging waste also as the product, along with the packaging associated with it, may be discarded unopened. Food that reaches the consumer or that is donated has a greater chance of being removed from its packaging and consumed. Its packaging also has a greater chance of being captured for recycling.

Repak's Pledge Members have committed to ensuring that reductions in the use of plastic packaging do not jeopardise our opportunities to achieve a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030.

Many Members are shelf life testing or completing some form of package testing to ensure that their alternative packaging does not compromise on quality and safety.

## 4. NEXT STEPS

During 2019 Repak will continue to engage with our Members and will host a breakfast briefing later in the year which is designed to discuss actions to date, understand how we move forward with achieving our objectives and what barriers our Pledge Members require assistance with in order to achieve these objectives.

Repak will also develop guidance for our Members in relation to packaging Eco design and will continue to support their efforts through the Prevent & Save packaging technology programme throughout the lifetime of our pledge.

We will also track our progress against the five objectives in the Plastics Pledge by requesting that our Pledge Members report their achievements and plans to us on an annual basis.



## 5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This report highlights our members' commitments to delivering the objectives outlined in our plastics pledge and demonstrates the work that industry is already undertaking to deliver a circular plastics economy and not waiting until the measures under the Circular Economy Package become law, in the form of the PPWD and SUP Directive.

Many are also minimising plastics where feasible and eliminating non-recyclable plastic components where this does not jeopardise food safety and quality leading to food waste.

It is now critical that we provide as many supports to Irish producers as possible and Repak strongly recommends that "Repak's Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy" informs Ireland's National Strategy to give Irish businesses certainty.

Closing data gaps identified in our strategy will mean that investment needed to recycle plastic packaging will be targeted in the right areas during the life of their pledge.

We also urge government to prioritise the key elements of our strategy to ensure that the EPA can publish end-of-waste criteria for plastics. This will enable these waste plastics to become a useful resource and make them available to build recycled content in plastic packaging.

## APPENDIX 1 — MEMBER ACTIONS & PLANS

### Objective 1 — Prioritise the Prevention of Plastic Packaging Waste

#### Reduction of Plastic Packaging on Consumer Products

**Britvic Ireland** have reduced plastic bottle weights across a number of soft drink categories and in 2018 they reduced bottle weights on their Fruit Shoot range from 16 to 15 grams (6%) and 21 to 17 grams (15%). In addition they have reduced plastic in their 850ml cordial products from 38.5 to 37 grams (4%) and on 2 litre carbonated soft drink products from 43.5 to 43 grams (1%).

**Coca Cola HBC Ireland & Northern Ireland Ltd. (CCHBC)** localised their “World without Waste” strategy and began to implement their roadmap throughout 2018.

Plastic bottles have been light-weighted by 5% with the introduction of a smaller bottle neck finish and closure across the portfolio. In 2019, CCHBC will further lightweight its packaging by 10%.

**Lucozade Ribena Suntory Ireland Ltd. (LRSI)** sources all of their product from their manufacturing site in the UK and as Lucozade Ribena Suntory are a founding member of the UK Plastic Pact they share similar objectives to the Repak Members' Plastic Pledge. Over the last four years the business has reduced plastic by more than 2,600 tonnes including bottles sold on the Irish market.

Lucozade Ribena Suntory is also working with suppliers to develop a solution to replace the current plastic straw that accompanies the Ribena carton which provides the same drinking experience for consumers.

During 2018 **ABP Food Group (ABP)** reduced the plastic used in their skin pack packaging formats. Reducing the thickness of their trays reduced material by over 14% and prevented 28.4 tonnes of plastic packaging waste.

**Tesco Ireland Ltd. (Tesco)** is working hard to minimise plastic packaging in Tesco own label products. Tesco tracks the materials used in its packaging and assesses the packaging weight per unit of product sold. In collaboration with suppliers, Tesco is working to reduce and simplify the types of materials used in packaging so that less is used and packaging is easier for customers to recycle.

In 2018, Tesco implemented a 20% plastic reduction in the weight of packaging for Tesco Baby Wipes and removed 20 tonnes of plastic from Tesco Finest Steaks tray packaging. 5 tonnes of plastic has been removed in Tesco Mince trays by removing soak pads. A step that can also aid recycling.

In line with the SUP directive, plastic straws have been removed from their juice drinks.

**Aurivo Co-operative Society (Aurivo)** have reduced the micron of their shrink wrap which has led to 25% less tons of plastic at their site in Ballaghderreen, Co. Roscommon. Lightweighting of milk bottles which commenced in 2016 has also led to 9% less plastic per unit.

The business also avoids unnecessary plastics within their supply chain by using trollies and cardboard to transport and display products with customers instead of plastic wrap. The business has also replaced PS and PET cream trays with cardboard, leading to a reduction of over 1.65 tonnes of plastic since its implementation.

During 2019 Aurivo plan to create alternatives to plastic straws for their mini drinks range. They also plan to consult with customers to avoid using plastic wrap to keep empty milk trollies together upon return to site and plan to do this using a reusable industrial strap instead.

In 2018 **Aldi Stores Ireland Ltd. (Aldi)** implemented a number of projects on their Irish bought products to reduce plastic packaging. Changes to packaging on their Kavanagh's porridge, dishwasher tablets and heavy duty refuse sacks combined, will remove almost 200 tonnes of single use plastic packaging from the Irish market annually.

As a UK and Ireland business unit Aldi's work has been extensive; involving changes to 62 product lines and involving the replacement or removal of almost 3,000 tonnes of packaging.

**Lidl Ireland GmbH (Lidl)** have also reduced packaging dimensions on some products such as Alesto Nuts, Bellarom coffee capsules and have removed more than 10 tonnes of plastic packaging from Fairtrade bananas by replacing this with a biodegradable paper banding. Lidl also introduced more consumer choice in the fresh produce category by providing seventeen additional loose Fruit and Vegetable options.

In 2018 **Musgrave Plc. (Musgrave)** announced its commitment to eliminate, reduce and replace plastic packaging and to educate consumers on how best to avoid plastic by, for example, selecting loose or unpackaged produce, meat and fish. Musgrave have created guidance documents for trading team Members and suppliers to assist them in challenging the need for packaging and, where packaging is necessary, in selecting appropriate packaging material that will enable consumers to recycle or compost.

As part of their 2019 Plans, Musgrave has created a comprehensive plan and targets to set the business direction on sustainable packaging by focusing on 3 main areas: Own Brand, Fresh Produce, Instore Packaging (Deli, Serve-over, Butchery and Bakery). The business will also increase the amount of loose fruit and vegetables on offer, so that consumers have a choice, while use of compostable produce bags, will eliminate single-use plastics. The business will also begin removing single use plastic from in-store packaging ranges including bakery, fruit and veg bags, and on-the go deli options e.g. cutlery.

**Danone** which includes their Early Life Nutrition, Danone Waters, Danone Nutricia and Danone Ltd businesses understands that avoidable SUP should be minimised in products where alternatives are readily available and affordable.

During 2018 the Danone businesses reviewed their product portfolios to identify where packaging exists that could fall within this definition. Where they are present Danone are now developing plans to remove them.

For store and ecommerce product packaging **Brown Thomas** and **Arnotts** have reviewed all packaging materials and design with their suppliers and identified several improvements to include those that will eliminate and minimise single use plastic packaging. These are being assessed at present with a view to implementation by the end of 2019. One initiative currently being assessed involves the use of reusable transit packaging garment covers to reduce the use of single use plastic wrap.

Innovation has been identified as playing a key role in delivering a circular economy for plastics. One such innovation was launched by **National Plastic Packaging Ltd. (NPP)** during 2018. Their Fibre film pallet wrap reduces material consumption by 50%.

In early 2018, **Jacobs Douwe Egberts (JDE)** launched L'OR aluminium coffee capsules for use in Nespresso machines into Ireland. These capsules were designed to be 100% recyclable and are specifically made of aluminium rather than plastic or composite materials. They are widely available and can be recycled through specific recycling schemes.

Plastic packaging continues to be a focus area for JDE as part of their sustainability efforts and they are currently reviewing all their packaging to assess what else can be done in this area.

**Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard (IDL)** have chosen to move to cardboard alternatives on a number of products where feasible to do so.

- Plastic inserts have been removed from glass packs.
- Their 48 x 71ml pack has moved from shrinkwrap in a large tray to a cardboard shipper, reducing plastic use on site by 0.63 tonnes.
- A cardboard alternative has been chosen to a plastic fitment used to attach 50ml bottles to larger bottles.

To reduce plastics further, IDL also plan to stop using plastic inserts on future promotional packs and are trialing the removal of shrinkwrap on 50ml products.

### Removal of SUP from business premises

**ABP Food Group** engage with staff to raise awareness of the steps the company are taking to reduce plastic both at their offices and in their processing plants. During 2018 ABP eliminated single use plastic cups, plastic cutlery and plastic straws from their premises and have encouraged employees to use own branded reusable cups.

During 2019 ABP commenced a project to identify avoidable plastics used during their manufacturing process focussing on items such as crate liners, pallet wrap and pallet hoods. These are challenging projects that must balance material reductions whilst maintaining food safety and quality and involve investigating where quantity reductions, material lightweighting and alternatives such as strapping and reusable options can be utilised. Small changes in the dimensions and thickness of plastic items can result in significant plastic savings across the whole site on an annual basis.

**Aldi Stores (Ireland) Ltd.** have also removed all single use coffee cups from coffee machines at their head office and are currently investigating the provision of a keep cup to every employee to discourage the use of single-use coffee cups both in work and outside of the office.

**Lidl Ireland GmbH** have also replaced conventional coffee cups from vending machines with 100% recyclable, uncoated paper cups and do not provide plastic stirrers. In addition they have started to delist single use plastic items from sale such as drinking straws, regular cups, beer cups, plastic plates and deep plastic plates.

This work will remove over 3.7 million single use plastic items from the Irish market and will be completed in advance of the proposed SUP Directive. In addition, they have also removed the microbeads from all cosmetic and household products.

**Tesco Ireland** is working to reduce the amount of plastic used in Tesco Head Office. Some of the initiatives include replacing all coffee cups and lids with recyclable cups and lids, replacing all plastic cutlery with recyclable cutlery, replacing canteen food to-go containers with recyclable containers, replacing sachets with reusable tubs, working with catering teams and shopping centre management to improve segregation and using alternatives to expanded polystyrene for product samples.

In 2018, **Brown Thomas** and **Arnotts** identified all the SUP items in their business subject to the forthcoming SUP Directive. To date, the business has eliminated single use plastic straws, cutlery, plastic wrapping on sugar in restaurants and plastic water bottles in the Brown Thomas customer restaurants and the Brown Thomas and Arnotts team restaurants. A branded reusable coffee cup was also rolled out to their head office teams. All new direct employees of Brown Thomas and Arnotts receive an eco-pack at induction which includes a reusable coffee cup to support them avoiding single use coffee cups.

In 2018 **Blenders** conducted an internal review of SUPs on site and have removed single use coffee cups from their premises. **National Plastic Packaging** and **Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard (IDL)** also supplied all of their staff with a reusable coffee cup and during 2019 **Aurivo Co-operative Society** will remove all single use plastic cups from their premises.

## Objective 2 — Support Ireland to Deliver the CEP Plastic Recycling Targets

### Maximising Recycling

All of the Members who reported progress to us are maximising recycling through the design of their consumer packaging and also through improved segregation of packaging materials at their premises.

This was a big focus for **Musgrave Plc.** during 2018 which resulted in the removal of 460 tonnes of non-detectable black plastic trays across 44 Fruit & Vegetable product lines. A further 11 tonnes of soft plastics have been removed across produce ranges, while 15 Organic SKUs have moved from non-recyclable plastic to compostable packaging. At their distribution centres Musgrave also operate a one stop shop for waste management which is designed to maximise the segregation of packaging for recycling.

During 2018 **Quinn Packaging** launched an important innovation to help tackle the detection of black PET plastic packaging. The “Detecta by Quinn” product is an important development which can be scanned by existing MRF equipment allowing for more black plastics to be captured for recycling. In addition this can be produced from up to 100% recycled plastics.

In 2018 the **Aldi Stores Ireland Ltd.** worked with their UK and Ireland business units and replaced more than 2,500 tonnes of non-recyclable plastics with recyclable material. This has positive impacts in both markets.

A number of Aldi's packaging formats were also changed in 2018 to aid the detection of plastics for recycling at Material Recovery Facilities (MRF). A large proportion of fresh produce has been moved from difficult to detect black plastic trays to clear plastic trays.

In 2019 Aldi's BBQ seasonal product will be launched in clear rather than black trays and their Mini Bites confectionary product will move from black to a more readily detectable colour. Also, to aid detection in sorting facilities, perforated removable plastic sleeves were introduced on all cleaning spray bottles during 2018.

**Aurivo Co-operative Society** have already started moving away from full body labels that can lead to detection errors during sorting, due to issues identifying the main bottle plastic.

**Lidl Ireland GmbH** have developed a plastic footprint analysis for own-brand products in 2018 to identify the recyclability of their packaging and tackle areas that need to be improved.

During 2018, Lidl also tackled MRF detection issues and have removed black plastic trays in the fresh produce and fish categories, replacing these with fully detectable alternatives. Expanded polystyrene trays used in the fresh produce category have also been substituted for cardboard trays.

**ABP Food Group's** goal is to provide fully recyclable packaging for customers and at recycling facilities. Trials are planned for 2019 for fully recyclable tray and film solutions. The materials used will be single polymer, plastic packaging with no mixed plastics for sealing.

**Brown Thomas** and **Arnotts** have also improved their waste segregation of cardboard, plastic packaging and plastic hangers resulting in a 2% improvement in recycling rates since January 2019. By the end of 2019 Brown Thomas aim to achieve zero waste to landfill.

A key part of Coca Cola's World without Waste strategy is focussed on collection. **Coca Cola HBC Ireland & Northern Ireland** has partnered with Repak to help improve opportunities for recycling out-of-home. An example of this is a partnership brokered between a number of third level institutions and Repak to include dedicated recycling stations for plastic bottles and beverage cans. Repak's “Team Green Recycling Machines” reward both consumers and a designated charity group every time it is filled.

CCHBC has also built on its long-standing partnership with An Taisce and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to expand the Clean Coasts programme. In addition to Clean Coasts Week, Coca-Cola volunteers also engaged in the Big Beach Clean in September 2018. Throughout the year, Coca-Cola supported 8,000 volunteers, to engage in 400+ clean-ups, and collect 55 tonnes of litter from the coast.

**Tesco Ireland Ltd.** is working collaboratively with their suppliers and industry to remove all difficult to recycle plastic by the end 2019 from Tesco Own Label Products — a goal they are on track to achieve.

**Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard** has also published a Packaging Eco Design Manual to support material review in new product development.

They are also Members of Eco Vadis, a supplier sustainability network which provides sustainability ratings on their suppliers. This helps procurement teams monitor Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices in the supply chain”.

By committing to transition from a linear to a circular approach, **Danone** embraces the responsibility to promote collaboration, invest in new technologies and explore new solutions to achieve this ambition of circularity.

As part of this process Danone are exploring the movement of certain product lines from plastic to materials with higher recycling rates (paper, glass, etc.) and adopting a dual strategy for polystyrene (PS) packaging, by significantly reducing dependency on this material while collaborating to develop the first recycling streams. Danone also aim to phase out all PVC packaging by 2021, since it interferes with the recycling process for PET.

Danone believe the solution to the plastics pollution problem will be a combination of fully circular single-use packaging (where materials are used, recycled and reintegrated into packaging), and alternative delivery or reuse models.

### Recycling Education

Supporting staff and consumers is also a priority for many of Repak's Pledge Members and consumer recycling information has now been added by many.

This includes **Tesco Ireland Ltd.'s** packaging to make it easy for consumers to understand materials that can and cannot be recycled.

At their manufacturing site in Donegal staff are well trained in the areas of waste management and recycling, meaning that **Aurivo Co-operative Society** has also achieved zero waste to landfill since 2016.

**Aldi Ireland Ltd.** educate their staff on the importance of recycling both in work and at home and their product range includes On Pack Recycling Labels.

**Lidl Ireland GmbH** are also changing all of their packaging to include On Pack Recycling Labelling (OPRL) in order to support consumer education.

Although Coca Cola's bottles are 100% recyclable in Ireland, to improve recycling targets, **Coca Cola HBC Ireland & Northern Ireland** understands that education is key. In 2018, both the Coca-Cola and Deep RiverRock brands included recycling messages across all media platforms and on pack to promote more responsible consumer behaviour.

**Britvic Ireland** are also using the power of advertising to help promote recycling with consumers. During 2018 outdoor poster advertisements for their Club soft drinks range carried a 'Please Recycle Me' logo. The "Please Recycle Me' logo was added to MiWadi outdoor poster advertisements from Jan 2019 and will be added to Britvic's full range of Irish-produced drinks in 2019, leading with Ballygowan water in March.

**Lucozade Ribena Suntory Ireland Ltd.** has also committed to ensuring consistent OPRL recycling instructions are updated across the portfolio by the end of 2020.

Lucozade Ribena Suntory Ireland Ltd is using brand communications to encourage consumers to “recycle more and litter less”. In 2018 Ribena launched a communications campaign across social media celebrating the use of 100% rPET for its bottle and encouraging consumers to ‘Keep Recycling’.

Lucozade Energy also invested in branded recycling bins with a recycling call to action in shopping centres within Dublin. In December 2018 239 units were placed in shopping malls with a further 239 rolled out in January 2019.

**Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard** have added the “please recycle” logo to all of their secondary packaging.



### Objective 3 — Reduce complexity in the Plastic Packaging Supply Chain

During 2018 **ABP Food Group** established a baseline to help the business understand current packaging used and problematic plastics within their product portfolio. This exercise identified PVC and multi-polymer laminate shrink bags as target areas for plastic reductions and material changes during 2019.

ABP are a lead partner in the **Plastics Action Alliance** and have pledged to no longer use PVC in packaging by 2020 where viable alternatives exist. Trials are planned for the elimination of PVC material that is used for trays formed in-house during production. This project aims to eliminate over 180 tonnes of PVC over the next two years. The business is also investigating a reusable capsule system as an alternative to non-recyclable, laminated shrink bags.

**National Plastic Packaging** are in the process of replacing a non-recyclable material with a fully recycled material in a substantial pet food application. This project will replace 200 tonnes of material.

In 2018 **Tesco Ireland Ltd.** removed foamed polystyrene trays from Tesco Apple & Pear ranges and launched its 2019 objectives to all own label suppliers to continue removing hard to recycle materials including: PVC & Polystyrene; Oxy degradable materials; Rigid Water soluble plastics; PLA-Polylactic Acid; industrially compostable; Polycarbonate; & Acrylic materials.

Some examples of 2019 initiatives include the removal of PVC and PS from more than 30 product ranges across dairy, cooked meats and fresh produce lines.

Again commencing that project involved the collation of data to ensure that the business had full visibility of their packaging footprint and the volume of different materials in packaging. Tesco therefore:

1. Engaged own brand suppliers on their closed loop vision & strategic targets
2. Completed a packaging audit of 'red' (hard to recycle) materials used in packaging
3. Plans are now in place to remove hard to recycle materials with a target of the end of 2019.

Numerous projects are in progress to eliminate polystyrene from the fish and meat counter, shelf ready packaging used in the dairy category and to remove 300 tonnes of foamed polystyrene discs from the chilled pizza range.

**Aldi Stores Ireland Ltd.** have set up a packaging working group where buyers meet to discuss solutions to simplify the packaging supply chain and eliminate non-recycling packaging. This is supported by an external advisor. The Buying Department, along with suppliers are constantly searching for ways to reduce complexity within the packaging supply chain by simplifying polymer usage.

In 2019 the business is working on simplifying polymer usage and eliminating non-recyclable components in packaging. Buyers are currently working towards replacing plastic packaging with card packaging on Easter eggs for 2020. In terms of some chocolate and confectionary lines, investigations are being carried out on the viability of compostable packaging. Their plant and flower buyers are working with suppliers to move to recyclable or compostable labels and pots by 2020.

During 2019 Aldi will also move a selection of cooked meat trays from PVC to mono rPET packaging to increase its value for recycling. Bases under Aldi's chilled pizza range will also move from expanded polystyrene to a widely recycled cardboard.

**Aurivo Co-operative Society** are currently investigating the elimination of PVC plastics from the supply chain and are replacing these with easily recyclable or compostable alternatives.

During 2019 Aurivo plan to increase the recyclability of their current offering through design modifications. Focus on alternatives to PVC labels could result in 5 tonnes less plastic entering the market for cream alone. Aurivo also plan to investigate non-colour lids on milk bottles to enhance the quality of HDPE recycle.

**Danone** has conducted a review of its packaging to identify polymers which are currently understood to be more difficult to recycle. In particular they identified products where PS and PVC were used, which disrupts the recycling of, for example, PET bottles.

In 2019 Danone plans to continue the assessment of their packaging materials. Alongside continued research Danone will work to implement developed plans to replace these PS and PVC polymers with recyclable alternatives by 2021, where alternatives are permitted by regulation.

**Blenders** like many Irish businesses have taken the first steps on their journey and are completing a review of current packaging to benchmark where they are in terms of packaging recyclability.

In 2019 they will then consult with suppliers for possible alternatives to current single use portion packs, Retail and Catering “squeeze” bottles and catering cartridge dispensers where necessary.

In January 2019 **Lidl Ireland GmbH** also sent a guidance document with a list of “do’s and don’ts” to all of its suppliers to inform them on how they can simplify polymer usage and provide a clear reference of the plastic types and composites that are more favourable for recycling (guidance sent in January 2019).

Lidl also sent a survey to all suppliers to identify the levels of recyclability of all packaging and the non-recyclable components involved.

During 2019, **Musgrave Plc’s** packaging plan will focus on simplifying their packaging through format and material rationalisation. Their teams and their suppliers will work to a set of standardised guidelines and targets on material selection. This will see the elimination of items such as composites, laminates and EPS.

**Brown Thomas** and **Arnotts** have updated their Ethical Trading Regulations to specify sustainable packaging requirements to suppliers. These include eliminating banned SUP, increasing use of recyclable and fully compostable materials. The business has also committed to eliminating polystyrene from their packaging by 2021.

As a signatory to the UK Plastics Pact all of **Lucozade Ribena Suntory Ireland Ltd.’s** plastic packaging will be 100% recyclable by 2025. The UK production plant supplies all Irish product and therefore will share the same recyclability goal.

**Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard** are planning to replace any PVC capsules with PET capsules that are recyclable. The business is currently working with local plastics suppliers to explore different types of plastics and alternatives that could be used in their products.

A new cap is also being developed for their 500ml PET bottle which will ensure all metal from the closure is fully removed from the bottle. Any metal left on the bottle currently hinders recycling.

If successful, this will then also be rolled out on their 50ml PET bottles.

## Objective 4 - Incorporate recycled content to build a circular economy

In 2018 **Lucozade Ribena Suntory Ireland Ltd.** celebrated the achievement that Ribena had been using 100% recycled plastic in its bottles for over ten years. Lucozade added communication around this to the front of its packaging and used social channels to drive awareness and encourage consumers to keep the recycling loop going. Under the UK Plastics Pact the business has already committed to using 30% recycled content and have already achieved 25% with their Ribena brand. During 2019 Lucozade Sport will move to 30% rPET increasing overall usage further.

As part of their commitment, in 2018 **Musgrave Plc.** also set a target of achieving a minimum 30% recycle content where permissible and feasible in all plastic packaging. During 2019, packaging plans will focus on the implementation of standardised guidelines on material selection, which will promote the use of materials with recycle content.

**Quinn Packaging** supplies plastic packaging to many of Ireland's leading food businesses. Following an investment in patented extrusion technologies the PET meat trays produced by Quinn Packaging have a recycled content of up to 100% post-industrial and/ or post-consumer plastic.

**ABP Food Group** recognise the importance of building a circular economy, and are constantly working to maximise the amount of plastic packaging with a recycled content. Food safety and quality are paramount and plastic used in production must be food grade. All of ABP's preformed trays used in production are manufactured using up to 95% recycled PET material. ABP aim to increase the amount of recycled material used with reference to targets set by the Plastic Action Alliance.

A target set by the **Plastics Action Alliance** is "By the end of 2025, we aim to ensure that we have 30% average recycled content across all plastic packaging."

In line with their project to replace PVC material in production, ABP are trialing rPET for their in house thermoformed trays which are made of a high percentage of rPET. This would increase the overall percentage of recycled content in their plastic packaging used in production.

The commitments entered into require **Danone** to incorporate recycled content in its packaging. This has already happened in the beverages sector where rPET has been used for a number of years. Starting in 2018 Danone launched 100% recycled PET bottles, to offer consumers more circular choices, planning to reach all their major markets by 2021.

Plans have been put in place to increase the recycled content in other sectors particularly yogurt pots. Current regulation does place some restrictions on use of recycled content in food grade packaging, limiting what can be done.

For the plastic packaging used across all products Danone plans to reach an average of 25% of recycled material in the packaging contents by 2025. For plastic water and beverage bottles within the Waters business unit of the company, Danone is aiming to reach an average of 50% recycled material for the water and beverage bottles sold by 2025, whilst those relating to the Evian® brand, will use 100% recycled PET by 2025.

On the technology side, Danone have recently partnered with Loop Industries, which has developed a technology that enables a continuous loop for recycling at large scale — transforming all types of PET plastic waste into the highest quality recycled plastic. This is a journey and Danone are still looking at R&D options to provide optimal solutions for all products.

**Aldi Stores Ireland Ltd.'s** buyers have started to look into sourcing and using packaging materials with a recycled content. In total Aldi UK and Ireland replaced 224 tonnes of virgin plastic with recycled content during 2018.

In 2019 Aldi Ireland plan to continue this work. Their standard flexiloop shopping bags are being phased out and will be replaced with 100% recycled plastic bags in the coming months. This will result in approx. 6 million bags moving to 100% recycled material in 2019. Aldi are also in the process of moving a selection of cooked meat trays from PVC to monolayer rPET packaging that is also recyclable after use and are investigating incorporating recycled plastic into cleaning and detergent bottles currently made from PET and PE.

**Coca Cola HBC Ireland & Northern Ireland** have integrated 15% recycled PET across its bottles in 2018. In 2019, the business plans to integrate at least 25% recycled PET across its bottle portfolio.

During 2018 **Aurivo Cooperative Society** started trialing alternatives to virgin plastics. Aurivo have a strong interest in closing the loop and during 2019 will investigate the recycling of shrink wraps for future wrapping across their sites and incorporating recycled HDPE pellets from their recycler back into their milk bottles at 10% content.

**Britvic Ireland** also completed trials on rPET during 2018 and are working to optimise equipment for production with recycled plastic. They plan to introduce rPET to their brand portfolio during 2019. Britvic Ireland are also investigating opportunities to increase recycled content in flexible plastics used.

**Lidl Ireland GmbH** have publicly committed to have 50% of their packaging coming from recycled materials by 2025, and to reduce the plastic content in packaging by 50% by 2022.

In January 2019, Lidl sent a survey to their suppliers to understand where recycled content in their packaging exists and will work with a group of suppliers to increase the recycled content in packaging where safety regulations allow.

## Objective 5 — Ensuring our approach aligns to our Food Waste Charter

**Aldi** are a signatory to Ireland's Food Waste Charter. Aldi is also partnered with FoodCloud and to date has donated over 1.5 million meals (almost 640 tonnes of surplus food) to charities across Ireland. Aldi also provides tips on reducing food waste in customer leaflets to help reduce food waste amongst consumers.

A number of Aldi's suppliers are currently carrying out shelf life tests to ensure that the quality of product is maintained. Trials to move to single polymer cheese packs has the potential to increase the recyclability of the packaging but shelf life testing must confirm that shelf life can be maintained. The durability of plastics is also one of their main benefits. Aldi are currently investigating if larger pulp egg boxes can be used to replace the plastic currently used for larger egg packs.

**Coca Cola HBC Ireland & Northern Ireland** donates short-dated stock to the Simon Community's foodbank when needed in order to help this homeless charity.

**Lidl Ireland GmbH** further developed its food donation programme in 2018 and redistributed over 206 tonnes of food.

Food waste is a significant focus for the **Musgrave** business. Musgrave are committed to ensuring that, by 2020, no food that is fit for human consumption is wasted, but is used to alleviate food poverty through their support for food re-distribution charities like FoodCloud, to which donations in 2018 amounted to over 150 tonnes. By 2030, Musgrave aim to halve their food surplus in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 and have seen a further 9% reduction in food surplus during 2018. The business implemented a system to track food surplus using more accurate scanning information and set, as a fundamental principle of packaging elimination projects, that they must not adversely affect shelf life or increase food waste.

In 2019 the business will continue to develop and expand this scanning-data-based food waste measurement system to quantify and manage food surplus. Musgrave will focus on prevention, re-distribution to charitable causes like FoodCloud and, thereafter, on using the remainder as feedstock in anaerobic digestion or composting systems.

**Aurivo Cooperative Society** carried out stacking and transport trials to look at more efficient stock transport which has the potential to reduce packaging materials used in transport. Maintaining the quality of products and ensuring that they remain undamaged and suitable for sale was a critical success factor in this work.

**Britvic Ireland** always consider the quality of product and the strength and rigidity of packaging when lightweighting or eliminating, to ensure that these activities do not result in product waste.

Plastic plays an important role in the reduction of food waste and **National Plastic Packaging** aims to introduce new materials to replace existing non-recyclable material without compromising the shelf life of food products.

While plastic reductions were carried out by **ABP Food Group**, ensuring that there was no negative effect on the food product that could lead to food waste was a key priority for ABP Food Group.

Currently the shrink bags used onsite are critical for ensuring food quality over the maturation time needed for their products. ABP continue to research other alternatives, but have yet to find a solution that ensures optimal food quality and shelf life.

## APPENDIX 2 — CORPORATE PLEDGES

### Tesco Ireland's Packaging Targets

1. We will end the use of hard to recycle materials from our own label packaging by end 2019
2. Our packaging will be fully recyclable by 2025
3. All our paper and board used will be 100% sustainable by 2025
4. We will halve the amount of packaging weight in our business by 2025

### Aldi Stores Ireland Packaging Pledges

In March 2018, Aldi Stores Ireland announced 8 plastic and packaging pledges externally that they aim to achieve by 2025. These include:

1. By 2022 we aim for 100% of all own label packaging to be recyclable, reusable or compostable.
2. By 2025 we aim to achieve 100% recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging across all products.
3. By 2025, we aim to reduce packaging by 50% (relative to 2015 baseline).
4. By 2025 we aim for 50% of our packaging to be made from recycled material.
5. Publicly report on our packaging reduction progress annually starting in 2019.
6. Educate customers on the importance of waste reduction (reduce, reuse, recycle)
7. We are committed to working in partnership with other retailers to reduce our dependence on plastic.
8. We will establish a Packaging Task Force with our Buying Teams, Suppliers and external experts to deliver these goals (move to plans).

### Coca Cola HBC Ireland & Northern Ireland

In January 2018, Coca-Cola launched its Global World Without Waste strategy, setting out its 2030 commitments to 'design' more sustainable packaging; 'collect' the equivalent of every bottle or can it sells; and 'partner' with NGOs and others to help clean-up the planet.

The Island of Ireland business unit, localised this strategy and began to implement the roadmap throughout 2018. Achievements included:

#### Design:

- All bottles and cans produced for Ireland are 100% recyclable
- Recycled PET has been integrated across all bottles, achieving 15% by year-end
- All bottles have been light-weighted by 5% with the introduction of a smaller bottle closure across the portfolio.

#### Collect:

- CCHBC has partnered with Repak to help improve opportunities for recycling out-of-home

#### Partner:

- Coca-Cola has built on its long-standing partnership with An Taisce and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to expand the Clean Coasts programme. In addition to Clean Coasts Week, Coca-Cola volunteers also engaged in the Big Beach Clean in September 2018. Throughout the year, Coca-Cola supported 8,000 volunteers, to engage in 400+ clean-ups, and collect 55 tonnes of litter from the coast.
- Recycling messages included Above The Line and on-pack for Coca-Cola and Deep RiverRock brands.

### Lidl Ireland GmbH

Lidl Ireland GmbH have publicly committed to convert all packaging to recyclable, refillable or renewable by 2025.

### Danone

By 2025, Danone are aiming for 100% of our packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable.

### Brown Thomas & Arnotts

Brown Thomas & Arnotts have published their Pledge on Plastic Packaging Waste on their Brown Thomas and Arnotts websites and have published Targets for 2019/2020 to meet this. Those relating to Single Use Plastics (SUP) and plastics elimination/reduction include:

1. By end 2019, eliminate all single use plastics including plastic straws, cutlery, cups and water bottles in our customer/team restaurants and offices.
2. By end 2019, shift to reusable coffee cups as our preference and 100% compostable coffee cups for single use if needed.
3. By 2020, under our commitment to Ireland's REPAK Plastics Packaging Pledge — we will eliminate avoidable single use plastic packaging, shift to low impact packaging materials such as recycled plastic and fully compostable.
4. By end 2019, our Brown Thomas ecommerce packaging and fillers will be plastic free using only recycled paper and board certified to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Programme for Environmental Forest Certification (PEFC).
5. By end 2019, plastic homeware carrier bags will be replaced by reusable carrier bags made from low impact material.
6. By end 2019, eliminate single use plastics such as plastic q-tips and non- biodegradable wipes from our beauty halls.
7. By end 2021, eliminate polystyrene in transit packaging.

From May 2019 we will take back empty make up plastic containers for recycling with our Origins concession in Arnotts. The plastic containers are to be collected for recycling.



## APPENDIX 3 — REPAK’S PLASTIC PLEDGE



Ireland’s Pledge on Plastic Packaging Waste

### Our Pledge

As a member of Repak we are committed to reducing plastic packaging waste and helping Ireland to play its part in achieving the key goals set out within the EU Circular Economy Package.

We continue to work with our suppliers, customers and the public to achieve the following objectives:

1. Prioritise the prevention of plastic packaging waste by minimising avoidable single use packaging and promoting packaging reuse where possible.
2. Support Ireland to deliver the Circular Economy Package plastic recycling targets of 50% of all plastics by 2025 and 55% of all plastic packaging by 2030, as set by the European Commission.
3. Reduce complexity within the plastic packaging supply chain by simplifying polymer usage and eliminating non-recyclable components in all plastic packaging by 2030.
4. Help to build a circular economy for used plastic packaging in Ireland and Europe by increasing the use of plastic packaging with a recycled content.
5. Ensure our approach to plastic packaging reduction is aligned to Ireland’s goal of a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030 as set out in Ireland’s food waste charter.

*Séamus Clancy*

Séamus Clancy  
CEO, Repak Ltd.

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Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Company



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