

# Plastics and packaging

## Why it's important to us

Packaging plays an important role in protecting products and reducing food waste, but this shouldn't come at a cost to the planet. We recognise that our industry needs to do things differently. That's why we've been working to change the way we package our products, what we make our packaging from, and what happens to our packaging after it has done its job. By ensuring our packaging is circular and climate-smart, we're helping to protect the earth's natural resources.

## Progress highlight

**We've developed a 100% recyclable, plastic-free sandwich skillet that provides the same shelf life and product quality as traditional sandwich packaging.**

## What we are doing about it

- In conjunction with a key supplier, ProAmpac, we have developed an all-fibre, plastic-free recyclable sandwich skillet, believed to be the first of its type in the world. Although the skillet now has a plastic-free window, it gives products the same shelf life as traditional skillets.
- We have removed all unrecyclable black plastic in our prepared ready meals and food to go sushi range.
- We are rolling out a new SpecSafe packaging system, which gives us live material data, including recyclability and recycled content data on all the packaging we use for our products, thereby giving us increased visibility of areas for improvement.
- We have adopted the GaBi Packaging Calculator – a lifecycle assessment tool that contains datasets on materials and manufacturing processes, enabling us to gain a unique understanding of material life cycle impacts whilst supporting packaging development and the identification of optimal solutions.

## Our focus for the next 12 months

- We are striving to make our packaging more circular and climate smart. To achieve this, we are following a policy of 'less and better' to guide our actions. We are committed to reducing the amount of packaging we use in the first place, switching to recycled and recyclable material and moving to alternative materials.
- The next 12 months will see us further trial and roll out our paper lined sandwich skillet to more customers and conclude our ongoing review into the packaging used for our fresh soup pots, which currently contains no recycled content.
- As more retailers are asking for support on the impact of their packaging, we will be carrying out more Life Cycle Assessments ("LCAs") supported by the GaBi Packaging Calculator, ensuring this approach becomes part of the overall process in the development of the most sustainable packaging solutions.



**“The biggest challenge facing us in packaging is balancing the best solution for the product with that for the environment. The general approach has been to focus on packaging reduction, however, this approach hasn’t always led to implementing the best overall solutions when it comes to the end-of-life for the packaging.**

**Our ability to make packaging choices based on life cycle data is improving rapidly; we have to consider impacts at all stages of the packaging’s life in order to make the best decisions that have the lowest environmental impact.**

Sarah Greaves, Group Packaging Technologist

### Three year performance tables

| Goal  | KPIs  | FY19 | FY20 | FY21  |
|---|---|------|------|---|
| By 2025, we will ensure that all of our packaging is recyclable or reusable | Percentage of packaging that is classed as recyclable | n/a  | n/a  | * not currently available, packaging database system coming on line in FY22 |
|   | Percentage of recycled content used                   | n/a  | n/a  | * not currently available, packaging database system coming on line in FY22 |

| GRI/SASB aligned data | KPIs  | 2019   | 2020   | 2021                |
|-----------------------|---|--------|--------|---------------------|
| Materials used        | Non renewable materials used (tonnes) (glass, plastic, aluminium, steel, others)  | 63,244 | 70,066 | Data available 2022 |
|                       | Renewable materials used (tonnes) (paper, board, wood)                            | 22,846 | 28,209 |                     |
|                       | Total weight of packaging purchased (tonnes)                                      | 86,090 | 98,275 |                     |
|                       | Percentage of packaging, by weight, made from recycled and/or renewable materials | 53%*   | 49%*   |                     |

\* Paper, board, steel and glass included

### Delivering action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

