Industry quotes

“Retailers are leading the way in helping customers reduce waste through measures, such as providing consistent on-pack recycling information and improved facilities to recycle. They have worked hard to achieve zero packaging growth and played a significant part in reducing the 500,000 tonnes of packaging saved during the lifetime of the original Courtauld Commitment.

“The BRC and its members welcome Courtauld 2’s more sophisticated approach in setting targets to reduce waste and the resulting carbon emissions. Retailers will continue to tackle the carbon impacts of packaging and waste in their supply chain to help WRAP meet their ambitious new targets.”

Stephen Robertson, Director General, British Retail Consortium

“Promoting resource efficiency is the key driver behind FDF’s Five-fold Environmental Ambition. We are delighted with the progress made by our members in reducing pack, product and food waste within the framework of the original Courtauld Commitment. We agree with WRAP that it is time to build on this success and look more widely at impacts across the supply chain and commend WRAP for their leadership in providing a clear focus to do this though the new Commitment.”

Melanie Leech, Director General, FDF

“Packaging and food waste remain top priorities for the food and grocery industry, as well as being key environmental concerns for British shoppers. Retailers and manufacturers are already leading the way and have worked with WRAP to achieve zero growth in grocery packaging - despite a growing UK population.

"IGD is delighted to be helping the industry to identify, develop and share best practice to reduce grocery packaging and food waste in the food chain."

David Gordon, Director of Industry Development, IGD

Signatory quotes

1. “The aims of the Commitment, to waste less materials, re-use and recycle packaging are not new activities to AG Barr but have been a part of our overall sustainability strategy over the years. This includes our Returnable Glass Bottle scheme in Scotland which has been operating for over 135 years. We are delighted to be the first new Scottish company to sign up to this important agreement and we are committed to the development of a broad range of initiatives aimed at minimising our ongoing use of packaging resources.”

AG Barr Roger White, CEO

2. “Boots UK is pleased to continue its support of the Courtauld Commitment into its second phase with its aim of achieving a more sustainable use of resources across the lifecycle of products. We believe that the more holistic focus of the new commitment will help deliver real improvements in the sustainability of consumer products.”

Alliance Boots Alex Gourlay, Chief Executive, Health and Beauty Division
3. “apetito is very pleased to support the second phase of the Courtauld Commitment. Resource efficiency and waste avoidance are central elements of our programme of reducing carbon emissions across the food and supply chain. We look forward to working with WRAP to take this valuable project forward”

apetito

4. “Arla Foods has been committed to reducing the impact of its packaging waste for some time now. In 2005 we set ourselves the target of reducing CO2 emissions by 25 per cent by 2020 within the areas of production, transport and packaging. Last year we delivered the dairy industry’s lightest two pint polybottle and since the end of January all our own label polybottles now contain 10 per cent rHDPE.

“We believe that our involvement in the Courtauld Commitment fits perfectly with our strategy of becoming Closer to Nature and are looking forward to working in partnership with WRAP to realise our environment ambitions.”

Arla Foods

5. “Since signing the Courtauld Commitment in 2006, we’re proud to have achieved an industry leading 27% reduction in packaging compared to just 10% across the rest of the industry. That’s why we’ve committed to go even further by helping WRAP achieve its next phase. We know these are stretching goals, especially given the significant reductions we have already delivered, but look forward to playing our part in helping WRAP deliver on these targets to significantly reduce waste throughout the supply chain.”

Asda

6. “We are proud to be a founding signatory of Courtauld Commitment 2 as it allows us to build on earlier successes achieved under the initiative. At Britvic we are committed to continuing our journey to reduce the environmental impact we have through a range of measures including further packaging reductions, the use of recycled plastic and a range of more energy efficient chillers.”

Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd John Gibney, Group Finance Director

7. “Constellation Europe is pleased to join the second phase of the Courtauld Commitment. As the world’s largest wine company we understand that we have a key role to play in reducing the industry’s impact on the environment and look forward to working with our suppliers and partners to meet the targets set by this agreement.”

Constellation Europe Nick Thomas, Vice-President Technical

8. “The Co-operative is pleased to support WRAP in their ambitions to deliver these new targets which encompass environmental benefits beyond simple packaging weight reduction. We have already demonstrated through our Co-operative Watch Your Waste events, along with simple ideas like printing storage instructions on loose produce bags, how a retailer is able to empower customers to tackle the problem of household food waste.”

Co-operative Group Peter Marks, Group Chief Executive
9. “We were the first dairy company to sign the Courtauld Commitment in 2007 and we’re happy to pledge our support to reducing packaging waste. Innovation is a significant part of our strategy but it means more than just coming up with new ideas, such as our milk bag and JugIt system – it requires investment and on-going commitment. We look forward to supporting Phase II, giving us the opportunity to improve on successes already achieved. Through continued work with suppliers and retailers we will attempt to reduce the environmental impact of our packaging and achieve better supply chain efficiency, all of which will contribute to our overall business performance.”

Dairy Crest Mark Allen, CEO

10. “We are proud to join other organisations within the Grocery Sector by pledging our support for the latest phase of the Courtauld Commitment. Sustainable development is an integral part of the Danone Strategy, rooted in the Group’s history.”

Danone Dairies

11. “The Courtauld Commitment underlines the seriousness of our sustainability endeavours and we’re proud to be a signatory for the second phase of this important agreement. At DWUK, we’re committed to reducing the environmental impact of our products by reducing the amount of plastic in our bottles, increasing the amount of recycled PET we use and promoting recycling schemes in the UK. Since 1999, we have achieved a 20% reduction in the amount of plastic in our Volvic bottles and our 100 cl bottle currently includes 25% rPET – a figure we’re continually striving to increase. Commitments like Courtauld give key focus to manufacturers and bring the industry together in an effort to reduce our impact.”

Danone Waters UK Adam Grant, Managing Director

12. “Foster’s are proud to be a founding signatory of Courtauld Commitment 2 as it allows us to build on earlier successes achieved under the initiative. This agreement ensures we explore every opportunity to reduce the weight of packaging and increase recycled content and recycling rates where appropriate – in addition to reducing the carbon impact of packaging.”

Fosters EMEA Rob Hollis, Director, Regional Supply Services and Production

13. “As the first brand manufacturer to sign up to the original Courtauld Commitment, Heinz is proud to be a founding signatory of Courtauld Commitment 2. This provides a framework to build on our earlier successes such as the introduction of the lightest can ends on the planet and savings made to our plastic top down ketchup bottles by switching to PET. Together with our own global sustainability goals, this agreement reflects our commitment to explore every opportunity to reduce packaging weight and increase recycled content and recycling rates where appropriate – as well as reducing the carbon impact of packaging.”

HJ Heinz Co Ltd Nigel Dickie, Director, Corporate and Government Affairs

14. “Sustainability is really important to us at Innocent and we are constantly working to improve the performance of our business. One of our key work areas is to monitor and target waste reduction throughout the supply chain and to ensure we put the best possible packaging on shelf. Courtauld 2 provides great focus for us in these areas and we are proud to be signatories.”

Innocent Drinks Jessica Sansom, Head of Sustainability
15. “Reducing the industry’s impact on the environment takes full commitment from the whole supply chain, so we are proud to join other organisations within the grocery sector by pledging our support for the latest phase of the Courtauld Commitment.”

Mars (UK)

16. “We are delighted to continue our support for the Courtauld Commitment in its second phase. As one of the original signatories, we have played our part in delivering the collective aim of reducing waste.

“We remain focused on finding the right balance between minimising the packaging of our products, whilst effectively protecting the food within and ensuring food stays fresh; and through our Great Taste Less Waste campaign we are helping our customers to reduce food waste. Looking forward, by engaging with WRAP through Courtauld 2 we aim to find new ways of embedding sustainability into the lifecycle of our products and enabling resource efficiency.”

Morrisons Angus Maciver, Group Marketing & Communications Director

17. “Becoming a signatory to the Courtauld Commitment has helped us to accelerate our packaging waste reduction programme, by quickly identifying opportunities to optimise our packaging and by providing a clear method to measure our progress. The Commitment brings together suppliers and retailers who are willing to share their knowledge and experiences to achieve a common goal. Being part of this initiative has helped us to achieve our objectives and we are delighted to be involved in the next phase.”

Muller Dairies Gharry Eccles, CEO

18. “Musgrave and our Retail Partners are proud to be a founding signatory of Courtauld Commitment 2, as it allows us to build on earlier successes achieved under the initiative. This agreement fits well with our own strategy of exploring every opportunity to reduce the weight of packaging, increase its recycled content and drive improvements in recycling rates whilst reducing the overall carbon impact of packaging.”

Musgraves

19. “Consumers are increasingly interested in environmental issues and as a Courtauld signatory, Nestlé UK has been very pleased to work with WRAP for a number of years to reduce the amount of packaging materials we use, use more recycled materials, encourage consumers to recycle more and identify ways to tackle the problem of food waste through the Love Food, Hate Waste campaign. We look forward to continued collaboration with WRAP to support the achievement of its new targets and also we hope to develop a future framework to assess the environmental impact of products across a wider range of metrics – which would include water usage and other environmental factors as well as carbon reductions.”

Nestlé UK & Ireland Paul Grimwood, Chairman and Chief Executive

20. “We are proud to be a founding signatory of Courtauld Commitment 2, as it allows us to build on earlier successes achieved under the initiative. As a company we are committed to reducing the impact of packaging waste, which is reinforced by our involvement in the Courtauld Commitment. Reducing this waste can result in significant environmental and carbon savings, as well as delivering a number of business benefits.”
Northern Foods

21. “Nichols Plc and VSD (Vimto Soft Drinks) are delighted to sign up to the Courtauld Commitment as we continue to reduce the impact on the environment from our business via a programme of sustainable initiatives. We are proud of our achievements to date and welcome the opportunity to support WRAP’s work.”

Nichols Plc and Vimto Soft Drinks

22. “As a company we are committed to reducing the impact of packaging waste within the grocery sector, something which is reinforced by our involvement in the Courtauld Commitment. Reducing this waste can result in significant environmental and carbon savings, as well as harness a number of business benefits.”

Robert Wiseman Dairies

23. “We’re incredibly proud of the success we’ve had in both reducing packaging and cutting food waste. We’ve cut packaging by a massive 13.7% over four years, against an original target of 5% and we’ve set an industry leading target to reduce it by another 33% by 2015.

“We recently launched milk bags, using 75% less packaging than conventional plastic bottles, which could save an additional 1.4 million kg of packaging every year, we also have an ongoing Love Your Leftovers campaign, through which we help customers save money while also trying to decrease the amount of food waste in the UK.”

“We’ll continue to come up with new ways to reduce our environmental impact, and to help our customers reduce theirs.”

Sainsburys Stuart Lendrum, Sainsbury’s Head of Packaging,

24. “We support the new Courtauld Commitment. It builds on the progress we have already made in reducing packaging in our own brand products by 15% since 2006.

We have set some ambitious climate change targets for the future, including to help customers halve their carbon footprint, and to help reduce the carbon impact of the products we sell by 30%, both by 2020.

We look forward to working with WRAP and others to help drive progress across the industry in these important areas.”

Tesco’s David North, Community and Government Director

25. “Unilever UK is delighted to be a signatory to the Courtauld Commitment Phase 2. We believe that companies who want to grow must do so in an environmentally sustainable way. At a global level we are developing targets to reduce GHG emissions and the production of waste; improve the conservation of water through our operations and those of our suppliers and our consumers and to buy all of our agricultural raw materials from sustainable sources. The Courtauld Commitment Phase 2 addresses many of these issues and we aim to help deliver its objectives through our global programme.”

Unilever UK and Ireland Dave Lewis, Chairman
26. “These collective targets are immensely important if as an industry we are to make a real difference - and we're committed to playing our part to achieve them. We already have in place a number of initiatives to cut waste - for example we've reduced our packaging weight by a third since 2001. We look forward to working with WRAP and other retailers to develop such work even further.”

Waitrose

27. “As a company we are committed to reducing the impact of packaging and food waste within the grocery sector, something which is reinforced by our involvement in the Courtauld Commitment. Reducing this waste can result in significant environmental and carbon savings, as well as harness a number of business benefits.”

Warburtons

28. “Following our beneficial work with WRAP for the original Courtauld Commitment, which has delivered material and cost savings for us, Weetabix Limited are pleased to be a launch signatory for the Courtauld Commitment Phase II. We look forward to helping WRAP on this important new project.”

Weetabix