


Courtauld Commitment (United Kingdom)

	Region	United Kingdom
	Type of prevention measure	Voluntary Agreement
	Geographical level of implementation	National
	Target	Businesses
	Date of implementation	2005
	Type of waste	Packaging Waste

This voluntary agreement between major UK supermarkets and the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) aims to reduce household waste by working with companies to design out packaging waste growth and begin delivering absolute reductions in packaging waste.

Context

The NGO WRAP invited directors of the major UK grocery retailers and the British Retail Consortium, as well as the UK Environment Minister, to discuss shared solutions to the problem of packaging and food waste growth. Held at the Courtauld Institute in March 2005, the stakeholders have since met annually to assess progress, share best practices and develop further initiatives.

Objective

The signatories of the Courtauld Commitment agreed to support WRAP in the following objectives:

- To design out packaging waste growth by 2008
- To achieve absolute reductions in packaging waste growth by March 2010
- To identify solutions to the food waste problem and reduce UK food waste by 155,000 tonnes by 2010, against 2008 levels

Means

Retailers have developed new packaging strategies for implementation across their supply chain, focusing on:

- Biopolymers and compostable packaging
- Providing consistent on-pack recycling information for consumers
- Household food waste reduction initiatives
- Company-specific internal targets
- Best practice sharing through case studies



Results

More than 35 major retailers, brands and distributors have signed the Courtauld Commitment, representing 92% of the UK grocery market. A series of 30 case studies demonstrating optimal food waste and packaging solutions has been produced. The first objective of halting packaging growth was achieved in 2007 despite 1.8% growth in the grocery sector.

Further Information

Courtauld Commitment:

www.wrap.org.uk/retail/courtauld_commitment

Packaging and Food Waste best practice:

www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/CC_Case_Studies_1_8_May_2009_final1.1a0bfe53.6249.pdf