

Water Stewardship Policy

About this policy

Premier Foods is committed to the protection of the environment and people. We will conduct our business with care and consideration for both the local and wider environment through the provision and application of sound environmental practices. This will be achieved through the implementation of a structured risk management approach, guided by our Enriching Life Plan.

This policy provides detail of our commitment to sustainable water stewardship, a key environmental priority for us within the planet pillar of our Enriching Life Plan. It outlines our actionable targets, the governance structure in place to guide our actions, and commitment to disclosure.

Who this policy applies to

This policy applies to all Premier Foods manufacturing and office sites and to all employees. Whilst not directly under the scope of this policy, we would advocate for all our third-party partners (Customers, Distributors and Suppliers) to maintain a similar position and approach to water stewardship as outlined within this policy.

There are many stakeholders we seek to serve through effective water stewardship, including:

- The communities and citizens with whom we share water resources and who are local to our sites
- Our employees
- Our customers
- Our consumers
- The water companies who serve us
- Local authorities, governance and public bodies
- Our suppliers
- The communities and citizens we are connected to via supply chains
- Other businesses and organisations who are reliant on shared water sources and ecosystems

Our engagement with these stakeholders is guided by our water stewardship targets (section 2a).

Responsibility for this policy

We are committed to driving a consistent approach to water stewardship across our business. Responsibility sits with all levels, championed and supported by Senior Management.

1. Context

At Premier Foods we source a wide range of ingredients and materials for our products, sourcing from the UK wherever possible and from global markets where appropriate. We make the majority of the food we produce in the UK, withdrawing the water we require from a range of sources including natural, borehole and municipal.

Water stress anywhere along the supply chains we operate in could affect our ability to operate and meet customer and consumer demand for our products. Carefully managing both our dependency on and impact on the water systems we are connected to through sustainable water stewardship must be one of our highest environmental priorities.

2. Our approach to water stewardship

We recognise that water is a shared natural resource, with many co-dependencies, and that access to safe and sufficient water for personal and domestic use is a basic human right.

Our Enriching Life Plan highlights our commitment to a more sustainable food system and, in turn, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Our water stewardship policy aligns specifically with the following:



Our approach to sustainable water stewardship is underpinned first and foremost by our appetite to understand and address the water-related risks we are exposed to, both across our direct operations and supply chains. We have already assessed scarcity, flood, water quality, regulatory, infrastructure and reputational risks at a catchment level for our manufacturing sites and have begun screening for risks across key supply chains.

2. a. Our targets

We have set measurable targets, framed by two key ambitions, to steer our approach to water stewardship. Firstly, to protect the water systems we both depend on and impact within our direct operations through efficient and responsible water use. This includes compliance with the local obligations our manufacturing sites are subject to such as environmental permits, abstraction licences and trade effluent consents. And secondly, to look across our key supply chains to identify issues of water stress, collaborate with stakeholders at a catchment level and seek opportunities to address and mitigate

Our Commitments	Our measurable targets	Timeframe
1. Protect the UK's water sources and infrastructure through effective water stewardship across our direct operations	1.1. Improve our understanding of water use within our operations and improve water efficiency by 5% by 2030, against a FY24/25 baseline. <i>(measured against revenue across operations, as per carbon intensity measure)</i>	2030
	Proactively manage water discharges from our sites to comply with local obligations, acting quickly to address any non-compliances if they arise. <i>(to be measured using definition set out within the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board, SASB, reporting framework which we disclose against).</i>	2030
2. Collaborate to better understand and address issues of water stress relevant to the supply chains we operate in.	2.1. Carry out water risk assessments across key commodity supply chains by 2027.	2027
	2.2. Join and participate in collective action projects in response to water stress in key water catchments.	2030

2. b. Advocacy

As water stewards, we will:

- Advocate support of the UN Sustainability Development Goals, specifically UN SDG 6, 12, 13 and 15.
- Collaborate with stakeholders across the food and drink industry to promote understanding of water stress and effective water stewardship. Including, but not limited to, via the Food and Drink Federation (FDF), the Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD), and the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP).
- Advocate membership of the UK Food and Drink Pact (formerly Courtauld Commitment 2030) and support of its collective action projects that aim to protect critical water resources for food supply, for nature, and for local communities.
- Advocate for effective water stewardship across our supply chains, collaborating with key suppliers to address key issues of water stress.

3. Governance

We believe everyone at Premier Foods plays a part in delivering our Enriching Life Plan. Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) sits at all levels of our business and there are elements of it in every role. Our Board has oversight of our strategy, and our Enterprise Risk Management processes ensure oversight of climate-related and other ESG risks (including water, biodiversity, forests, human rights, and related financial impacts).

Accountability for the delivery of our plan rests with our Executive Leadership Team ('ELT') and our Steering Groups which report into our ESG Governance Committee, chaired by our CEO. The committee is made up of members of the ELT, who have responsibility for ensuring our Enriching Life Plan is embedded into how we do business, sponsoring steering groups which are led by members of our Senior Leadership Team ('SLT'). Our CEO, and CFO and other ELT members and other members of our management teams both have the delivery of specific ESG targets in their annual bonus goals.

4. Disclosure and reporting

Holding ourselves accountable against our targets is essential. We publish progress against our Enriching Life Plan within our Annual Report, and share will detail of this relevant to our water stewardship targets from FY2024/25. We continue to report against the SASB (Sustainability Accounting Standards Board) ([SASB](#)) disclosure framework for the Food and Beverage sector.