HALEON

Waste: circularity and reduction
Our Haleon policy position

Background

Globally, societies' reliance on natural resources continues to increase, with resource extraction more than tripling since 1970[i]. Many of these resources are only in-use for a short period of time, and they are removed from the economy, ending up in landfill or being downcycled.[ii] Driven by the linear economy and the "take-make-waste" approach to using our natural resources, this approach is contributing to pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change. There is a growing imperative to move away from this model and towards a more circular economy. A circular economy is based on three principles:

– eliminate waste and pollution;

– circulate products and materials (at their highest value); and

– regenerate nature.[iii]

Central to addressing waste is proactively considering it at the early stages of any project or production process. The generation of waste may be avoided by the implementation and prioritization of sustainable procurement, the efficient use of natural resources and by sustainable patterns of production. Despite these efforts, sometimes the generation of waste cannot be avoided. Under these circumstances, a strategy for socially and environmentally responsible waste management should be in place.

Our principles and commitment to waste circularity and reduction

We aim to achieve TRUE Certification at our manufacturing sites by 2030.

In 2020, all manufacturing sites owned by Haleon achieved the goal of sending zero waste to landfill[1]. While maintaining this performance, we want to move our manufacturing waste towards greater circularity by certifying our sites using the TRUE Certification system. TRUE (Total Resource Use and Efficiency) Certification strives to change the way materials flow through society so that all products are eventually reused and diverted from landfill, incineration (waste-to-energy) and the environment[iv]. Haleon has committed to achieving TRUE Certification at all our own manufacturing sites by 2030.

Our strategy to achieve TRUE Certification is built upon the following principles which we seek to adhere to throughout our operations:

– eliminate or reduce the generation of waste, with a focus on hazardous waste;

– increase waste circularity and transition as much as possible from incineration;

– maximise the use of resources, including circular resources.

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[1] This calculation excludes waste which we are legally obliged to send to landfill.

Delivering our targets

Underpinning our strategy to achieve our global waste target is a programme that includes the following actions:

- Haleon's manufacturing sites are making progress towards increasing waste circularity, transitioning as much as possible from incineration to recycling and reducing waste with a focus on hazardous waste. We are monitoring progress against manufacturing sites' targets to ensure we maintain a high level of performance.

- To support sites in their efforts, we established a Waste Community of Practice for Haleon sites' EHS teams. The aim is to understand, oversee and support Haleon's waste circularity targets, provide support, identify collaboration opportunities, provide technical scrutiny, and share best internal/external best practice.

- Haleon is working with waste service providers to ensure they are aware and align with our waste targets. Their support in finding new, circular waste disposal routes for our waste is crucial to deliver the targets.

- Haleon seeks to ensure that waste is managed from the point of generation to the point of final disposal in a safe, responsible, and environmentally sustainable manner. The management of waste must ensure ongoing compliance with both corporate requirements and local regulatory and legal requirements.

- Haleon uses a hierarchy for waste which determines an order of preference for management and disposal of waste[v]. The key principle is that, wherever possible (and where local regulations permit), waste should be moved up the hierarchy with the goal of preventing/minimising waste and realising the cost benefits from efficient management of our resources.

Governance

Governance over progress of Haleon's environmental and social sustainability agenda is overseen by the Environmental and Social Sustainability Committee of the Board, chaired by a non-Executive Board Director. Waste-related issues are included in their scope.

For more information on how we engage policymakers, please see ***our position on political advocacy***

For information on our approach to packaging, please click here for our positions on ***Sustainable packaging***

[i] UNEP: We're gobbling up the Earth's resources at an unsustainable rate
[ii] European Environment Agency: Resource efficiency and waste
[iii] Ellen MacArthur Foundation: What is a circular economy?
[iv] The Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI): About TRUE
[v] European Commission: Waste Framework Directive