

Packaging Policy



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| Version no: | 1 | Date effective: | March 2023 |
| Owner: | Technical Services | Issued by: | Bradley Rodd |

Background

At Bidfood, we take the sustainability of our products and packaging seriously. We aim to lead and inspire change in food service to create a healthier and more sustainable future for everyone. The impact of excessive packaging and plastic packaging on the local and global environment is well documented. At Bidfood, we are committed to ensuring that our business becomes a market leader in limiting our environmental impact.

In 2021, the Environment Act was signed into law, with the 4 key priority areas being air quality, biodiversity, water and waste. This policy aligns with the 'Planet' section of Bidfood's overall sustainability commitments. We have set out some wide-ranging plans and challenged ourselves with stretching targets to help us deliver these aims and reduce our impact on the planet. This includes:

- waste reduction – target of 85% or greater overall recycling rates for secondary packaging
- reducing plastic – alignment with the UK Plastics Pact 2025
- plastic pallet wrap reduction – removal of pallet wrap from caged deliveries to customers

Further details in regards to Bidfood's overall sustainability policy can be found at:

www.bidfood.co.uk/sustainability

Bidfood adheres to all relevant UK legislation, including the UK Plastics Packaging Tax, Deposit Return Schemes, Single Use Plastics ban, and Extended Producer Responsibility.

What is Bidfood Doing?

Whilst packaging protects products through supply chains, extends shelf life, reduces food waste, and communicates to the consumer, we must ensure it is sustainably managed. Our aim is to reduce our impact on the environment by increasing recycled content in our packaging where it is safe to do so, reducing our use of single-use plastic at our sites, and encouraging recycling (e.g. via OPRL) and how our products are manufactured and delivered.

Policy

Scope

Our goal is to achieve the following targets for own brand packaging by the end of 2025:

- eliminate problematic or unnecessary single-use packaging through redesign, innovation or alternative (reuse) delivery models
- 100% of packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable
- 70% of plastic packaging effectively recycled or composted
- 30% average recycled content across all plastic packaging.
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These targets include **all** packaging types, including:

1. Primary – individual sale units (bags, cans, etc.)
2. Secondary – case packaging (outers, transit boxes, etc.)
3. Tertiary – transport packaging (stretch wrap, strapping, etc.)

Please note that this policy excludes non-Bidfood branded packaging.

Method/Procedure

(i) Collaborating across the food service industry and supply chain

We have collaborated and shared best practices with key industry stakeholders (e.g., the Foodservice Packaging Association, WRAP, UK government, and our LinkedIn Group), suppliers, and customers for many years. We are committed to continuing to drive change through this engagement and by contributing to the four industry targets outlined in the UK Plastics Pact, which are by 2025 to be achieved:

- Elimination of problematic or unnecessary single-use packaging through redesign, innovation or alternative (reuse) delivery models
- 100% of packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable
- 70% of plastic packaging is effectively recycled or composted
- 30% average recycled content across all plastic packaging.

(ii) Our Own-Brand ranges

By reviewing the current usage of all packaging (Inc. paper/board, plastic, aluminium, glass, etc.) across our own brand ranges, we will identify viable alternatives and make these available to customers via a phased approach by:

- reducing plastic content by 10% (by weight of packaging sold) across our own brand ranges by 2025
- making all own brand-ready meal tray packaging widely recyclable by 2024
- simplifying the materials we use, reducing them to three plastic polymers (i.e. PET, PP and PE by 2024.
- Clearly labelling products to help our customers recycle efficiently and appropriately, ensuring that all own-brand packaging carries recycling logos in accordance with OPRL (On-Pack Recycling Labels) guidelines. This form of labelling will be mandatory from March 2026 as part of Extended Producer Responsibility legislation.
- eliminating all single-use packaging and plastics from our range by 2025
- ensuring all new own-brand products are critically reviewed during the development process to minimise plastic and packaging content and increase recycled content where present.
- embedding the principles of sustainable design across our category teams with a series of workshops and easy to follow guides

To ensure listing of new own-brand products, paper packaging must adhere to the following:

- Paper and card primary packaging to be produced using virgin material board grades only (e.g. GC1, GC2, UC1, UC2, GZ, UZ).
- to ensure a sustainable approach to natural resources, virgin paper, and cards are to be sourced from certified managed forests, without exception (e.g. FSC, PEFC or similar). [FSC.org](https://www.fsc.org), [PEFC.org](https://www.pefc.org)
- If primary paper and card packaging is printed, Bidfood permits only Low Migration inks, varnishes and coatings (e.g. Huber MGA Inks or Sun Chemical Inks). [MGA Inks](#), [Sunchemical LM](#)
- Recycled-content paper and card grades (e.g., GD1 – GD3, UT, UD, etc.) must not be used for direct food contact or intimate contact primary packaging due to the potential for contaminants to migrate from the recycled material to the food.
- Recycled paper and card are permitted for Trade Packaging (non-intimate contact with food) and Transit Packaging (e.g., Labels, Corrugated Cases, Layer Pads, etc.)

- Outer cases should be made of brown board and constructed with a minimum of B flute (3mm thickness) with a preference for C flute (4mm thickness). R, S, T, N and micro-flutes are also acceptable, but ALL cases must be designed to withstand the rigours of the whole supply chain, with transit trials undertaken where deemed necessary. A Bidfood Technical Manager and the Sustainable Packaging Manager must approve exceptions.
- Outer cases can be printed in up to three colours, depending on the Bidfood own brand range design requirements.
- Outer cases and pallet layer cards must have at least 60% recycled material content. Where current products do not meet these requirements, suppliers must inform the relevant Bidfood Technical Manager and agree with a transition timeline.

To deliver Bidfood's circular economy approach to Plastic Packaging and alignment to the UK Plastic Pact's Four Targets Packaging Roadmap for 2025, Bidfood has set the following plastic packaging policies, which need to be adhered to with immediate effect:

- Polyvinyl Chloride and Polystyrene packaging materials (including Expanded EPS and High-impact HIPS) are not permitted for Bidfood own-brand products.
- Black Plastics and non 'Near-Infrared Detectable' Plastics are not permitted for Bidfood own-brand products.
- Oxo-degradable plastics are not permitted for Bidfood's own-brand products.

The following is not an immediate requirement due to material, technical restrictions but should be aspired to once material innovation allows:

- Wherever it is food-safe and product-safe to do so, ALL plastic packaging should contain a minimum of 30% post-consumer waste recycled content material.

(iii) Compliance with legislation

We are committed to ensuring we comply with packaging legislation and that our food and non-food packaging is safe to use, of the quality intended and complies with all relevant legislation.

(iv) Raising awareness

We will continue to raise awareness of sustainably sourced materials, recycled content, and the recyclability of our packaging among our colleagues, customers, suppliers, and local communities, reporting our progress annually.

(v) Recyclability

Packaging components should be composed of a single material which can be recycled.

Where more than one material is used, they should be easy to separate for recycling. When material cannot be separated (such as laminated board), then the secondary material should not exceed 10% of the total weight of the component.

Procedures and responsibilities

Bidfood's Packaging Policy requires that suppliers inform Bidfood's Technical Managers or Sustainable Packaging Manager of any non-conforming packaging. The use of non-conforming packaging is strictly prohibited and requires the implementation of a suitable replacement material or packaging solution as soon as possible.

To ensure compliance with the policy, the Technical Manager, with support from the Sustainable Packaging Manager, conducts a critical evaluation of all packaging materials at various stages.

Reporting

Our measures and targets are externally audited annually to ensure data accuracy for tracking progress, published in the Bidfood Sustainability Report.

Policy History

| Revision no. | Issue Date | Changes |
|--------------|------------|---|
| V1.0 | March 2023 | Combination and supersession of Packaging Policies 6.4.7 in Supplier Technical Manual v3 and Bidfood's Plastic Policy v1 of October 2019. |