

CHAMPIONS 12.3

The Consumer Goods Forum's Work to Reduce Food Loss & Waste

Food Waste Reduction Key Focus for Consumer Goods Industry

The work of [The Consumer Goods Forum](#) (CGF) covers a number of key areas related to the development of sustainable business practices, but none have come to the fore more in the last 18 months than that of food waste. Since 2015, the CGF's global membership – consumer goods retailers and manufacturers – have been working hard to promote the reduction of food waste throughout the supply chain, from farm to fork. This work is highlighted in a handful of major achievements over the last 18 months.

Our Commitment

First, in June 2015, the CGF announced its commitment to tackling the global food waste challenge by agreeing to halve food waste within the operations of its 400 retailer and manufacturers members. More specifically, the [Food Waste Resolution](#) states members will take action to half food waste from their individual operations by 2025, versus a 2016 baseline, and will contribute to the UN goal to halve per capita global food waste at the consumer level and reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030.

In order to help CGF members implement the new resolution, an implementation plan has been developed. The plan includes key steps that are being supported by food waste-specific events and webinars that are open to both CGF and non-CGF members. It also includes the sharing of best practice for which the CGF produced a [Food Waste Booklet](#), launched in October 2016, highlighting the positive actions taken by members towards meeting the resolution. The case studies shared in the booklet serve as inspiration and guidance to others wishing to accelerate their food loss and waste measurement and reduction by showcasing an array of successful approaches to food waste from consumer goods companies.

Measurement

Second, recognising that central to the Food Waste Resolution is the need to set a clear benchmark for food waste today and set measurable goals to reduce food waste in the future, the CGF was also a key partner in the development of the [Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard \(FLW Standard\)](#).

The FLW Standard is the first-ever set of global definitions and reporting requirements for companies, countries and others to consistently and credibly measure, report on and manage food loss and waste. This is seen as an integral document in helping member companies to develop plans and take actions that lead to long-term benefits for both business and the planet.

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CGF members need to effectively quantify, measure and report on their food loss and waste, and the FLW Standard will help them do this with consistency and transparency.

Continuous Collaboration

As part of CGF's collaborative and knowledge sharing approach, the first-ever [Sustainable Retail Summit](#) was held on 27th and 28th October in Paris. The conference brought together thought leaders from business, government and civil society and was a unique education and networking opportunity for all those in attendance. Food waste was one of the three core themes of the event, with three sessions focused exclusively on the topic. Participants shared their approaches to food loss and waste reduction and were able to ask experts in the field for their guidance and advice. These key learnings are vital for the successful implementation of the FLW Standard in their respective organisations which will ultimately help reduce global levels of food waste.