

Wasabi CSR Packaging & Sustainability 5 Year Plan

AT WASABI WE PLEDGE TO:

- 1) We will develop our supply chain to effectively process 100% of the recyclable and compostable waste identified in our retail stores and central production unit (CPU) by summer 2021.
- 2) Increase reusable delivery schemes for at least 50% of raw material deliveries into our central production unit (CPU) by summer 2021.
- 3) Remove non-recyclable laminated card from our own-brand products by end 2020.
- 4) Make all our own brand packaging out of widely recyclable or home compostable material by end 2020
- 5) Increase customer information on all packaging by end 2020.
- 6) Make 90% of all UK business packaging reusable or out of widely recyclable or home compostable material by end 2024

WE WILL ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY PLASTICS:

When it comes to the products we sell, and our packaging, we're looking to find alternatives to plastic.

What exactly are unnecessary plastics?

Plastics have long been used by product and packaging manufacturers as they're relatively strong yet cheap and lightweight. But their properties mean that plastics don't completely decompose, and the large quantities of plastic waste now being generated are polluting our environment. That's why, if a product or packaging doesn't need to include plastic, we want to find ways to remove it and use an alternative material. If plastic is needed, we'll make sure we're using a widely recyclable type.

Black plastic, polystyrene and laminated card are among the 'problem plastics' we'll be eliminating from our own-brand packaging, as these are hard to recycle. Black plastic will be removed by spring 2020, the others by end 2024.

HOW WE'LL DO IT:

Reduce - we're removing and redesigning packaging to cut the amount of plastic we use.

Reuse – we aim to remove single-use packaging items such as cardboard boxes in favour of encouraging reusable alternatives.

Recycle – given that 73% of our products are consumed away from our stores, it will be important that our packaging is widely-recyclable. Our own label packaging currently contains no more than 25% reusable, home-compostable or easily recyclable plastic. We'll increase this to 100% by end June 2020.

WORKING WITH OUR SUPPLIERS:

Sometimes there is no obvious alternative to plastic, however, we are committed to working closely with our suppliers to establish different ways of protecting our goods and minimising food waste – another important environmental issue for us.

WE'RE TAKING PLASTIC OUT OF OUR STORES:

Small changes that add up. We're looking at how we can remove plastic from the products we sell or provide in our branches.

Our Gyoza trays are now widely recyclable and home compostable.

We are swapping plastic carrier bags for paper ones and changing our straws to be widely recyclable.

In addition, we are replacing the black plastic cutlery in our branches with a sustainable version.

These changes will be made by end Jan 2020 with more to come.

Going...

15 million plastic cutlery items each year.

Going...

9 million plastic bags each year

Gone

500k gyoza trays each year.

WE'RE IMPROVING OUR PACKAGING:

Our own-brand items included 330 tonnes of plastic related packaging in 2018. Here's how we're working to reduce this figure.

Switching our cutlery to a corn starch alternative and recycling these will save 82 tonnes of plastic from general refuse.

One of our most exciting developments is the fibre-based widely recyclable and home compostable trays that are replacing plastic ones on some of our meal packaging.

We are working towards making all of our sushi boxes widely recyclable and home compostable.

WE'RE REMOVING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS:

Since the government introduced the 5p charge for single use, plastic carrier bags in England in 2015, the number used across the UK has fallen by more than 80% – that's 9 billion fewer.

We will introduce a new paper, widely recyclable carrier bag in Jan 2020.

WE'RE DIVERTING WASTE FROM LANDFILL

We divert the waste from our stores from landfill to our energy-from-waste partner facility helping to not only to generate power for onward use but to also reduce CO2 emissions associated with waste treatment. This approach, in addition, reduces the level of total waste being exported abroad.

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS:

We'll be publishing our plastic packaging data annually at wasabi.uk.com

Enquires: enquiries@wasabi.uk.com