

Buying Policy Raw materials

Lidl Great Britain • Last updated 26/11/2024

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Raw materials such as palm oil, tea, cocoa and coffee form the basis of a wide variety of our products. As a food retailer, it is our responsibility to help ensure that these raw materials are produced, processed and sourced in an environmentally and socially sustainable way.

**Richard Bourns | Chief Commercial Officer
Lidl Great Britain**



Our responsibility for the raw materials in our products



Our responsibility for the critical raw materials in our products

At Lidl, we believe that everyone should be able to shop sustainably. This means acting responsibly wherever our products impact people and the environment. This is intrinsically linked to our commitment to quality, and it is how we aim to ensure the best possible products for our customers as well as a sustainable future for our business.

With this aim in mind, we have developed our CSR strategy that covers all aspects of our business and supply chain. Our strategy addresses six strategic focus areas: conserving resources, protecting climate, respecting biodiversity, acting fairly, promoting health, and engaging in dialogue. Our CSR strategy wheel demonstrates how we understand and implement Lidl's responsibility for the environment, people and our customers.

Our responsibility for the raw materials in our products

Raw materials form the basis of our product range. We therefore have a responsibility to source critical raw materials in a socially and environmentally responsible way.

At Lidl, we have committed to ensuring that all of our critical raw materials are sourced from sustainable sources by the end of 2025. After achieving our targets for tea, coffee, cocoa, palm oil, soy, seafood, eggs, plants, flowers, cotton, wood and timber, we extended the scope of our commitment to include more raw materials (see page 10).

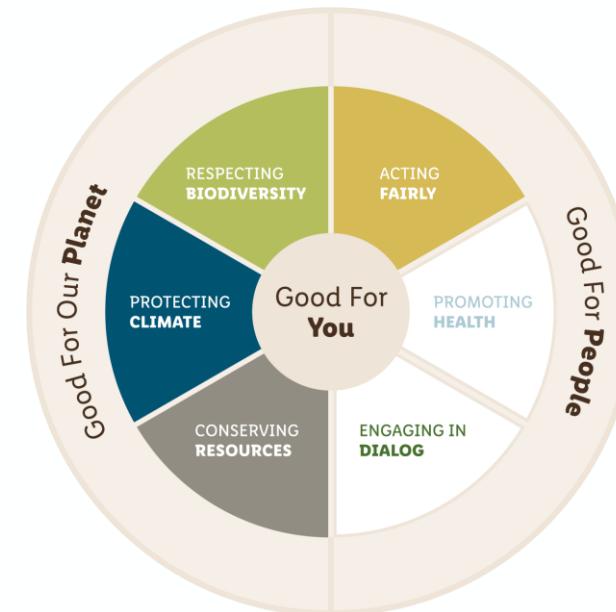
Our critical raw materials were identified through a multi-stakeholder supply chain risk assessment, carried out with the support of industry experts and stakeholders.

This risk assessment highlighted the raw materials most found in our product range, which also had the biggest impact on the environment and people within our supply chain.

Collaborating to make a difference

We want to empower our internal stakeholders to make sustainable sourcing decisions that meet our requirements and help us achieve our targets. To do this, our Responsible Sourcing team works closely with a range of departments – particularly Buying - to improve their understanding of the social and environmental issues linked to our critical raw materials and how they can support us to source raw materials sustainably. We inform departments within the business through training sessions relevant to their functions and embed CSR representatives in key departments.

We are also active members of numerous external stakeholder initiatives such as the Ethical Tea Partnership, Sustainable Seafood Coalition, Retail Soy Group and Retailers' Palm Oil Group. We are committed to continued engagement with these groups driving industry-wide change.



Background



Background to the cultivation and production of raw materials

Raw materials are the planet's natural resources; they form the basis of nearly all commercial products. They are used in their natural form or processed after being harvested or extracted. In economic terms, raw materials are a basic requirement for value creation. Their cultivation or extraction is the starting point of global supply chains in countries that have the relevant raw material deposits or favorable growing conditions.

Depending on their origin, method of extraction or the way they are processed, raw materials can have a negative impact on people and the environment. This is particularly true for the over 400 million people who earn their living from the cultivation of various agricultural commodities.¹ Over ten percent of the world's population still live in extreme poverty – with two-thirds of these people working in agriculture.²



¹ Initiative for Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains: Factsheet, 2019.

² FAO: Ending Extreme Poverty in Rural Areas, 2018.

Cocoa cultivation alone is the main source of income for over 5.5 million people and provides a livelihood for over 14 million people.³ The production of raw materials is often associated with inhumane working conditions and other human rights violations. The many entities in the supply chains involved in global trade make it difficult to trace raw materials right back to their source. This means that potential violations can not always be adequately investigated.

At the same time, production of raw materials can also have an impact on the environment, if excessive quantities of pesticides and fertilizers are used, for example, or if areas of forest are cleared to make space for farming. In Brazil in 2018, the cultivation of soy took up an area almost the size of Germany - and is still increasing.⁴ Species-rich areas of rainforests are often converted for this purpose. This deforestation also accelerates the process of climate change.

Around 30% of global land mass is covered by forest.⁵ 70% of water consumption⁶ and up to 30% of greenhouse gas emissions⁷ come from agriculture – with the majority of this coming from the production of raw materials.

In light of the challenges for people and the environment in the cultivation and production of raw materials, it is important that companies know exactly where they are sourcing their raw materials from and what risks are involved, so that they can put adequate measures in place to address these risks. This is why supply chain transparency for raw materials is so crucial.

³ Fairtrade: Fairtrade Cocoa, 2021.

⁴ Our World in Data: Forests and Deforestation, 2021.

⁵ Umweltbundesamt [German environment agency]: Globale Landflächen und Biomasse [Global land areas and biomass], 2013.

⁶ WWF: Wasserverbrauch und Wasserknappheit [Water consumption and water scarcity], 2021.

⁷ Greenpeace: Landwirtschaft und Klima [Agriculture and climate], 2008.

Our commitment



Our commitment to sourcing critical raw materials more sustainably

Putting corporate due diligence into practice

Our motto “a better tomorrow” encapsulates Lidl’s approach to corporate responsibility across all strategic focus areas. As we move towards an increasingly environmentally friendly and socially responsible way of doing business, awareness of our corporate due diligence is of key importance.

To help us on this journey, we have established a comprehensive management approach to corporate due diligence for all strategic focus areas, which includes the sourcing of critical raw materials. More information on this can be found here:

<https://corporate.lidl.co.uk/sustainability/policies>

Ensuring social and environmental awareness across our raw material supply chains is a key part of the sustainability strategy for Lidl’s Buying department. We are committed to reducing the negative environmental and social impact of our primary products as much as possible – from cultivation to harvesting and processing to transportation to our stores.

Our strategy for sourcing raw materials responsibly is based on the four pillars shown below.

We will source all critical raw materials more sustainably by the end of 2025, by:

1 Understanding our impact

We identify risks in our supply chains and improve transparency.

2 Establishing standards

Our raw materials are certified to recognised environmental and socially responsible standards.

3 Promoting alternatives

We promote the use of more sustainable alternatives in our assortment and reduce the sourcing of critical raw materials.

4 Driving change

We participate in multi-stakeholder initiatives and projects.

Management of critical raw materials

The focus of this policy is critical raw materials which are present in a wide selection of the Lidl assortment. Our list of critical raw materials is the result of a comprehensive risk assessment carried out in conjunction with specialist partners.

The raw materials identified not only have the biggest impact on people and the environment – they are also the most important to our product range.

We have defined [sustainability targets for each specific critical raw material](#) used in our own brand products. Further information can be found on our corporate website:
<https://corporate.lidl.co.uk/sustainability>.



Assessing risk to gain a better understanding of our impact

Understanding our impact is central to our sustainable raw materials strategy. Regular, comprehensive risk assessments help us to explore the opportunities and risks inherent to the raw materials used in our products. This activity is a fundamental part of our approach to corporate due diligence, enabling us to minimise our risks when sourcing raw materials.

We carry out comprehensive annual risk assessments as well as non-routine analyses within our supply chains. The annual assessment focuses on the following risks, which are relevant to the [> German Supply Chain Act](#): Child labour, forced labour, occupational safety, fair pay, discrimination, freedom of association, land rights, environmental impact, environmental agreements and security forces. Lidl's human rights due diligence is based on our commitment to the following internationally recognised frameworks:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- UN Women's Empowerment Principles
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- ILO conventions, core labour standards and recommendations on labour and social standards
- ILO General principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment and definition of recruitment fees and related costs

As a Lidl Group, we welcome binding legislation to ensure fair trading, such as the UK Modern Slavery Act, the German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz) and the EU Supply Chain Act.

In high-risk supply chains, we investigate our impact on human rights, through [> Human Rights Impact Assessments \(HRIA\)](#). Lidl GB's HRIA reports and action plans can be found on our corporate website: <https://corporate.lidl.co.uk/sustainability/human-rights/hria>. These assessments provide us with information on the actual impacts of our business activities and also help us identify potential preventative measures.

In addition to this, we determine environmental risks such as biodiversity loss or freshwater risks that could occur in the country of origin as a result of the cultivation or production of the raw material in question. We primarily use external data sources such as the [> WWF Water and Biodiversity Risk Filter](#) to find this information. We are also in continuous dialogue with suppliers and other stakeholders to identify and better understand the environmental risks in our supply chains.

All of this knowledge is helping us to make the sourcing of raw materials more sustainable, to set priorities, determine responsibilities, define targets and take action. This means that we will be able to systematically reduce and avoid risks in the long term.

Our assessment of risks also provides transparency about the origin, tonnage, certification status, processing and packaging of the critical raw materials.



In line with the **first pillar** of our raw materials strategy, we are identifying the environmental and social risks associated with our supply chains.

Using certifications to establish environmental and social standards

When sourcing raw materials, we rely on recognised environmental and socially responsible third-party standards. Sourcing certified raw materials and products is critical to addressing the social and environmental risks in our supply chains. Showing the corresponding labels on the packaging – for example, logos from Fairtrade Foundation, Rainforest Alliance, Marine Stewardship Council, or Forest Stewardship Council on products certified to these standards – makes it easier for our customers to make more sustainable decisions.

As part of our approach to [corporate due diligence](#), we have developed mandatory company-wide CSR guidelines for our Buying department and suppliers, including our [international raw material targets](#). These define clear CSR requirements for the sourcing of critical raw materials and set a specific timescale for implementation. This involves specific certification and reduction targets for the critical raw materials in our own brand products. These are international guidelines, which Lidl GB implements for each raw material. We also supplement these with our own targets, as necessary.

Our choice of third-party certification is determined by the most stringent, relevant and effective standards. We carry out detailed benchmarking exercises to determine the specific priorities, strengths and weakness of individual certifications. We then use this as the basis for identifying which certifications are most appropriate to use.

These certifications can help to ensure that the purchased raw materials come from more socially and environmentally acceptable sources, or that suitable complaints mechanisms are in place for workers. As part of the certification processes, producers are given the opportunity to access training.



We certify our critical raw materials in line with the **second pillar** of our raw materials strategy.

Sourcing certified raw materials helps us to improve transparency within our supply chain. Providing customers with increased transparency and giving them the opportunity to find out more information about certified raw material cultivation is vital to our approach. Some examples of the certifications we use are below.

Palm oil

We work with our suppliers to source palm (kernel) oil from RSPO segregated certified sources. We support this certification as the palm (kernel) oil can be traced back to the certified oil mills and therefore the certified palm oil is physically present in our finished product.

Fish and seafood

We are committed to ensuring that the fish and seafood in our stores are from responsible sources. That's why, in Lidl GB, we made the commitment to sourcing 100% of our fresh, frozen, and canned seafood from sustainable fisheries or responsibly managed farms, meaning we know where it has come from and how it has been sourced. We offer our customers a wide range of certified sustainable fish and seafood from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) and Global G.A.P.

In 2024, Lidl GB was named the MSC Marketing Champion of the Year and also won the Bronze MSC Supermarket of the Year award. We were awarded the MSC UK Mid-size Store Retailer of the Year award for the 7th year in a row in 2022 and were also the first retailer to win the ASC UK Retailer of the Year award in 2021. These successes highlight our ongoing commitment to sourcing our raw materials sustainably.



Trading Model⁸

When sourcing certified raw materials, such as soy, cocoa or palm (kernel) oil, a choice is made between different trading models. Each have different requirements in terms of the traceability and segregation of the raw material throughout the supply chain, therefore might not be identifiable in the end product.

Below outlines the traceability of each trading model:

- **Book & Claim:** no traceability
- **Mass balance:** no traceability, since non-certified raw material is mixed with a certified raw material, with monitoring of the proportion of certified materials
- **Segregation:** traceability to certified producer association
- **Identity Preserved:** traceability to individual certified producers

⁸ Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil: Certification of palm oil, 2024.

Promoting alternative, more sustainable raw materials

If critical raw materials cannot be sourced in a more sustainable way, we promote more sustainable alternatives in our assortment. For example, palm (kernel) oil can be replaced with rapeseed oil or meat with plant-based proteins such as pea protein.

If there are no sustainable alternatives available, we may check on a product-by-product basis whether we stop sourcing a particular raw materials in the future; like angora wool, for example, which we no longer use. We have defined international guidelines to manage this.

We keep our customers informed about appropriate alternatives in our assortment through information visible on our own brand packaging. For example, we are rolling out new merchandising units to promote our dairy-free and vegan Vemondo Plant! range in our stores.

In addition, we share background information about how we source our raw materials responsibly in various ways including our [CSR Good Food report](#), weekly in-store and digital leaflets, and our [corporate sustainability website](#).



In line with the **third pillar** of our raw materials strategy, we promote the use of more sustainable alternatives in our assortment and reduce sourcing of critical raw materials.



Driving change with stakeholders

A lot of the challenges that exist in the area of raw material production and processing cannot be solved by Lidl alone. This is why we work closely with stakeholders from the food industry, governments, charitable organisations, standard setters as well as local communities.

Together we can drive sector-wide change, develop standards and make long-lasting improvements. Sustainable production of raw materials requires the participation and support of numerous different stakeholders along global supply chains. Particular focus must also be placed on groups that are significantly affected by negative social and environmental impacts in source countries.

Our company-wide raw material targets are the result of ongoing dialogue with our stakeholders. This process involves intensive consultation and discussion with Buying teams across Lidl national markets, strategic suppliers and relevant NGOs.



In accordance with the **fourth pillar** of our raw materials strategy, we drive change by participating in a range of initiatives and projects.



Strategy for cocoa

Cocoa farming is a significant driver of areas of the rainforest being cleared in certain key sourcing regions, which jeopardises the local ecosystem and drives climate change.

West Africa produces 75% of the world's cocoa, with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana the biggest producers. These two countries have lost the majority of their forest areas in the past 60 years – approximately 94% and 80% respectively⁹ – and around one third of this loss is attributed to cocoa farming. What is more, cocoa beans are primarily grown in monoculture plantations. The cultivation practices and the increasing use of fertilisers and pesticides endanger biodiversity.¹⁰

Cocoa is often cultivated on smallholder farms. As cocoa beans are primarily export goods, cocoa farmers are exposed to heavy fluctuations in global market prices, and their income is usually below the internationally defined poverty thresholds.¹⁰ When it comes to harvesting and processing, there is often a lack of protective equipment at the workplace, e.g. to protect against pesticides. For structural reasons, child labour is widespread, and women who work in cocoa cultivation are at an economic disadvantage.¹¹ There are significant risks of forced labour and the violation of smallholders' human rights, both in cultivation and harvesting.¹²

In collaboration with our supply chain partners, we are committed to improving transparency in our cocoa supply chains. We request data on the country of origin, certification status, and quantities contained in a product for each item in our supplier systems.

* with the exception of the USA

⁹ WWF: Cocoa, 2024.

¹⁰ Voice Network: Cocoa Barometer, 2020.

¹¹ Fairtrade Deutschland: Geschlechtergerechtigkeit im Fokus [Gender equity in focus], 2024.

¹² US Department of State: 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report, 2020.

At Lidl GB, 100% of the cocoa sourced for our own brand products is Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance certified. Since the end of 2022, all of our own brand block chocolate has been Fairtrade certified.

In 2023, Lidl GB sold the largest volume of own-brand Fairtrade cocoa of all UK retailers (six years running), with a 48% share of the UK retailer own brand market.

Since the end of FY (financial year) 2022, all Lidl products containing cocoa* are certified to Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance or organic standards.



On the path to a living incomes with Way To Go

In 2019, Lidl introduced an even fairer chocolate in collaboration with [Fairtrade](#), in the form of our own brand range, Way To Go! – hitting Lidl GB stores in 2020.

Way To Go's mission is to empower smallholder farmers to improve their income sustainably. This is why Lidl pays an additional income-improvement Premium in addition to the Fairtrade Minimum Price and the Fairtrade Premium – helping to guarantee reliable income and social standards for the participating cocoa farmers, independent of fluctuating global market prices. Smallholders receive this premium partly in the form of a direct payment and partly as financing for accompanying project activities. Projects are selected and tailored based on the risks and needs of the cooperatives in question (social, environmental or economic focus); while the additional Premium is invested directly into programmes for farmers to increase their incomes by diversifying into other crops like rice, yams and honey, or training farmers on better agricultural practices like pruning and environmentally friendly pesticide use.

The Way To Go! chocolate bar has full traceability. This allows us to track the raw material flow of cocoa from a cooperative in Ghana, through to our end product. Over 2200 cocoa farmers have benefited from Way To Go! since the project was launched and Lidl remains committed to long term agreements within the supply chain. More information on Way To Go! can be found here:

<https://corporate.lidl.co.uk/sustainability/cocoa>

Since 2015, we have been supporting the [PRO-PLANTEURS collaborative project](#) of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the German Federal Ministry for Economic

Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Ivory Coast Coffee and Cocoa Board (Conseil du Café-Cacao). Over the course of the 2015 to 2025 project period, PRO-PLANTEURS is striving to professionalise 30,000 family-run farming businesses and their organisations. In particular, the project aims to provide women with opportunities to improve their income and increase nutrition for their families in order to achieve a positive impact on living conditions. The project is based on four pillars: strengthening farmers' organisations, improving farm management, promoting collaboration in the supply chain, and joint learning and innovation.

Our membership to the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

Our membership to the multi-stakeholder [German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa \(GISCO\)](#) gives us an insight into the market and provides the opportunity for collaboration with other members of the supply chain. Together, we want to improve the living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families, conserve natural resources, and increase the production and marketing of cocoa certified in line with sustainability standards. As part of the initiative, we are committed to twelve specific goals aimed at conserving natural resources and protecting biodiversity in cocoa producing countries. This includes ending deforestation caused by cocoa production and contributing to the conservation of forests and biodiversity, and to reforestation. Lidl Germany took over the membership in a representative capacity in 2024.

Strategy for coffee

Coffee is one of the most important export products for many developing countries, particularly Brazil, Colombia, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Coffee represents the economic livelihood of 25 million farming households in over 50 countries around the equator.¹³ As a result of climate change, the land used to grow coffee is migrating to ever higher mountainous regions, with forests being cut down to create the space required. This means that coffee growing is cultivation with a high risk of deforestation.

The effects of climate change on coffee cultivation can already be seen today and are impacting the existence of a large number of smallholder farmers. Coffee farmers are increasingly having to deal with lengthy rainy seasons and high temperatures, which have a negative impact on the coffee yield. Small producers' associations tend to have less of a reserve and are heavily affected even by short downtimes.

As coffee is primarily an export good, coffee farmers are exposed to highly volatile global market prices. The payment share received by the coffee farmers in the coffee value chain is low, and operational costs for labour, fertilisers or machinery are on the rise. Most coffee farmers are unable to earn a living wage and therefore live below the poverty line. This also leads to an increased risk of child labour. Women are usually at a disadvantage in terms of education, capital and land. During harvest time, seasonal workers with no formal employment contracts are often deployed, which carries a risk of forced labour.¹⁴

We are continuing to work with suppliers and traders to improve transparency in our coffee supply chains. At the start of 2024, we launched a project with one of our main suppliers in Peru aimed at making coffee cultivation by smallholder farmers more transparent and supporting compliance with the European Union Deforestation regulation (EUDR).

Suppliers of Lidl own brands source green coffee predominantly from plantations in Central and South America and Vietnam. Traceability all the way back to the country of origin can be ensured using certification systems, which primarily work with the Segregated or Identity Preserved trading models. Coffee blends and their origin can vary depending on the season and harvest quality.

For non-certified products, our green coffee must be verified as deforestation-free. Coffee growers can prove this using reliable [monitoring and verification \(M&V\) systems](#), which must meet minimum requirements in line with [AFi Operational Guidance on Monitoring and Verification](#). Using this verification, we can be assured that our coffee is traceable and is from a deforestation-free origin.

By the end of FY 2024, our coffee pods and drinks will be fully certified to Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, or organic standards. For roasted coffee products, as well as coffee capsules and instant coffee, certification requirements have been mandatory in selected Lidl countries, since the end of FY 2022.



¹³ INA: Rohstoffexpertise der INA [INA raw material expertise], 2024.

¹⁴ Panhuisen & de Vries: Coffee Barometer, 2023.

ⓘ Supporting smallholders with Way To Go

Following on from the [Way To Go chocolate](#), the Lidl Group launched the Way To Go coffee project in 2022. The coffee in this range comes from the APROCOMSA cooperative in Honduras. Over 170 smallholders have taken part in the project so far and have therefore benefited from the additional income improvement premium. Almost a third of the smallholders have already taken part in accompanying project activities, such as planting fruit and shade trees, and have professionalised their farms via farm-management practices such as accounting.

ⓘ Involvement in the German retail working group

Alongside other German retailers, Lidl is involved in the [working group of German retail for a living income and wage](#), which works to support coffee producers in their supply chains, with the aim of improving the living and working conditions of smallholders. The pilot project is planned to launch at the end of 2024 in Honduras and Peru. The group uses pre-competitive collaboration rather than individual solutions, in order to achieve long-lasting and wide-reaching changes.

ⓘ Our commitment to deforestation-free coffee supply chains

Since 2024, Lidl has been working with a major coffee supplier and specialist coffee producer in Peru to make coffee supply chains, which tend to be dominated by smallholder farms, free from deforestation.

The EUDR may be challenging for smallholders in less developed regions to implement. They need to have knowledge of the European requirements, must record and share data upstream of their supply chain, and adapt their logistics. This project aims to close those gaps and ensure that smallholder coffee farmers can continue to participate in the European market in the future.



Strategy for tea

The main countries of cultivation for tea are China and India.¹⁵ Tea cultivation often forces out biodiverse tropical forest, replacing it with a monoculture with just one plant species. Soil erosion, competition for water, the negative impact of fertiliser use and the need for firewood to operate the drying equipment are just some of the stresses that tea cultivation puts on the environment.¹⁶

Tea is harvested all year round, thereby providing employment for a large number of people. As a primary employer, tea farmers are faced with various challenges in terms of fair pay and workers' rights, such as freedom of association or occupational health and safety. Women in particular are exposed to unequal access to land or credit, unequal wages and discrimination or harassment. There is often a lack of opportunities for childcare and schooling, which results in additional risks such as child labour and forced labour, which is also exacerbated by very low wages. A lack of protective equipment is also reported in relation to the use of pesticides on the plantations.

In 2020, we carried out a [> Human Rights Impact Assessment \(HRIA\)](#) in the supply chain for Kenyan tea as part of the development of our human rights due diligence. Please visit [here](#) for more information.

Since this assessment, Lidl has carried out various steps in order to address identified risks. More information on our HRIA tea action plan is available on our [website](#).

We have been expanding the range of certified tea for our own brand products since 2017.

In Lidl GB, our entire range of green, black and Rooibos tea is certified to Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance. This also applies to our fruit and herbal tea items, where certified raw material is available.

Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG have been active members of the [> Ethical Tea Partnership \(ETP\)](#) since 2021.

As part of our commitment to greater transparency, at Lidl GB we have worked with our suppliers to better understand the journey our products make, from raw material producer, to direct Lidl supplier. See our [Transparency](#) webpage for full disclosure of our tea supply chain.

Our tea suppliers are taking important steps to support women working within the tea sector, putting interventions in place to tackle discrimination within the workplace. We engage closely with our suppliers to understand the progress they are making on their initiatives and consider opportunities to enhance or develop these further. Learn more at: <https://corporate.lidl.co.uk/sustainability/tea>

¹⁵ Statista: Tea production worldwide from 2006-2022, 2024.

¹⁶ Mukhopadhyay & Mondal: Cultivation, Improvement, & Environmental Impacts of Tea, 2017.

Strategy for wood and cellulose

Forests clean our air, alleviate droughts and protect against flooding and soil erosion, but the existence of many forest ecosystems is currently under threat. Every four seconds, an area of forest the size of a football pitch disappears.¹⁷ Around 70 million trees are felled every year to produce wood-based cellulose fibers. This figure could double over the next 20 years owing to the growing textile industry.¹⁸

Cellulose is a flexible and adaptable raw material found in items such as clothing, books and paper products. We also have products made from wood in our Lidl stores, such as wooden toys, tools, and furniture.

We have made it our goal to improve transparency in our wood and cellulose supply chains, and that includes communicating to our customers about these products. For our charcoal products, we state where the wood that was sourced comes from, and this is labelled on the packaging.

Social risks associated with forestry include the risk of child labour and forced labour, as well as risks relating to workplace safety. We collaborate with specialist parties in the value chain, with the aim of contributing to more environmental and socially responsible forest management. Our strategy relates to all product components made from wood, cellulose and paper in our own brand items, as well as primary and secondary packaging with wood, cellulose and paper components.

All timber and wood-based products and packaging used by Lidl are sourced from certified sources where technically possible. By the end of 2025, all wood-based fibres will come from either recycled materials or from certified sources. Where possible, we use recycled wood-based fibres, but any virgin fibres used will be FSC or PEFC-certified.

The products covered by our sustainability target for wood and cellulose range from paper and napkins to wooden toys, wooden furniture, and grilling charcoal. Our assortment even includes clothing made from wood fibres (viscose).

By ensuring that our fresh fibre products are FSC® and PEFC certified, we are giving equal consideration to social, environmental, and economic aspects. The criteria of the FSC® forest standard include the protection of indigenous people, the prohibition of clear-cutting, the preservation of biodiversity in forests with a high conservation value, and a ban on the use of genetically modified organisms. Different FSC® or PEFC labels are used depending on the amount of certified cellulose content or recycled content in a product.

We have also set ourselves the target of switching at least 15% of the kitchen paper and toilet tissue products in our fixed listings to contain recycled materials (including hybrid paper) by the end of FY 2025. We have been labelling the country of origin and wood type on the packaging of our charcoal products since 2022.

Since the end of FY 2020, we have been sourcing viscose more sustainably, from Lenzing EcoVero or LIVAEKO certified sources.

¹⁷ WWF: Entwaldungs- und umwandlungsfreie Lieferketten [Supply chains free from deforestation and conversion], 2022.

¹⁸ Fibre2Fashion: Fashionable fabrics leading to deforestation, 2014.



Conserving the natural resource of wood is the best way to protect forests and makes a real difference in efforts to reduce our impact on the climate. That is why limiting the use of virgin wood, cellulose, and paper in our own-brand items and packaging is a priority for us. Recycled material is used for cellulose/paper/cardboard wherever possible, as this is far more resource efficient. However, when deciding whether to use recycled material, any specific quality requirements must be considered.

Our membership of the FSC® Initiative

Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG is a member of the [> Forest Stewardship Council \(FSC®\) Germany](#). Membership of the multi-stakeholder organisation FSC® allows us to cooperate with other stakeholders in the wood supply chain. We benefit from this dialogue and work with the other members of the organisation to support sustainable forestry.



Strategy for palm (kernel) oil

Oil palms are an extremely efficient crop because they require little land or water. These excellent cultivation properties have led to substantial global demand, meaning that more and more land is being used to grow oil palms. The large-scale production of palm (kernel) oil is contributing to climate change and a loss of biodiversity. This is caused not only by the scale of the land used for cultivation, but also by the methods used to obtain this land. Palm (kernel) oil plantations are often created using slash and burn methods on virgin forests and other valuable ecosystems.

The consequences of this include the loss of habitats for plants and animal species – many of which are on the red list.¹⁹ 90% of palm (kernel) oil production takes place in Southeast Asia, where up to 50% of the deforestation of tropical rainforest is due to this raw material.²⁰

The burning of virgin forest releases CO₂ and soot, which impacts the local communities and air quality. We know that deforestation is therefore also contributing to climate change²¹.

Areas of land obtained for the production of palm (kernel) oil are often cultivated as a monoculture. This type of land is much more afflicted by pests, and so pesticides and fertilisers are used. These pollute the soil and contaminate the groundwater, impacting surrounding ecosystems too.¹⁹ The bypassing of labour standards brings about health risks when working on the palm oil plantations. There is also a risk of land conflicts or even land theft against palm (kernel) oil smallholders and indigenous populations. The wage level of plantation workers is typically below living wage estimates, which further exacerbates risks of child and forced labour.

¹⁹ WWF: Palm oil, 2024.

²⁰ Nature Plans: The environmental impacts of palm oil in context, 2020.

²¹ Greenpeace: Palm oil, 2024.

We are working hard to continuously improve transparency in our palm (kernel) oil supply chains. We perform an annual supplier review, known as supplier mapping, to monitor whether our suppliers are adhering to our defined requirements concerning palm (kernel) oil and document progress. During this review, we collect data on the exact volumes, the certification status and – where possible – the countries of origin. This gives us an overview of the palm (kernel) oil that does not meet our requirements and enables us to engage directly with our suppliers. The identified palm (kernel) oil quantities from our supplier mapping are aggregated by type and by the supply chain model of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm oil (RSPO) (see [> trading models](#)) in an annual report.

 Our commitment: since the end of FY* 2023, we have sourced palm (kernel) oil in a more sustainable way.

- Since the end of FY 2023, the palm (kernel) oil in food and near-food items** has been certified to RSPO Segregated standard at a minimum.
- Since the end of FY 2022, palm (kernel) oil fractions and derivatives in food and near-food items has been certified to RSPO Mass Balance standard at a minimum.
- Since the end of FY 2023, the palm (kernel) oil in non-food items has been certified to RSPO Segregated standard at a minimum.
- Since the end of the FY 2023, palm (kernel) oil fractions and derivatives in non-food items has been certified to RSPO Mass Balance standard at a minimum.

*FY: March 1 to February 28/29 **excluding USA

The oil palm makes up around 40% of global vegetable oil production.²⁰ Palm (kernel) oil is a component of many oils, fats and bakery items, cosmetics, detergents and cleaning products. In the Lidl assortment, around 80% of the palm (kernel) oil is used in edible items and 20% in non-edible items. It is important to consider the use of palm (kernel) oil from different perspectives: compared to other vegetable oils, oil palm provides the highest yield per area.²² When sustainably produced, the environmental impacts can be reduced.

However, from a nutritional perspective, it may make sense to use alternative, healthy plant oils — if the technical processing required to produce the end product is similar or the same. More information on this can be found at <https://corporate.lidl.co.uk/sustainability/policies>.

ⓘ Our participation in the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG has been a member of the [> Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil \(RSPO\)](#) since 2012, actively participating in the RSPO's Shared Responsibility Working Group since 2023 with the aim of limiting the negative environmental impacts of raw material extraction.

Additionally, Lidl GB is an active member of the Retailers Palm Oil Group (RPOG), an independent group of international retailers who are committed to using certified sustainable palm oil.

The group works collaboratively to find industry-wide solutions to secure certified sustainable palm oil in their products and ensures RPOG member requirements are reflected in RSPO production and supply chain standards.

ⓘ Our work in the Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil

Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG is a member of the [> Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil \(FONAP e. V.\)](#), where it represents the Lidl countries Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Through our work in FONAP, we are involved in a smallholder project in Indonesia that promotes the provision of training for smallholders in relation to environmental aspects and cultivation technologies as well as geolocalisation, the active shaping of alternative income sources for the farms, and the empowerment of women in this sector.



²⁰ Nature Plans: The environmental impacts of palm oil in context, 2020.

²² WWF: 8 Things to know about Palm Oil, 2020.

Strategy for soy

Soy is an important source of plant protein and is primarily used as feed for animals such as chickens and pigs. 80% of the global soybean harvest is used as animal feed.²³ With increasing wealth and a growing global population, meat consumption is on the rise, which means that there is also an increased demand for soy as animal feed. However, if soy production continues to increase at the current rate, 16 million hectares of savannah and 6 million hectares of rainforest will be under threat of conversion; this corresponds to an area around five times the size of Switzerland.²³

A lot of these endangered areas are in the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet, such as the Amazon Basin, the Cerrado, or the Atlantic Rainforest on the east coast of Brazil. Moreover, soy cultivation is often connected with the violation of the land rights of indigenous populations and smallholders, as well as discrimination. Mass production and increasing mechanisation mean that there are only very few formal jobs in the sector. The industry is primarily characterised by seasonal workers and harvesters who are needed during peak seasons, which increases the risk of child and forced labour. Workers are not typically paid adequately, and occupational safety measures tend to be insufficient.

We are working with suppliers and traders to improve transparency in our soy supply chains. As part of these efforts, we map the direct (as a product ingredient) and indirect (as animal feed) soy volume that is used in our supply chains each year. We also focus on collecting data on certification and the countries of origin of our soy volumes. This enables us to identify where there are potential deforestation risks within our supply chain and address our suppliers directly.

Our target is to source soy used within animal feed from sustainably certified sources, from low-risk regions or from areas that are verified to be deforestation- and conversion free. We support sustainability certifications; Donau Soja, RTRS, ISCC+ or ProTerra. Our full list of accepted certifications or evidence is outlined to suppliers during our commercial processes and documentation.

If soy is not certified to a certification standard, we require our supply chains for meat products to only use deforestation- and conversion-free soy as animal feed. This can be verified using the [ZDC methodology](#) developed by the NGO [Earthworm Foundation](#) or the [ProTerra MRV solution](#). If soy from these systems is not available on the market, our suppliers must use their own M&V systems in accordance with the [Accountability Framework initiative](#).

Specific to the UK market and supply chains, Lidl GB is committed to working with the industry through the Retail Soy Group and UK Soy Manifesto to support the development of an appropriate transition plan and verification methods to evidence our deforestation- and conversion-free, therefore achieving our soy targets.

²³ WWF: Soja als Futtermittel [Soy as feed], 2024.



Where soy is used directly as an ingredient in our meat, dairy, and yoghurt substitute products, Lidl will source soy from low-risk regions, such as Europe, by the end of FY 2024. For meat and sausage substitutes and soy drinks, in addition to a European origin, we will also require certification in accordance with Donau Soja/Europe Soy, ProTerra, ISCC+ or RTRS standards by the end of FY 2025. We have committed to sourcing the soy used in our Vemondo (vegan and vegetarian) range from low-risk deforestation regions, such as Europe, and certified to Donau Soja or Europe Soya standards.

We know that consuming more plant-based protein in our diets is less resource intense and reduces our impact on climate change as well as biodiversity. Our strategy is to gradually increase the proportion of plant-based protein sources we sell and continue promoting the consumption of sustainable meat-based products and other responsibly sourced raw materials. For more information on our Healthy and Sustainable Diets strategy, please visit:

<https://corporate.lidl.co.uk/sustainability/healthy-sustainable-diets>

Collaboration for more sustainable soy

Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG is a member of the [> Round Table on Responsible Soy \(RTRS\)](#) and so has the opportunity have a positive influence on the organisation and the further development of the RTRS standards.

As a member of the Executive Board at [> Donau Soja](#), Lidl also supports the responsible cultivation of soy in Europe. We are therefore helping to increase the market share of sustainably grown soy and expand the use of European soy in our supply chains. We support the Donau Soja initiative because they are a strong position to effectively tackle the social, environmental, and economic challenges associated with the production and use of soy.

We welcome the fact that initiatives such as the [> Responsible Commodities Facility \(RCF\)](#) are supporting important ecosystems such as the Cerrado in Brazil by creating financial incentives for the production of deforestation-free and conversion-free soy that directly impact the farmers, ensuring the protection of biodiversity in the area surrounding the farms.

Lidl GB support the Amazon Soy Moratorium and in 2017, Lidl GB signed the WWF Cerrado Manifesto, which aims to prevent illegal land grabbing in soy production in Brazil and advance the protection of this ecosystem.

In 2024, we worked with soy traders and the [> Earthworm Foundation](#) to launch a pilot project for deforestation-free soy deliveries from Brazil to Germany and UK, using the foundation's [> ZDC methodology](#). This methodology ensures that imported soy does not come from deforested or converted ecosystems after the deadline of 1st January 2020.

In 2021, Lidl GB became a founding signatory of the UK Soy Manifesto - a collaborative industry commitment to achieving 100% of the soy imported in the UK is physically-traceable, deforestation- and conversion-free, with a cut-off date of 31st December 2020. We are working with the wider industry to support the transition to achieving this target by the end of 2025. For further information on the UK Soy Manifesto, please visit the [website](#).

Additionally, Lidl GB is an active member of the Retail Soy Group (RSG) which was formed in 2013. It is an independent group of international retailers working collaboratively to find industry-wide solutions for soy used as animal feed and human food supply chains. For further information on the RSG, please visit the [website](#).

Strategy for rice

Rice is the main foodstuff for a large part of the global population - around 3.5 billion people. Around 60% of people affected by famine are reliant on rice as a foodstuff or source of income.²⁴ In addition, rice cultivation poses a high risk of biodiversity loss and exacerbates climate change. Rice cultivation accounts for 13% of global fertiliser consumption²⁵ and 10-17% of global methane emissions²⁶ – no other cultivation method emits as much methane as wet rice cultivation.

Rice production accounts for around one third of the water used for irrigation worldwide.²⁵ Due to climate conditions, rice is often cultivated in regions with high water risks, e.g. Pakistan.

Rice is often farmed by smallholders. Where rice is overproduced, this volume is often sold at lower market prices that does not cover the costs of production. If farmers are reliant on the generated income, they will also sell the rice intended for their own consumption. The consequences of this are malnutrition, increased risk of child labour (in order to ensure the household income), and increased risk of forced labour. Women also experience unequal access to education and unequal wages. Protective clothing for the application of pesticides tends to be expensive, meaning that smallholders cannot afford to buy it and are exposed to increased health risks during cultivation and harvest.

By the end of FY 2025, we will be offering rice that is certified as sustainable to the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP), Fairtrade or organic standards, in all Lidl countries.

ⓘ Our membership to the Sustainable Rice Platform

Lidl are members of the [Sustainable Rice Platform \(SRP\)](#). In 2021, we implemented a pilot in our premium basmati rice supply chain, to meet the SRP standard.



²⁴ Sustainable Rice Platform: About Rice, 2024.

²⁵ Nature Communications: Sustainable intensification for a larger global rice bowl, 2021

²⁶ SRF: Klimawandel bedroht den Reisanbau [Climate change threatens rice cultivation], 2023.

Strategy for nuts

In 2023, around 5.37 tonnes of tree nuts were produced worldwide.²⁷ Each type of nut needs different cultivation conditions: almonds for example, are largely cultivated in the USA, walnuts in China and the USA, and cashews in Nigeria and the Ivory Coast.²⁸

Due to the various regions of origin and cultivation methods, the environmental and social risks vary based on nut type and origin. In general, ecosystems and biodiversity are endangered by land conversions, monocultures and the improper use of fertilisers and pesticides. The large quantities of water needed for cultivation mean that dry regions are heavily impacted. An additional risk is posed by the contamination of groundwater due to the roasting, the cleaning of the processing machinery, or the disposal of toxic shell oils.

Most nut types are cultivated on smallholder farms. Nuts are often harvested by seasonal workers without formal employment contracts, which poses an increased risk of forced labour. The migrant workers frequently travel from harvest station to harvest station in family groups for several months a year. Children accompany their parents and cannot go to school during this period, which increases the risk of child labour. There are typically inadequate workplace safety standards.

In 2023, we conducted a HRIA based on cashew nuts sourced from the Ivory Coast, as part of our human rights due diligence. The results confirmed that rights violations exist in relation to adequate pay, discrimination against women and workplace safety, particularly in the cultivation and processing stages of the supply chain.

We are committed to establishing a range of Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance or organic certified nuts by the end of 2025.

Johnny Cashew to Way To Go cashews

The Way To Go-Cashew project was launched in 2022 by Lidl Netherlands in cooperation with supplier Johnny Cashew. The project was initially implemented with the UWAMI cooperative in the Kilwa district of the Lindi region of Tanzania. Additional cooperatives – Mtungi, Namakorongo, Nguva Moja and Msima – have now joined the project. The project intends to improve the income of cashew farmers for the long term.

Our commitment to children's rights in the hazelnut supply chain

Together with [Save the Children](#) and our direct suppliers, we launched a [pilot project](#) in Turkey between 2019 and 2021 with the aim of strengthening children's rights in the hazelnut harvest. The project's objective was to introduce minimum standards, prevent child labour and promote learning opportunities and school attendance. We are transferring the findings and learnings of this pilot projects onto other critical supply chains.

²⁷ Statista: Production of tree nuts worldwide from 2008/2009 to 2022/2023, 2023.

²⁸ INC: Crop Reports, 2023.

Strategy for cotton

Cotton cultivation is primarily associated with labour-intensive production in the Global South. 99% of cotton farmers live in developing countries and produce 75% of the world's cotton. Residue from pesticides in groundwater and irrigation water when cultivating cotton in dry regions and the use of chemicals for processing, both pose a risk to our fresh water. Furthermore, biodiversity is endangered by cultivation in monocultures and the use of pesticides.

Child labour is widespread in cotton cultivation and processing, due to structural reasons such as extremely low wages and a lack of childcare and schooling. There is also a risk of forced labour, discrimination, and a lack of workplace safety due to workers being in contact with harmful pesticides.²⁹

Since the end of FY 2022, we only use cotton in our textiles and hardware items that is certified to [Global Organic Textile Standard \(GOTS\)](#), [Organic Content Standard \(OCS\)](#) or [Cotton Made in Africa \(CMiA\)*](#).

We are actively increasing our use of organic cotton to at least 20% of our overall range, by the end of FY 2025.

*with the exception of the USA

i Our work in the Textile Partnership

Lidl is involved in the initiatives of the [Textile Partnership](#) aimed at the implementation of projects in the textile supply chain. For example, we are supporting suppliers in Bangladesh and Pakistan with energy-efficiency measures as part of the BI Supplier Decarbonisation initiative to help them to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. We are also hoping to gain an initial overview of the impacts of the textile industry on the residents of the two main industrial sites in Dhaka and Karachi.



²⁹ CMIA: World Cotton Day, 2021.

Our international raw material targets



Our raw material targets and commitments

As a food retailer, we are aware of our responsibility beyond the [thirteen risk raw materials](#).

We work continuously to reduce the negative impact of our raw material usage, which is why we have developed binding, company-wide CSR guidelines for our Buying department and suppliers. This include our international raw material targets. These define clear CSR requirements for the sourcing of critical raw materials and set a specific timescale for implementation. This involves specific certification and reduction targets for the critical raw materials in our own brand products.

These are international guidelines, which Lidl GB implements for each raw material within the set timeframe and can supplement with our own additional targets as necessary. The following table shows the certification and reduction targets we have set for our critical raw materials.



Our raw material targets and commitments

| Raw material | Product | Certification and reduction targets | | Target deadline* |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|------------------|
| Cotton | Textiles, hardware | GOTS, OCS, CmiA, recycled cotton | 100% | 2022** |
| | | Organic cotton | 20% | 2025 |
| Plants & flowers | Plants, flowers | GLOBALG.A.P. plus GRASP or equivalent (Fairtrade) | 100% | 2021** |
| | Packaged potting compost | Reduction of peat, max 50% peat content | 100% (promotional items) | 2025** |
| Egg | Fresh egg products | Eggs from cage free sources, barns as a minimum | 100% | 2025*** |
| | Items containing egg | Eggs from cage free sources, barns as a minimum | 100% | 2025** |
| Fish & shellfish | Wild caught, except tuna | MSC; if product availability and certification standard are given | 100% (fixed listing) | 2025 |
| | | | 50% (promotional items) | 2022** |
| | Aquaculture | ASC (preferred), organic (preferred), GLOBALG.A.P., BAP; if product availability and certification standard are given | 100% (fixed listing) | 2025 |
| | | | 50% (promotional items) | 2022** |
| | Frozen goods, convenience, except tuna | MSC (except tuna), ASC (preferred), organic (preferred), GLOBALG.A.P., BAP; if product availability and certification standard are given; promotional items as far as possible | 100% | 2025 |
| | Tuna | MSC, Fishery Improvement Project (FIP), FAD free, pole & line | 100% (fixed listing) | 2025 |
| | Cat food | MSC, ASC for "fish" variety of cat food | 100% | 2022 |
| | | | | |
| Coffee | Capsules, instant coffee/ cappuccino (except pods) | Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, organic | 100% | 2022 |
| | Coffee pods and coffee drinks | Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, organic | 100% | 2024 |
| | Roasted coffee | Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, organic | 100% | 2022**** |
| | | If not certified to above mentioned schemes, it must be deforestation-free according to M&V systems that are aligned to AFI Guidance | 100% | 2024** |

* End of FY

** with the exception of the USA

*** with the exception of Hungary

**** only in selected western countries

Our raw material targets and commitments

| Raw material | Product | Certification and reduction targets | | Target deadline* |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| Cocoa | Items containing cocoa | Fairtrade, Fairtrade sourced ingredient (FSI), Rainforest Alliance, organic | 100% (food & near-food) | 2022** |
| | Chocolate bars | Fairtrade, Fairtrade sourced ingredient (FSI) | 100% (fixed listing) | 2022 |
| Nuts | | Establish supply of certified nuts; Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, organic | | 2025 |
| Fruit & vegetables | | GLOBALG.A.P. plus GRASP or equivalent*** GLOBALG.A.P. plus SPRING or equivalent for goods from high risk countries**** | 100% 100% | 2023** 2026 |
| | Items containing palm (kernel) oil | RSPO, trading model: Segregated, organic in organic products | 100% (near-food) | 2023 |
| Palm (kernel) oil | Items containing palm (kernel) oil | RSPO, trading model: Segregated, organic in organic products | 100% (food) | 2022** |
| | Items containing palm (kernel) oil: Derivatives or fractions | RSPO, trading model: Mass Balance, organic in organic products | 100% (food & near-food) | 2022 |
| Rice | | One certified rice product: Sustainable Rice Platform, Fairtrade, organic | (Fixed listing) | 2025 |
| Soy | Soy products (projects containing soy as an ingredient = dairy products, sausage, meat and cheese substitutes; excluding soy sauce) | Soy as an ingredient must originate from Europe | 100% | 2024** |
| | Vegetarian/vegan substitute products (incl. sausage substitute), soy drinks and soy cream | As well as needing to originate from Europe, soy as an ingredient in vegetarian/vegan substitute products must also be certified to the following standards: RTRS, Donau Soja, Europe Soy, ProTerra, ISCC+, organic | 100% | 2025** |
| | Soy in feed (indirect soy in animal products) | Deforestation- and conversion-free soy through certification or low-risk origin If not certified or low-risk origin, it must be deforestation- and conversion-free according to M&V systems that are aligned to AFi Guidance | 100% | CY2025 |

* End of FY

** with the exception of the USA

*** e.g. Bioland, Biopark, Naturland, Fairtrade

**** Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Egypt, Morocco, Israel, Chile and South Africa

Our raw material targets and commitments

| Raw material | Product | Certification and reduction targets | | Target deadline* |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---|------|------------------|
| Tropical fruits | Banana | Fairtrade (preferred), Rainforest Alliance (preferred), organic | 100% | 2025 |
| | Pineapple | Fairtrade (preferred), Rainforest Alliance (preferred), organic; origin - Costa Rica: SCS | 100% | 2022 |
| | Mango | Fairtrade (preferred), Rainforest Alliance (preferred), organic; origin - Israel: GLOBALG.A.P. Spring (or equivalent) Dom. Rep./Costa Rica: SCS | 100% | 2022 |
| | Avocado | Fairtrade (preferred), Rainforest Alliance (preferred), organic; origin - Chile/Israel/Morocco: GLOBALG.A.P. Spring (or equivalent) origin - South Africa: SIZA Dom. Rep./Colombia: SCS | 100% | 2022 |
| | Grapes | Fairtrade (preferred), Rainforest Alliance, organic, SIZA | | 2025 |
| Tea | Green, black & rooibos tea | Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, organic | 100% | 2023 |
| | Fruit & herbal tea | Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, organic, if certification is available | 75% | 2022** |
| Juice | Orange juice | Provision of a segregated Fairtrade-certified orange juice (pure juice or concentrate) | | 2021*** |
| | Refrigerated orange juice | Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, organic | 100% | 2022** |

* End of FY

** with the exception of the USA

*** only in selected countries

Our raw material targets and commitments

| Raw material | Product | Certification and reduction targets | | Target deadline* |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------|
|  Wood/ cellulose | Packaging and items containing wood/ cellulose | Recycled materials, if fresh fibre FSC (preferred), PEFC in exceptional cases | 100% (non-food) | 2024 |
| | Packaging with cellulose component | Recycled materials, if fresh fiber FSC (preferred), PEFC in exceptional cases | 100% (food and F&V) | 2025** |
| | Packaging and items containing wood/ cellulose | Recycled materials, if fresh fiber FSC (preferred), PEFC in exceptional cases | 100% (near-food) | 2024** |
| | Kitchen paper & toilet tissue products | Increase recycled content (hybrid paper also possible) | 15% (Fixed listing) | 2025 |
| | Charcoal/ briquettes | Declaration: Country of origin and type of wood on packaging | 100% | 2021 |
| | Charcoal/ briquettes | FSC (preferred), PEFC, Nordic Swan (preferred, if supply chain is FSC-certified), purchased as part of the Earthworm Project | 100% | 2025 |
| | Items containing rubber | Deforestation-free according to a M&V system recognised by GPSNR, WWF, FSC, Rainforest Alliance or aligned to AFI Guidance | 100% (non-food & near-food) | 2024** |
|  Rubber | Items containing rubber | Rubber component certified to FSC (preferred) or PEFC. | 50% (increase to 75% by 2027) | 2024** |
| | Plastic | Reduction | -40% | 2025**** |
| | Packaging | Reduction | -25% | 2025**** |
| | Packaging | Ensure maximum recyclability | 100% | 2025** |
|  Beef | Plastic | Increase recycled content | 25% | 2025** |
| | Beef from South America and other risk origins | Deforestation- and conversion-free according to M&V systems that are aligned to AFI Guidance or recognised by the GRSB | 100% | 2024** |

- End of FY
- ** with the exception of the USA
- *** with the exception of Latvia, Estonia, Serbia and the USA
- ****GB only

Our raw material targets and commitments

| Raw material | Product | Certification and reduction targets | | Target deadline* |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---|------|------------------|
| Viscose | Textiles, hardware | Recycled or certified: EcoVero from Lenzing, LIVAEKO from Birla | 100% | 2021 |
| Real leather | Textiles/shoes, hardware | Recycled or certified: Leather Working Group according to Gold or Silver standard | 100% | 2021 |
| Wool | Textiles | Recycled or certified: RWS, GCS, SFA, GOTS, GRS, RCS; ban on angora wool & mulesing for merino wool; lambskin only with verification of by-product from the food industry | 100% | 2022 |
| Down | Textiles, hardware | Recycled or certified: DownPass, RDS, GOTS, GRS or RCS; ban on down from live plucking or force-feeding | 100% | 2022 |
| Real fur | Textiles, hardware | The use of real fur is banned as part of our membership in the “Fur Free Retailer” program | | |
| Polyester | Textiles | Recycled or certified: GRS, RCS, RMC, Eucertplast, Blauer Engel, SCS | 100% | 2030 |

* end of FY

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| Accountability Framework initiative (AFi) | The Accountability Framework Initiative (AFi) is a collaborative program that promotes the protection of forests, other natural ecosystems and human rights by making ethical production and trade the standard. In order to achieve this crucial change, the AFi promotes and supports the implementation of the Accountability Framework, a detailed roadmap for the definition of targets, the implementation of measures, and progress reporting on the path to ethical supply chains. The initiative is lead by the AFi Coalition, a group of environmental and human rights organisations from around the world that developed the Accountability Framework and work to drive positive impact in the agriculture and forestry sectors. ³⁰ |
| AFi Operational Guidance for Monitoring and Verification | This guideline contains standards and good practices for monitoring and verification (M&V) related to company commitments on topics within the scope of the Accountability Framework. It focuses on the environmental and social consequences associated with raw material production and processing. The general guidance applies across a wide range of commodities and contexts and can be modified by the development or adoption of context-specific M&V systems, tools and processes. ³¹ |
| Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) | "Cotton made in Africa" is an initiative for improving the social, economic, and ecological conditions in cotton production in Africa. The initiative is supported by the Aid by Trade Foundation. Participating textile companies explicitly demand sustainably produced cotton and market it with the "Cotton made in Africa" seal. The companies pay a license fee for the seal, which is reinvested in the cultivating regions. Thanks to the guaranteed purchase of the cotton, farmers are encouraged to grow sustainable cotton and receive a reliable income. ³² |
| Donau Soja | Donau Soja is a European, multi-stakeholder, non-profit membership organisation that participates in the European protein transition with a particular emphasis on GM-free soy production. ³³ |
| Earthworm Foundation | The Earthworm Foundation is a non-profit organisation that collaborates with its members and partners to turn value chains into drivers of prosperity for communities and ecosystems. Earthworm provides support in the definition of policies that establish what companies want in terms of their products, as well as support on transparency, traceability, grievance management, monitoring and verification. It also engages with suppliers and supports better practices all the way to critical procurement regions. ³⁴ |
| Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP) | The ETP was set up by a group of tea companies with the aim of better understanding the risks in the tea supply chain. The ETP is now a global member organisation that promotes collaboration with and between local communities, companies, governments and civil society in order to drive systematic change in tea cultivation and production on a long-term basis. ³⁵ |
| Fairtrade | Fairtrade is committed to improving the working and living conditions of smallholders and workers in Global South countries. Fairtrade agrees stable minimum prices including a Fairtrade premium for collaborative projects, regulated working conditions and the promotion of environmentally friendly farming. In 1997, development aid organisations from different countries joined forces to form the umbrella organisation FLO (now known as Fairtrade International) and merged their individual standards to create one common standard. The Fairtrade label was introduced in 2002. It is underpinned by general standards (for smallholder organisations, plantations or contract farmers), product standards, which set out product-specific regulations, and a trader standard, which contains rules for traders and producers (including regulations for payment methods or mixed products). ³⁶ |

³⁰ Accountability Framework: Home, 2024.

³¹ Accountability Framework: Operational Guidance on Monitoring and Verification, 2023.

³² Utopia: Cotton made in Africa: Das steckt hinter der nachhaltigen Baumwolle [What is behind sustainable cotton], 2023.

³³ Donau Soja: The Donau Soja organisation, 2024.

³⁴ Earthworm: About us, 2024.

³⁵ Ethical Tea Partnership: About Us, 2024.

³⁶ Fairtrade: What is Fairtrade?, 2024.

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Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)* The FSC® was founded in 1993 and is an independent organisation that promotes the environmentally friendly, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests. The FSC® label therefore identifies wood and paper products that satisfy criteria such as the protection of indigenous groups, the conservation of biodiversity and forests with high conservation value or a ban on the use of genetically modified organisms. FSC® awards different labels depending on the proportion of certified cellulose in the product or the use of recycled materials.³⁷

*FSC® N001585

German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa In the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, the federal government, represented by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the German confectionery industry, food retail, and civil society have all joined together. Together in a multi-stakeholder initiative, they pursue the goal of improving the living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families, preserving and protecting the natural resources and biodiversity in the cocoa growing countries, and increasing the production and marketing of cocoa certified according to sustainability standards. The members of the initiative are committed to working closely together with the governments of the cocoa-producing countries.³⁸

Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil (FONAP) The Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil (FONAP) is a multi-stakeholder partnership of over fifty companies, associations, NGOs, the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The FONAP administrative office is based at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH [German Society for International Cooperation]. FONAP's aim is to promote sustainable agricultural supply chains with a focus on palm oil. Since its foundation in 2015, FONAP has been committed to more sustainable palm oil cultivation in the countries of origin. It aims to increase the acceptance of palm oil that is certified as sustainable in food, animal feed, and chemical products and to consider and apply human rights along the entire supply chain.³⁹

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) was established by international standard organisations advocating for more environmentally friendly and socially responsible textile production. The label indicates a verifiable social and environmental standard that is uniformly defined worldwide. Textile products only receive the label if they consist of at least 70% organically produced natural fibers. The standard means that the entire textile production chain is certified independently. All products are also traceable and can be checked in the public database.⁴⁰

Human rights impact assessment (HRIA) A human rights impact assessment (HRIA) is a process applied to systematically identify, predict and respond to the potential human rights implications of a business operation, government policy or trade agreement.⁴¹

³⁷ FSC: Forest Stewardship Council, 2023.

³⁸ German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa: About us, 2024.

³⁹ Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil: Portrait FONAP, 2024.

⁴⁰ GOTS: Global Organic Textile Standard, 2020.

⁴¹ The Danish Institute for Human Rights: Introduction to human rights impact assessment, 2023.

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| Supply Chain Act (LkSG) | The German Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains (LkSG) is the first time that corporate responsibility for compliance with human rights in supply chains has been legally regulated. In concrete terms, the LkSG obligates companies to take human rights-related and certain environment-related due diligence obligations into account in their supply chains. The obligations to be met under this Act are graded according to the company's actual opportunities to influence, whether this be the company's own business area, a direct contract partner, or an indirect supplier. The Act came into force on January 1, 2023 and applies to companies with at least 3000 employees. ⁴³ |
| Monitoring & Verification systems (M&V) | Monitoring & Verification systems are strategies to combat deforestation, conversion and human rights violations in supply chains. Monitoring is the ongoing collection of data to assess and document progress, performance and compliance. Monitoring systems enable companies to control and track the performance of their business operations and supply chains in terms of their own targets and other market, legal or regulatory obligations. Verification is important for assessing and validating compliance and performance with respect to freedom from deforestation and conversion and the safeguarding of human rights. It is used to validate the results of monitoring to ensure that this information can be trusted. Verification should be performed by means of an independent and transparent external process. ⁴⁴ |
| Near-food | Cosmetics, detergents, cleaning products, pet food, paper, foil/film, hygiene products, tobacco, household goods (batteries, charcoal, candles, lighters, lubricants, carrier bags). |
| Non-food | Textiles & hardware |

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| Organic Content Standard (OCS) | The Organic Content Standard (OCS) is an international voluntary standard that enables supply chains to be checked for materials originating from a business that is certified to recognised national organic standards. The standard is used to verify environmentally cultivated raw materials from the farm right through to the end product. Individual locations are certified by means of independent third-party certification bodies as part of annual audits. The material is tracked from the plantation right through the end product in accordance with the requirements of the Textile Exchange's Content Claim Standard (CCS). ⁴⁵ |
| Other Wooded Lands | Other wooded land is land with a canopy cover of 5–10 % of trees able to reach a height of 5 m in situ; or a canopy cover of more than 10 % when smaller trees, shrubs, and bushes are included. ⁴⁶ |
| Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC) | PEFC is the world's largest independent certification system for sustainable forestry. Wood and paper products with the PEFC label are proven to come from environmentally, economically and socially sustainable forestry. ⁴⁷ |
| ProTerra MRV solution | The ProTerra MRV standard provides a systematic approach to assessing and verifying an organisation's due diligence obligations and supports reporting on supply chain due diligence and deforestation-free aspects. It is based on reviewing a company's management system for compliance with sustainability requirements in its supply chain through audits by independent third parties. The economic operators that are verified according to this standard commit to developing an economically and environmentally sustainable and socially responsible supply chain. ⁴⁸ |

⁴³ German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control: Das Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz im Überblick [An overview of the Supply Chain Act], 2024.

⁴⁴ Accountability Framework: Monitoring and Verification, 2023.

⁴⁵ Textile Exchange: Organic Content Standard, 2023.

⁴⁶ The Forest Resources Assessment Programme: 2.3 Other wooded land, 2024.

⁴⁷ PEFC: What is PEFC?, 2024.

⁴⁸ ProTerra Foundation: ProTerra Monitoring and Verification (MRV) Standard and the European Regulation on deforestation-free commodities, 2024.

Glossary

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| Rainforest Alliance (RA) | The Rainforest Alliance (RA) was founded in 1987 and is committed to maintaining biodiversity and promoting ecologically sustainable and socially fair practices in agriculture and forestry in over 60 countries. It awards its consumer label, featuring a green frog, on the basis of the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard. Behind this are human rights criteria, such as access to education or the banning of child labour, as well as environmental standards, such as the protection of water and biodiversity. In 2018, the RA merged with the UTZ certification program. ⁴⁹ |
| Responsible Commodities Facility (RCF) | The Responsible Commodities Facility (RCF) is an initiative designed to promote production and trade with responsible soy in Brazil, by creating a financially sustainable tool that provides an incentive for farmers and helps cover the growing international demand for supply chains without deforestation. ⁵⁰ |
| Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) | The RSPO is a global organisation that was formed in 2004 by founding members including the WWF with the aim of making the palm oil industry more sustainable. Since then, the organisation has developed a set of environmental and social criteria that companies must comply with to produce RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO). These measures help minimise the negative impact of palm oil production on the local environment, wildlife, and communities. ⁵¹ |
| Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) | Set up in 2006 in Zurich, Switzerland, the RTRS - Round Table on Responsible Soy Association - is a non-profit organisation that promotes the growth of production, trade and use of responsible soy. The RTRS works with the various players in the soy value chain, from production through to consumption. This collaboration is achieved through a global platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue about responsible soy and the development, implementation, and verification of a global certification standard. ⁵² |

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| Save the Children | Save the Children is the oldest and largest independent children's rights organisation in the world. In Germany and around 120 other countries, it works tirelessly to ensure that children can grow up and learn safely and healthily – even in times of crisis. ⁵³ |
| Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) | The SRP was launched in 2011 by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), as well as research partners and partners from the private sector. The SRP is a global multi-stakeholder alliance with over 100 institutional members who are committed to improving the living conditions of smallholders, reducing the social, environmental and climate footprint of rice production, and easing market acceptance of sustainably produced rice. In 2015, the SRP introduced the world's first voluntary standard for sustainable rice cultivation. ⁵⁴ |
| Textile Partnership | As a multi-stakeholder initiative, the Textile Partnership brings together all relevant players in the textile sector, i.e., companies, associations, NGOs, standard organisations, trade unions, and the German government. The initiative involves a collaborative approach to devise solutions to improve social and environmental challenges along global textile supply chains. ⁵⁵ |
| WWF Water and Biodiversity Filter | As a multi-stakeholder initiative, the Textile Partnership brings together all relevant players in the textile sector, i.e., companies, associations, NGOs, standard organisations, trade unions, and the German government. The initiative involves a collaborative approach to devise solutions to improve social and environmental challenges along global textile supply chains. ⁵⁶ |

⁴⁹ Rainforest Alliance: About us, 2023.

⁵⁰ Sustainable Investment Management: Responsible Commodities Facility, 2024.

⁵¹ RSPO: Who we are, 2024.

⁵² RTRS: About RTRS, 2024.

⁵³ Save the Children: About us, 2024.

⁵⁴ Sustainable Rice Platform: About Us, 2024.

⁵⁵ Partnership for Sustainable Textiles: Partnership Profile, 2024.

⁵⁶ WWF: WWF Risk Filter Suite, 2024.

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ZDC methodology The ZDC (Zero Deforestation and Conversion) methodology developed by the Earthworm NGO is a protocol for verifying the risk of deforestation/conversion in the soy supply chain. It checks whether a physical flow of soy meets the criteria of the ZDC methodology, from the cultivation area through to the freight ship. There must be no deforestation or conversion of natural ecosystems, either legal or illegal, after the deadline of January 1, 2020. The ZDC methodology serves as an obligation for traders, maps shredders, tracks the flow of soy from a cargo load back to the procurement communities, evaluates information and ultimately completes a load once it has been verified that the origin is free from deforestation.⁵⁷

⁵⁷ Earthworm: Zero Deforestation and Conversion Methodology, 2022.

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Contact:

Lidl Great Britain Limited
Lidl House
14 Kingston Rd
KT5 9NU

**Further information about sustainability
at Lidl GB can be found at:**

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