

## Case study: The Courtauld Commitment

### Courtauld Commitment Phase 3

Packaging waste reduction has always been one of the main objectives of the Courtauld Commitments, a series of agreements between leading grocery retailers and manufacturers, WRAP and the four UK administrations – including the Scottish Government.

Since the Courtauld Commitment's first phase was launched in 2005, several targets, on waste and efficiency in the consumer market and retail supply chain, have been set – and objectives achieved. Given the scale of market coverage by the signatories, each percentage point achievement – for example in reducing packaging waste – represents a significant improvement in absolute terms in Scotland's – and the UK's – overall waste performance.

In November 2013, WRAP announced the results of the Courtauld Phase 2 grocery packaging target. These results showed that the carbon impact of grocery packaging was reduced by **10%** over the three years (2009-12).

The Courtauld Phase 3 agreement, launched in May 2013, set new commitments up to 2015. These include:

*To improve packaging design through the supply chain to maximise recycled content as appropriate, improve recyclability and deliver product protection to reduce food waste, while ensuring there is no increase in the carbon impact of packaging.*

Taking into account external influences, this target represents a further carbon reduction of 3% relative to anticipated sales volumes. A series of current projects supported by WRAP will help to achieve the target. These include:

- Embedding design for recyclability of packaging in new product development;
- Benchmarking secondary packaging based on weight, carbon and recycled content;
- Trialling visible black trays with consumers, which will also include collection and recycling the trays back into trays; and
- Improving the quality of recovered glass.



For more information, see <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/courtauld-commitment-3>.