

# WE MINIMISE WASTE

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Packaging is necessary for keeping food fresh and safe for our customers. However, when irresponsibly managed, it is also a major source of pollution. To minimise our environmental impact, we formalised our approach to pollution management, sustainable packaging, and food losses and waste in 2019.



The Shoprite Group was the first South African retailer to introduce compostable punnets for various vegetables, reducing our use of foam punnets by more than 7 million a year.

## Our commitment

By 2025, 100% of our packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable, and we will use an average of 30% recycled content in all plastic packaging.

## How are we doing this?

# 1

### We are revolutionising packaging along our supply chain

We have provided suppliers with **reusable, returnable packing crates** to minimise packaging along our supply chain.

# 2

### We are finding innovative ways to reuse and recycle more

In 2019, we recycled **33 658 tons** of cardboard and **3 995 tons** of plastic waste through our distribution centres. That was not enough for us, so we also facilitated the reuse of **2 781 tons of cardboard packaging** and collected **426 925 kg** of recyclable material through Packa-Ching, a partner project that “buys” recyclable material from communities in exchange for credits that can be used to buy goods at our stores.

# 3

### We are encouraging our customers to use reusable, recyclable carrier bags

Late in 2018 we introduced our “planet” bags: sturdy, reusable bags made from 100% recycled and recyclable material that entitles our customers to claim R0.50 off their total spend each time they present the bag at the till. By the end of June 2019, we had sold **855 000 reusable “planet” bags** and paid out **rebates of more than R200 000**. We also sold 645 million bags made from 100% post-consumer recycled material, diverting **7 095 tons** of plastic waste from landfill.

# 4

### We are hosting community cleanups

In July 2019, we hosted the second annual **Africa’s Biggest Cleanup**, a Group-wide initiative to mark Mandela Day. The event recorded **833 cleanups** in which **30 935 bags of waste were collected**. Our online actforchange.africa platform allows any organisation to register a cleanup effort and submit their waste collection data, encouraging community cleanups throughout the year.

# 5

### We are tackling food waste

We donate surplus food from our stores and distribution centres to over **300 community organisations** across South Africa, providing more than **17 million nutritious meals** to people in need. In 2019 we set ourselves the ambitious goals of **reducing food waste entering landfill in the Western Cape by 100% by 2022** and **halving food waste originating from our supply chain by 2030**.

To achieve these goals, we are:

- Reviewing our value chain to identify opportunities to reduce food losses and waste
- Training our employees on reducing food waste
- Sharing information with our customers to help them reduce food losses at home
- Reporting and being transparent on our efforts and performance.



## Why do we do this?

**South Africans generated about 54 million tons of general waste in 2017, of which only about 38% was recycled. This places an unsustainable burden on the country’s landfills. Too often, this waste also enters the natural environment, posing a threat to wildlife and ecosystems.**



Our commitment to significantly reduce the volumes of waste we send to landfills is in line with national waste management guidelines and the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals – the SDGs – which include Responsible Production and Consumption (SDG 12): “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.” Our efforts to tackle food waste support both this SDG and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). See our factsheet “*We fight hunger and food insecurity in Africa*” for more on this topic.

### We work with the following partners

FoodForwardSA | Polyco | CGCSA

### Find out more

Our 2019 Sustainability Report contains more detail on our sustainability approach. For media enquiries, contact [media@shoprite.co.za](mailto:media@shoprite.co.za).