Climate Change

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FOODDRINK EUROPE

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to the planet today. If we don't reduce our greenhouse gas emissions significantly, and rapidly, we will see a rise in global temperatures with devastating impacts on people, biodiversity, the environment and our food production.

In the food sector, we must look at the way we grow, manufacture, transport and consume our food and drink to reduce carbon emissions.

As an industry, we are absolutely committed to helping the European Union become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, and to achieve the Paris Agreement objective to keep the global temperature increase below 2°C above 1990 levels.

A responsible food industry

As Europe's largest manufacturing sector, the food and drink industry will play an integral role in helping the EU reach carbon neutrality by 2050, but it can only be achieved with changes across the entire farm-to-fork process.

We will therefore work closely with other actors across the food chain, especially farmers, retailers and consumers, and across public and private sectors. Together, we will drive sustainability in the way we grow and consume our food.

Food and drink manufacturers are already integrating climate change measures into their business strategies and working to minimise the environmental impacts of their products. Between 2008 and 2017, FoodDrinkEurope members reduced emissions by 12%, while increasing production value by 5% in the same period.

We support an EU Climate Law that not only achieves climate neutrality, but also provides certainty for business to thrive, provide jobs and ensure the EU's global competitiveness.

FOOD AND DRINK MANUFACTURERS CAN TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS

→ **Use more renewable energy**
particularly from wind, solar and biomass, throughout the manufacturing process.

→ **Reduce energy consumption**
for example, using more energy-efficient equipment, improving maintenance of heating, air conditioning and cooling systems, and improving transport and logistics.

→ **Reduce food waste**
to remove all emissions associated with growing, manufacturing and transporting wasted food.

→ **Improve product packaging**
to be more sustainable. Promote refill, reuse and recycling and reduce packaging where possible, without compromising food safety and quality.

→ **Optimise water use**
through water-efficient technology and wastewater treatment.

→ **Work together with farmers**
to increase the amount of carbon stored in soils, including through land restoration, and ensure supply chains are deforestation-free and protect biodiversity.

→ **Engage consumers**
by providing products that fit a healthy and sustainable diet with greater transparency about the environmental impact of food products.

We are committed to helping achieve the EU **net zero emissions** target by 2050.

Food and drink manufacturers **reduced** greenhouse gas **emissions by 12%** between 2008 and 2017, while increasing production value by 5%.

Energy consumption of the food industry **reduced by 20%** between 2000 and 2015.

OUR CORE POLICY ASKS

1 Be ambitious and collaborate

Policymakers should develop clear and ambitious plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, engaging all public and private actors. This should be accompanied by clear milestones to maximise transparency, accountability and predictability. The level of ambition of these milestones should be reviewed regularly based on technological knowledge and science.

2 Monitor impact

All EU policy actions should help deliver a transition towards a climate-neutral, prosperous and socially-just European economy. In this context, we urge policy makers to undertake thorough impact assessments to avoid unintended trade-offs on aspects such as food safety.

3 Ensure competitiveness

The EU climate policy should support European food and drink businesses, providing growth and jobs and leaving no one behind – especially in light of the Covid pandemic. The policy must take into account the long-term competitiveness of European industry, the needs of small and medium sized enterprises and the role of innovation.

4 Support innovation

The food and drink industry must be given a policy environment that encourages investments into low-carbon technology and innovations to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

5 Engage consumers

To help consumers play their part, policymakers should provide better information to consumers with public awareness campaigns and digital outreach. There must be a harmonised approach to providing environmental information to consumers and preventing misleading claims, based on scientifically reliable method.

6 Lead the world

The EU should be global leaders on climate and send a strong signal to other countries to follow suit. At the same time, the EU should advocate for a level playing field and support a global carbon market to accelerate progress away from fossil fuels, while supporting the development of international standards on accounting, measurement and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions.

ABOUT FOODDRINKEUROPE
FoodDrinkEurope represents Europe's food and drink industry, Europe's largest manufacturing sector in terms of turnover, employment and value added.

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