

DLF's "2022 Plastic Initiative"

DLF Sweden is a trade association for companies that produce or import goods for resale to the grocery retail and foodservice markets in Sweden. DLF creates conditions for a competitive FMCG industry. Our member companies sell durable and non-durable goods including food, beverages, personal care products, non-food, OTC's, newspapers, tobacco and specialty items to retail and food service in Sweden

In January 2018, the European Commission launched "A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy". One of the goals of the strategy is that all plastic consumer packaging released on the EU market should be reusable or recyclable. The latter means that it should be possible to recycle a collected plastic consumer packaging and turn it into new plastic raw material for the production of new plastic products.

In Sweden, a mere 25 per cent of the plastic packaging put on the consumer market and collected for recycling is estimated to make its way into new plastic products, as they are either not collected or cannot be utilized. The remaining percentage goes mainly to energy recovery.

To achieve the EU's goals, the DLF Board of Directors launched "the 2022 Plastic Initiative", a voluntary commitment and clear statement that the grocery industry in Sweden intends to push forward towards a circular economy. The goal is to make sure that the plastic consumer packaging put on the market by DLF's member companies is recyclable by 2022. In the case of some product categories, for food technology reasons, using non-recyclable plastic packaging may be justified also after this date, provided they require less material consumption, contribute to reduced food waste and provided no other equivalent packaging solutions eligible for recycling are available on the market at a reasonable cost.

With "The 2022 Plastic Initiative" being a voluntary commitment, DLF members who sign the initiative are not bound by any legal obligation. They do, however, undertake to commit to the objective of the agreement.

The commitment includes:

Make a status analysis for your packaging, based on FTI's (Sweden's nationwide recycling system) established recyclability¹ criteria. Estimate the recyclable percentage share of the company's plastic consumer packaging and submit the result to DLF, who will conduct an annual follow up on the outcome of the commitment until 2022.

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1. The plastic packaging must function properly throughout the entire recycling process. It must also be sortable, have good processability with today's techniques, and be in demand as raw plastic material for new plastic products in accordance with the ordinance on plastic packaging production issued by Swedish Plastic Recycling (Svensk Plaståtervinning). Energy recovery is not considered a recycling process.

