



As part of our vision to be a positive force for change, we've produced a series of factsheets to help our customers better understand sustainability issues, and what we're doing about them.

Overview

Water is of relevance to every business. For the hospitality and foodservice sector, it's used for everything – from sanitation, to industrial processes, food irrigation, drinks, cooking, and lots more.

The planet has a fixed supply of water (and only a small proportion of that is freshwater) – and demand upon it is growing. Bidfood is reliant on water in two main ways:

- In our operations (for vehicle washing and office sanitation)
- In our supply chains, for the production and processing of the food we buy

Security of supply in this context is a real commercial – and national – concern for the UK food and drink sector. Suppliers need the means to become more resilient to water pressures. This can mitigate future risks – but also have positive effects.

For example, it is estimated that better water management could boost crop production by 20% globally.

There are also wider risks and opportunities. Food and drink businesses share their water needs with communities and wildlife.

Food and drink businesses are exposed when their supply chains are linked to practices that negatively affect these water resources.

Examples include the spotlight placed on avocado production in Chile, and asparagus production in Peru, and free-range egg production in the UK.

(Source: WRAP Water Roadmap)

What's the problem?

Agricultural supply chains use 70% of global freshwater resources. UN projections are that global demand for fresh water will exceed supply by 40% by 2030.

Water pressures disproportionately affect the food and drink sector because of the importance of water for agriculture.

Climate change will increase pressures on farmers, with more unpredictable weather and the disruption faced from both water scarcity and flooding.

(Source: WRAP, 2024).

Our Vision

To be the best foodservice provider
and a positive force for change
because we care about...

OUR PEOPLE

OUR PLANET

OUR CUSTOMERS

OUR COMMUNITIES

OUR PRINCIPLES

Our targets and plans

We need to understand more about water risks in our supply chain, so one of our targets is engage with our top 50 suppliers in CY 2024 and be able to report on their engagement with water use and reduction initiatives by the end of CY 2025.

We'll adopt an approach guided by materiality:

- Prioritising our most significant suppliers, not just in terms of sales volume but in terms of suppliers who are likely to be sourcing from high water-stress areas of the world and/or commodities associated with high water consumption
- We aim to report on the level of supplier engagement with water stewardship initiatives, such as Feeding Ourselves Thirsty, the WWF Water Risk Filter and WRAP's Water Roadmap

We also report annually on our water consumption within our UK operations, not just in terms of mains water used but litres saved due to rainwater harvesting and grey water use in truck washing.

What can you do?

You also can join WRAP's Water Roadmap – you can read more about it here:

<https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/food-drink/initiatives/courtauld-commitment/courtauld-2030-water-roadmap>

Share your feedback

We hope you find this fact sheet helpful, we'd love your feedback using the QR code or by clicking [here](#)

