

Our Plastic Waste Reduction Practices

GRI 103-1, 103-2, 103-3, 306

We sold 2,695,886 environment-friendly non-woven plastic and cloth bags in 2019.

The hazard brought by plastic waste has reached to an undeniable extent in terms of its impact on climate change and environmental pollution. For a solution to this problem that disrupts natural life, we aim to spread the awareness of responsible consumption and production, which is among the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals, throughout our operations.

We took the first step to bring the use of plastic bag under control in 2008 by **starting to use Oxo-biodegradable bags for the first time in Turkish retailing sector**. Then, we introduced environment-friendly bags such as cloth and non-woven bags (non-knitted or non-woven fabric) enabling multiple use for grocery shopping to the consumers for the first time in Turkey. In accordance with the regulation published by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, the shopping bags started to be provided for a fee as of January 1, 2019. We were in close contact with the Ministry and took an active role in the establishment of the system, industrial compliance and informing consumers. In the last 2 months of 2018, we carried out activities to raise the awareness of our customers about the new practice at our cash registers. Before the practice of shopping bag charging, which started in early 2019, we produced custom-designed foldable non-woven bags, and distributed these bags to our

customers through special campaigns in the first week of the practice. **We sold 2,695,886 environment-friendly non-woven plastic and cloth bags** throughout 2019. Accordingly, **we reduced the use of plastic bags by 74 percent in 2019 as compared to the previous year.**

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ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY PACKAGING SOLUTIONS OF OUR PRIVATE LABEL PRODUCTS

We carry out activities to make the **packaging of our private label products more environmentally friendly**. In our company, there is a **committee which has been established by interdepartmental participation** and focuses on this topic. This committee aims to minimize the use of plastics in packaging, by taking into consideration the product safety. Due to our sensitive approach in this regard, **polystyrene and carbon black are not used in the packaging of any of our private label products, and PVC is not used** at any point in direct contact with the product. In addition, the amount of plastic that we use in our **private label products including 40 items among the detergent and paper category is 405 tons less** than to that of the same products of leading brands. Furthermore, we reduced the amount of plastic that we release to the market by increasing the weight of our private label yogurts from 2.5 kg to 3 kg, and ketchup and mayonnaise products from 700 gr to 1 kg. This method **ensured releasing 46 tons less plastic to the market in 2019**. We also have a Committee of Innovative and Alternative Packaging Suggestions, which was established to take a broader look and

develop more creative ideas in packaging design and material use.

In addition to all of these activities that we carried out as part of environmental management and combating climate change, we started to examine all impacts of our private label products on the environment in the light of scientific methods. We conducted a life cycle assessment and measurement of carbon emission on our products and Expert Butcher products, which constitute 50 percent of our private label product trade.



In consequence of the studies performed, the carbon emission of 127 items in the sales for 2019 was found to be 208,157.53 tCO₂e. Through this analysis, we aim to examine all stages related to energy raw materials used during the manufacturing of the products and transportation and provide our stakeholders with a product experience that meets international standards. We are planning to complete the measurement of our whole private label product range in the upcoming years.

We are conducting transformation activities for the use of sustainable and biodegradable materials in the packaging of our Expert Butcher (Uzman Kasap) products and meat produced in our fresh meat processing plant of MİGET:

- **Thinning the upper film used at our MAP (modified atmosphere packaging)**

For reduction of the amount of plastic package used in packaging, **the upper films of the packages have been thinned** by carrying out activities to keep constant or improve the product characteristics and life-cycle for MAP. In this way, **the use of 5 tons of plastic was avoided**.

- **Making use of mono materials in MAP and making them completely recyclable**

By conducting improvement activities with our business partner in packaging materials, **we made use of completely mono materials for the packaging material** used for one of product groups. As a result of this activity, **110 tons of packaging material** in the product group manufactured through making use of MAP became completely recyclable instead of becoming waste, and thus, **usable as raw material** in the production of different materials.

- **‘EU Project Partnership for Biodegradable Packaging’ in order to reduce eco-friendly packaging materials and food losses**

Biodegradable packaging is not produced in our country and limited in the world. **Biodegradable packaging material was developed as part of the EU project** at which we have partnership. In the project to be completed in November 2020, the use of the developed material will be evaluated following the completion of the test phases and the approval of the parameters such as their impacts on cost and product life.



OUR OTHER PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PLASTIC USE

Instead of a plastic transport crate with low durability, we have been making use of foldable crate that is suitable for multiple uses in the distribution of fruit and vegetable products since 2013. We started to use these crates in our red meat shipment in 2014.

We encourage our customers to make use of mobile Money Card instead of plastic cards in order to further reduce our negative impact by further examining our impact on the environment. **In 2019, the rate of mobile Money Card use reached 65.7 percent of shopping transactions by card.**

Finally, Global Compact Turkey, Business Council for Sustainable Development Turkey (BCSD Turkey) and TÜSİAD took the fight against plastic pollution a step further and established “The Business Plastic Initiative” Being one of the signatory parties of this initiative, our company announced that it will establish a commitment regarding plastic waste until 2021.

