



SCOTCH WHISKY INDUSTRY  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
 STRATEGY  
 REPORT 2018**

The Scotch Whisky industry takes sustainability seriously. We recognise that we have a responsibility to minimise our use of natural resources and our impact on the environment. A thriving natural environment is vital for Scotch Whisky and the SWA and our members are committed to playing a full part in global efforts to tackle climate change.

The Scotch Whisky industry launched its first Environmental Strategy in 2009, with a set of ambitious targets driving sustainability. This is the fifth report charting industry progress towards achieving these targets, and the first since the strategy review in 2016.

We are heartened that the sector has made significant progress in a number of areas, particularly our non-fossil fuel target which has been met four years early. In other areas, there is more work to do to meet our goals - notably on packaging weight.

Looking ahead, we will continue to work with Scotch Whisky producers, our supply chain, government and other stakeholders to ensure we continue to drive progress and deliver our ambitious strategy.



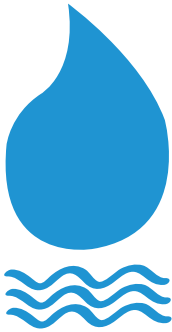


## ENERGY MANAGEMENT

We are particularly proud of the leadership the industry has shown in embracing non-fossil fuel energy and making significant investment in renewable technologies in Scotland.

This has allowed the industry to surpass its 2020 non-fossil fuel energy target four years early. In 2016 non-fossil fuels accounted for 21% of primary energy use, up from 3% in 2008.

Furthermore the industry emitted 22% less CO2 emissions since the 2008 base year. Much of that reduction has been due to fuel switching (from higher to lower or zero carbon emitting fuels), the decarbonisation of the electricity and gas grids, and improvements in energy efficiency.



## RESPONSIBLE WATER USE

Distilling water efficiency appears to have improved by 29% since the 2012 base year. This is the first year we have published a water efficiency figure and this will likely fluctuate as our monitoring and reporting systems improve towards 2020.

We will continue to work with Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and other stakeholders, to further analyse our water data and identify opportunities for water optimisation at our distilling sites.



## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The industry is close to achieving zero waste to landfill. Only 4% of waste was sent to landfill from all operational sites in 2016 and many sites already have met the target of zero.

Product packaging recyclability continues to be stable at 97%. We will strive to investigate the final 3% with the associated packaging value chain and government agencies including Zero Waste Scotland.

The goal to reduce packaging weight by 10% by 2020 against the 2012 base year is one of the most challenging of the Strategy's targets. This equates to removing 680g of packaging material from each case. Results to date have shown weight has increased by 2.4%. This weight increase is a result of 'premiumisation' – an increase in the proportion of premium products. We will continue to work with our packaging value chain and other key stakeholders to optimise our packaging to drive down overall weight.

Scotch Whisky companies have exceeded the target on packaging made from recycled materials, which now sits at 44%. This figure is strongly influenced by glass which accounts for 83% of the total packaging weight.



## SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

This theme was introduced into our strategy under the 2016 refresh. The inclusion of this theme in the Strategy has provided the Association with an opportunity to explore with our key stakeholders, including eNGOs and environmental regulators, what are our key interactions with Scotland's natural environment are, and to identify how we might go about best protecting these landscapes.

Our aim is to participate in a number of natural capital partnership initiatives during this exploratory phase and to publish a number of clear targets as part of the next iteration of our sector strategy.

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