

3.1 HOCHLAND AIMS TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

3.1.3 “LESS WASTE”

Hochland’s collaboration within supply chain in circular economy area.

Example of cooperation with clients

Hochland Poland’s cooperation with its Clients is based on a joint search for solutions and targeting such offers to Consumers that have the least possible impact on the environment. The use of ECODESIGN principles for Gouda 300g cheese can serve as an example. Hochland worked together with the Client to develop a solution that allowed the use of automatic packaging on a folding-press machine at Hochland’s production plant in Węgrów. This approach helped in reduction the amount of raw material used - cardboard.

Example of cooperation with suppliers

Hochland Poland implements the **REUSE** principle by working with packaging suppliers. As a result of the analysis, a project was launched in 2021, “Returnable cartons” which is a project to change the use of pack-

aging in which packaging materials for production are delivered to the production facility in Węgrów. In the first stage, return cartons were implemented (rotating min. 5 times between the packaging supplier and Hochland) for Almette cheese packaging, in the second phase **in 2023 the solution was extended to additional packaging materials** (cups and lids) used for Creme cheese. This means that the packaging is only handed over as waste after 5 deliveries have been made in it. The collection of flat blanks of returnable cartons is carried out when the packaging is delivered to the production plant, helping to minimize the carbon footprint of transport.

The practice used has resulted in real environmental benefits (reduced resource consumption) and the success of the project has become a permanent part of the cooperation between Hochland and the packaging supplier. All new packaging is offered in returnable cartons.



PRIZE

The Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP) awarded Hochland for the project **in the area of circular economy “RETURNABLE CARTONS”**.



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3.1.3 “LESS WASTE”

PURPOSE: LIMITATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT KPI: reduction in amount of generated waste by 1.5% per year

Hochland Poland selects operators in the area of waste management who are able to offer the highest possible level of waste recycling. Waste sorting is carried out with attention to detail. Production waste is sorted into nine different fractions. Plastics are sorted and stored in specially prepared dedicated containers: separately polypropylene fractions, polystyrene waste, colourless stretch foil.

In 2023, activities were launched to separate label liners for self-adhesive labels from the waste stream intended for the production of alternative fuel. The recipient of label liners, which are collected selectively at Hochland, has developed a method of recycling them so that the cellulose fibres are recovered to make new label liners. In addition, a project to separate and return used detectable pens used in the food industry was launched in 2023. In cooperation with pen supplier PROHACCP, a system was organised for the cyclical collection of used pens in order to produce new auxiliary

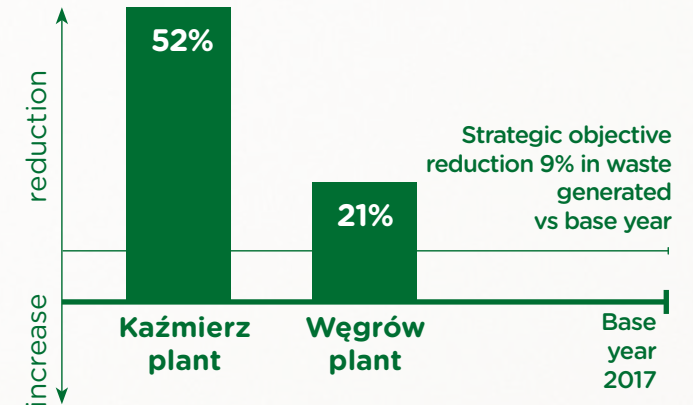
materials from the recovered raw materials. During the year, a total of 7 kg of detectable pens was separated from the waste stream and sent for recycling.

The above activities and the waste management investments implemented over the years 2017–2023 allowed to reduce the amount of waste generated.

WASTE SEPARATION RULES IMPORTANT NOT ONLY AT WORK

The Company works to raise awareness among Employees not only in the workplace, but also at home. Thanks to the cyclical, once-a-year “Flowers for Electrograts” campaign, Employees separate electro-waste from the municipal waste stream throughout the year and collect it to donate as part of a campaign organised by Hochland. Recipients of electro-waste treat it at specialized recycling facilities. In 2023, 200 Employees joined the campaign. A total of 675kg of e-waste was donated.

Reduction in waste generation in 2023 vs. base year 2017 [%]



BEST PRACTICE

DETAILED SORTING OF PLASTICS

SORTING OF LABEL LINERS

DETECTABLE PENS RETURNING