

Sustainability agenda 2025



UK FLOUR
MILLERS

Introduction

UK Flour Millers is the trade association for the flour milling industry in the United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland, representing over 99% of domestic production by volume. Our members operate 51 mill sites, supporting skilled manufacturing jobs across the UK with more than 2,000 people employed. Together, they produce the flour that provides approximately 20% of the nation's food energy requirements.

As an essential part of the UK's food supply chain, the milling industry plays a critical role in supporting sustainability. Beyond environmental efforts, the industry also plays a key role in the social and economic fabric of this supply chain. Millers support rural economies by collaborating with farmers, ensuring fair and transparent business practices. The flour milling industry purchased an estimated £800 million of wheat from UK farmers in 2024. They also contribute to local communities through employment, training, and partnerships aimed at promoting food security and responsible production.

This paper sets out the agenda for building on past sustainability efforts while also addressing key topics the sector must overcome to advance further. Recognising that each miller is at a different stage in its sustainability journey, this statement represents a significant step forward in tackling shared sustainability challenges.

+99%

OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION BY VOLUME
REPRESENTED BY OUR MEMBERS



51 mill sites

OPERATED BY OUR MEMBERS



2,000 people

EMPLOYED IN SKILLED MANUFACTURING
JOBS ACROSS THE UK



20%

OF THE NATION'S FOOD ENERGY
REQUIREMENTS PROVIDED BY OUR MEMBERS



Looking ahead

One of the biggest challenges the industry faces on its journey towards Net Zero is obtaining accurate Scope 3 data. While this does not prevent progress or ongoing work on the topic, at some point, measuring and tracking progress will be essential.

However, sustainability is not just about reducing the carbon footprint. It is important to broaden the conversation to include all aspects and foster a more holistic approach to sustainable development. As a result, the milling sector is actively working and engaging in discussions on various topics to drive progress.



Enhancing collaboration on Scope 3 emissions data:

Strengthening emission factors sharing within the milling industry and partnerships across the supply chain to improve the accuracy and availability of Scope 3 emissions data, enabling more precise and reliable carbon footprint assessments.



Establishing an industry-wide carbon reduction target:

Developing a high-level target for the milling sector requires a comprehensive assessment of the sector's overall carbon footprint as a foundational step and an alignment on the base year against which improvements will be measured.



Implementing targets at companies' level:

Encouraging individual milling businesses to set science-based targets tailored to their specific operations, aligning with global standards for carbon reduction.



Continuing support for sustainable agriculture principles such as regenerative agriculture and organic farming:

Supporting sustainable agricultural practices to reduce carbon emissions and enhance sustainability in the milling industry, while maintaining wheat volume and quality. Among the various approaches, organic farming is the only regulated sustainable practice, giving full traceability for consumers. At the same time, regenerative agriculture is also gaining momentum, though its definitions and frameworks vary. Exploring sources like the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) can bring further clarity and alignment within the sector while offering transparency for customers and consumers.



Addressing broader sustainability principles at companies' level:

Broadening discussions beyond carbon reduction and Net Zero for a more holistic approach to sustainability, encompassing the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles at the heart of the milling companies.

Note: The full Sustainability Strategy is available on UK Flour Millers' website: [UK Flour Millers – Sustainability Strategy](https://www.ukflourmillers.org/sustainability-strategy)