



# Lidl Ireland & Northern Ireland

## Position Paper on the Sustainable Sourcing of Timber and Wood-Based Products



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# 1. Our Position

## 1.1 The Purpose of this Policy

Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland are committed to being a responsible retailer and upholding economic, social and environmental responsibilities in all of our daily activities. Under the ‘Sourcing’ pillar of our ‘A Better Tomorrow’ strategy we are committed to ensuring that our buying power is driving positive change for producers, communities and the environment while we build long term partnerships with our suppliers. Through this purchasing policy we want to support the principles of responsible sourcing of timber, paper and wood-based articles and fabrics.

## 1.2 Acknowledging our Responsibility

Timber and wood-based products (including manufactured wood-based fibres such as viscose) derive from forests; the world’s largest and most important ecosystem.

According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)<sup>1</sup>, forests cover a third of the land of our planet, providing a home to 80% of the known animals and plant species. Forests are also an important economic contributor, 1.6 billion people rely on benefits that forests offer, such as food, fresh water, clothing, medicine and shelter. Forests are also essential to regulating local water cycles, reducing droughts, protecting against flooding and soil erosion. Forests play a critical role in mitigating climate change they act as a carbon sink storing up carbon dioxide, while they are the second main producer of oxygen after the oceans.

Unfortunately, many forest ecosystems are under threat of deforestation and forest degradation due to fires, unsustainable logging for timber, clear-cutting for agriculture, ranching and development. The WWF states that every four seconds a forest of the size of one soccer field disappears. This is critical for the planet’s climate, since it is estimated that 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions are the result of deforestation.

Increasing global demand for low-cost timber products supports a multi-billion dollar business of illegal and unsustainable logging in forests worldwide. The world’s natural forests cannot sustainably meet this soaring global demand for timber products under weak forest management practices. The 2018 Accenture’s Global Consumer Pulse Research survey shows that 59% of Irish consumers want companies to take a stand on social, cultural, environmental and political issues. This policy aims to inform on the actions that Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland take to ensure that the timber and wood-based articles and fabrics we source generate the minimal environmental and social impact and guarantee that our products come from sustainably managed woods or from recycled materials.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation>

## 1.3 Our Approach

Our strategy to guarantee the responsible sourcing of timber, paper and wood-based products is three-fold:

### **Resource efficiency**

We believe the best action that we can take to protect the forest is to minimise the use of natural resources and use them efficiently. Therefore, our priority is to ensure that the wood and paper used within our range of products and operations is minimised and used as efficiently as possible.

### **Increasing recyclability and the use of recycled content**

We are committed to increasing the recyclability and the use of recycled content in our products and packaging range. By making this commitment we reduce our reliance on virgin fibres and ensure that we are supporting a circular economy.

Through this policy we compliment several other priority areas in our sustainable sourcing strategy. For example, our commitment to tackling packaging and plastic reduction aligns closely with the principles of timber and wood-based product sourcing. Where we choose to substitute plastic with a wood-based alternative, we must ensure that sustainability principles are upheld.

### **Sourcing virgin material from certified sources**

Where it is not possible to use recycled materials we work with third party certification schemes, including the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) for wood and timber products, to ensure that the virgin materials used within both our business and supply chain are from certified sustainable managed forests.

For our wood-based fibres such as viscose we partner with LENZING, a leader in sustainable cellulose fibre production. LENZING procure wood and pulp from sources certified to the FSC and PEFC standards.

*Cellulose is an important structural component of the walls of the plant's cells, helping plants to remain stiff and upright, and it is one of the most abundant components on earth. Cellulose is found in wood and is used in the production of clothes, paper and cardboard among others.*

*Wood-based cellulose fibres make up approximately 6.6% of the global market share of all fibres. Viscose is the most widely-used of all, at over 70% of this figure. It is notably a versatile material with a soft, silky finish which can be used across a multitude of products and alongside other fibres.*

*The production of viscose fibres involves the use of less water and cultivation space than other cellulose-based fibres such as cotton. Due to this, the global demand for viscose and other wood-based fibres is expected to rise substantially over the next 5 years. Recent NGO and media coverage highlight serious environmental and social risks involved in the production of viscose, as well as the lack of transparency in the supply chain, which is another huge challenge facing the industry. Currently viscose is mainly produced in China, India and Indonesia.*

## 2. Our Scope

This transparent, publicly accessible position paper sets the basis of the sustainable sourcing of our own-brand timber, paper and wood-based products, fibers and packaging sold in Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland.

## 3. Actions

### 3.1 Our Commitments

The goal of this policy is to guarantee that all the wood-based products, fibers and packaging come from certified sustainably managed forests or from recycled materials.

*Permanently listed products* (i.e. available all year around in stores)

- By 2020 we are committed to sourcing all our own-brand wood and paper-based household products from either recycled wood fibre sources or FSC or PEFC certified sources.
- By 2025 we aim to source all primary, secondary and tertiary packaging from either FSC, PEFC and/or recycled sources.

*Promotional products* (i.e. available only temporally in stores)

- By 2020 we are committed to sourcing all our own-brand wood and paper-based products from FSC or PEFC certified sources.
- By 2020 we are committed to sourcing all our own-brand textiles that contain viscose from LENZING ECOVERO certified viscose, which is also EU Ecolabel certified.

*Marketing Materials*

- We are committed to ensuring that marketing materials, such as our weekly leaflets and magazines are produced using recycled material from either FSC or PEFC certified paper.

### 3.2 Measuring and Evaluating our Commitments

Many of our own-brand products are already FSC or PEFC certified. This is the case with our kitchen paper rolls, tissues, diapers, toilet paper, wipes, baking paper and liquid cartons. We also offer a wide range FSC or PEFC certified stationery and office supplies, wooden toys and small furniture, such as, dressers or shelves and some garden furniture.

Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland are committed to assessing the status of the certificates of our products and packaging annually. This policy must be implemented by the Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland supply base as part of the commercial business relationship. Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland reserve the right to request information from our suppliers at any point and to audit compliance throughout the supply chain and take action on areas of non-compliance.

Where products are found not to be in compliance with this policy, Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland will work with suppliers to support them to meet the requirements.

### 3.3 Reporting our Progress

Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland commit to reporting the progress on our goals and on this policy by publishing the results in our annual Sustainability Report and on our '[A Better Tomorrow](#)' website.

Any queries on this policy should be directed to [CSR.Purchasing@lidl.ie](mailto:CSR.Purchasing@lidl.ie). Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland welcome feedback on the positions and commitments outlined and would like to acknowledge all stakeholders who supported the development of this policy.

## 4. More information

### Forest Stewardship Council



The [Forest Stewardship Council](#) (FSC) runs a global forest certification system offering both forest management and chain of custody (CoC) certification. This system allows consumers to identify, purchase and use wood, paper and other forest products produced from well-managed forests and/or recycled materials. The scheme is organised around [10 responsible forest management principles](#) covering a range of sustainable forest management issues such as legality, workers' rights and the management and/or enhancement of high conservation areas.

### Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification



The [Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification](#) (PEFC) is an international non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification. PEFC works throughout the entire forest supply chain to promote good practice in the forest and to ensure that timber and non-timber forest products are produced with respect for the highest ecological, social and ethical standards. As an umbrella organisation, PEFC works by endorsing [national forest certification systems](#) developed through [multi-stakeholder processes](#) and tailored to local priorities and conditions. The PEFC consumer label identifies products that meet the certification standards.

### LENZING ECOVERO



[LENZING ECOVERO](#) viscose fibres are derived from sustainable wood and pulp, coming from certified and controlled sources. This viscose has been certified with the EU Ecolabel and has a fully traceable supply chain. The certification also guarantees an environmentally responsible production and a lower environmental impact using 50% less water and emitting 50% less carbon than conventional viscose.