# PepsiCo delays net-zero goal to 2050 while ramping up regenerative agriculture ambitions



PepsiCo has adjusted its timeline for achieving net-zero emissions, now targeting 2050 instead of 2040, a shift attributed to “external realities”. The company, known for its brands like Pepsi Max and Lay's, has also restructured its specific goals regarding emissions and packaging, while expanding its initiatives on regenerative agriculture.

According to the company's announcement, this revision is part of a broader response to various systemic challenges, including lagging infrastructure and the need for careful business management. PepsiCo claims that these adaptations, while pragmatic, do not diminish its ambition towards sustainability. Indeed, it has intensified its focus on regenerative agriculture, aiming to cover ten million acres by 2030—up from a previous goal of seven million, with approximately 3.5 million acres already accounted for.

Jim Andrew, PepsiCo's chief sustainability officer, highlighted the importance of transparency in their sustainability journey: “We know it’s important that we continue to be transparent about our progress – both our successes and the challenges.” This commitment reflects a recognition that the path to sustainability is often complex and non-linear, requiring ongoing adjustments to goals based on scientific advancements and practical constraints.

In terms of specific emissions targets, PepsiCo plans to reduce its Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% by 2030 from a 2022 baseline, revising its earlier ambition of a 75% reduction. For Scope 3 emissions, typically the most challenging for corporations to manage, the company is targeting a 42% decrease in Energy and Industry emissions and a 30% reduction in Forests, Land, and Agriculture emissions by the same year. This marks a slight increase in ambition compared to previous targets.

On the packaging front, PepsiCo has announced a strategy to reduce its use of virgin plastic by 2% annually until 2030, a substantial cut from its earlier target of 20%. The company aims for at least 97% of its packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by design by the end of the decade. However, the retraction of its reusable packaging initiative has drawn criticism, with Matt Littlejohn from ocean conservation group Oceana describing it as detrimental to environmental efforts. He argues that increasing the use of refillable bottles is the most effective strategy to mitigate plastic pollution.

Despite these challenges, PepsiCo maintains a forward-leaning stance in its dealings with regenerative agriculture. Recent partnerships, including a $216 million investment in collaborations with farmer organisations, are expected to enhance sustainability practices across extensive agricultural territories. This approach is part of PepsiCo's Positive Agriculture agenda, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create more resilient farming systems.

The evolving landscape of corporate sustainability is evident, as PepsiCo joins other major firms like The Coca-Cola Company and Unilever in reassessing their environmental goals. By adapting to new challenges and expanding its sustainability framework, PepsiCo strives to navigate a nuanced route towards operational resilience and ecological responsibility.

PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Ramon Laguarta has emphasised that the company's objectives must evolve alongside its operational strategies: “Our goals must evolve with us to keep our ambition and to deliver on our long-term vision.” The company's multifaceted approach highlights a recognition of the delicate balance between ambition and adaptability in the pursuit of sustainability.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.just-food.com/news/pepsico-pushes-back-net-zero-target/), [[2]](https://www.pepsico.com/our-stories/press-release/pepsico-announces-2030-goal-to-scale-regenerative-farming-practices-across-7-mil04202021)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.just-food.com/news/pepsico-pushes-back-net-zero-target/), [[5]](https://www.pepsico.com/our-impact/esg-topics-a-z/agriculture)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.pepsico.com/our-stories/press-release/pepsico-announces-216-million-investment-in-long-term-partnerships-with-three-ma03212023), [[4]](https://www.pepsico.com/our-stories/press-release/pepsico-targets-100-renewable-electricity-globally09212020)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.pepsico.com/our-stories/press-release/pepsico-and-walmart-aim-to-support-regenerative-agriculture-across-more-than-2-m07262023/), [[7]](https://www.pepsico.com/our-stories/press-release/pepsico-adm-announce-groundbreaking-agreement-aiming-to-reduce-carbon-intensity-by-supporting-regenerative-agriculture-practices-on-up-to-2-million-acres-of-farmland/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.just-food.com/news/pepsico-pushes-back-net-zero-target/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.just-food.com/news/pepsico-pushes-back-net-zero-target/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.pepsico.com/our-stories/press-release/pepsico-announces-2030-goal-to-scale-regenerative-farming-practices-across-7-mil04202021> - PepsiCo has announced a goal to scale regenerative farming practices across 7 million acres by 2030, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 3 million metric tons. This initiative is part of PepsiCo's Positive Agriculture agenda, which focuses on sourcing crops and ingredients in a way that accelerates regenerative agriculture and strengthens farming communities. The company plans to collaborate with farmers across 60 countries to adopt practices that build resilience and improve ecosystems.
3. <https://www.pepsico.com/our-stories/press-release/pepsico-announces-216-million-investment-in-long-term-partnerships-with-three-ma03212023> - PepsiCo has announced a $216 million investment in long-term partnerships with three major farmer-facing organizations—Practical Farmers of Iowa, Soil and Water Outcomes Fund, and the Illinois Corn Growers Association—to support regenerative agriculture practices across more than 3 million acres of U.S. farmland. The initiative aims to deliver approximately 3 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emission reductions and removals by 2030, contributing to PepsiCo's sustainability goals.
4. <https://www.pepsico.com/our-stories/press-release/pepsico-targets-100-renewable-electricity-globally09212020> - PepsiCo has set a target to source 100% renewable electricity across all its company-owned and controlled operations globally by 2030, and across its entire franchise and third-party operations by 2040. This commitment is expected to reduce approximately 2.5 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, equivalent to taking more than half a million cars off the road for a full year.
5. <https://www.pepsico.com/our-impact/esg-topics-a-z/agriculture> - PepsiCo's agriculture initiatives focus on regenerative agriculture practices, aiming to cover more than 1.8 million acres by the end of 2023, doubling the acreage from 2022. The company has engaged nearly 5,500 farmers in regenerative agriculture practices and has worked with farmers globally to plant cover crops on more than a million acres of land, resulting in an estimated net reduction of over 951,000 metric tons in on-farm greenhouse gas emissions, including soil carbon sequestration.
6. <https://www.pepsico.com/our-stories/press-release/pepsico-and-walmart-aim-to-support-regenerative-agriculture-across-more-than-2-m07262023/> - PepsiCo and Walmart have announced a seven-year collaboration to invest $120 million in supporting U.S. and Canadian farmers in adopting regenerative agriculture practices. The partnership aims to improve soil health and water quality across more than 2 million acres of farmland and deliver approximately 4 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emission reductions and removals by 2030, aligning with both companies' sustainability goals.
7. <https://www.pepsico.com/our-stories/press-release/pepsico-adm-announce-groundbreaking-agreement-aiming-to-reduce-carbon-intensity-by-supporting-regenerative-agriculture-practices-on-up-to-2-million-acres-of-farmland/> - PepsiCo and ADM have announced a 7.5-year strategic commercial agreement to collaborate on projects that aim to significantly expand regenerative agriculture across their shared North American supply chains. The partnership is expected to reach up to 2 million acres by 2030, supporting farmers' transition to regenerative agriculture and building resilience to climate change.