



Operating to reduce  
our environmental impact





At Bunzl we see our commitment to reducing our impact on the environment as a key area of our corporate social responsibility. From increasing recycling programmes to reducing fuel usage to sourcing green products: we're constantly looking for new ways to improve our performance.

Our environmental strategy is multifaceted. We set **standards** and **measure** operating improvements in order to **reduce** our environmental **impact**. We **provide** environmentally friendly **services** and **products** to our customers to **assist** them in **reducing** their global footprint. Finally, we **communicate** what we've **learned** to our employees and our customers and that's what this brochure is about.

Working together we can build a more sustainable future.

Mike Roney  
Chief Executive

## Operating to reduce our environmental impact

**Awareness of the environment and considering how to reduce Bunzl's impact on it is not new for Bunzl nor is it a passing phase. Our environmental programmes have been in place for over five years and we consistently review and seek to improve our performance in this area. The major environmental impacts of Bunzl are associated with waste management, which is predominantly the packaging that suppliers use to deliver their products to Bunzl, and the consumption of fuel to transport products to Bunzl's customers.**

### **Increasing waste for recycling and reducing waste to landfill**

Balers, used to compress waste paper, plastic and cardboard for disposal, and waste segregation programmes have been introduced at many of our sites. Discussions have been held with suppliers to eliminate unnecessary transit packaging and to utilise reusable packaging and with customers to assist them in logistics studies to streamline the supply chain. This has resulted in a reduction of waste to landfill and an increase in our waste for recycling. We continue to work with customers to look at innovative ways of improving environmental performance, including reviewing the feasibility of developing a 'closed loop recycling solution'.



## Environmentally friendly service offering

### Reduction of fuel used for transportation

Bunzl remains focused on the efficient use of fuel by better transport management. In the US a vehicle tracking system has been implemented which has helped to reduce fuel consumption by reducing 'engine idling time'. Uneconomic deliveries have been allocated to couriers. Similarly in the UK a vehicle routing system is currently being implemented that will reduce fuel usage and the number of vehicles required for deliveries. Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles have been used for some of Bunzl's operations in London to reduce emissions and we are currently investigating the viability of using electric vehicles in certain circumstances and using bio fuel for our vehicles. In the US trucks with reduced emissions are being introduced. Bunzl continues to look for innovative solutions to reduce fuel usage. For example, some plastic goods have been vacuum packed to reduce volume and allow more goods to be delivered per vehicle. The introduction of minimum order sizes has also assisted in reducing the environmental impact.

### ISO 14001 accreditation

Key to Bunzl's environmental programme has been a drive to gain ISO 14001 accreditation. This is the most well known environmental operating standard and is certified by an external certification authority. Gaining accreditation means that an organisation has implemented and maintained an environmental management system, which provides for continuous improvement in environmental performance. The standard requires companies to demonstrate compliance with their own stated environmental policy and with environmental laws and regulations. Except for those businesses which have been recently acquired, all of Bunzl's UK & Ireland businesses are now accredited. Bunzl's businesses in Germany and The Netherlands and one of the businesses in Denmark are also ISO 14001 accredited. In Australasia, Lesnie's and Bunzl's Outsourcing business gained national accreditation in 2007. Although some of our businesses are not yet accredited, best practice related to environmental policies is shared and environmental performance measured across Bunzl.

**A fundamental part of Bunzl's offering to customers is our expertise and in depth product knowledge, coupled with the ability to consolidate the procurement and delivery of a broad range of non-food consumable products. This service can cut the environmental impact as it can reduce the number of deliveries within a company's total supply chain, as well as decrease the amount of invoices and payments. Bunzl's core service offering can help customers to reduce fuel emissions, paper usage and other energy requirements. Further, a consolidated invoice allows better monitoring of the use of consumables and therefore can reduce duplication and waste.**



## Environmentally friendly products

**Bunzl has a positive approach to sourcing environmentally friendly products for customers and expects this is an area that will develop further in the future. For example, we are working with a manufacturer to develop plastic bags from sustainable and renewable sources, such as the tapioca plant and sugar cane. Many customers are interested in reducing their impact on the environment but there is currently much confusion regarding the terms (i.e. biodegradable, compostable, degradable) used to describe the different plastics available:**

**Biodegradable plastic** will degrade as a result of bacterial activity under specific conditions.

**Compostable plastic** is biodegradable but the degradation of the plastic has met certain specified standards (American standard ASTM #D6400-99, the European Standards EN-13432 and DIN V-54900 – all of these standards are in harmony but there are minor differences in the specifics of the measurement standards) relating to the rate of biodegradation, maximum residue of material left at a specific point in time and a requirement for the material to have no harmful impact on the final compost or composting process. For composting to occur in an optimal manner appropriate industrial waste management facilities need to be available. Biodegradable and compostable plastics are usually made from polylactic acid (PLA), often produced from corn starch, and polyhydroxyalkanes (PHA), often produced from bacteria, yeast or plants.

**Degradable plastics** are plastics that breakdown in appropriate conditions due either to bacterial activity (biodegradable and compostable plastics) or as a result of physical and chemical impact splitting into small pieces over varying periods of time. Examples of plastics that break down due to a combination of physical and bacterial activity are oil-based products such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene to which is added a proprietary mixture (for example, EPI or D2W) that accelerates the breakdown of the chemical structure in certain conditions (these products are sometimes referred to as oxo-biodegradable).

Bunzl is able to source products from all the above materials, according to customer requirements. However, due to the differing properties of the above materials, not all products are available in each material.

### **Recycled**

Made fully or partly from materials that have been recycled. Bunzl has a range of products made from recycled plastic including polyethylene bin liners, carrier bags and hygiene paper. Degradable bags made from recycled plastic are also available. Currently recycled plastics are rarely used in food packaging because of food safety concerns.

### **Recyclable or reusable**

Made from material that can be recycled. Reusing plastic is preferable to recycling as it uses less energy and fewer resources. Bunzl can supply “Bags for Life” (i.e. more robust bags which can be made in a variety of materials that can be used more than once).



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