



Data parameters

Seven key environmental performance parameters are used by our manufacturing operations for reporting emissions and setting future reduction targets. See our environmental report or the environmental issues section of this website for data on these parameters.

Production

All products, semi finished products and by products are reported in the production tonnage. The reported production tonnage is the net weight in tonnes excluding all packaging.

Total COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand, tonnes)

COD represents the ingredients and product lost from our manufacturing processes, and mainly arises during cleaning operations. COD is widely used by regulatory bodies to control industrial wastewaters, and to calculate the correct level of charges for downstream municipal wastewater treatment, which is designed to remove most of the COD before the wastewater is discharged to the environment. The Unilever COD data represent the load discharged from the factory. The data do not make any allowance for the fact that based on individual site data we estimate a further 89.4% of this material is removed in municipal wastewater treatment plants. Consequently the COD load which actually reaches the environment is much lower.

Total water consumption (m3)

Water consumption is also widely used as a measure of manufacturing performance. It is measured in all Unilever's factories. The Unilever data represent all water consumed and include water used as an ingredient in products as well as uncontaminated non-contact cooling water and wastewater.

Total hazardous & non-hazardous waste (tonnes)

(Reported separately)

In terms of potential impact on the environment, it is important to distinguish between hazardous and non-hazardous waste. Since there is no common international waste classification, the Unilever data are based on the national legal definitions applicable for each site, and are simply the total mass of material disposed of from the site under each classification.

Total energy consumption (GJ or 109 Joules) & CO2 from energy use (tonnes)

Energy consumption per tonne of product is widely used as a manufacturing performance indicator. Since 1999 we have focused on global warming potential (in tonnes CO2) and this is why our targets are expressed in terms of CO2 from energy as well as energy consumption. The global warming potential has been calculated from the source energy data using internationally accepted conversion factors derived from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Boiler / Utilities SOx (tonnes)

This air emission parameter is relevant to most sites since almost all have a boiler used for generating steam. In some cases diesel generators are also used onsite for electricity generation. The Unilever data are calculated from the total mass of fuel consumed, and its sulphur content, and are expressed in terms of a mass of sulphur dioxide (SO2). Emissions of SOx contribute to acid rain potential.



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