

Third Party Name	Nature of the third party	Objectives of the third party	Link to the third party's website	Criteria for affiliation or accreditation	Basis on which any applicable awards or distinctions have been given to Asda	Nature of the environmental benefits which can properly be associated with affiliation or accreditation.
Barry Callebaut and The Cocoa Horizons Foundation	The Cocoa Horizons Foundation is active in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Tanzania, and focuses on two key pillars to address the challenges and achieve real progress: productivity and community .	To safeguard the future of cocoa, The Cocoa Horizons Foundation (CHF) supports farmers to increase their yield per hectare, and help them earn a better income from cocoa farming. Better cocoa production practices are needed to ensure that cocoa farming is a viable option also for the next generation of growers, including young women.	Supporting Cocoa Farmers callebaut	Barry Callebaut support The Cocoa Horizons Foundation by supporting farmers to increase productivity. Training enables farmers to grow cocoa sustainably and responsibly, to increase their yields and improve their family's livelihood. Within a three-year cycle, all registered farmers are trained in order to build capacity and raise awareness of sustainable cocoa production practices. A premium is also paid directly to farmers and farmer groups to increase their income from cocoa farming and enable them to invest in their farms and communities.	Asda own brand cocoa products are Barry Callebaut/The Cocoa Horizons Foundation certified. In 2023, 90.21% of our entire Asda branded cocoa footprint was Rainforest Alliance Certified, Barry Callebaut's Cocoa Horizons, Fairtrade certified or Cargill's Cocoa Promise, as per our Cocoa Policy. Across our entire own branded cocoa footprint in 2022, including products with both more and less than 12% cocoa content, we achieved 92% certification. Achieving zero deforestation in our supply chains means working towards no legal or illegal deforestation. Achieving this plays a critical role in reducing Asda's value chain carbon footprint in line with developing science-based targets and allows us to have a positive impact on global biodiversity, ensuring integrity and resilience within our supply chain both economically and environmentally. Certification is a route to achieving zero deforestation. To reach 100% certification across our entire Asda branded cocoa footprint, we are strengthening our Cocoa Sourcing Standards and engaging key stakeholders.	Traceability of sustainable cocoa from farmer to the first Barry Callebaut warehouse. Full focus on cocoa issues - productivity and community development activities. Full transparency of premium use verified by a third party. Impact driven through on-the-ground teams working directly with farmer groups. Access to farmer testimonials, the people benefiting from these efforts. Asda purchasing The Cocoa Horizons Foundation supports the objectives of the third party.
Better Cotton	Better Cotton plan to make cotton better for the farmers who produce it and for all those who have a stake in the future of the sector. The Better Cotton Assurance Programme ensures that farms and farmer groups meet all the core requirements of the Better Cotton Principles and Criteria before they can be licensed to sell Better Cotton. The Assurance Manual is the core document that defines processes, roles, and requirements related to the Assurance Programme.	To embed sustainable farming practices and policies, enhance well-being and economic development and drive global demand for sustainable cotton.	Who we are - Better Cotton	Only committed Retailer and Brand Members can use the On-Product Mark. This means initially sourcing at least 10% of their cotton as Better Cotton, with a plan to increase this to at least 50% Better Cotton within five years. Better Cotton verify that cotton Producers (Better Cotton Farmers) have met the core indicators of the Better Cotton Principles and Criteria before they are licensed to sell their cotton as Better Cotton.	George has made a commitment to source 100% more sustainable cotton for George own brand clothing and soft home textile products by 2025. In 2023, 96% (2022:98%) was sourced via Better Cotton with a small proportion of Organic and Recycled cotton. By 2025, all of the cotton contained in George branded clothing, accessories and footwear as well as our soft home textiles products will be sourced through Better Cotton, Organic (GOTS/OCS) certified or Recycled (GRS/RCS) certified routes.	Traditional cotton production has many negative environmental impacts including excessive water consumption and soil degradation and erosion. By sourcing our cotton products through Better Cotton, we aim to reduce our contribution to these negative impacts, supported by their educational programmes. Through its implementing partners, Better Cotton trains farmers to use water as efficiently as possible, care for soil health and natural habitats and reduce use of the most harmful chemicals and respect workers' rights and wellbeing. Better Cotton is sourced via a chain of custody model called mass balance. This means that Better Cotton is not physically traceable to end products, however, Better Cotton farmers benefit from the demand for Better Cotton in equivalent volumes to those we 'source'. To advance progress against this target, we review the volumes of cotton purchased through the Better Cotton platform and compare this to the volumes of George cotton products our teams buy. We then work with our buying teams and our supplier partners to educate them about these targets, to discuss how to accelerate progress, and to support where needed. Currently, the majority of our cotton is sourced via Better Cotton with a small proportion of Organic and Recycled cotton. We anticipate that we will achieve 100% by the end of 2024.
The Cargill Cocoa Promise	The Cargill Cocoa Promise is our program to enable farmers and their communities achieve better incomes and living standards while growing cocoa sustainably.	Our ambition is to accelerate progress towards a transparent global cocoa supply chain, to enable cocoa farmers and their communities to strengthen their socioeconomic resilience, and to deliver a sustainable supply of cocoa and chocolate products from bean to end-product.	The Cargill Cocoa Promise Sustainable Cocoa Cocoa & Chocolate Cargill	Being affiliated with The Cargill Cocoa Promise means at Asda for our own brand products we understand where the cocoa beans we use originate from.	In 2023, 90.21% of our entire Asda branded cocoa footprint was Rainforest Alliance Certified, Barry Callebaut's Cocoa Horizons, Fairtrade certified or Cargill's Cocoa Promise, as per our Cocoa Policy. Asda own brand cocoa products meet the standards of Rainforest Alliance Certified, Barry Callebaut's Cocoa Horizons, Fairtrade certified or Cargill's Cocoa Promise for all products with cocoa (both more than and less than 12%).	Farmers are empowered through farmer organizations to become entrepreneurs and run their farms as businesses. Communities are equipped with the tools to own their socio-economic benefits and create better prospects for the future. Landscapes are protected with action to prevent deforestation while also ensuring that cocoa farmers can still make a living.
Fairtrade	Fairtrade works with farming co-operatives, businesses and governments to make trade fair and so they can improve their living standards, and invest in their future.	Together with Fairtrade farmers and workers we have a vision: a world in which trade is based on fairness so that producers earn secure and sustainable livelihoods.	What is Fairtrade? - Fairtrade Foundation	Fairtrade standards comprise both minimum social, economic and environmental requirements, which producers must meet to be certified, plus progress requirements that encourage the continuous improvement of farmer's organisations or the situation of estate workers.	A number of Asda own brand products are Fairtrade certified including bananas, coffee and cocoa.	Through Fairtrade, farmers are able to improve their livelihoods by forming strong Fairtrade co-operatives, and Fairtrade farmers have the protection of a Minimum Price and additional Fairtrade Premium on projects such as tree planting, irrigation, crop diversification and clean energy. Fairtrade also supports farmers to combat climate change through technical advice from expert Producer Networks – regional associations that support and represent producers in their own area.

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FEFAC - Experts in Animal Nutrition FEFAC Sourcing Guidelines	The FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2021 set out the legal compliance requirements with relevant forest and eco-systems protection legislation as the first key step towards responsible soy production.	The FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2021 ensure legal compliance, responsible working conditions, environmental responsibility, good agricultural practices and respect for legal use of land.	Mission FEFAC	Environmental Third Parties 2021 - COPY (1) The FEFAC sourcing guidelines set out a number of requirements for farms and producers, including environmental responsibility.	In 2023, 81.43% (2022:70%) of our Asda branded soy footprint was certified to mass balance and segregation schemes benchmarked against the FEFAC sourcing guidelines (2021), sourced from low-risk origins, or covered by regional or standard credits. Achieving zero deforestation in our supply chains means working towards no legal or illegal deforestation. Achieving this plays a critical role in reducing Asda's value chain carbon footprint in line with developing science-based targets and allows us to have a positive impact on global biodiversity, ensuring integrity and resilience within our supply chain both economically and environmentally. Certification is a route to achieving zero deforestation. To reach 100% certification across our Asda branded soy footprint, we are strengthening our Soy and Animal Feed Sourcing Standards and engaging stakeholders.	Standards and programmes for responsible soy make sure that there are adequate checks to ensure the relevant soy expansion, forest, biodiversity and nature legislation is being complied with. Criterion 34 states that "No soy is produced in converted natural ecosystems (natural forest, native grasslands, wetlands, swamps, peatlands, savannas, steep slopes and riparian areas) after a specific cut-off date no later than 2020."
Forest Stewardship Council	Sustainable forest management, operating the world's most rigorous and trusted forest certification system. The "check tree" label is found on millions of products worldwide, verifying sustainable sourcing from the forest to store shelves.	Healthy and resilient forests are the first line of defence against the climate and biodiversity crises. Sustainable forestry supports thriving forests. Responsible Sourcing helps businesses work with forests responsibly, conservation maintains and enhances forest value and restoration accelerates forest recovery.	Home Forest Stewardship Council (fsc.org)	Every FSC label is backed by a diverse ecosystem of forest managers, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and others committed to upholding a common set of responsible forestry standards that support: zero deforestation; safeguarding of ancient and endangered forests; fair wage and work environment; biodiversity preservation and community rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples.	In 2022 we achieved 100% Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) in our own brand timber, paper and pulp.	Choosing FSC certified material supports responsible forestry management. In addition, using PEFC certified pulp and paper in our own brand packaging provides assurance that the wood fibre used in the production process originates in forests where Sustainable Forest Management practices are in place. In line with developing UK/EU deforestation regulation, deforestation free means in the case of supply chains using wood, that the wood has been harvested from the forest without inducing forest degradation after 31 December 2020. Manufacturers that use forest-based materials can obtain FSC's chain-of-custody certification. Chain-of-custody certification shows your supply chain and customers that you're committed to sustainable sourcing. It verifies you've put processes in place to produce and trade FSC-certified products. Your chain-of-custody certification allows you to use the globally recognised FSC label on your products, letting customers know your product supports responsible forestry.
Global Recycle Standard (GRS)	The GRS is an international, full product standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of recycled content, chain of custody, social and environmental practices and chemical restrictions.	The GRS is intended to meet the needs of companies looking to verify the recycled content of their products (both finished and intermediate) and to verify responsible social, environmental and chemical practices in their production. The objectives of the GRS are to define requirements to ensure accurate content claims and good working conditions, and that harmful environmental and chemical impacts are minimised. This includes companies in ginning, spinning, weaving and knitting, dyeing and printing and stitching in more than 50 countries. GRS claims are independently verified through third-party verification. In addition, traceability and contamination risks can be managed better by certifying Asda's management system and/or product.	GRS - Global Recycle Standard - Certifications (controlunion.com)	ASR-101-V2.1-Accreditation-Certification-Procedures-for-Textile-Exchange-Standards.pdf (textilesexchange.org)	We aim to source 100% of our Viscose is certified by either Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), or Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and is supplied from a Green Shirt viscose supplier (based on Canopy's Hot Button report) by 2025.	Viscose is derived from wood pulp cellulose. The cellulose is extracted from wood, and turned into fibres using a chemical process. Its production has been linked to the depletion of the world's forests, which are cleared to make way for pulpwood plantations, contributing to climate change. By aiming for all of the viscose used in George products to be sourced through an FSC source and the fibre produced by a Green Shirt supplier on the Hot Button Canopy Report, this target aims to ensure that the forests we use are being managed in a way that preserves biological diversity and benefits the lives of local people and workers, while eliminating the use of ancient or endangered forests. We review the volumes of viscose purchased through our own due diligence systems and compare this to the volumes of viscose products our teams buy. We then work with our buying teams and our supplier partners to educate them about these targets, to discuss how to accelerate progress and to support where needed.
LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming)	To inspire and enable a more circular approach to farming and food systems through integrated regenerative and vibrant nature-based solutions, that deliver productivity and prosperity among farmers, enriches the environment and positively engages young people and wider society.	Working closely with farmers, the food industry, scientists and consumers to inspire and enable sustainable farming. The principles of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) underpin the requirements of LEAF Marque certification and is a whole farm business approach which delivers more sustainable farming.	What we do LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming)	All produce from LEAF Marque certified farms has been farmed with care for the future of the environment, wildlife, countryside, food and animals. Application to become LEAF Marque certified is a step by step process from self assessment through to annual inspections.	In early 2023, we committed to obtaining the global LEAF Marque Environmental Assurance System across all our fresh produce by the end of 2025. By the end of 2023 74.9% of suppliers had achieved LEAF Marque and our data included all growers that were declared on supply lists (Tier 2). In 2024, phase 2 of our commitment is to aim to rollout the programme across Europe, North America, Kenya and South Africa achieving LEAF Marque by the end of 2024.	The LEAF Marque environmental assurance system provides independent, third party verification around core areas of sustainable farming practice including soil and water management. It offers growers a framework to help them monitor their performance and set targets for improvements across the whole farm.
Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	The MSC work with fisheries, scientists and industry to make sure our oceans are fished sustainably and it's easy to find and buy certified sustainable seafood. By choosing seafood products with the blue MSC label you are directly supporting fishers that take care of our oceans and encouraging others to do the same.	The MSC want future generations to be able to enjoy seafood and oceans full of life, forever. Our aim is to use our ecolabel and fishery certification program to contribute to the health of the world's oceans by recognising and rewarding sustainable fishing practices, influencing the choices people make when buying seafood and working with our partners to transform the seafood market to a sustainable basis.	What is the MSC Marine Stewardship Council	Certification to the MSC Fisheries Standard is voluntary. It's open to all fisheries who catch marine or freshwater organisms in the wild. This includes most types of fish and shellfish. Fisheries are assessed by accredited independent certifiers (called Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) – also called certification bodies), not the MSC. The MSC Fisheries Standard has three core principles that every fishery must meet: sustainable fish stocks, fishing activity must be managed carefully so that other species and habitats within the ecosystem remain healthy and fishery operations must be well managed. MSC certified fisheries must comply with relevant laws and be able to adapt to changing environmental circumstances.	Asda aims to source wild caught fish species from Marine Stewardship Council certified (or those progressing to achieve MSC certification via a Fisheries Progress website registered Fisheries Improvement Project). In 2023 wild caught fish sourced for sale in Asda stores is 99.8% MSC certified and we are working towards a full 100% by 2025. ASDA also uses an independent organisation, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, to assess fisheries' sustainability. The MSC Fisheries Standard has three core principles that every fishery must meet: sustainable fish stocks, fishing activity must be managed carefully so that other species and habitats within the ecosystem remain healthy and fishery operations must be well managed. MSC certified fisheries must comply with relevant laws and be able to adapt to changing environmental circumstances.	A certified supply chain assures consumers that only seafood from an MSC certified fishery is sold with the blue MSC label. MSC certification is a multistakeholder approach to sustainably managing fisheries. The certification is independent against the MSC Fisheries Standard.

<p>Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)</p>	<p>PEFC is an international non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) 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. PEFC's distinctive 'green trees' logo make it a truly global brand and means customers and consumers are able to identify products from sustainably managed forests.</p>	<p>The organisation is committed to the following guiding principles: Quality – through the stringency of criteria for technical and professional competencies with which to operate the Scheme. Continuous Improvement – through response to new knowledge and changes in demands. Consistency – with internationally recognised indicators and performance criteria of credible forest certification standards, schemes, and of the certification process itself. Use and promotion of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard – as the criteria and indicators for verification of sustainable forest management in the UK. Credibility – through third party, independent auditing carried out by certification bodies accredited by UKAS or other accreditation bodies operating to internationally accepted ISO standards and guidelines. Transparency – of all stages of both the certification standard and the certification scheme. Accountability to, and participation with – the UK and wider forestry and timber using communities and stakeholders. Cost effectiveness – through minimising the administrative and financial burden to the scheme's customers. Accessibility – via the UK Woodland Assurance Standard and the PEFC Council Chain of Custody Standard – to a range of certification options to all forest and wood using types, ownerships and structures.</p>	<p>PEFC UK - PEFC</p>	<p>For the PEFC Chain of Custody (CO-COPY 1) certification, certain key requirements must be fulfilled. The management systems in place outlining procedures must ensure compliance with the PEFC International Chain of Custody standard, PEFC Standard 2002:2020. This information can be integrated into existing systems your company may have already implemented, such as ISO 9001 or ISO 14001 procedures. The personnel responsible for performing the tasks which will affect the implementation and maintenance of the chain of custody, e.g. buyers, marketing and sales personnel, must be identified, briefed and trained. It is vital to ensure that everyone involved has appropriate knowledge of the purpose and requirements of Chain of Custody certification. The necessary checks need to be implemented to verify that sourced material is certified. The production of certified goods requires procurement of certified material. The PEFC product database is a good resource for identifying suppliers of certified material. The processes must be implemented to ensure that the production of certified goods meets the requirements for Chain of Custody certification. Proof may be required at any stage of the process. The records to prove that all systems comply with requirements must be properly maintained. Internal audits must be conducted on an annual basis. These internal audits are in addition to external third-party audits.</p>	<p>Certification is a route to achieving zero deforestation. To reach 100% certification across our Asda branded non-edible timber footprint, we are strengthening our Timber, Paper and Pulp Sourcing Standards and engaging stakeholders.</p>	<p>The PEFC standards approach ensures that standards meet the expectations of stakeholders on the ground, address local conditions, and are consistent with national laws and regulations, while at the same time meeting international benchmarks and being internationally recognised. This ownership is key to the success of forest certification as it empowers local people to manage forests in compliance with the standards in whose development they themselves were involved.</p>
<p>Rainforest Alliance</p>	<p>The Rainforest Alliance is an international non-profit organization working at the intersection of business, agriculture, and forests to make responsible business the new normal.</p>	<p>The Rainforest Alliance are building an alliance to protect forests, improve the livelihoods of farmers and forest communities, promote their human rights, and help them mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.</p>	<p>About Rainforest Alliance (rainforest-alliance.org)</p>	<p>The Rainforest Alliance Certification Program encompasses a Sustainable Agriculture Standard, and provides assurance that technology systems are data-powered, and based on the principles of continuous improvement, risk-based assurance, contextualization, and shared responsibility.</p>	<p>A number of Asda own brand products are Rainforest Alliance Certified, such as tea, coffee, Cocoa and bananas.</p>	<p>Products with the Rainforest Alliance Certified seal are grown and harvested on farms and forests that follow sustainable practices.</p>
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<p>Recycled Claim Standard (RCS)</p>	<p>The Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) set the criteria for third-party certification of recycled materials and chain of custody.</p>	<p>The RCS and GRS has three main objectives: to align definitions of "recycled" across different applications; verify recycled content in products and give brands and consumers a means to make informed buying decisions.</p>	<p>Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) + Global Recycled Standard (GRS) - Textile Exchange</p>	<p>Microsoft Word - Recycled Claim Standard - FINAL.docx (textileexchange.org)</p>	<p>At the end of 2023, recycled polyester used in George clothing or general merchandise is 62% certified (2022:50%) to Global Recycled Standard (GRS) and Recycled Claim Standard (RCS). We continually monitor our clothing teams to ensure we are on track to achieve this target and offer support on this where required through conversation and education in order to achieve our target.</p>	<p>Polyester is a synthetic fibre made from crude oil. Using virgin polyester creates demand for fossil fuel extraction which is why we have set a target for recycled polyester which in turn reduces the demand for fossil fuel extraction and the creation of virgin polyester fibre. We work alongside our buying teams and supplier partners to ensure when we design product that contains polyester, we include where possible a % that contains recycled fibres. GRS claims are independently verified through third-party verification. In addition, traceability and contamination risks can be managed better by certifying Asda's management system and/or product.</p>
<p>Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS)</p>	<p>RTRS is a non-profit organisation promoting the growth of production, trade, and use of responsible soy. It works through cooperation with those in, and related to, the soy value chain, from production to consumption.</p>	<p>RTRS aims to facilitate a global dialogue on responsible soy production, processing, trading and use in commercial products, and consumption to a wide range of global stakeholders. By developing and promoting definitions for responsible soy production, processing, trading and consumption. By monitoring the status of production, processing, trading and consumption of responsible soy with criteria that address economic, social and environmental issues embodied in RTRS Standards through its Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verification & Accreditation System.</p>	<p>About RTRS – RTRS</p>	<p>The RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production is a holistic certification scheme including five principles and 108 mandatory and progressive compliance indicators: - Legal Compliance and Good Business Practices - Responsible Labor Conditions - Responsible Community Relations - Environmental Responsibility - Good Agricultural Practices Ensures zero deforestation and zero conversion soy production. RTRS Certification for Responsible Soy Production is valid for 5 years with mandatory annual surveillance audits.</p>	<p>At Asda we calculate our direct soya usage e.g. soya flour and beans and our indirect usage for things like animal feed where our suppliers are working towards certification. At the end of 2023, 81.43% (2022:70%) was certified to mass balance and segregation schemes benchmarked against the FEFAC sourcing guidelines (2021), sourced from low-risk origins, or covered by regional or standard credits. Achieving zero deforestation in our supply chains means working towards no legal or illegal deforestation. Achieving this plays a critical role in reducing Asda's value chain carbon footprint in line with developing science-based targets and allows us to have a positive impact on global biodiversity, ensuring integrity and resilience within our supply chain both economically and environmentally. Certification is a route to achieving zero deforestation. To reach 100% certification across our Asda branded soy footprint, we are strengthening our Soy and Animal Feed Sourcing Standards and engaging stakeholders.</p>	<p>Through membership of RTRS and accreditation of soy, Asda is a major player in the process towards environmentally sustainable, socially fair and economically feasible soy production. As members we support and maintain a holistic and robust certification scheme, supported by a transparent and reliable verification system. Achieving zero deforestation in our supply chains means working towards no legal or illegal deforestation. Achieving this plays a critical role in reducing Asda's value chain carbon footprint in line with developing science-based targets and allows us to have a positive impact on global biodiversity, ensuring integrity and resilience within our supply chain both economically and environmentally. Certification is a route to achieving zero deforestation. To reach 100% certification across our Asda branded soy footprint, we are strengthening our Soy and Animal Feed Sourcing Standards and engaging stakeholders.</p>
<p>Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)</p>	<p>The RSPO are a global, non-profit organisation with voluntary members. Focused on bringing together stakeholders from across the palm oil supply chain to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil.</p>	<p>To advance the production, procurement, finance and use of sustainable palm oil products. To develop, implement, verify, assure and periodically review credible global standards for the entire supply chain of sustainable palm oil. To monitor and evaluate the economic, environmental and social impacts of the uptake of certified sustainable palm oil in the market, and To engage and commit all stakeholders throughout the supply chain, including governments and consumers.</p>	<p>Who we are - Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)</p>	<p>To become RSPO Certified, organisations are required to demonstrate compliance with the applicable RSPO Standards. They must complete a thorough and continued verification process through a systematic annual audit process, as well as maintain and improve their compliance status, reflecting continuous improvement.</p>	<p>At the end of 2023, 99.98% of our Asda branded palm oil footprint was RSPO physically certified through mass balance, segregated, or identity preserved supply chains. 0.2% was covered by credits. Achieving zero deforestation in our supply chains means working towards no legal or illegal deforestation. Achieving this plays a critical role in reducing Asda's value chain carbon footprint in line with developing science-based targets and allows us to have a positive impact on global biodiversity, ensuring integrity and resilience within our supply chain both economically and environmentally. Certification is a route to achieving zero deforestation. To reach 100% certification across our Asda branded palm footprint, we are strengthening our Palm Oil Sourcing Standards and engaging stakeholders.</p>	<p>RSPO works towards transforming markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm. Accredited organisations must be able to demonstrate that sustainable palm oil creates a tangible impact for People, Prosperity and Planet – improving the quality of life of oil palm farmers and their communities, creating a more inclusive and prosperous palm oil industry that embraces sustainability, and enabling us to better conserve, protect and enhance our natural ecosystems and resources. Achieving zero deforestation in our supply chains means working towards no legal or illegal deforestation. Achieving this plays a critical role in reducing Asda's value chain carbon footprint in line with developing science-based targets and allows us to have a positive impact on global biodiversity, ensuring integrity and resilience within our supply chain both economically and environmentally. Certification is a route to achieving zero deforestation. To reach 100% certification across our Asda branded palm footprint, we are strengthening our Palm Oil Sourcing Standards and engaging stakeholders.</p>
<p>Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTI)</p>	<p>The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTI) drives ambitious climate action in the private sector by enabling organizations to set science-based emissions reduction targets. The SBTi is a partnership between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The SBTi call to action is one of the We Mean Business Coalition commitments.</p>	<p>Defines and promotes best practice in emissions reductions and net-zero targets in line with climate science. Provides technical assistance and expert resources to companies who set science-based targets in line with the latest climate science. Call to action from a global coalition of UN agencies, business and industry leaders, which mobilized companies to set net-zero science-based targets in line with a 1.5°C.</p>	<p>Ambitious corporate climate action - Science Based Targets</p>	<p>Companies must demonstrate an ambition to be a net-zero business. Asda stated it's ambition in 2021 and in 2022 built upon this through commitment to establish a near-term science based carbon reduction target approved by the SBTi.</p>	<p>In 2022, we committed to setting a science-based carbon reduction target across all scopes, including a specific Forests, Land and Agriculture (FLAG) target. While these targets were validated in early 2024, we recognise that since they were developed and submitted to the SBTi, our rapid growth into the convenience market, from three stores at the start of last year to nearly 500 today, has significantly changed the shape of our business. This means the targets we submitted no longer accurately reflect the size and shape of our carbon footprint and, as such, we're not progressing these targets with the SBTi. We are now working to establish SBTi validated targets for the total group. We intend to resubmit new targets for validation once we have completed the integration of data from the acquisition of new sites that now form part of our Asda Express convenience format. The interim validated 2030 targets, which do not account for the footprint of our Asda Express operations, are focussed on decarbonising the FLAG and Non-FLAG emissions of our food, George and GM business in line with a 1.5c pathway.</p>	<p>Once the target is approved by the SBTi, it will be published on the SBTi website and relevant partner websites. Targets are published one month after approval. Thereafter Asda must disclose the company's emissions annually and monitor progress on reaching the target.</p>

The Higg Index	The Higg Index, a suite of assessment tools that empower brands, retailers, and manufacturers to measure their environmental and social and labor impacts at every stage of the product lifecycle. It helps to distinguish strengths and opportunities for improvement. Once at an advanced level, it has more advanced potential, such as benchmarking sustainability performance against other Sustainability Apparel Coalition members, identifying macro risks and performing targeted research and analytics.	The Higg Index's Brand Modules are used by apparel, footwear and home textiles brands of all sizes to measure the environmental and social and labor performance of their design, sourcing and operations.	https://product.higg.org/page/sustainable-apparel-coalition/the-higg-index	By 2022, 100% of our facilities should be engaged with The Higg Index, which we had previously communicated as a target. We did not reach this target by 2022 and a review as at 14th March 2024 shows that engagement with the Higg Index is between 98 and 100% of the facilities within our supply chain at any point. We continue to work with suppliers to engage any outstanding facilities, but this review has shown us that changes to the facilities our supplier partners use and the time taken to engage new suppliers with the Higg process makes our original 100% target for reporting difficult to meet and sustain without some fluctuation.	The Higg Index is a best practice tool which enables Asda to ensure we accomplish the following goals: Understand and quantify the sustainability impacts of apparel, footwear, and home textile products Reduce redundancy in measuring sustainability in apparel, footwear, and home textile industries Drive business value through reducing risk and uncovering efficiencies Create a common means and language to communicate sustainability to stakeholders	As more suppliers report through Higg, we are provided with additional information about suppliers and supply chain sustainability so that we can make informed decisions about how to develop our supply chain to be more sustainable. We continue to be committed to build on the existing number of suppliers' facilities, and to encourage and support suppliers in engaging with the platform
Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals platform (ZDHC)	ZDHC is a multi-stakeholder organisation comprising over 320 signatories from across the industry including Brands, Suppliers, Solution Providers and Chemical Suppliers. The Roadmap to Zero Programme, by ZDHC, leads the fashion industry to eliminate harmful chemicals from its global supply chain by building the foundation for more sustainable manufacturing to protect workers, consumers and our planet's ecosystems.	ZDHC Gateway is the world's largest database	https://www.roadmaptozero.com/	A retailer works to ensure all the known facilities it works with use the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals platform (ZDHC), a multi-stakeholder initiative to stop hazardous chemicals from being used in textile production and polluting soils, waterways and/or the air.	Asda (George) ensures all facilities it works with are registered with one of our preferred third-party platforms which capture data related to the use of chemicals throughout any wet processes used to produce our products. To advance this target, we review the data generated from the ZDHC and other third party platforms to engage with any facility that requires support or education on this.	Key benefits of the ZDHC gateway is that it strengthens relationships across our value chain and enables informed procurement decisions. Value chain details are shared publicly on DETOX Live. The platform provides the ability to create and share preferred chemical products with suppliers.