

JUL 28, 2014 • BY JOHN CHURCH

RESPONSIBILITY

How the weather forecast impacts food supply

Weather is often something people think about as they're walking out the door in the morning or as they make weekend plans. But, for a food company like General Mills, it's a much longer-term consideration.

Weather conditions such as drought, floods and excessive heat, can decrease yields on crops like corn, oats and wheat.

Changing weather patterns can also impact our ability to deliver quality products to our consumers and value to our shareholders.

As weather volatility increases, General Mills recognizes the need to mitigate the climate change risks presented to humanity, our environment and our livelihoods. The urgency is clear: science-based evidence points to changes in climate that could permanently alter the atmosphere if action isn't taken in the near term.

An innovative, holistic approach is essential.

For years, General Mills has been working to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our operations and in agriculture. We've had specific GHG targets in place for our direct operations since 2005.



<http://www.blog.generalmills.com/2014/07/how-the-weather-forecast-impacts-food-supply/>

Where We Aim to Be

We aim to eliminate **fossil fuel energy use and greenhouse gas emissions** from our operations by 2040. We are working on similar long-term commitments for **water** and **waste**.

Our targets are based on science and reflect our belief that we must play a role in mitigating the worst consequences of climate change. For comparison, our greenhouse gas reduction goals are more challenging than the most ambitious local, regional or national targets.

We have set hard targets for the short term to build momentum, using 2007 as our baseline year, as this is our first complete data set. By 2015, our targets are to:

- Reduce fossil-fuel energy, greenhouse gas emissions and water use by 25 percent
- Send zero waste to landfill.

We set our targets at the beginning of an economic downturn, and production volumes initially fell. As production volumes recover we are working hard to accelerate the introduction of new efficiencies and technologies to keep us on track. This makes our targets, based on absolute terms, not only ambitious but also challenging.

Sustainable in a Generation Commitment	Short term (2007-2015)	Long term (2007-2040)
Fossil-fuel energy use	-25%	-100%
Greenhouse gas emissions	-25%	-100%
Water use impacts	-25%	Not yet defined



<http://www.mars.com/global/about-mars/mars-pia/our-operations/sustainable-in-a-generation.aspx>

Justification and Social Responsibility

- I recommend to the Planning Assessment Commission to reject this proposal for a 4th coal terminal and let the next generation make that decision if it is required.