

Tesco Goes Green

In a bid to contribute to a low-carbon economy, supermarket giant Tesco have announced plans to introduce a 'carbon footprint' labelling system to help shoppers compare which products require the least energy to produce. They also aim to reduce prices of certain energy-efficient items.

Tesco chief executive Sir Terry Leahy unveiled the plan earlier this week, along with a pledge to reduce emissions from existing stores by at least 50% by 2020. Much of the concern over emissions revolves around transportation, so Tesco aim to restrict products requiring air transportation to less than 1%, placing aeroplane symbols on all goods imported by air.

Plans are also afoot to increase sales of Biofuels at the company's fuel station outlets throughout the UK. Sir Terry commented "If we fail to mitigate climate change, the environmental, social and economic consequences will be stark and severe."

The company have commissioned independent research to analyse the total carbon footprint of its business worldwide. In the UK, the figure currently stands at around 2 million tonnes of CO₂ per year, a third of which is attributed to mass refrigeration.

Tesco are the latest major retailer to announce plans to help steer consumers towards greener products. Marks &

Spencer just announced a plan to cut energy consumption and increase the use of recycled packaging materials. The world's largest retailer, US-based Wal-Mart, recently pledged to reduce packaging by 5% in the next 5 years.



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