



## Frequently Asked Questions

### General

#### **Q: Why is sustainability important to Walmart?**

**A:** After Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, we saw firsthand how climate change could impact communities. It inspired us to use our scale for good and set aspirational goals to be powered by renewable energy, create zero waste and sell sustainable products. These were ambitious goals, and we are proud to advance them even further with our latest climate and nature targets.

Among [our progress](#) toward these goals, today we power an estimated 29% of our operations with renewable energy and divert about 80% of our waste from landfills and incineration globally. We've also worked to make several of our private-brand products more sustainable. For example, as of 2019, an estimated 55% of our private-brand packaging is recyclable, reusable or industrially compostable, putting us well in reach of our goal of 100% by 2025. In 2016, Walmart was also the first retailer to announce a science-based target, which we recently upgraded to align with the highest ambition of the Science-Based Target initiative. In 2019, Walmart was the only U.S.-based grocery/multi-retail category retailer to make CDP's "A List" for Climate.

For [more than 15 years](#), we've been collaborating with others to drive positive change across global supply chains. Our sustainability [efforts](#) prioritize people and the planet by aiming to source responsibly, sell sustainable products, protect natural resources and reduce waste and emissions. Specifically, we focus on four key areas: climate, nature, waste and people in supply chains.

We have become convinced that if a company takes the long-term view, addressing the needs of customers, associates, suppliers, communities and the planet, the more value is created for everyone, including shareholders. While we have made significant progress on sustainability, we recognize that more must be done. The future of communities and the natural world are intertwined. That's why we're working to become a regenerative company – and we encourage others to do the same.



**Q: What do you mean when you say Walmart is committing to becoming a “regenerative company”?**

**A:** Regenerating means restoring, renewing and replenishing in addition to conserving. It means working to decarbonize operations, eliminating waste along the product supply chain and promoting practices in agriculture, forest management and fisheries that help give back to nature. Working with others, we aim to promote regenerative practices in our operations and our supply chain.

### **Zero Emissions by 2040**

**Q: How does Walmart intend to achieve its zero emissions target by 2040?**

**A:** To avoid the worst effects of climate change, the world must take immediate action to drastically reduce and remove greenhouse gas emissions. That’s why Walmart is building on our long-standing commitment to climate action by raising our ambition to zero emissions by 2040 across our complex operations network. Without relying on the use of carbon offsets, the company aims to:

- Harvest enough wind, solar and other energy sources to power our facilities with 100% renewable energy by 2035.
- Electrify our vehicles, including long-haul trucks, by 2040.
- Transition to low-impact refrigerants for cooling and electrified equipment for heating in our stores, clubs and data and distribution centers by 2040.

These goals are ambitious, and we will need innovation and infrastructure to get there.

For more information, visit our Sustainability Hub webpage [here](#).

**Q: Are you achieving zero emissions by purchasing offsets?**

**A:** Our goal is to decarbonize our operations and transportation network without the use of carbon offsets to cover the remainder. Unlike carbon neutral or net zero goals, Walmart’s zero emissions goal does not contemplate purchasing carbon offsets. We aim to achieve zero emissions by 2040 by accelerating our current strategies and taking advantage of new and emerging zero emission technologies.



**Q: What advances has Walmart already made in renewable energy?**

**A:** Our approach to renewable energy in our operations involves generating energy on-site through solar, wind and fuel cells and participating in long-term power purchase agreements (PPA). Walmart has been working on renewable energy adoption for more than 15 years, with more than an estimated 29% of our electricity now coming from renewable sources like wind and solar.

From 2018-2019, Walmart contracted more than 1.2 gigawatts of new renewable energy projects. According to Bloomberg New Energy Finance's Renewable Deal Tracker, this places us [fifth](#) among all companies with publicly reported deals during this period. To date, we have more than 530 on-site and off-site projects in operation or under development in eight countries, supplying over 2.6 billion kilowatt hours of renewable energy to our facilities.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Partnership and the Solar Energy Industries Association, as of 2018, [Walmart ranks second](#) for total number of sites using on-site solar and second for total on-site solar power usage. In 2019, the [American Wind Energy Association announced](#) Walmart purchased the most wind energy of any company, signing contracts for over 500 megawatts.

In terms of our supply chain, in September 2020, Walmart and Schneider Electric announced [Gigaton PPA](#), a collaboration to help U.S. suppliers access renewable energy. The program seeks to add renewable generation capacity to the U.S. grid by creating greater access to large-scale, renewable energy as part of [Walmart's Project Gigaton](#), an initiative aimed at avoiding one gigaton (one billion metric tons) of greenhouse gas emissions from Walmart's global supply chain by 2030. The Gigaton PPA program is designed to educate Walmart suppliers about renewable energy purchases and accelerate renewable energy adoption by participating suppliers through combined power purchase agreements.

**Q: What approach will Walmart take to move its fleet to zero emissions?**

**A:** Between 2005-2015, Walmart doubled the efficiency of our transportation fleet. Today, we can deliver more than twice the volume of product per gallon of diesel than we could in 2005. While we are proud of our industry leadership and our status as a top performer by the [EPA Smartway](#) program, we know there is a lot more to do.



Our plan is to decarbonize our transportation network by transitioning our vehicles to battery-electric, hydrogen or other zero-emission technologies at an accelerated pace and scaling charging at our facilities. This is our most ambitious fleet commitment to date. To achieve it, we need the support of many others, including the evolution of the necessary infrastructure to support advancements in electrification and other zero-emission technologies.

**Q: Why are refrigerants part of Walmart’s zero emissions strategy?**

**A:** Walmart works every day to deliver affordable, fresh produce to millions of people in a pleasant shopping environment. Doing so requires the use of refrigeration and air-cooling equipment across our distribution centers, our delivery vehicles, and our stores and clubs. Most cooling systems today depend on refrigerants that emit greenhouse gases.

We recognize these systems require a considerable amount of energy and refrigerants, much of which are still HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), to operate. HFCs are potent greenhouse gases and contribute to our carbon footprint. To reach our goal of zero emissions by 2040, we must manage and improve these existing systems and ultimately phase out high-impact refrigerants.

**Nature**

**Q: How will Walmart and the Walmart Foundation work to protect, manage or restore at least 50 million acres of land and one million square miles of ocean by 2030?**

**A:** To help combat the cascading loss of nature threatening the planet, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation aim to protect, manage or restore at least 50 million acres of land and one million square miles of ocean by 2030. Our plan relies on our own actions, supporting the actions of suppliers and philanthropy. We will build upon progress made by Project Gigaton and other Walmart initiatives to help promote sustainable production of important commodities.

We plan to achieve our aspiration by working with suppliers to advance product sourcing and certifications that drive positive impacts on nature, as well as supporting the development of new tools to measure progress and investing in place-based partnerships that combine conservation, restoration and sustainable management.

For more information, visit our Sustainability Hub webpage [here](#).



**Q: Walmart has not spoken much about nature in the past. Why is the company announcing nature commitments now?**

**A:** For many years, one of the most powerful ways to reverse global warming has been largely overlooked: scientists tell us protecting, restoring and better managing forests, oceans and grasslands could provide around [one-third](#) of the solution to climate change. Our natural systems are changing, and what they're showing us is we're not doing enough; we're actually doing irreversible damage to our planet.

Studies show animal populations have [declined](#) by more around 68% in the last 40 years, and one-fifth of the Amazon's rainforest has [disappeared](#) in just 50 years. Like climate, nature is reaching a tipping point. The world must change the trajectory of nature loss before we reach the point from which ecosystems will not recover. Once we pass it, the benefits nature offers, and we all depend on – like helping to filter water, clean the air, support bees that pollinate our food – could become challenging to provide.

**Q. What is the Walmart Foundation's involvement in the nature commitment?**

**A:** We recognize that transitioning to a more regenerative approach to nature is not simple. To advance the work on nature, philanthropic investments will support the capacity and capabilities needed to better protect, manage and restore critical landscapes in the long term.

Walmart.org, which represents the philanthropic efforts of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation, focuses on key areas where the business has unique strengths, working to tackle the most pressing environmental and social issues and collaborate with others to spark long-lasting systemic change.

**Q: How can suppliers participating in Project Gigaton contribute to Walmart's nature commitments?**

**A:** Since 2017, we have invited our suppliers to help us in our effort to avoid 1 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions from our collective value chain by 2030 through Project Gigaton. We recognize many of the same practices that contribute to positive climate outcomes also have positive impacts for nature. Therefore, Walmart will continue to engage our suppliers to contribute to this new nature goal through Project Gigaton's agriculture and forest pillars.



Through our agriculture pillar, we will continue to encourage suppliers to adopt sustainable practices that help reduce emissions from animal agriculture, optimize feed production and improve soil health while at the same time reducing waste and improving yield. Through our forest pillar, we will inspire suppliers to commit to procuring and report the use of sustainable commodities, like palm oil, pulp/paper, soy and beef, and help advance methods of sustainably sourcing materials through jurisdictional approaches.

We recognize there are other important outcomes for nature – like biodiversity or water quality – which are not directly related to climate, but still critical. We anticipate adding additional pillars for reporting so we can encourage actions needed for positive outcomes and report on progress.

For more information, visit our Sustainability Hub webpage [here](#).