Understanding Packaging (UP) Scorecard

A new tool to reduce environmental and human health impacts

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FPF workshop 2021

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Understanding Packaging **Scorecard**

A free, easy-to-use web-based tool to assess the sustainability impacts of common foodware and food packaging choices.

Beverage Containers

Change Container Selection | US Recoverability Averages | Custom Composting and Recycling | Add New Container

Container Type	Plastic Pollution	Chemicals of Concern	Climate	Water use	Sustainable Sourcing	Recoverability	Summary Score
stainless steel bottle (Reusable)	0	10	38	0.4	5	5	100%
glass bottle	0.2	10	641	4.2	3	3	54%
carton	0.2	1	111	0.9	2	1	49%
aluminum can	0	1	263	6.1	3	3	44%
PET bottle	1.2	1	193	3.2	2	3	39%
bioPET (30%) bottle	1.2	1	194	3.5	2	3	38%
HDPE bottle	1.8	1	248	2.6	1	3	29%

The symbols indicate the performance of the product relative to the range of all products in the use case

Best | Better | Mid Performance | Below Average | Worst

BETA

Multi-stakeholder approach

SUM'D
Single-Use Material Decelerator

The UP Scorecard is maintained, developed and supported by the **Single Use Material Decelerator (SUM'D),** a multi-stakeholder group including NGOs, industry and technical experts.

Understanding Packaging Scorecard

Project Leader

Host Organization

Supporter

Project Initiator

Starting point and idea

Challenge to make the "right" choice when looking for sustainable foodware and food packaging products.

Food service industry has **huge purchasing power** to provide a transformative market signal.

Buyers in food service industry often **lack technical expertise/time** needed to evaluate sustainable solution.

Take the opportunity to strengthen the potential of sustainable minded buyers.

Solution: UP Scorecard

The UP Scorecard evaluates foodware and food packaging products

- It addresses the need for a **consistent and comprehensive** way to assess sustainability impacts
- It provides an **easy way** for food industry and service professionals to **make informed decisions**
- It allows determining which option is the **most sustainable and healthy**

UP Scorecard metrics

Climate impact
Indicator: grams CO_2 equivalents (gCO_2e)
Amount of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions

Water use
Indicator: liters of water consumed
Consumptive use of surface and ground water (blue water use)

Plastic pollution
Indicator: grams of plastic leakage
Mass of plastic that enters the environment

Chemicals of Concern (CoC)
Indicator: scale 1 (worst) – 100 (best)
Possible presence of CoC and level of material inertness

Recoverability
Indicator: scale 1 (worst) – 5 (best)
Potential to be recovered for commercial use or converted into beneficial material

Sustainable sourcing
Indicator: scale 1 (worst) – 5 (best)
Percentage of post-consumer recycled content included and certification involved

Spotlight:
Chemicals of Concern metric – definition

A **chemical of concern (CoC)** is a chemical substance that has one or more of the following **hazard properties**:

- Carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic to reproduction [CMR]
- Endocrine disruption [ED]
- Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic [PBT]
- Very persistent and very bioaccumulative [vPvB]
- Persistent, mobile and toxic [PMT]

Spotlight:
Chemicals of Concern metric – score

Overall CoC Score is the product of two factors:

1. **CoC presence score**: presence of intentionally added chemicals of concern and the reliability of the information provided

based on a tiered list for food contact chemicals of concern (Food Contact Chemicals of Concern List)

2. **Inertness score**: inertness of the food contact material, which is used as a proxy for the propensity for toxic chemicals to migrate from the packaging into food and the environment

based on expert judgement (materials without consensus get lowest score)

Spotlight:
Chemicals of Concern metric – FcCoCL

Food Contact Chemicals of Concern List (FcCoCL)
Known chemicals of concern (CoC) present in food packaging, prioritized and grouped into three tiers.

Tier 1:
Shortlist of priority CoC to avoid

Tier 2 + 3:
More extensive sets of CoC to avoid

Basis: research and information provided by NGO's and industry associations, including FPF's Food Contact Chemical Database (FCCdb).

UP Scorecard: Challenges and Exclusions

Main Challenges

- Limited availability of data (e.g. CoC metric)
- Balance between product/material availability and meaningful results
- A tool design that is as self-explanatory as possible

Exclusions

- Actual and detailed use of container
- Financial implications of different use cases
- Calculation/Displaying uncertainties

UP Scorecard: Outlook

In addition to further development/maintenance of the current beta version, further upgrades with new functionalities are planned/being discussed, including:

Regionalization
Choose from different default regions (USA, Europe, Asia, …) to calculate scores.

Customization
Use further options (add new container, …) to test your specific products.

Metrics
Get scores for additional metrics (real costs, biodiversity loss, …).

Languages
Choose between different languages (English, French, German, …).

Products/container types
Get more products/container types (reusables, bioplastic, …) to choose from.

Connectivity
Interact with/get data from other tools and databases (ChemSec's marketplace, …).

Information
Get further easy to use information/materials (factsheets, infographics, …).

Personalization
Use an account option to test/provide your own materials/data.

Further ideas?
Let us know. We are very interested in user-based feedback.

Thank you!

UPS Understanding Packaging Scorecard

New tool version, including edits/bug fixes and further container types, to be released in October!

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