



Waste from our operations

Only a small proportion of the world’s waste is currently reused or recycled. At RB, we are committed to reducing the volume of waste generated at our facilities, finding innovative ways to reuse and recycle materials, and send zero waste to landfill. We’ve achieved this ambitious target once and are working hard to repeat it across our newly acquired sites.

Making progress

Aim	Status in 2018	Aim	Status in 2018
100%	93%	30%	26.3%
zero waste to landfill by 2020 at all factories	of factories with zero waste to landfill	reduction in waste by 2020	reduction per unit of production vs 2012

1. Zero waste to landfill

At RB, we are committed to ensuring no waste goes to landfill, though increasing reuse and recycling where possible and supporting the development of a circular economy.

2.Reducing waste at source

We recognise the importance of the materials we use and are committed to minimising waste through the continual reduction of waste generated across our facilities.

1. Zero waste to landfill

For RB we consider two principal aspects of waste: waste resulting from manufacturing our products and waste associated with consumers who have finished using our products, which mainly consists of packaging waste. At RB, we are committed to reducing both types of waste and to finding ways of closing the loop, converting waste to build new resource opportunities. Here we focus on waste from manufacturing operations.

At RB we are committed to reducing the levels of waste our facilities generate, improving the ways we treat waste and ensuring no waste goes to landfill. Across our facilities we have established Global Waste Management standards, ensuring effective practices are in place which go beyond legal requirements.

We have had a long-standing commitment to increasing recycling and not sending waste to landfill from our direct operations where possible, as reflected in our target for all manufacturing sites to achieve Zero Waste to Landfill. Our target definition includes non-hazardous manufacturing as well as hazardous waste, which is often more difficult to recycle and dispose of.

In 2017 we achieved our target of 100% Zero Waste to Landfill across our RB legacy sites ahead of schedule. The acquisition of Mead Johnson Nutrition has meant that we now own a number of additional sites in our network which historically were not 100% Zero Waste to Landfill. We remain committed to our target and are actively working to bring these new sites in line with the RB standard. Taking these sites into account, in 2018, 93%* of our factories achieved Zero Waste to Landfill status.

This has been achieved by the hard work and collaboration of our teams. We established a waste champions network and set up partnerships with sites that had already achieved Zero Waste to Landfill. These initiatives have enabled the identification of different use options for some of the waste streams being generated, as demonstrated by Jontex’s innovative repurposing



CASE STUDY


Condoms reborn as shoe soles in Brazil

Our Jontex condom manufacturing site in Sao Roque, Brazil is making great strides in increasing waste recycling, thanks to an exciting new venture with a local shoe manufacturer.

Together with our continued focus on Jontex’s safe sex message, the factory is also driving its sustainability agenda, in particular on waste. In producing condoms there is a small element of latex that doesn’t make it into the finished product. By setting up a specific collection process, the site has been able to harness this potential waste and instead send it for recycling. There, it is turned into latex granules, which are then sold to be used in the manufacture of shoes. In 2018, just over 120 tonnes of latex was repurposed in this way.

By renewing and repurposing, the site has not only avoided waste but has also put the concept of a ‘circular economy’ into action, creating something of value and extending its useful life.

of latex waste. Our ‘race to zero’ campaign and global employees challenge, encouraging innovative waste reuse and recycling solutions, have also proven invaluable.

 [Click here to read more about plastics and packaging.](#)

* Includes Zero Waste to Landfill status of our newly acquired IFCN sites. Since acquisition we have been actively working with these sites to improve waste reduction and recycling, resulting in four of these sites achieving Zero Waste to Landfill during 2018.

Waste from our operations continued

2. Reducing waste at source

We also focus on the amount of waste generated and in 2013 we set a target to reduce waste from our direct operations by 30% by 2020 vs a 2012 baseline. Our commitment and approach across our manufacturing sites also includes a particular focus on hazardous waste, which is more difficult to recycle and dispose of. In 2018 our hazardous waste was 0.0014 tonnes per 1,000 CUs (16% of our total waste) and is disposed of in accordance with local legislative requirements.

All plants have annual waste targets that are supported by a range of measures and projects to ensure their delivery. In addition, our sites must meet our global Waste Management Standards and, more broadly, the waste management programmes and performance of suppliers and third-party contractors are assessed and monitored where necessary.

We also look beyond targets and compliance to opportunities. In our distribution operations, for example, we have worked with suppliers to develop reusable and returnable packaging, further reducing waste and transit packaging in our supply chain.

These programmes, together with the drive of our employees across our sites, have enabled us to achieve a reduction in waste per unit of production of 26.3% vs 2012 and 6.1% vs 2017. Over the same period our hazardous waste decreased by 12.7% per unit of production vs 2012, however in 2018 we experienced a 5% increase vs 2017.

CASE STUDY

Investing in waste reduction

RB's Shangma plant in China reduced their waste volumes by installing more efficient plant machinery. A new sludge pressing machine meant that approximately 60% of the water content could be pressed from their wastewater treatment plant's sludge residues – a 10% improvement over the previous equipment.

This has led to a reduction of over 100 tonnes of sludge being disposed of each year and a 6% reduction in the site's total waste.

CASE STUDY

Bangpakong, Thailand

Wastewater treatment sludge is being turned into concrete blocks to build a recreation area for a local school.

CASE STUDY

Shanxi, China

Materials left over from the traditional medicine manufacturing process are now being turned into compost by an organic fertiliser producer.



Waste in our operations (manufacturing and warehouses)

	Units	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change vs. 2017	% Change vs. 2012
Waste per unit of production**	tonnes per 1,000 CU	0.0117	0.0114	0.0105	0.01	0.0094	0.0092	0.0086	-6.1%	-26.3%
% of sites Zero Waste to Landfill	% of manufacturing sites	–	48%	74%	89%	98%	100%	93%*	n/a	n/a
Hazardous waste per unit of production**	tonnes per 1,000 CU	0.0016	0.0016	0.0014	0.0012	0.0013	0.0013	0.0014	+5.0%	-12.7%

Note: % changes versus 2017 and 2012 are stated accurately and not affected by rounding. This is to provide full year-on-year comparison.

* Includes Zero Waste to Landfill status of our newly acquired IFCN sites. Since acquisition we have been actively working with these sites to improve waste reduction and recycling, resulting in four of these sites achieving Zero Waste to Landfill during 2018.

** Pre-acquisition data for our IFCN business unit is not currently available. To ensure comparison with our 2012 target baseline, 2018 data shown excludes IFCN. Including IFCN, 2018 manufacturing and warehouse waste was 0.0127 tonnes per 1,000 CUs and hazardous waste was 0.0016 tonnes per 1,000 CUs.