Recent Commitments

Colgate has made several bold commitments to sustainability in recent months. Listening to consumers, external groups and other stakeholders, we have published new policies on Ingredient Safety and No Deforestation and updated our HIV/AIDS policy. We have made strong commitments to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions and to improve packaging sustainability. These commitments represent the sustainability issues that are among the most material to Colgate.

No Deforestation
Forests are vital to life on earth. It is estimated that over the past 50 years, about half of the world’s original forests have been lost, significantly impacting biodiversity, social stability and climate change. As a member of the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF), Colgate has committed to mobilize resources to help achieve zero net deforestation by 2020. In consultation with key stakeholders such as Greenpeace, we developed a new policy detailing our commitment and our sourcing strategies for pulp and paper, palm oil, tallow and soy.

Climate Change
Colgate has long been focused on reducing energy and carbon emissions. We have reported to CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project) since 2004, and have been selected for their Carbon Disclosure Leadership Indices several times. Until now, our goals have focused on energy use per ton of product. Given the urgent need for action on climate change and reflecting our values of Caring and Continuous Improvement, we consulted with Walden Asset Management to develop rigorous goals for the next phase of our strategy. We are pleased to announce our commitment to reduce carbon emissions on an absolute basis by 25 percent compared to 2002, with a longer-term goal of a 50 percent absolute reduction by 2050 compared to 2002. These goals are in line with the CDP and World Wildlife Fund report – The 3% Solution – and will allow us to play our part in limiting global warming to 2°C, as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. We thank Walden Asset Management for helping us to shape our strategy.

Ingredient Safety
The decisions we make on ingredients are based on a thorough evaluation of the latest scientific evidence. Where we see opportunities regarding ingredients that are raising consumer questions, we substitute other safe ingredients that provide the same or better benefits without sacrificing quality. Through this ongoing effort, we no longer use – or are on our way to eliminating – some of the ingredients currently raising consumer questions. In our Policy on Ingredient Safety, Colgate made commitments to eliminate formaldehyde donors, parabens, phthalates and microplastics from our products over the next two years.

Packaging
Colgate is committed to improving the sustainable profile of our packaging, and we have already exceeded our goal to increase recycled content by 20 percent by 2015. In consultation with As You Sow, Colgate has developed new commitments for 2020. We will increase the recycled content in our packaging to 50 percent and improve the recyclability of our packaging, committing resources to enable breakthrough innovation in oral care packaging. We will also work with stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in local recycling systems. We will continue to evaluate new package designs with a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) tool in order to optimize our packaging.

HIV/AIDS
Colgate’s first HIV/AIDS program began in 1986 in Brazil. In 1990, a group of interested South African Colgate employees developed what has become the model for Colgate’s global HIV/AIDS initiatives. Since then Colgate has worked to promote education and awareness, provide training for employees and their families, promote access to treatment, develop partnerships with third parties and ensure non-discrimination. We updated the HIV/AIDS policy in 2013 to reflect current practices and highlights, and we are also working internally to review benefit plans and opportunities for HIV testing.