

Forum for the Future statement

Delhaize Group is a Corporate Partner of Forum for the Future, a non-profit organization working globally with business and government to create a sustainable future. Forum for the Future is not an auditor or a verifier. The statement should therefore not be read as verification of data or information contained within the report.



Delhaize Group continues to make good progress on a range of CR issues. The Group now needs to build on these solid foundations and be more effective in using its influence with its suppliers, customers, and associates to promote sustainability. We hope that the launch of the new CR strategy in 2011 will provide the platform for a more ambitious sustainability agenda.



Sally Uren, Deputy Chief Executive
Dan Crossley, Principal Sustainability Advisor

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Sustainability provides significant business opportunities as well as business risks. Global retailers face huge – and growing – sustainability challenges, like climate change, water scarcity and obesity. These provide genuine business risks. However, there are also big opportunities for retailers like Delhaize Group to play a proactive role in tackling these issues.

Delhaize Group continues to make good progress on a range of CR issues and is building solid foundations. We are pleased to see increased activity on associate health and wellbeing for example, and attempts to measure the impact of those activities. We also welcome steps taken to improve sustainable sourcing, particularly on the critical issue of fish, in the context of declining fish stocks.

This is an accessible and values-driven report. We like the improved accessibility of this report and the balance that Delhaize Group has achieved by putting detailed data and case studies online, whilst still providing a comprehensive picture of its activities in this report. We can see the Group's desire to be transparent and honest in the tone of the report, which reflects its values.

The Group can do more to support the business case for sustainability. The Group is building up a good set of data, which should allow its progress to be more easily monitored and acted upon. However, we would like to see more on the financial benefits from its CR activity. This would help strengthen the business case – internally and with key external stakeholders, such as investors.

We want to see more progress on its 'healthy planet' impacts. The Group appears to be working hard to reduce the environmental impacts from its operations, but we urge it to go further. We want to see year-on-year absolute reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, in energy and in waste.

We want Delhaize Group to be more effective in using its influence to promote sustainability. With its suppliers, it can use its strong private brand presence to positively influence the way products are sourced. With its Associates, we'd like to see the Group better incorporate sustainability into its Associate training programme. With its consumers, there is a huge opportunity to educate them on sustainability and to help them make sustainable choices in the way they buy, cook and dispose of food.

Going forward, we expect to see a higher level of ambition. If Delhaize Group aspires to be amongst leading global retailers on sustainability, it will need to set more stretching targets and to accelerate activity. It will also need to address fundamental issues like whether and how it can grow whilst reducing its impact on the environment. We encourage Delhaize Group to go beyond striving to provide "nutritious, healthy, safe and affordable" food by seeking to play a key role in mainstreaming sustainable food. We hope that the launch of the new CR strategy in 2011 will provide the platform for a more ambitious sustainability agenda.



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Deputy Chief Executive



Dan Crossley
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Through this partnership, Delhaize Group makes a direct financial contribution to Forum for the Future. Last year, the Forum's income from Delhaize represented less than 1% of the Forum's turnover. For more information on Forum for the Future visit www.forumforthefuture.org

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