



Grade Range



Walmart

OVERALL SCORE



Corporate headquarters: 702 SW 8th St, Bentonville, AR 72716

2017 U.S. sales: \$485.14 billion

Returned the survey: Yes

Walmart is one of the largest grocery retailers in the U.S. In fiscal year 2017, Walmart accounted for 17.3 percent of Tyson's consolidated sales – more than any other customer.

Commitment

SUPPLY CHAIN GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION

Through its Project Gigaton, launched in April 2017, Walmart aims to reduce its Scope 3 emissions by one billion tons (a gigaton) by 2030, compared to a 2015 baseline.¹ The initiative includes an Agriculture pillar to specifically target raw material producers, including corn, soy, and livestock farmers.² Although joining Project Gigaton is voluntary, participating suppliers must report on their progress annually.³

Walmart provides guidance on sustainable agricultural practices, goal-setting, and reporting to support their suppliers in setting and achieving emissions reduction goals. For example, on its website, Walmart shares a chart that lists fertilizer optimization programs and practices, categorized by their expected emissions savings. Walmart also provides goal-setting templates that help meat producers identify sustainable on-farm practices, such as employing manure management strategies that reduce GHG emissions.⁴ Walmart worked with multiple NGO partners, including WWF and the Environmental Defense Fund, to create these resources. Overall, while Walmart's commitment and ambition is notable for the industry, implementation remains lacking and unclear.



Commitment	2
Implementation	1
Reporting	1

1 <https://news.walmart.com/2017/04/19/walmart-launches-project-gigaton-to-reduce-emissions-in-companys-supply-chain>

2 <https://www.walmartsustainabilityhub.com/project-gigaton/agriculture>

3 <https://www.walmartsustainabilityhub.com/project-gigaton>

4 <https://www.walmartsustainabilityhub.com/project-gigaton/agriculture>



Grade Range



Walmart CONTINUED

Commitment

SUSTAINABLE FEED SOURCING

Within Project Gigaton's Agricultural pillar, Walmart provides guidance to corn and soy farmers on fertilizer optimization techniques, such as cover cropping and conservation tillage. However, the initiative is voluntary, which inherently limits Walmart's ability to enforce sustainable feed sourcing practices throughout its supply chain. In addition, although participating suppliers are required to submit annual reports on their progress, they do not have to include how they are reducing emissions through on-farm practices. As a result, it is not possible to assess the degree to which Project Gigaton leads to the adoption of sustainable corn and soy production practices.

Walmart also has a pilot commodity optimization program that works to improve the farming practices of 15 large corn and soy suppliers on 2.5 million acres. The only publicly-available information about the program is that the company is providing farmers with data and tools to optimize their fertilizer application and tilling practices. Therefore, this program is missing key elements of a sustainable feed sourcing commitment, including requiring cover cropping and prohibiting the clearance of native ecosystems for new corn and soy production. To improve the pilot program, Walmart should include a timebound target, implementation verification, and reporting requirements.

D

Commitment	0.5
Implementation	1
Reporting	0

RESPONSIBLE MANURE PROCESSING

Within Project Gigaton's Agricultural pillar, Walmart identifies sustainable manure management strategies that suppliers could use to reduce their emissions, such as by using anaerobic digesters with biogas capture. However, the initiative is voluntary, and even participating suppliers are not required to achieve any specific outcomes related to manure management. In addition, although participating suppliers are required to submit annual reports on their progress, they do not have to include how they are reducing emissions through on-farm practices. As a result, it is not possible to assess the degree to which Project Gigaton leads to the adoption of sustainable manure management practices.

D

Commitment	0.5
Implementation	1
Reporting	0