

A structured overview of policy options for promoting SCP through retail action

The table below provides an overview of different options for policy intervention aimed at reducing the overall environmental impact (direct and indirect) of food retail. The table is structured according to the different types of policy instruments in the vertical dimension and along the product life cycle in the horizontal dimension (overall, upstream, in-shop and downstream). The table is based on a desktop study of both existing policies in Nordic countries and elsewhere as well as other policy options discussed but not yet implemented. However, the table does not intend to present an exhaustive list of policy options for promoting SCP through retail initiatives.

	Overall cross-cutting policies	Upstream oriented policies	In-shop oriented policies	Downstream oriented policies
Strategies, programmes and action plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Strategies • SCP Action Plans • Green public procurement strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSR Action Plans • Agro-environmental policies • Cleaner Production Strategies • Integrated Product Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food waste strategy • Energy-efficiency strategy • Waste management strategy • Packaging strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Policy • Sustainable consumption strategy at national level
Regulatory Instruments and Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability reporting obligations for large companies • Extended producer responsibility schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Minimum Performance Standards • Substance bans, phase-out and substitution programmes • Stricter limits on use of pesticides and fertilisers in agriculture • Product bans • Eco-design requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy-efficiency requirements for new buildings • Waste management regulations • Regulations on the phase out of HCFCs in refrigeration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing legislation • “Say no to advertisement” schemes • Requirements for public transport accessibility to shops in city planning
Economic Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-tax reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-innovation funds • Subsidy reform (of the common agriculture policy) • Subsidies to organic farming • Tradable nitrogen-quotas for agriculture sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce / increase taxes on water, energy, waste and packaging • Deposit and return systems • Mandatory take-back systems for certain products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiated VAT based on the environmental performance of products • Tax/fee allowances for eco-labelled products • Charges on specific products

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory green accounts for farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-financing of e.g. zero-emission buildings • Tax allowances for green electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonus system for purchasing of “green” products
Information-based instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education on SCP • Capacity building in the retail sector on possible environmental retail initiatives, e.g. through best practice sharing • Promotion of the Nordic Swan eco label for retail stores • Rating / benchmarking system for retailers based on their environmental performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmarking system for environmental aspects (e.g. climate change, water consumption etc.) for food production and processing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare joint seminars / workshops on sustainable management of stores for staff together with retailers • Development of training material for staff in retail stores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer campaigns on sustainable and healthy diets, food waste and transport to and from stores • Guides for environmentally sound purchasing (this could include info on relevant local stores as well as general guidelines on what to buy) • Promotion of e-shopping? - Eco-label, fair trade label, organic label, MSC label, etc.
Voluntary agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail Forums / Public-private partnerships with the retail sector on environmental performance agreements, e.g. on packaging waste • Promotion of voluntary certification systems, e.g. EMAS or ISO14001 • Annual “green retailer” award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public-private partnerships on supply-chain management, e.g. on harmonising standards / sector-wide cooperation • Cleaner production / eco-innovation awards • Public-private partnerships on eco-innovation • Voluntary green accounts for farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary agreements with food retailers on limiting food waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary agreements on eliminating volume discounts.

Sources: Developed based on ETC/SCP, forthcoming; ETC/SCP and EEA, 2010