



ALDI Accelerates Positive Impact by Eliminating Plastic Shopping Bags and Setting Bold Natural Refrigerant Target

Strong progress, new goals and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognition illustrate ALDI commitment to sustainability



Batavia, Ill., January 10, 2024 – Today, ALDI announced two new industry-leading sustainability milestones, further supporting its ambition to be the most sustainable grocer in the country. First, ALDI met its goal to remove all plastic shopping bags by the end of 2023, becoming the first major U.S. retailer to eliminate plastic shopping bags from its more than 2,300 stores. A landmark moment for the industry, the decision to remove plastic shopping bags will prevent nearly 4,400 tons, or nearly nine million pounds of plastic, from going into circulation each year.

Second, ALDI also unveiled a new industry-leading goal to transition to natural refrigerants across all U.S. stores before the end of 2035. As ALDI continues to grow, natural refrigerants will keep its products fresh while supporting a healthier planet. This new goal builds on the grocer's use of environmentally friendly refrigerants in more than 600 stores, helping ALDI save nearly 60% of potential carbon emissions each year.

“As one of America’s fastest-growing retailers, we take our responsibility to lead the industry in sustainability seriously, so our customers don’t have to choose between shopping responsibly and saving money,” said Jason Hart, CEO, ALDI. “Eliminating plastic shopping bags from our stores and transitioning to environmentally friendly refrigerant systems not only help us protect the environment, but they also help reduce costs which we then pass on to our customers. These decisions help our customers feel good about shopping at ALDI and our employees feel proud to work here.”

With its rapid growth across the country, ALDI will deploy a purchasing strategy that incorporates the best refrigerant solution for each region’s distinct climate - including both carbon dioxide and propane refrigerants, two ultra-low Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants*. Beginning this year, ALDI will purchase environmentally friendly refrigerants for all new and remodeled stores and



replace the current refrigerants in existing stores with refrigerants that have low global warming potential.

In 2023, ALDI once again received the EPA's GreenChill Store Certification Excellence recognition for its environmentally friendly refrigeration practices, achieving the most certifications at the platinum level of all participating U.S. grocery retailers. The EPA also awarded 109 ALDI stores in 17 states with GreenChill Store Re-Certification Excellence, recognizing these locations for five consecutive years of platinum level certifications. Through this program, GreenChill food retailers like ALDI maintain emissions rates that are approximately half the industry average, resulting in a significant benefit to the environment.

"ALDI continually shows its commitment to the environment by minimizing refrigerant emissions at stores, including the 109 stores that have been recertified in 2023 for the fifth year in a row at the platinum level," said Cindy Newberg, Stratospheric Protection Division Director at the EPA. "ALDI is leading the way with over 600 GreenChill certified stores, a GreenChill record!"

These efforts build on the continued progress ALDI is making to protect the planet and invest in the causes that matter most to its shoppers and communities. To learn more, visit our [Annual Sustainability Progress Report](#).

*[*The Environmental Investigation Agency's Pathway to Net-Zero Cooling Product List](#)*

About ALDI

ALDI is one of America's fastest-growing retailers, serving millions of customers across the country each month. Our disciplined approach to operating with simplicity and efficiency gives our customers great products at the lowest possible prices. For six years running, ALDI has been recognized as No. 1 in price according to the dunnhumby Retailer Preference Index Report.* ALDI strives to have a positive impact on its customers, employees and communities by being socially and environmentally responsible, earning ALDI recognition as a leading grocer in sustainability.** In addition to helping protect the planet, ALDI helps customers save time and money through convenient shopping options via in-store, curbside pickup or delivery at shop.aldi.us. For more information about ALDI, visit aldi.us.

**According to the dunnhumby® ©2023 Retailer Preference Index.*

***According to Progressive Grocer's 2023 Top 10 Most Sustainable Grocers list.*

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