



# | The Whole Foods Plastic Problem

A survey on single-use packaging at the grocery store

# The Whole Foods Plastic Problem

---

A survey on single-use packaging at the grocery store.



WRITTEN BY:

Holly Thompson and Matt Casale, U.S. PIRG Education Fund

Steve Blackledge, Environment America Research & Policy Center

March 2023

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks also to Tony Dutzik and James Horrox of Frontier Group for editorial support.

The authors bear responsibility for any factual errors. The recommendations are those of Environment America Research & Policy Center. The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of our funders or those who provided review.

© 2023 U.S. PIRG Education Fund and Environment America Research & Policy Center. Some Rights Reserved. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial No Derivatives 3.0 U.S. License. To view the terms of this license, visit [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us).

With public debate around important issues often dominated by special interests pursuing their own narrow agendas, U.S. PIRG Education Fund offers an independent voice that works on behalf of the public interest. U.S. PIRG Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, works to protect consumers and promote good government. We investigate problems, craft solutions, educate the public, and offer meaningful opportunities for civic participation. For more information about U.S. PIRG Education Fund or for additional copies of this report, please visit [www.uspirgedfund.org](http://www.uspirgedfund.org).

Environment America Research & Policy Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. We are dedicated to protecting our air, water and open spaces. We investigate problems, craft solutions, educate the public and decision-makers, and help the public make their voices heard in local, state and national debates over the quality of our environment and our lives. For more information about Environment America Research & Policy Center or for additional copies of this report, please visit <https://environmentamericacenter.org/>.

# | CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
KEY FINDINGS.....	3
PEOPLE WANT PLASTIC-FREE GROCERIES.....	4
WHOLE FOODS CAN CHOOSE TO DO BETTER.....	7
APPENDIX I: METHODOLOGY.....	8
APPENDIX II: SUMMARY OF RESULTS.....	14
NOTES .....	15

# | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Whole Foods is contributing to the plastic problem.

Whole Foods has built its brand on a commitment to sustainability and environmentally responsible retail. Its customers shop at its stores because they share that commitment, and they expect the products on the shelves to reflect those values. One value those customers increasingly share is a desire to reduce the amount of plastic in their lives.<sup>1</sup> But the reality is that Whole Foods is often making it harder, rather than easier, for them to do that.

In 2022, U.S. PIRG Education Fund and Environment America Research & Policy Center conducted a survey of the packaging options of Whole Foods 365 brand products in 27 stores across the country to assess consumers' options for avoiding plastic when shopping at Whole Foods. We found that **despite the company's efforts to reduce plastic use, customers have limited opportunities to purchase 365 brand items without plastic packaging, with fewer than 50% of the products surveyed available in plastic-free packaging** in the majority of Whole Foods stores.

Whole Foods can do more and do better to reflect its customers' values and re-

establish itself as a leader in environmentally responsible retail.

## Whole Foods was a leader in sustainability. It can be again.

America has a waste problem. Despite being home to just 4% of the planet's population, we produce more than 12% of its trash.<sup>2</sup> That includes 42 million metric tons of plastic waste each year – the highest per capita plastic waste of any country in the world.<sup>2</sup> All of this plastic damages the environment, pollutes our oceans and waterways, harms wildlife and damages our health. Microplastics – tiny plastic particles less than 5 millimeters across – have been found almost everywhere, from the ice of Antarctica to human blood.<sup>3</sup> Each year, every one of us consumes around half a pound of plastic from our food.<sup>4</sup>

With food packaging accounting for a huge proportion of plastic waste in the U.S., meaningful progress in reducing our use of plastics will be impossible unless major food retailers step up.<sup>5</sup>

Whole Foods has built its reputation as an environmentally conscious grocery store that promotes healthy living and a healthy environment. It was the first major U.S. grocery store chain to ban single-use plastic bags at checkout and the first national

retailer to eliminate plastic straws from its cafés, and is, it claims, continuing to work to reduce plastic across its stores.<sup>6</sup>

The reality, however, is that Whole Foods now lags far behind other major chains on plastics. A 2020 report by shareholder advocacy nonprofit As You Sow gave the company an F for its plastic policies, finding that many of its food items are needlessly wrapped in or otherwise contain plastic.<sup>7</sup> It also received an F in As You Sow's 2021 Corporate Plastic Pollution Scorecard, ranking near the bottom of the 50 major corporations surveyed.<sup>8</sup>

Eliminating plastics from a grocery chain the size of Whole Foods is no easy task, but the logical place for any supermarket chain to begin implementing these changes is with its “own brand” products.

In 2022, U.S. PIRG Education Fund and Environment America Research & Policy Center conducted a survey of the packaging options of Whole Foods 365 brand products in 27 stores across 13 states to assess consumers' options for avoiding plastic when shopping at Whole Foods stores. Our analysis finds that, despite the company's purported efforts to reduce plastic use, consumers still have very few options to purchase entirely plastic-free 365 brand products in Whole Foods stores.



*Stux via Pixbay, CC0*

## KEY FINDINGS

### Customers have limited opportunities to purchase 365 brand items without plastic packaging.

- Fewer than 50% of the products surveyed were available in plastic-free packaging



TPIN Staff

### For some items, they either always had plastic, or never had plastic.

- Butter and eggs were the only items that had plastic free options in all stores
- Bread was found in plastic packaging in the main aisle of all the stores, with plastic free options in the bakery section
- Yogurt was always in plastic packaging



Pxhere, CCO

### Items for which non-plastic packaging options are available, but the customer has to go seek them out in places other than the main aisle.

- For cheese 56% of stores had a plastic free option, but only in the deli section
- For rice 37% of stores had a plastic free option but 2 of the 10 plastic free options were located in the bulk section



TPIN Staff

# People want plastic-free groceries.

## They cant always get them at Whole Foods.

Our survey looked at the packaging options for 11 Whole Foods 365 brand grocery items: Cheddar cheese, eggs, cows' milk, yogurt, butter, soda, tortilla chips, spaghetti pasta, rice, bread and apples. The survey looked for eight main types of plastic packaging across the product categories (plastic film; bags and produce bags; containers; bottles and jugs; polystyrene; plastic windows in otherwise non-plastic containers; and containers sealed with plastic). Non-plastic packaging types included paper bags, cardboard, waxy paper, glass and aluminum.

Surveyors looked for 365 brand items on the stores' main shelves and identified all the varieties of packaging found there. In addition, recognizing that shoppers may find Whole Foods store branded or unbranded items elsewhere in the store, surveyors also visited the deli, bulk and produce aisles (where available) to see if items could be obtained there, and if so, record the packaging options on offer.

**For the purpose of the analysis, we grouped these various kinds of packaging together into three broad categories:**

- **Full plastic:** packaging consisting entirely of plastic, such as bags, film, tubs and pouches.
- **Partial plastic:** packaging which is primarily non-plastic but contains some plastic element, such as plastic rings on cardboard soda containers or transparent windows on cardboard

boxes. These are just as harmful to the environment as any other plastic, and they also make it more difficult for consumers to recycle and dispose of the packaging responsibly.

- **Plastic-free:** non-packaged items, such as apples from the produce aisle, as well as cardboard and glass packaging. In categorizing a product as being available in plastic-free packaging, we included both items found without plastic on the shelf in the main aisle, and those provided with non-plastic packaging options elsewhere in the store.

In none of the 27 Whole Foods stores surveyed can a customer expect to be able to purchase every Whole Foods own brand product in plastic-free packaging. In fact, our survey found that fewer than 50% of the products (5 out of 11) were available in plastic-free packaging in the majority of stores surveyed.

A Whole Foods customer looking to buy their groceries without plastic packaging will have better luck with some products than others.

For certain items, there are always or almost always plastic-free options available:

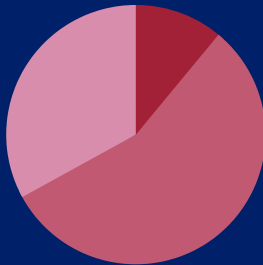
- For butter, there were plastic-free options available in all stores.
- For eggs, there were plastic-free options available in the main aisle of 26 stores (96%).<sup>9</sup>



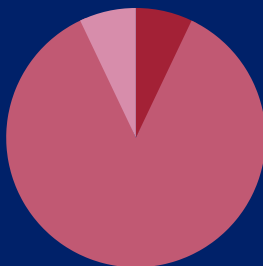
## Amount of Plastic



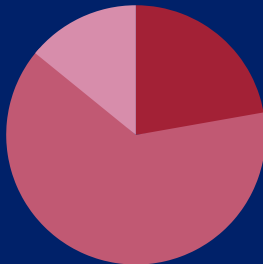
### Milk



### Tortilla Chips



### Spaghetti



Those items, however, make up a minority of the products surveyed. At most Whole Foods stores we visited, a customer would be hard pressed to find Whole Foods branded products in packaging that doesn't contain at least some plastic.

- For milk, only nine stores (33%) had a completely plastic-free option. In three stores (11%), survey takers found only full-plastic options, and in 15 stores (56%), they found options that contained at least some plastic.
- For tortilla chips, only two stores (7%) had a plastic-free option available. Of the remaining 25 stores, two (7% of the total) had no plastic-free option available at all, and 23 (85% of the total) had a partial plastic option.
- For spaghetti pasta, only two stores (7%) had a plastic-free option available in the main aisle and a further two [7%] had non-plastic option available in the bulk section. Of the remaining 23 stores, six stores (22% of the total) had only full-plastic options, and 17 (63% of the total) had a partial plastic option.

Then there are items for which non-plastic packaging options are available, but the customer has to go seek them out in places other than the main aisle.

- In none of the stores surveyed was the cheese sold in the main dairy aisle available without plastic packaging, and in 12 stores (44%), there was no plastic-free option at all. In 15 stores (56%), there was a plastic-free option available, but only in the deli section.
- Similarly, for rice, 10 stores (37%) had a plastic-free option available. Of those, two (7% of the total) had a plastic-free option only available in the bulk section. Seventeen stores (63%) had no plastic-free option available at all.

- For soda, there were plastic-free options available in 17 of the 26 stores for which we collected data (65%). In nine stores (35%), only partial plastic options were available.
- For bread, none of the 27 stores had a non-plastic packaging option in the main bread aisle. Twenty-one (78%) had a non-plastic option available in the bakery section, and six had no non-plastic option at all.
- For apples, our survey-takers found that in 18 stores there were no plastic-free options available. In four stores they found plastic-free options available in the produce section, and in four others, they found apples available without packaging in the main aisle.

### Bulk Sections and Deli Counters

And if you want to buy your yogurt without plastic, you're just plain out of luck, with no plastic-free option available in any of the stores.

Every one of the 27 stores surveyed had a deli section, and 20 (74%) had a bulk section. These sections contain certain products available elsewhere in the store and should therefore provide an opportunity for customers to purchase those items without plastic packaging. However, we found that this was not always the case.

Bulk sections contained a range of food items, such as coffee, nuts, seeds, legumes and grains, as well as certain Whole Foods own brand products available in packaged form elsewhere in the store, such as rice and pasta. But while bulk sections may allow the customer to bring and refill their own containers, the only packaging provided by the store itself is very often made from or contains at least some plastic.

Of the 20 stores that had a bulk section, 14 (70%) provided only packaging that contained plastic (13 provided only fully plastic packaging and one provided a minimal plastic option), and all 20 provided at least one fully plastic packaging option (plastic bags, containers etc.). Likewise, in the deli sections at 10 of the 25 stores (40%) whose deli sections our survey reviewed, the only packaging option provided in store was plastic.



Catherine Sheila via Pexels

# | Whole Foods Can Choose to do Better

Since the Whole Foods brand has long been synonymous with environmental responsibility and healthy living, the company's customers should be able to expect the items on the shelves to be consistent with that reputation. While our survey showed that Whole Foods is currently falling well short of that standard, it also highlighted certain areas where it can easily improve.

The percentage of products sold in cardboard boxes with see-through plastic windows, for example, indicates one such opportunity. There is simply no need for it, as the percentage of the same products sold in boxes without plastic windows proves. Providing non-plastic packaging options in the bulk sections is another easy win. Expanding the bulk sections themselves is another.

Whole Foods should seize upon these and other opportunities to eventually eliminate single use plastic packaging from its shelves. In the short term, the company should commit to the following concrete, verifiable steps:

1. Implement a 25% reduction in the amount of single-use plastic packaging units sold by the 365 Everyday Value product line by 2025.
1. Generate 15% of your annual revenue from the sale of products sold in reusable or refillable packaging by 2025
1. Publicly report the gross weight and units of plastic packaging sold each year by the annual shareholder meeting in May 2025.

Whole Foods was a pioneer in the movement to reduce plastic waste and shift toward sustainable packaging, but when it comes to plastics, its environmentally friendly rhetoric is no longer followed through in practice. It's time for it to step up and start leading the field once again.

# I Appendix I: Methodology

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN THE SUMMER OF 2022 AT THE FOLLOWING 27 WHOLE FOODS STORES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

Street address	City	Zip	State
<a href="#">3000 Telegraph Ave</a>	Berkeley	94703	CA
<a href="#">11 S State St</a>	Lake Oswego	99516	OR
<a href="#">3202 W Friendly Ave</a>	Greensboro	27408	NC
<a href="#">3535 NE 15th Ave</a>	Portland	97212	OR
<a href="#">929 South St</a>	Philadelphia	19147	PA
<a href="#">3540 Wade Ave.</a>	Raleigh	27607	NC
<a href="#">5055 Acro Street</a>	Cary	27519	NC
<a href="#">8710 Six Forks Road</a>	Raleigh	27615	NC
<a href="#">143 Maple Ave E</a>	Vienna	22180	VA
<a href="#">4315 Arden Way</a>	Sacramento	95864	CA
<a href="#">1635 Boro Pl</a>	McLean	22102	VA
<a href="#">1575 The Fairway</a>	Jenkintown	19046	PA
<a href="#">575 Worcester Road</a>	Framingham	01701	MA
<a href="#">390 Coddington Mall</a>	Santa Rosa	95401	CA

<a href="#">350 Grasmere Ave</a>	Fairfield	06824	CT
<a href="#">5880 Centre Ave</a>	Pittsburgh	15206	PA
<a href="#">255 E Grand</a>	Chicago	60611	IL
<a href="#">50 Wall St.</a>	Orange	44122	OH
<a href="#">1330 Smith Ave</a>	Baltimore	21209	MD
<a href="#">1026 NE 64th St</a>	Seattle	98115	WA
<a href="#">15 Westland Ave</a>	Boston, MA	02115	MA
<a href="#">283 Broadway Street</a>	Laguna Beach	92651	CA
<a href="#">601 N Main St</a>	Providence	02904	RI
<a href="#">261 Waterman St</a>	Providence	02906	RI
<a href="#">6009 North Broadway</a>	Chicago	60660	IL
<a href="#">4201 Huntley Ave</a>	Culver City	90230	CA
<a href="#">5945 State Bridge Road</a>	Duluth	30097	GA

THE SURVEY TAKERS WERE SUPPLIED  
WITH THE FOLLOWING  
QUESTIONNAIRE AND INSTRUCTIONS.

## Surveyor Instructions

After reading our instructions document, please shop around your local Whole Foods store and fill out this form. You'll start by surveying the aisles for the following items: cheddar cheese, eggs, cow's milk, yogurt, dairy butter, soda, popcorn, tortilla chips, spaghetti pasta, rice, white bread, and apples. Then, you'll survey the bulk, bakery, and deli sections of the store. It should take you around 30 minutes. When you are done, please upload your photos into a folder on the drive and label your folder with the address of the Whole Foods you surveyed.

As a reminder, here's what counts as plastic packaging:

- Plastic film (e.g., cling wrap)
- Plastic bags
- Plastic produce bags
- Plastic containers
- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Plastic foam (e.g., Styrofoam/polystyrene)
- Plastic windows
- Plastic-sealed containers

What does NOT count as plastic packaging:

- Glass bottles and jars
- Paper wrapping
- Paper bottles
- Paper bags
- Cardboard boxes

General note: If a grocery item has some plastic packaging on it – even if not the entire product – the item is still considered to be sold in plastic packaging.

## Questions

**Which Whole Foods location are you surveying today?**

Street Address \*

Town/City \*

Zip code \*

State \*

### Item 1: Cheddar Cheese (Dairy aisle)

Please locate the Whole Foods brand cheddar cheese in the dairy aisle. Don't consider the deli counter in this question.

**What types of packaging is the Whole Foods brand cheddar cheese sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Plastic pouch/bag
- Plastic film/wrap
- Plastic containers
- Plastic foam (e.g., Styrofoam)
- Plastic sealed containers
- Waxy paper
- Plastic tub
- Package-free
- Other:

Notes?

### Item 2: Eggs

Please shop around the store and locate Whole Foods brand eggs.

**What types of packaging are the Whole Foods brand eggs sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Plastic egg carton
- Cardboard egg carton
- Plastic foam carton (e.g., Styrofoam)
- Plastic sealed containers
- Other:

Notes?

### Item 3: Cow's milk

Please shop around the store and locate Whole Foods brand refrigerated cow's milk.

**What types of packaging is the Whole Foods brand cow's milk sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Plastic jug
- Plastic carton
- Cardboard carton w/ plastic cap
- Cardboard carton without plastic cap
- Glass jug
- Other:

Notes?

**Item 4: Yogurt**

Please shop around the store and locate the Whole Foods brand yogurt.

**What types of packaging are the Whole Foods brand yogurt sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Plastic yogurt cups
- Plastic tub with plastic lid
- Plastic sealed containers (with foil lid, not plastic)
- Glass jar
- Paper tub
- Other:

Notes?

**Item 5: Dairy butter**

Please shop around the store and locate the Whole Foods brand, dairy-based butter.

**What types of packaging is the Whole Foods brand butter sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Cardboard/paper butter box
- Plastic tub/container
- Thick waxy paper
- Aluminum foil packaging
- Other:

Notes?

**Item 6: Soda**

Please shop around the store and locate the Whole Foods brand soda. Note: Plastic packaging includes plastic rings joining aluminum cans together.

What types of packaging is the Whole Foods brand soda sold in? (Select all that apply)

- Aluminum cans w/ plastic rings
- Cardboard boxes (if aluminum cans are sold in cardboard boxes, check this too)
- Glass bottles
- Plastic bottles/jugs
- Other:

Notes?

**Item 6: Soda**

Please shop around the store and locate the Whole Foods brand soda. Note: Plastic packaging includes plastic rings joining aluminum cans together.

**What types of packaging is the Whole Foods brand soda sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Aluminum cans w/ plastic rings
- Cardboard boxes (if aluminum cans are sold in cardboard boxes, check this too)
- Glass bottles
- Plastic bottles/jugs
- Other:

Notes?

**Item 7: Popcorn<sup>10</sup>**

Please locate Whole Foods brand popcorn in the snack aisle. Don't consider the bulk section in this question.

**What types of packaging is Whole Foods brand popcorn sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Cardboard box (no plastic bags inside)
- Cardboard box with plastic bag inside
- Plastic bag
- Plastic sealed containers
- Other:

Notes?

**Item 8: Tortilla Chips**

Please locate Whole Foods brand tortilla chips.

**What types of packaging are Whole Foods brand tortilla chips sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Plastic bag
- Paper bag (with plastic cutout window)
- Paper bag (without plastic window)
- Plastic film
- Other:

Notes?

**Item 9: Spaghetti Pasta**

Please locate the Whole Foods brand spaghetti pasta. Note: Plastic packaging includes the clear windows on pasta boxes. Don't consider the bulk section in this question.

**What types of packaging is the Whole Foods brand pasta sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Cardboard box (with clear window)
- Cardboard box (without clear window)
- Firm plastic pouch/sleeve
- Plastic film
- Other:

Notes?

**Item 10: Rice**

Please locate rice in the grain aisle. Don't consider the bulk section in this question.

**What types of packaging is the Whole Foods brand rice sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Cardboard box (with clear window)
- Cardboard box (without clear window)
- Plastic tub
- Firm plastic pouch
- Plastic film
- Bulk (paper bag)
- Bulk (plastic bag)
- Other:

Notes?

**Item 11: White Bread** (bread aisle)

Please locate the Whole Foods brand white bread. Don't consider the bakery section in this question.

**What types of packaging is the Whole Foods brand white bread sold in?** (Select all that apply)

- Plastic bag (e.g. a thin flexible plastic bag)
- Plastic film
- Plastic sealed containers
- Paper bag
- Package-free
- Other:

Notes?

**Item 12: Apples** (Whole Foods brand only)

Please shop around the produce section and locate the Whole Foods brand apples.

What types of packaging are the Whole Foods brand apples sold in? (Select all that apply) Note: to be counted as Whole Foods brand the label on the bin or the bag must say Whole Foods.

- Plastic bag (either a firm plastic bag with handle, or a thin flexible plastic bag) Paper carton
- Plastic sealed container
- Plastic foam
- Package-free
- Other:

What packaging options are provided by the store in the produce section?

Check all that apply.

- Plastic produce bags
- Paper bags
- Reusable produce bags (being sold)
- Other:

Notes?

Bulk section

Is there a bulk section in your store? \*

- Yes
- No

What types of packaging are offered in the bulk section? \* Check all that apply.

- Plastic bags
- Plastic containers
- Paper bags
- Other:

What survey items are offered in the bulk section?

Select all that apply.

- Rice
- Spaghetti Pasta
- Popcorn kernels
- Tortilla chips
- Other:

What other items are offered in the bulk section?

Select all that apply.

- Oats
- Coffee
- Fresh ground nut butter
- Nuts



- Seeds
- Legumes (including beans, peas & lentils)
- Dried fruit
- Grains (including quinoa, barely, buckwheat, farro, etc.)
- Cereals (including granola)
- Herbs and spices
- Other:

- Thin plastic bags
- Thicker plastic bags
- Paper bags
- Reusable cloth bags
- Reusable plastic bags

The responses were uploaded to a shared Excel document for subsequent coding and analysis.

## **Bakery**

Please locate the bakery section of your store.

Is there a bakery counter in your store? \*

- Yes
- No

What types of packaging are offered in the bakery section? \* Check all that apply.

- Paper bags
- Paper/cardboard packaging with plastic windows
- Plastic bags
- Plastic container
- Other:

## **Deli**

Please locate the deli section of your store.

Is there a deli counter in your store? \*

- Yes
- No

What types of packaging are offered in the deli section? \* Check all that apply.

- Plastic bags
- Plastic container
- Waxy paper
- Paper bags
- Other:

## **Checkout**

Please go to the checkout and observe what kinds of checkout bags are offered

What types of bags are offered at checkout? \* Check all that apply.

# Appendix II: Summary of results

	Plastic-free option available somewhere in store	No plastic-free option available anywhere in store	Plastic-free option only available in deli/bulk/bakery/produce sections
<a href="#">Cheese</a>	15	12	15
<a href="#">Eggs</a>	26	1	N/A
<a href="#">Cows' milk</a>	9	18	N/A
<a href="#">Yogurt</a>	0	27	N/A
<a href="#">Butter</a>	27	0	N/A
<a href="#">Soda</a>	17	9	N/A
<a href="#">Tortilla chips</a>	2	25	N/A
<a href="#">Pasta</a>	4	23	2
<a href="#">Rice</a>	10	17	2
<a href="#">Bread</a>	21	6	21
<a href="#">Apples</a>	8	18	4
<a href="#">Bulk section</a>	8	14	N/A
<a href="#">Deli section</a>	15	10	N/A
<a href="#">Bakery section</a>	15	10	N/A
<a href="#">Checkout</a>	23	3	N/A

# | Notes

1. Blake Morgan, Customers Hate Plastic Packaging, So Why Do Companies Keep Using It, Forbes, 19 April 2021, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/blakemorgan/2021/04/19/customers-hate-plastic-packaging-so-why-do-companies-keep-using-it/?sh=5213fe18192c>
2. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Reckoning with the U.S. Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2022, p.3, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20230113032815/https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/26132/chapter/2>.
3. Plastic Health Coalition, Does Plastic Make Us Sick?, archived at <http://web.archive.org/web/20221231190046/https://www.plastichealthcoalition.org/>.
4. Reuters Graphics, A plateful of plastic: Visualising the amount of microplastic we eat, 31 December 2019, archived at <http://web.archive.org/web/20221202045755/https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ENVIRONMENT-PLASTIC/0100B4TF2MQ/index.html>.
5. Huge proportion of plastic waste: United States Environmental Protection Agency, Facts and Figures about Materials, Waste and Recycling: Containers and Packaging: Product-Specific Data, archived at <http://web.archive.org/web/20230112163652/https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/containers-and-packaging-product-specific>
6. Whole Foods Market, Our Commitment to Reducing Single-Use Plastics, accessed 5 January 2023, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20230105081058/https://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/mission-in-action/environmental-stewardship/plastics-packaging>.
7. As You Sow, Waste and Opportunity 2020: Searching for Corporate Leadership, accessed 5 January 2023, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20220406085125/https://www.asyousow.org/report-page/waste-and-opportunity-2020-searching-corporate-leadership>.
8. As You Sow, 2021 Corporate Plastic Pollution Scorecard, accessed 5 January 2023, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20230105081802/https://www.asyousow.org/report-page/plastic-pollution-scorecard-2021/>.
9. All percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.
10. Due to incomplete data, the popcorn category was not included in the analysis of the survey results.