

PepsiCo pledges healthier offerings

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PepsiCo set new targets for more healthful food and beverages Monday and announced pledges to reduce product packaging and limit water use.

With US soda giants under pressure to produce more healthy beverages, Pepsi pledged that by 2025, at least two-thirds of the 12 ounce beverages it sells will contain 100 or fewer calories. At least three-quarters of foods sold will not exceed 1.1 grams of saturated fat per 100 calories.

Pepsi's "2025 Sustainability Agenda" also included policies to limit water consumption, incorporate more recyclable packaging and purchase crops from sustainable farms.

Besides soda, Pepsi's brands include Gatorade sports drinks, the Frito-Lay snack brand and Tropicana orange juice.

A study released last week by academics at the Boston University School of Public Health faulted Pepsi and rival Coca-Cola for fighting added taxes on high-sugar sodas at the same time they provide funding to health organizations. The study questioned whether the soda giants' funding for those groups was driven by marketing rather than public interest.

PepsiCo chief executive Indra Nooyi said the company's 2025 Sustainability Agenda aims to be consistent with United Nations sustainable development goals and the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

"To succeed in today's volatile and changing world, corporations must do

three things exceedingly well: focus on delivering strong financial performance, do it in a way that is sustainable over time and be responsive to the needs of society," Nooyi said.

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