

Summary of Company

Danone Waters UK & Ireland is a subsidiary of Danone, a global, leading food company with the mission of bringing health through food to as many people as possible. Therefore, Danone is building on health focused and fast-growing categories in three businesses: Essential Dairy & Plant-based products, Waters and Specialized Nutrition.

Danone Waters UK & Ireland is a wholesale business unit of Danone, which means it markets Danone's natural mineral water brands in its area of operations, but the subsidiary does not directly control the product manufacturing process.

Danone Waters UK & Ireland sells two natural mineral water brands:

- evian®
- Volvic®¹

Danone Waters UK & Ireland Practices

Water Access

Danone owns or leases the land in the immediate proximity of the water sources for each brand sold by Danone Waters UK & Ireland. The source of evian natural mineral water comes out from the heart of the French Alps, a unique geological site in the world. Volvic natural mineral water comes from Auvergne, a region in France known for its volcanic geology with the Chaîne des Puys-Limagne Fault, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Natural Site. Both underground origins act as a natural filter for the natural mineral waters, providing them with a distinctive mineral composition and natural purity.

Companies dedicated to the natural mineral water activity in France are required by law to pay specific taxes based on the volume drawn, in order to access the water resource. Pursuant to French regulations, the proceedings of these taxes go to French customs and to the local municipalities. All Danone natural mineral water sites in France fully comply with this requirement.

Sustainable Usage

evian and Volvic are committed to operating in a sustainable way and always seeks to take action to protect the environment. evian and Volvic carefully respects the natural water cycle, never collecting more than what nature replenishes in accordance with European and French regulations to ensure that water levels are not permitted to go below minimum thresholds to ensure sustainability over time.

¹ Volvic Brand was certified B Corp in March 2020

Danone Waters UK & Ireland brands use Danone's proprietary SPRING (Sustainable Protection and Resource ManagING) evaluation method, which is designed to optimally manage the water resource. On their 2020 SPRING rankings, evian and Volvic facilities are classified "Excellent".

Through its #WeAct4Waters program, Danone will continue investing in locally developed, nature-based solutions, working with other users (e.g. farmers, communities, local authorities and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands since 1998) to lead water preservation for future generations. This work also fosters biodiversity enhancement, livelihoods improvement, carbon capture and more sustainable water resource management.

Waste Management

Danone Waters UK & Ireland sells two natural mineral water brands: evian and Volvic. The product packaging used by evian and Volvic preserves the quality of the natural mineral water from source to consumer. The company uses a combination of virgin plastic (PET), recycled plastic (rPET) and glass across the various bottle formats. evian and Volvic committed to make all its plastic bottles from 100% rPET by 2025 globally.

Company Management Comments on Waste Management

Danone Waters UK and Ireland is committed to continually improve the sustainability performance of its packaging. Since August 2020, evian best-selling formats are 100% rPET, bringing the use of recycled plastic content to 48% across the evian range for 2020 and 27% across both brands evian and Volvic. Danone Waters UK and Ireland commits to using no virgin plastic across its evian UK and Volvic UK bottles by 2025. A move toward full circularity where the packaging is kept within the economy and out of nature.

Danone Waters UK & Ireland is accelerating the transition to a circular economy by collaborating with local expert partners such as Hubbub, WRAP, the Cambridge Institute of Sustainable Leadership, RECOUP and Plastic Patrol. Danone Waters UK & Ireland is also actively supporting the development of a Deposit Return Scheme to help improve the collection and recycling of plastic bottles across the UK and contributing to ongoing government consultations exploring a UK plastics packaging tax, Extended Producer Responsibility and consistency in UK recycling collection infrastructure.

To help educate consumers about recycling behaviours, Danone Waters UK & Ireland has supported Hubbub's on-the-go recycling campaign in Leeds, Swansea and Edinburgh. The 'in the loop' campaign used a variety of recycling infrastructure and awareness-raising interventions to test the impact on citizen behaviour change. Danone Waters UK & Ireland has also participated and supported Recycle Week 2019 and 2020, and engages employees to learn about recycling at their zero waste to landfill office in London.

Finally, Danone Waters UK & Ireland continues working on innovating alternative packaging solutions for our natural source mineral water products such as SOMA; a refillable bottle launched in 2019 or the trial of RENEW, an in-home natural mineral water dispenser with a collapsible 100% recycled PET 5L evian 'bubble'.

Other Management Comments

Community effort

In addition to managing the sustainability of the water collection practices, Danone also has a number of community-based efforts focused on preserving the long-term quality and uniqueness of the brands' water sources and the biodiversity and overall agricultural development of the surrounding areas. In each region, they are public-private partnerships whose missions are to implement actions that reconcile local development and the preservation of the catchment area and biodiversity.

On evian, for more than 25 years, Danone has been innovating and working with its local ecosystem to preserve the natural resources and commit to a sustainable future. In 1992, the brand cofounded the APIEME (Association for the Protection of Evian Mineral Water Impluvium) with 13 municipalities. APIEME is a public/private partnership which aims to reconcile resource protection and local development. An APIEME initiative developed a biogas facility called Terragr'eau, which converts organic farm waste into natural fertilizer used by local farmers, while producing biogas to provide power for 1,200 inhabitants. An example on Volvic is the "environmental Committee for the protection of the Volvic Impluvium (CEPIV), a public-private partnership co-created by Societe des Eaux de Volvic in 2006 with 4 local communities of the catchment area. Its mission is to implement actions with all territory stakeholders that reconcile local development and the protection of the catchment area and its biodiversity. Amongst other things, Volvic collaborates with organizations to provide scientific and technical support to local farmers to help them implement sustainable agricultural practices for crop and land management as well as shifting to organic farming.

Carbon Neutrality

In April 2020, both evian and Volvic brands were certified Carbon Neutral to the internationally recognized standard PA 2060 by the independent organization The Carbon Trust.

The certification was achieved after reducing direct carbon emissions from the full scope of the lifecycle of evian and Volvic's natural mineral water products and minimizing indirect emissions from their value chains. This reduction includes the transition to using 100% renewable energy in evian and Volvic natural mineral bottling site and the switch from road to rail transport. 82% of evian and 78% of Volvic bottles sold in the UK now leave the bottling sites in France via train, a method with a carbon footprint 7 times lower than using trucks.

evian and Volvic have offset their remaining emissions through partnerships supporting reforestation and nature preservation. evian has partnered with the Livelihoods Carbon Fund to support the development of virtuous natural ecosystems and improve the lives of local communities, notably through the plantation of 13 million trees. In partnership with South Pole, Volvic contributes to support the continued protection of 2 billion square meters of natural ecosystems in volcanic countries. From now on both evian and Volvic must recertify with The Carbon Trust every year to maintain their carbon neutral status. This requires the development and implementation of a yearly carbon reduction and management plan.