

Our actions

General Mills is more committed to water than ever, and we are working to develop a vision for how best we can use our influence for positive water impacts and outcomes, including:

Fund and participate in local water stewardship activities and policy advocacy with NGO partners:

For example, in the Great Lakes region, from 2021 to 2023 we collaborated with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on the Sustain Our Great Lakes program, a public-private partnership designed to sustain, restore and protect fish, wildlife and habitat in the basin by leveraging funding, building conservation capacity, and focusing partners and resources toward key ecological issues. We use regenerative agriculture to advance these goals.

Maximize water efficiency in owned plants in priority watersheds:

We regularly measure and monitor water

use in our manufacturing facilities in order to proactively manage our water footprint. Rather than having a enterprise-wide goal, our plants employ a site-specific continuous improvement and holistic evaluation approach of water conservation opportunities. For details on our water usage, refer to our [CDP Water Security](#) disclosure.

Advance regenerative agriculture:

As General Mills continues to help advance farmer adoption of regenerative agriculture practices in key supply sheds — the key regions where we source our ingredients — we see restoring local water cycles as an important outcome. Regenerative agriculture helps improve water infiltration and soil water holding capacity through improved soil health; this can make farms more resilient to both drought and flood. Regenerative agriculture also helps improve water quality by reducing

Insights from science-based target pilot

In 2021, we joined the Science-Based Target for Freshwater pilot to continue gaining insights into how to advance our commitment to regenerate water resources in the watersheds we depend on. The pilot affirmed our focus on agriculture and ingredients as the primary area where we can drive positive impact in water, and reinforced that regenerative agriculture is an important lever to advance positive outcomes in some of

our biggest supply sheds. The pilot also revealed challenges, including accessing stakeholders in a timely manner and calculating water impact in a data-poor environment. We learned about exciting new tools, such as satellite mapping of groundwater, that informed our watershed prioritization process. Inspired by this pilot, we used SBT Steps 1 and 2 (Assess and Prioritize) to select our priority watersheds in our F23 watershed refresh.

chemical application and soil runoff, helping to protect and restore clean water in nearby streams, rivers and lakes.

Drive industry advancement: We work to move the industry forward in the understanding and advancement of water stewardship through supporting innovation to bring about practical

tools for farmers, participating in NGOs and industry roundtables and leading in external collaborations like the California Water Action Collaborative and the Science Based Targets Network's Freshwater pilot.

Regenerative agriculture and almonds

General Mills sources 100% of its almonds, an ingredient found in many of the company's products, from California. The state of California is facing extreme water stress, and due to its high-water dependency, almonds have the biggest water footprint of any California crop.

- Lärabar, a General Mills brand, funded three years of research with the Ecdysis Foundation in California's San Joaquin Valley to determine how on-farm practices are linked to regenerative outcomes for water, soil health, crop yield and more.
- General Mills also funds research with UC Davis on water balance in almond orchards to understand whether regenerative orchards use less water than conventional orchards.
- Early results show growing almonds with regenerative agriculture principles improves soil health and increases water infiltration rates, which can lead to potential reductions in irrigation — and ultimately more water resilience to both drought and flood.
- General Mills co-leads a working group on Regenerative Agriculture and Water (RAW) within the California Water Action Collaborative (CWAC). CWAC brings together companies and NGOs seeking to improve water outcomes in California. The RAW working group is working to co-design multi-stakeholder projects, including measurement and regenerative agriculture implementation in almond systems.



Conventional Almonds



Regenerative Almonds

