



## **Circular Economy Policy**

### **Ascend Group of Companies**

This policy is a part of Ascend Group's Environmental Policy and Guidelines.

Realizing that population growth, economic growth and rapid technology advancement contribute to intensifying consumption of natural resources, some of which are quickly becoming depleted. At the same time, most materials are being discarded at the end of their useful life without being recovered for reuse or recycling. The lack of effective management to maximize resource efficiency can lead to two key environmental crises: shortages of critical resources and waste management problems.

To tackle these challenges, Ascend Group has adopted the circular economy principle in its business operations to maximize resource efficiency, reduce waste generation, recover waste from all processes along the value chain for reutilization and recycling. The Group prioritizes renewable resources in the selection of materials, product design, and applies innovation and technology in related processes throughout the product lifecycle to research and develop products, equipment and infrastructure with longer useful life. Charoen Pokphand Group has set the target to achieve zero waste to landfill and zero food waste by 2030, and while 100% of plastic packaging use must be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2025 for operations in Thailand and by 2030 for international operations.

In order to achieve these objectives, Ascend Group establishes the following guideline.

1. Ensure effective management is in place for all waste streams from business activities; reduce the overall amount of waste, both from internal operations and activities by applying 9Rs concept.
2. Implement lifecycle assessment during the design and development phase of products and services to eliminate or minimize waste, and increase efficiency in all production processes and services.



3. Research and develop technologies and innovations that can be applied to enhance useful life of products, services, equipment, and infrastructure, to reduce environmental impacts from waste.
4. Explore investment and development opportunities in businesses and technologies that enhance resource efficiency.
5. Set up a performance tracking system and report circular economy performance in compliance with internationally recognized standards.
6. Support and collaborate with government agencies, NGOs, educational institutions, communities and other stakeholders to promote the best use of resources, including reducing waste generation, increasing the rate of recycling and material recovery, and mitigating impacts of improper handling of plastic waste.
7. Promote responsible consumption and waste management behaviors among consumers and stakeholder's, encourage waste minimization, proper management of expired food products, waste sorting, recycling of plastic and other materials.
8. Communicate with employees, suppliers, business partners and stakeholders on a regular basis to raise awareness about circular economy principles.
9. Disclose performance and progress against targets on circular economy through Sustainability Report or other relevant disclosures to stakeholders annually.

Directors, executives and employees of Ascend Group must comply with the laws, rules, regulations, standards, as well as this Circular Economy Policy and other applicable policies and guidelines related to circular economy.