



SASB Index and Other Environmental Disclosures

Darden has aligned its disclosures for the environmental metrics below with the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) Industry Standard for the Food and Beverage Sector/Restaurants 2018-1. Additional indicators are also included in the table below. The values included in the table below are for Darden's fiscal year 2022 unless otherwise noted. Additional metrics to be added upon data availability. A third-party assurance statement for relevant metrics in this table is provided as an Appendix.

Disclosure Topic	Reporting Framework	Standard Reference	Accounting Metric	Period	Value	Third-Party Verified	Unit of Measure	Discussion and Related Content
Climate	GRI	GRI-305-1	Scope 1 CO2e Emissions	FY22	345,316	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	GRI	GRI-305-2	Scope 2 CO2e Emissions	FY22	424,495	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	GRI	GRI-305-3	Scope 3 CO2e Emissions	FY22	3,512,851	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	GRI	GRI-305-3	Scope 3 CO2e Emissions- Category 1: Purchased Goods & Services	FY22	2,751,841	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	GRI	GRI-305-3	Scope 3 CO2e Emissions- Category 2: Capital Goods	FY22	35,779	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	GRI	GRI-305-3	Scope 3 CO2e Emissions-Category 3: Fuel & Energy related activities	FY22	198,650	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	GRI	GRI-305-3	Scope 3 CO2e Emissions-Category 4: Upstream Transportation & Distribution	FY22	248,177	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	GRI	GRI-305-3	Scope 3 CO2e Emissions-Category 5: Waste Generated in Operations	FY22	91,187	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	GRI	GRI-305-3	Scope 3 CO2e Emissions-Category 6: Business Travel	FY22	3,660	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	GRI	GRI-305-3	Scope 3 CO2e Emissions-Category 7: Employee Commuting	FY22	141,342	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	GRI	GRI-305-3	Scope 3 CO2e Emissions-Category 12: End of life treatment of sold products	FY22	18,254	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
Energy Management	GRI	GRI-305-3	Scope 3 CO2e Emissions-Category 14: Franchises	FY22	23,961	✓	MT	Taking Action on Climate Risks
	SASB	FB-RN-130a.1	(1) Total Energy consumed	FY22	2,677	✓	GWh	Conserving Energy and Water
	SASB	FB-RN-130a.1	(2) Percentage grid electricity	FY22	43%	✓	%	Conserving Energy and Water
Food & Packaging Waste Management	SASB	FB-RN-130a.1	(3) Percentage Renewable	FY22	0.02%	✓	%	Conserving Energy and Water
	SASB	FB-RN-150a.1	(1) Total amount of waste	FY22	177,922	✓	MT	Managing Waste
	SASB	FB-RN-150a.1	(2) Percentage of food waste	FY22	48%	✓	%	Managing Waste
	SASB	FB-RN-150a.1	(3) Percentage Diverted	FY22	32%	✓	%	Managing Waste

Disclosure Topic	Reporting Framework	Standard Reference	Accounting Metric	Period	Value	Third-Party Verified	Unit of Measure	Discussion and Related Content
Water Management	SASB	FB-RN-140.a1	(1) Total water withdrawn	FY22	4,669,793	✓	KGALS	Conserving Energy and Water
	SASB	FB-RN-140.a1	(2) Total water consumed, percentage of each in regions with High or Extremely High Baseline Water stress	FY22	28%	✓	%	Conserving Energy and Water
Food Safety	SASB	FB-RN-250.a1	(1) Percentage of restaurants inspected by a food safety oversight body, (2) percentage receiving critical violations	FY23	(1) 100% of Darden's owned and operated restaurants are inspected by local health departments. They are also audited by a third party on a quarterly basis.		%	Ensuring Food Safety & Quality
	SASB	FB-RN-250.a.2	(1) Number of recalls issued and (2) total amount of food product recalled	FY23	(1) Of 267 Class 1 FDA and USDA recalls, only 4 impacted Darden		Each	Ensuring Food Safety & Quality
	SASB	FB-RN-250.a.3	Number of confirmed foodborne illness outbreaks, percentage resulting in U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) investigation	FY22	0		Each	Ensuring Food Safety & Quality
Labor practices	SASB	FB-RN-310.a.1	(1) Voluntary and (2) involuntary turnover rate for restaurant employees	FY23	(1) Restaurant hourly employees: 93%; Consolidated restaurant management: 19%		%	Fiscal Year 2023 Form 10K page 9
	SASB	FB-RN-310.a.2	(1) Average hourly wage, by region and (2) percentage of restaurant employees earning minimum wage, by region	FY23	(1) \$22 USD in the United States and Canada, inclusive of earned gratuity		USD	Investing In Their Success
Supply Chain Management & Food Sourcing	SASB	FB-RN-430.a.2	Percentage of land-based protein suppliers that harvest animals which have passed an annual third-party animal welfare audit;	FY23	100%		%	Caring for Animals
	SASB	FB-RN-430.a.2	Percentage of pork from suppliers utilizing group housing for sows per the definition by the American Association of Swine Veterinarians	FY23	54%		%	Caring for Animals
	SASB	FB-RN-430.a.2	Percentage of spend on key commodities with low to no risk of contributing to deforestation and or land use conversion: includes beef, palm oil, soy, coffee, cocoa, fiber and timber	FY23	80%		%	Living our Food Principles
	SASB	FB-RN-430.a.2	Discussion of strategy to manage environmental and social risks within the supply chain, including animal welfare	NA	NA		NA	Living our Food Principles

INDEPENDENT LIMITED ASSURANCE STATEMENT



To: The Stakeholders of Darden Restaurants, Inc.

Introduction and objectives of work

Apex Companies, LLC (Apex) has been engaged by Darden Restaurants, Inc. (Darden) to provide limited assurance of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and sustainability data for fiscal year 2022. This assurance statement applies to the data and information included within the scope of work described below.

This information and its presentation are the sole responsibility of the management of Darden. Our sole responsibility was to provide independent assurance on the accuracy of the reported data and information, and on the underlying systems and processes used to collect, analyze and review the information.

Scope of work

The scope of our work was limited to assurance over greenhouse (GHG) emissions and sustainability data for the period June 1, 2021 to May 29, 2022 (the "Subject Matter").

- Energy
- Waste
- Water
- Scope 1 GHG emissions
- Scope 2 (location-based) GHG emissions
- Scope 3 GHG emissions
 - Category 1 – Purchased goods and services
 - Category 2 – Capital goods
 - Category 3 – Fuel- and energy-related activities
 - Category 4 – Upstream transportation and distribution
 - Category 5 – Waste generated in operations
 - Category 6 – Business travel
 - Category 7 – Employee commuting
 - Category 12 – End-of-life treatment of sold products
 - Category 14 – Franchises

Data and information supporting the sustainability data, Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions were primarily historical in nature.

Data and information supporting the Scope 3 GHG emissions were in some cases estimated rather than historical in nature.

Reporting Boundaries

The following are the boundaries used by Darden for reporting sustainability data:

- Operational Control
- Worldwide

Reporting Criteria

The reporting criteria for greenhouse gas emissions was the World Resources Institute (WRI)/World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Scope 1 and Scope 2) & Corporate Value Chain Accounting and Reporting Standard (Scope 3). The reporting criteria for sustainability data was the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard.

Limitations and Exclusions

Excluded from the scope of our work is any assurance of information relating to:

- Activities outside the defined verification period of Reporting Year 2022
- Activities outside Darden's operational control

This assurance engagement relies on a risk based selected sample of data and the associated limitations that this entails. The reliability of the reported data is dependent on the accuracy of metering and other production measurement arrangements employed at site level, not addressed as part of this assurance. This independent assurance statement should not be relied upon to detect all errors, omissions or misstatements that may exist.

Responsibilities

This preparation and presentation of the data and information are the sole responsibility of the management of Darden.

Apex was not involved in the drafting of the Report or of the Reporting Criteria. Our responsibilities were to:

- obtain limited assurance about whether the Subject Matter has been prepared in accordance with the Reporting Criteria;
- form an independent conclusion based on the assurance procedures performed and evidence obtained; and
- report our conclusions to the Stakeholders of Darden.

Assessment Standards

- We performed our work in accordance with Apex's standard procedures and guidelines for external Assurance and International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 Revised, Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (effective for assurance reports dated on or after Dec. 15, 2015), issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Greenhouse Gas Emissions were verified in accordance with ISO Standard 14064-3 (Second edition 2019-4) Greenhouse Gases - Part 3: Specification with guidance for the verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements. A materiality threshold of ± 5 -percent was set for the assurance process.

Summary of Work Performed

As part of our independent verification, our work included:

1. Assessing the appropriateness of the Reporting Criteria for the data and information;
2. Conducting interviews with relevant personnel of Darden and its consultants regarding data collection and reporting systems;
3. Reviewing the data collection and consolidation processes used to compile Subject Matter, including assessing assumptions made, and the data scope and reporting boundaries;
4. Reviewing documentary evidence provided by Darden;
5. Verifying a selection of the data and information to the corresponding source documentation;
6. Reviewing Darden's systems for quantitative data aggregation and analysis.

7. Assessing the disclosure and presentation of the data and information to ensure consistency with assured information.

Conclusion

Sustainability Data Statement

On the basis of our methodology and the activities described above, it is our opinion that:

- The sustainability data and information reported by Darden is presented in accordance with the Reporting Criteria and is, in all material respects, fairly stated.
- Darden has established appropriate systems for the collection, aggregation and analysis of quantitative data within the scope of this assurance.

GHG Emissions Statement

On the basis of our methodology and the activities described above, it is our opinion there is no evidence that the data and information:

- is not materially correct and is not a fair representation of the GHG emissions data and information; and
- has not been prepared in accordance with the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Scope 1 and 2), and WRI/WBCSD Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Value Chain Accounting and Reporting Standard (Scope 3).

A summary of data within the scope of assurance for 2022 is attached.

Statement of Independence, Integrity and Competence

Apex is an independent professional services company that specializes in Health, Safety, Social and Environmental management services including assurance with over 30 years history in providing these services.

Apex has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities.

No member of the assurance team has a business relationship with Darden, its Directors or Managers beyond that required of this assignment. We have conducted this verification independently, and there has been no conflict of interest.

The assurance team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, social, ethical and health and safety information, systems and processes, has over 20 years combined experience in this field and an excellent understanding of Apex's standard methodology for the assurance of sustainability related assertions.



Trevor Donaghu, Lead Verifier
ESG Director
Apex Companies, LLC
Pleasant Hill, California



David Reilly, Technical Reviewer
ESG Principal Consultant
Apex Companies, LLC
Santa Ana, California

July 20, 2023

This verification opinion declaration, including the opinion expressed herein, is provided to Darden and is solely for the benefit of Darden in accordance with the terms of our agreement. We consent to the release of this statement by you to the public or other organizations but without accepting or assuming any responsibility or liability on our part to any other party who may have access to this statement.

Summary of 2022 Data Subject to Assurance

Metric	Units ¹	2022
Energy		
Total energy	GWh	2,677
Grid electricity % of total energy	%	42.72
Renewable energy % of total energy	%	0.02
Waste		
Total waste	MT	177,922
Total landfilled	MT	121,808
Total diverted	MT	56,114
Diverted waste	%	32
Food waste	%	48
Water		
Water withdrawn		
Total water withdrawn	Kgal	4,669,793
Water withdrawal in water stressed regions ²	Kgal	1,325,293
Water withdrawal in water stressed regions ²	%	28
Water consumed		
Total water consumed	Kgal	4,669,793
Water consumed in water stressed regions ²	Kgal	1,325,293
Water consumed in water stressed regions ²	%	28
Scope 1 GHG emissions	MT CO ₂ e	345,316
Scope 2 GHG emissions		
Location-based	MT CO ₂ e	424,495
Scope 3 GHG Emissions		
Category 1 – Purchased goods and services	MT CO ₂ e	2,751,841
Category 2 – Capital goods	MT CO ₂ e	35,779
Category 3 – Fuel- and energy-related activities	MT CO ₂ e	198,650
Category 4 – Upstream transportation and distribution	MT CO ₂ e	248,177
Category 5 – Waste generated in operations	MT CO ₂ e	91,187
Category 6 – Business travel	MT CO ₂ e	3,660
Category 7 – Employee commuting	MT CO ₂ e	141,342
Category 12 – End-of-life treatment of sold products	MT CO ₂ e	18,254
Category 14 – Franchises	MT CO ₂ e	23,961
Total Scope 3 GHG Emissions	MT CO₂e	3,512,851

Types of GHGs: CO₂, N₂O, CH₄, HFCs

¹ Unit abbreviations:

GWh= gigawatt hour

MT= metric ton

Kgal= thousand gallons

MT CO₂e = metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalents

² High or extremely high water baseline stress regions