

Sustainable Food Packaging Market Forecasts to 2034 - Global Analysis By Material Type (Biodegradable Plastics, Paper & Paperboard, Glass, Metal and Plant-based Fibers), Packaging Format, Sustainability Attribute, Application, End User and By Geography

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Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Sustainable Food Packaging Market is accounted for \$319.3 billion in 2026 and is expected to reach \$501.3 billion by 2034 growing at a CAGR of 5.8% during the forecast period. Sustainable food packaging involves creating and adopting packaging systems that protect food products while reducing harm to the environment. It emphasizes the use of eco-friendly materials, efficient designs, and responsible manufacturing processes to decrease waste generation and enhance resource efficiency. These packaging solutions include recyclable, compostable, biodegradable, and plant-based alternatives designed to reduce dependence on traditional packaging materials. Sustainable food packaging supports environmental conservation, promotes circular economy models, and helps businesses respond to increasing consumer preference for greener products. It also enables food companies to achieve sustainability objectives by lowering emissions, improving material management, and encouraging innovation across the food packaging industry.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the packaging sector is the largest generator of single-use plastic waste globally, accounting for around 36% of all plastic produced. Approximately 85% of single-use plastic bottles, containers, and packaging end up in landfills or become mismanaged waste, highlighting the need for sustainable food packaging alternatives such as recyclable, compostable, and biodegradable materials.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:

Growing environmental concerns and plastic waste reduction

Rising concerns about environmental degradation and increasing plastic waste are significantly supporting the growth of the sustainable food packaging market. Consumers and organizations are becoming more conscious of the need for environmentally responsible packaging options that reduce pollution and resource depletion. This has encouraged food companies to replace traditional packaging with recyclable, compostable, biodegradable, and renewable alternatives. Regulatory initiatives promoting waste reduction and sustainable practices are further influencing market adoption. The shift toward circular economy approaches and lower carbon footprint solutions is driving advancements in packaging technologies.

Restraint:

Higher cost of sustainable packaging materials

Elevated expenses involved in producing sustainable packaging solutions can limit their adoption within the food packaging sector. Materials such as compostable plastics, bio-based polymers, and recyclable alternatives generally involve complex processing methods and higher manufacturing investments compared with traditional packaging options. Many businesses, particularly smaller manufacturers, may hesitate to transition due to increased operational costs and potential impacts on product prices. Moreover, inconsistent availability of sustainable raw materials and developing supply chains can contribute to additional financial pressures.

Opportunity:

Development of innovative bio-based and compostable packaging materials

Advancements in bio-based and compostable packaging technologies are creating strong growth opportunities within the sustainable food packaging market. Emerging materials produced from renewable sources, including plants, agricultural residues, and natural fibers, offer alternatives to conventional plastic packaging. Increasing investments in research and development are improving the performance, affordability, and scalability of eco-friendly packaging materials. As food companies seek innovative

ways to reduce plastic usage and satisfy environmentally conscious consumers, the expansion of advanced sustainable packaging materials is expected to provide significant opportunities across the global packaging industry.

Threat:

Competition from conventional plastic packaging solutions

The continued presence of traditional plastic packaging represents a significant challenge for the growth of sustainable food packaging solutions. Conventional plastics remain popular because they offer affordability, easy accessibility, strong performance, and well-developed supply chains. Many companies facing cost pressures may continue relying on plastic packaging rather than shifting toward environmentally friendly alternatives that require additional investments. Furthermore, advancements in plastic recycling methods could enhance the competitiveness of conventional materials, increasing pressure on companies developing alternative packaging solutions with improved environmental benefits.

Covid-19 Impact:

The COVID-19 outbreak influenced the sustainable food packaging market through both challenges and growth opportunities. Early pandemic restrictions disrupted supply networks, production activities, and access to sustainable raw materials, affecting market expansion. At the same time, rising consumption of packaged food products and increased demand for delivery-based services supported packaging requirements. With economic recovery and renewed environmental awareness, companies gradually shifted their attention back toward sustainable alternatives. This encouraged greater adoption of recyclable, compostable, and renewable packaging solutions while supporting long-term sustainability initiatives in the food industry.

The paper & paperboard segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The paper & paperboard segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period because of their strong environmental advantages, versatility, and broad application across the food industry. These materials are commonly utilized in packaging formats such as cartons, trays, wrappers, and containers due to their ease of processing and sustainable characteristics. Continuous improvements in protective coatings and material technologies have enhanced their durability and suitability for

food preservation. As companies increasingly focus on reducing environmental impact and adopting responsible packaging approaches, paper and paperboard solutions continue to experience strong preference within sustainable food packaging applications.

The retail & e-commerce segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the retail & e-commerce segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate because of increasing online food sales, delivery-based consumption patterns, and rising demand for environmentally conscious packaging solutions. Retailers and digital food platforms are adopting recyclable, reusable, and resource-efficient packaging formats to reduce waste and meet consumer sustainability expectations. The need for secure product handling, efficient transportation, and improved delivery experiences is encouraging the development of innovative sustainable packaging designs. As customers increasingly prefer brands that demonstrate environmental responsibility, businesses are investing in greener packaging strategies.

Region with largest share:

During the forecast period, the North America region is expected to hold the largest market share, supported by high sustainability awareness, technological advancements, and increasing implementation of environmentally responsible packaging practices. Companies across the food sector are adopting recyclable, biodegradable, and renewable packaging options to address growing environmental concerns and consumer expectations. Government support, corporate sustainability programs, and continuous innovation in packaging materials are contributing to regional market development. The region's strong food and beverage industry developed waste management systems, and increasing demand for eco-friendly products are further promoting the use of sustainable packaging solutions.

Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the Asia-Pacific region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR, supported by rising sustainability concerns, expanding food industries, and increasing demand for environmentally responsible packaging options. Growing populations, urban development, and evolving consumer behaviour are motivating companies to adopt recyclable, compostable, and renewable packaging alternatives.

Regional governments are implementing measures to reduce environmental pollution and encourage sustainable packaging practices. The increasing penetration of online food services and advancements in packaging innovation are also contributing to market growth.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Sustainable Food Packaging Market include Amcor plc, Sealed Air Corporation, Mondi, Tetra Pak, Berry Global, Smurfit WestRock, Graphic Packaging, Huhtamaki Oyj, Ball Corporation, Sonoco Products Company, Novolex and Pactiv Evergreen.

Key Developments:

In December 2025, Mondi has teamed up with bicycle manufacturer Polana Bikes to develop a paper-based reusable packaging system, featuring Mondi's pre-made paper ProtectorBAG for bikes and their components. Mondi says its ProtectorBAG shields components like frames, handlebars, front wheels and saddles from damage such as scratches, punctures and dust during transport and storage.

In April 2025, Amcor plc announced the successful completion of its all-stock combination with Berry Global, effective. Through this combination, Amcor enhances its position as a global leader in consumer and healthcare packaging solutions with the unique material science and innovation capabilities required to revolutionize product development and meet customers' and consumers' sustainability aspirations.

In February 2025, Berry Global Group, Inc. collaborated with snacks and treats leader Mars to transition its pantry jars for M&M'S®, SKITTLES® and STARBURST® brands to 100% recycled plastic packaging, exclusive of jar lids. This achievement advances the ongoing collaboration between Berry and Mars to develop packaging made with recycled content, and builds on a previous launch of the pantry jars with 15% recycled plastic in 2022. The updated jars are now rolling out across the country.

Material Types Covered:

Biodegradable Plastics

Paper & Paperboard

Glass

Metal

Plant-based Fibers

Packaging Formats Covered:

Rigid Packaging

Flexible Packaging

Semi-Rigid Packaging

Sustainability Attributes Covered:

Compostable Packaging

Recyclable Packaging

Reusable Packaging

Reduced Carbon Footprint Packaging

Applications Covered:

Food & Beverage

Fresh Produce

Foodservice

Retail & E-commerce

End Users Covered:

Food Manufacturers

Retailers & Supermarkets

Foodservice Operators

Consumers

Regions Covered:

North America

United States

Canada

Mexico

Europe

United Kingdom

Germany

France

Italy

Spain

Netherlands

Belgium

Sweden

Switzerland

Poland

Rest of Europe

Asia Pacific

China

Japan

India

South Korea

Australia

Indonesia

Thailand

Malaysia

Singapore

Vietnam

Rest of Asia Pacific

South America

Brazil

Argentina

Colombia

Chile

Peru

Rest of South America

Rest of the World (RoW)

Middle East

Saudi Arabia

United Arab Emirates

Qatar

Israel

Rest of Middle East

Africa

South Africa

Egypt

Morocco

Rest of Africa

What our report offers:

Market share assessments for the regional and country-level segments

Strategic recommendations for the new entrants

Covers Market data for the years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2030, 2032 and 2034

Market Trends (Drivers, Constraints, Opportunities, Threats, Challenges, Investment Opportunities, and recommendations)

Strategic recommendations in key business segments based on the market estimations

Competitive landscaping mapping the key common trends

Company profiling with detailed strategies, financials, and recent developments

Supply chain trends mapping the latest technological advancements

Free Customization Offerings:

All the customers of this report will be entitled to receive one of the following free customization options:

Company Profiling

Comprehensive profiling of additional market players (up to 3)

SWOT Analysis of key players (up to 3)

Regional Segmentation

Market estimations, Forecasts and CAGR of any prominent country as per the client's interest (Note: Depends on feasibility check)

Competitive Benchmarking

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