



# UPCYCLED CERTIFIED® STANDARD

## ***DRAFT*** VERSION 3

2025

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## **The Upcycled Certified® Standard, *DRAFT* Version 3**

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## 1. Introduction

The Upcycled Certified® Standard (the Standard) is a voluntary Certification. The purpose of the Standard is to establish and maintain rigorous Certification criteria for Upcycled foods and other items which use Upcycled food inputs.

As defined by the Upcycled Foods Definition Task Force in 2020<sup>i</sup>, Upcycled foods and other items are:

- 1) Made from ingredients that would otherwise have ended up in any food waste destination<sup>1</sup>.
- 2) Value-added.
- 3) For human consumption.
- 4) Have an auditable supply chain.
- 5) Indicate which ingredients are upcycled on their labels.

The Upcycled Certified® Program (the Program):

- 1) Communicates to consumers a consistent message regarding the criteria for and value of these distinct products.
- 2) Creates a common identity for the Upcycling movement.
- 3) Serves to communicate transparency, aiming to build trust and enthusiasm about consuming food that would have otherwise been lost or wasted.

The first version of the Standard was developed and launched by the Upcycled Food Association in 2020. Today the Standard is owned and administered by Where Food Comes From, Inc., with the oversight of the Upcycled Certified Expert Committee.

## 2. Scope

The Standard outlines the criteria and methods for recognizing Upcycled ingredients, food products and other eligible items containing Upcycled food inputs through Certification. For more details on the requirements for certification see Section 3. Operators that grow, produce, manufacture, process, prepare, market and trade in eligible items (as defined throughout this Standard) may apply for the Upcycled Certified® Program.

### 2.1 Item Categories

Items eligible for Certification include, but are not limited to, the following: food and beverage, dietary supplements, companion pet food, cosmetics, personal care products, edible packaging and cutlery, and other non-durable consumer packaged goods, along with the ingredients used to produce these items.

Items seeking Certification must use Upcycled food inputs that represent the diversion of food from loss and/or waste destinations and subsequent retention in the human food (or consumable good) supply chain.<sup>ii</sup>

The following types of goods are currently ineligible for Certification:

- 1) Cigarettes, tobacco, vaping, or nicotine products.
- 2) Controlled substances or similarly restricted ingredients or products according to local, state, federal or other laws which might supersede this Standard.
- 3) Durable Goods.<sup>iii</sup>

## 3. Requirements for Certification

### 3.1 Application for Certification

The Applicant shall comply with the following requirements upon Certification enrollment:

- 1) Provide sufficient information at inquiry to inform an enrollment application and subsequent Certification scope of work.

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<sup>1</sup> See section 3.3.4 for the defining elements of food waste destinations.

- 2) Execute a signed Certification and Licensing Agreement with Where Food Comes From, Inc. to initiate the Certification process.
- 3) Payment of fees associated with the annual Certification services according to the terms of the Certification and Licensing Agreement.
- 4) Submission of documents, procedures, records, and labels for compliance review as set forth in this Standard and/or as requested during the Certification process.

### 3.2 General Information for Certification

The Applicant shall provide information about the Upcycled input(s), product(s), processing facility(ies), production practices, and product label(s), where applicable. This information shall include, but is not limited to:

- 1) Name and address of Applicant, brand owner(s), Upcycled input supplier(s), manufacturing facility(ies), and/or final packaging locations.
- 2) Name(s) of item(s) seeking Certification.
- 3) Formulation(s) of items using Upcycled inputs to the extent that the Upcycled input(s) and subsequent inclusion rates are clear.
- 4) Form and physical state(s) of Upcycled input(s).
- 5) Proof of the Upcycled input(s) diversion from food loss or waste destination.
- 6) Labels and/or specification sheets for items to be Certified.

**Note:** An Applicant producing a consumer facing item utilizing their own Upcycled input stream(s) is not required to first Certify the Upcycled input for said item to be Certified. However, in this scenario the Upcycled input itself will not be considered Certified – only the item.

### 3.3 Technical Certification Requirements

#### 3.3.1 Food Safety Status

The Applicant shall provide an Attestation<sup>2</sup> of adherence to applicable core food safety requirements and regulations related to the item(s) seeking Certification. The Attestation shall also be supported by proof of Food Safety compliance, as defined below:

- 1) Proof of Local, State or FDA regulatory compliance, GMP, GAP, HACCP, or GFSI benchmarked certifications (e.g. SQF, BRC) shall satisfy this requirement. For items not subject to the traditional food safety regulations noted prior (e.g. cosmetics, pet food, etc.), the applicable industry equivalent will be assessed.

#### 3.3.2 Upcycled Item Enrollment Designation

Any eligible items as defined by Section 2.1 may be enrolled in Certification. The Standard outlines three (3) distinct Certification designations:

- 1) Upcycled Certified Ingredient(s)
- 2) Upcycled Certified Product(s)
- 3) Upcycled Certified Minimal Content Product(s)

**Upcycled Certified Ingredients** must be composed of an aggregate of ≥95% Upcycled input(s) and meet all applicable requirements of this Standard. Items containing ≥5% processing aids and other additives shall not qualify for the designation of an Upcycled Certified Ingredient.

**Upcycled Certified Products** must be composed of an aggregate of ≥10% Upcycled input(s) OR meet

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<sup>2</sup> Attestation Requirements: Only Attestation templates supplied by Where Food Comes From, Inc. are eligible for use. The Attestation shall include the signature and the printed name of the party signing the Attestation, and the date. The party signing the Attestation shall have sufficient knowledge of the supply chain to authoritatively sign on behalf of the Applicant. If appropriate, Attestations should be accompanied by supporting documentation.

the tonnage diverted from waste threshold allowance as defined in 3.3.3 and meet all applicable requirements of this Standard. Single or multi component Upcycled inputs (Certified or not) may be used within an Item seeking certification as an Upcycled Certified Product.

**Upcycled Certified Minimal Content Products** meet all requirements set forth within this Standard but do not meet or exceed the thresholds for an aggregate of  $\geq 10\%$  Upcycled input(s) content by weight or meet the tonnage diverted threshold allowance as defined in 3.3.3. It can be assumed that Sections and requirements referring to Upcycled Certified Products extend to Upcycled Certified Minimal Content Products, unless explicitly stated within the Standard.

See Appendix A and B for examples of proper enrollment designation.

### 3.3.3 Calculating Upcycled Input(s) for Compliance

Upcycled inputs must be calculated per item to determine compliance to a specific enrollment designation. Unless otherwise specified in this Standard, calculations are made based on the following criteria:

**Upcycled Input by Weight** – the calculation of the percentage of Upcycled input(s) in an item formulation intended for Certification based on the total weight of the Upcycled input(s) as a percentage of the total item formula by weight, minus added moisture content. Upcycled inputs that are rehydrated prior to mixing may not be rehydrated beyond the hydration level at the original point of diversion from waste. Non-edible packaging, substrates, and food vehicles, such as tea bags, shall not be included as part of the total item formula by weight.

**Note:** For avoidance of doubt, if an Upcycled Certified Ingredient is being utilized in an item intended for Certification, 100% of the total weight of the Upcycled Certified Ingredient shall be counted as a percentage of the total item formula by weight.

**Upcycled Input by Tonnage Diverted from Waste** – the total annual tonnage<sup>3</sup> of Upcycled input(s) diverted from waste at the original point of diversion minus any known, consistent food loss or waste occurring *after* the original point of diversion from waste and during the production of the item(s) seeking Certification compared to annual gross sales of the item intended for Certification (see Table 1). The tonnage reported for this calculation shall be in a wet weight (if applicable).<sup>4</sup> See Section 3.3.6 for more details on this calculation.

**Note:** The Upcycled input by tonnage diverted from waste compliance pathway is not eligible for Upcycled Certified Ingredients.

For the avoidance of doubt, edible packaging will be considered an ingredient in an item, and as such, included in the ingredient evaluation for Upcycled inputs and as part of the total item formula by weight. Edible packaging cannot be enrolled independently and must be evaluated as a part of an item seeking Certification. All companion pet food, cosmetics, personal care products, edible cutlery, and other non-durable consumer packaged goods will be evaluated for the presence of Upcycled inputs per the calculations defined in this Section.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this Standard, tons are defined as US tons, where 1 ton = 2,000 lbs. Annual shall be defined as the preceding 12 months of production at the time of reporting.

<sup>4</sup> Wet weight refers to the weight of the Upcycled input including the moisture content.

**Table 1: Minimum Thresholds for Upcycled Input(s) by Tonnage Diverted from Waste Per Gross Item Sales**

Annual Gross Item Sales <sup>5</sup>	Upcycled Certified Ingredient	Upcycled Certified Product		
Tier 1: <\$2 million Annual Gross Item Sales	≥95% of the content by weight shall be formulated from Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>	≥10% of the content by weight shall be formulated from Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>	<b>OR</b>	Annual Upcycled Certified Product production results in ≥5 tons/year of Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>
Tier 2: \$2-\$5 million Annual Gross Item Sales	≥95% of the content by weight shall be formulated from Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>	≥10% of the content by weight shall be formulated from Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>	<b>OR</b>	Annual Upcycled Certified Product production results in ≥10 tons/year of Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>
Tier 3: \$5-\$25 million Annual Gross Item Sales	≥95% of the content by weight shall be formulated from Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>	≥10% of the content by weight shall be formulated from Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>	<b>OR</b>	Annual Upcycled Certified Product production results in ≥25 tons/year of Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>
Tier 4: \$25-\$50 million Annual Gross Item Sales	≥95% of the content by weight shall be formulated from Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>	≥10% of the content by weight shall be formulated from Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>	<b>OR</b>	Annual Upcycled Certified Product production results in ≥100 tons/year of Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>
Tier 5: >\$50 million Annual Gross Item Sales	≥95% of the content by weight shall be formulated from Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>	≥10% of the content by weight shall be formulated from Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>	<b>OR</b>	Annual Upcycled Certified Product production results in ≥200 tons/year of Upcycled input(s). <sup>i,ii</sup>

See Appendix A and B for examples of how to calculate the percentage of Upcycled input(s) by weight.

### 3.3.4 Proof of Upcycling Activity

The Applicant shall provide proof that the Upcycled input was originally produced for use in human food and would have otherwise gone to a food loss or waste destination and identify those destination(s).

For the purposes of this Standard, recognized food loss or waste destinations are:<sup>6</sup>

- 1) Landfill
- 2) Sewer/wastewater
- 3) Refuse/discard
- 4) Unharvested crops
- 5) Land application
- 6) Controlled combustion
- 7) Composting/aerobic digestion

<sup>5</sup> Annual gross item sales shall be the preceding 12 months of item-specific sales upon date of Certification application or renewal. In the absence of actual item sales data due to enrollment prior to launch, market forecasts, sales projections, or extrapolated data may be used to inform these calculations. In this instance, actual sales will be required to be reported at the first annual renewal to compare and adjust compliance parameters accordingly.

<sup>6</sup> Further reference for defining food loss and waste streams can be found here, [Food Loss and Waste Protocol](#),<sup>iv</sup> specifically in Table 6.1. Please note that in the case of a perceived conflict between the Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard V1.0 as referenced here and the Upcycled Certified Standard V3, the Upcycled Certified Standard V3 takes precedence.

- 8) Co-digestion/anaerobic digestion
- 9) Biochemical processing (to produce Durable Goods)
- 10) Livestock feed

Both the original producer of the Upcycled input and the Applicant must provide information and records supporting the proof of diversion from waste.

- 1) An Attestation<sup>2</sup> for each Upcycled input shall be provided, including the input name, description, input source, physical state at receipt, total US tons sourced in the past 12 months, and previous waste destination.
- 2) An Attestation<sup>2</sup> shall confirm the weight ratio of each Upcycled input from receipt at the point of diversion from waste to final use in the finished item (*e.g. it takes X pounds of the original Upcycled input to make X pounds of the finished Upcycled input used in the Certified item(s)*).
- 3) An Attestation<sup>2</sup> shall confirm the percentage/tonnage of the Upcycled input previously going to waste, the percentage/tonnage now being diverted from waste, and/or if any of the input was previously going to a lower value market, but not a true waste destination as defined in Section 3.3.2 of this Standard to enable accurate tonnage diverted accounting.
- 4) Applicant shall provide proof of diversion from waste for each Upcycled input. Records to prove diversion from waste include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Bill of lading, paid invoice, receiving log, production reports, waste records, contractual agreements, and/or additional records that clearly demonstrate a physical diversion of the Upcycled input from a waste destination.
  - b. If the records provided do not clearly indicate the previous waste destination, a written statement from the source of origin of the Upcycled input may be submitted to confirm the prior waste destination(s). Where Food Comes From, Inc. shall have the final authority in determining whether the statement meets the requirements for proof of waste diversion.
  - c. If an Upcycled Certified item is being sourced, proof of diversion is not necessary to provide. An Upcycled Certified Certificate of Approval in good standing<sup>7</sup> listing the specific item Certified, its eligibility for use as a Upcycled Certified Ingredient, and a record proving receipt of the Certified item is sufficient for compliance with this Section.

### 3.3.5 Upcycled Input Traceability

Applicant shall provide traceability documents/procedures/records for the item(s) seeking Certification.

- 1) Applicant shall demonstrate the ability to trace Upcycled inputs from receipt through to the finished item(s) seeking Certification.
- 2) Applicant shall provide chain of custody evidence that the Upcycled input has been transferred to the Applicant, is preserved throughout storage, transportation, and production, and is present in the item(s) seeking Certification.

### 3.3.6 Food Loss and Waste Impact Calculation

Applicant shall provide information to assess where, and the degree to which, known, consistent food loss or waste occurs *after* the original point of diversion from waste and during the production of the item(s) seeking Certification. For the purposes of this Standard, this type of waste shall be referred to as Secondary Waste.

Waste that occurs during manufacturing processes due to the creation of by-product that is unused is the most common form of Secondary Waste. Inconsistent or accidental activities that result in waste, such as batch errors, improper storage, product expiration, or transportation failures will not be considered Secondary Waste.

Information, attestations<sup>2</sup>, and records used to inform the Food Loss and Waste Impact Calculation shall:

- 1) Identify areas where Secondary Waste occurs during manufacturing of the item(s) seeking Certification and the causes of that food loss and waste.

<sup>7</sup> An Upcycled Certified Certificate of Approval is considered in good standing if it has not yet reached the listed expiration date or is accompanied by a written Letter of Affirmation on Where Food Comes From, Inc. letterhead indicating the item is undergoing renewal and remains in good standing.



- 2) Provide the total annual tonnage of the Secondary Waste incurred during manufacturing of the item(s) seeking Certification<sup>5</sup>. The tonnage reported for this calculation shall be in a wet weight<sup>4</sup>, (if applicable).

**Note:** Relevant data and/or metrics collected to measure Secondary Waste generated, such as but not limited to % yield, may be relevant to report in certain situations.

Items determined to have net negative<sup>8</sup> food loss and waste tonnage impact cannot achieve Certification.

### 3.4 Certification Decision

Items submitted for review and found in compliance with all applicable sections of this Standard will be issued a Certificate of Approval noting the item name, brand name, certification designation, approval date, and expiration date.

Only Certified items with a valid Certificate of Approval and with an Executed Service and Licensing Agreement in good standing are eligible to use the Upcycled Certified trademark per the terms of Section 5.0 of this Standard and the Upcycled Certified Brand Guidelines.<sup>9</sup>

- 1) For the purposes of this Standard, Applicants who successfully achieve Certification on at least one item will be referred to as Participants thereafter for as long as they retain at least one Certified item in good standing.

## 4. Quality Assurance

### 4.1 Quality Assurance

Each Certified Participant shall execute a quality assurance and quality control program as needed to assure compliance with this Standard. Conformity with the requirements of the Participant's own Quality Management System and this Standard shall be reviewed, as appropriate, to ensure items Certified under this Standard consistently meet the requirements.

All documents involved with demonstrating compliance with this Standard shall be retained by the certified operation for a minimum of three (3) years from the date of their generation.

### 4.2 Non-Compliance and Corrective Action

A non-compliance is the failure to comply with the requirements of the Standard, or failure to take corrective action in the event of a deviation from requirements. A non-compliance may be classified as major or minor depending on the systemic nature of the offense and/or the significance of the non-compliance. Non-compliances can only occur after Certification has been achieved.

- 1) Minor Non-Compliance: A non-conformity that is immaterial or does not pose a compliance threat to the relevant Upcycled input(s) or Certified item.
- 2) Major Non-Compliance: A systemic non-conformity that could affect the compliance of an Upcycled input(s) or Certified item.

In the event a non-compliance is identified, the Participant will be notified in writing and required, at its own expense, to undertake corrective action to ensure that the Upcycled input(s) or Certified item comply with Standard requirements. The Participant shall have 30 days to submit corrective action plans and evidence of implementation.

### 4.3 Withdrawal or Suspension of Certification

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<sup>8</sup> Net food loss and waste tonnage is calculated by subtracting the Secondary Waste from the total, annual tonnage of waste diverted at the initial point of diversion.

<sup>9</sup> The Upcycled Certified Brand Guidelines is a controlled document with versioning maintained independent of this Standard.

#### 4.3.1 Withdrawal

The Participant is responsible for maintaining continuing compliance with the requirements of this Standard for Certification. Withdrawal is the formal removal of an item from Certification, either voluntarily or by the Certifying Body. Withdrawal typically occurs due to non-conformance with the Standards, failure to meet requirements, or a request from the Participant. Once withdrawn, the certification is no longer valid, and the entity may no longer claim or display certification status as per licensing agreement.

A Participant may Withdraw from Certification at any time but shall maintain compliance with the applicable terms of any service or licensing agreements which remain in effect. If a Participant chooses to Withdraw an item from Certification or an Applicant an item from seeking Certification, the responsible party must submit the request for Withdrawal in writing. Upon receipt and processing, a Withdrawal Letter will be issued confirming the item(s) to be Withdrawn, including the effective date of the Withdrawal and any subsequent certification or labeling actions necessary. See Upcycled Certified Brand Guidelines<sup>9</sup> for specific label disposal requirements for Withdrawn items.

#### 4.3.2 Suspension

A Participant may be Suspended from Certification if they have failed to maintain compliance to the Standard or have otherwise violated the terms of the Standard, or any service or licensing agreement. Upon failure to comply with any of the requirements of this Standard, failure to undertake necessary corrective action, failure to renew per the terms of Section 3.7, failure to pay fees associated with certification, or any other failure to maintain compliance, licensing or trademark integrity, a letter of Suspension will be issued notifying the Participant of the nature of the failure and the resulting certification and labeling actions necessary. See Upcycled Certified Brand Guidelines<sup>9</sup> for specific label disposal requirements for Suspended items.

#### 4.4 Certification Renewal

Certification is an annual process and shall be renewed every twelve months. Re-certification is contingent on the submission of renewal documentation and the successful completion of a technical review based on current Standard requirements. Renewal may be initiated up to 90 days in advance of the Certification Expiration Date to ensure timely processing.

- 1) Certificates of Approval exceeding 30 days passed their Certification Expiration Date are considered in a Hold status and are not eligible for a Letter of Affirmation<sup>7</sup>.
- 2) Certified items unable to complete renewal within 120 days of the Certification Expiration Date will be Suspended per Section 4.3.2.
- 3) The next expiration date of a Certified Item is 12 months from the previous expiration date, regardless of when a renewal process is completed.<sup>10</sup>

At renewal, Participants must report the total US tons of Upcycled input(s) sourced in the past 12 months, any Secondary Waste incurred in the production of the Certified item(s) in the past 12 months, and any changes in processes, procedures, Upcycled input(s), Upcycled input supplier(s), item formulations, item labels or manufacturing facilities as defined in Section 3.3.

#### 4.5 Standard Revisions and Guidance

Unless otherwise specified within the Standard or published Guidance documents, Participants must come into compliance with any Standard revision by the time of their next renewal, but no sooner than 180 days from the Standard publication date.

### 5. Claims and Logo Use

Upon successful Certification achievement, as defined in Section 3.4, Participants will be eligible to use the Upcycled Certified trademark(s) and associated romance language, per the Upcycled Certified Brand Guidelines<sup>9</sup> and associated service and licensing agreement.

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<sup>10</sup> When a previously withdrawn or terminated item is re-enrolled, a new Certification Expiration Date will be established.

All labelling claims must be truthful, accurate, and follow program guidelines. A full list of trademark guidelines and details on the process for requesting claims and logo-use approval are available in the Upcycled Certified Brand Guidelines<sup>9</sup>.

## 6. Definitions

**Attestation:** A template supplied by Where Food Comes From, Inc., whereby the Applicant or Participant can complete a written and signed statement confirming specific characteristics of a given ingredient, item, system, process, or operation.

**Applicant:** An entity that is pursuing the enrollment of items for Certification.

**Audit/review:** A systematic evaluation to determine if programs and related activities achieve planned expectations, including the review or challenging of a written program, inspection observations, documentation of activities, corrective actions, and trends to determine the correlations between documented procedures and activities and actual execution.

**Certification:** Formal, written assurance that an item is in conformity with the Standards.

**Companion Pet Food:** Plant or animal material intended for consumption by pets in a domestic setting such as, but not limited to, cats or dogs.

**Corrective Action:** a process of identifying, addressing, and preventing the recurrence of a non-compliance. It involves determining the root cause of the issue, implementing solutions to resolve it, and taking steps to ensure it does not happen again.

**Cosmetics:** “Articles intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body... for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance.” Included in this definition are products such as skin moisturizers, perfumes, lipsticks, fingernail polishes, eye and facial makeup preparations, shampoos, permanent waves, hair colors, toothpastes, and deodorants, as well as any material intended for use as a component of a cosmetic product.<sup>v</sup>

**Designation (Designating):** The process of categorizing an Upcycled Certified Ingredient, Upcycled Certified Product, and/or Upcycled Certified Minimal Content Product in accordance with this Standard.

**Durable Goods:** Tangible products that can be stored or inventoried and that have an average shelf life of at least three years.<sup>iii</sup>

**Food Loss and Waste:** Food and/or associated inedible parts removed from the food supply chain such as, but not limited to, biomaterial/processing, compost/anaerobic process, landfill, not harvested/plowed in, and animal feed.<sup>iv</sup>

**Input(s):** Any food material, product, or byproduct of food production, or portion within, diverted from, but not limited to, an agricultural, aquaculture, or food production setting, that would typically be destined for a food loss or waste destination, that instead is used in the production of an ingredient or Consumer Good.

**Major Non-Compliance:** A systemic non-conformity that could affect the compliance of an Upcycled input(s) or Certified item.

**Manufacture or Manufacturing:** All operations associated with the production of items seeking Certification. This includes but is not limited to production, preparation, packaging, labelling, testing, and quality control of Upcycled food inputs or items seeking Certification.

**Mark:** A registered label or symbol that is used to indicate to consumers that a particular good and/or service has met certain standards.

**Minor Non-Compliance:** A non-conformity that is immaterial or does not pose a compliance threat to the relevant Upcycled input(s) or Certified item.

**Non-Compliance:** A failure by the Participant to comply with the requirements of the Standard, or failure to take corrective action in the event of a deviation from requirements. A non-compliance may be classified as Major or Minor depending on the systemic nature of the offense and/or the significance of the non-compliance.

**Non-Durable Goods:** Tangible products that can be stored or inventoried and that have an average life of less than three years. These products are intended for immediate use or consumption over a short period of time. Such products may be ingestible (i.e., food or dietary supplements), or used in other ways in the household (cleaning products, personal care products, pet food, cooking aids). Non-durable goods include, but are not limited to, disposable tableware, clothing, and paper.<sup>vi</sup>

**Original Producer:** The origin of an Input and the point at which it is diverted from waste, such as, but not limited to, a farm or production facility.<sup>iv</sup>

**Participants:** Applicants who have successfully achieved Certification on at least one item and retain at least one Certified item in good standing.

**Secondary Waste:** Known, consistent food loss or waste that occurs *after* the original point of diversion from waste and during the production of the item(s) seeking Certification.

**Upcycled Certified Expert Committee:** The Expert Committee serves to bring robust subject matter expertise to inform meaningful feedback and guidance on the content and application of a Standard, analyze anonymized, aggregated participant data, public comments, and market trends during Standard revisions, and provide independent recommendations and/or guidance related to Standard updates.

**Upcycled Foods/Items:** Value-added items intended for human consumption made from ingredients that would otherwise have ended up in any food waste destination, have an auditable supply chain, and indicate upcycled ingredients on their labels, where applicable.

**Upcycled Certified Ingredient:** Items composed of an aggregate of  $\geq 95\%$  Upcycled input(s) and meet all applicable requirements of this Standard. Items containing  $\geq 5\%$  processing aids and other additives shall not qualify for the designation of a Certified Upcycled Ingredient.

**Upcycled Certified Minimal Content Product:** Items that meet all requirements set forth within this Standard but do not meet or exceed the thresholds for an aggregate of  $\geq 10\%$  Upcycled input(s) content by weight or meet the tonnage diverted threshold allowance as defined in 3.3.3.

**Upcycled Certified Product:** Items composed of an aggregate of  $\geq 10\%$  Upcycled input(s) OR meet the tonnage diverted from waste threshold allowance as defined in 3.3.3 and meet all applicable requirements of this Standard. Single or multi component Upcycled inputs (Certified or not) may be used within an Item seeking certification as an Upcycled Certified Product.

**Withdraw:** the formal removal of an item from Certification, either voluntarily or by the Certifying Body.

## 7. Normative References

<sup>i</sup> “Defining Upcycled Foods: A Definition for Use across Industry, Government, and Academia.” *Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation*, CHLPI: The Upcycled Foods Definition Task Force, 2020, [chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Upcycled-Food\\_Definition.pdf](https://chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Upcycled-Food_Definition.pdf). Accessed Jan. 2025.

<sup>ii</sup> “SDG Target 12.3 on Food Loss and Waste: 2024 Progress Report.” *Champions 12.3*, World Resources Institute, 2024, [champions123.org/2024-progress-report/challenge-opportunity](https://champions123.org/2024-progress-report/challenge-opportunity). Accessed Jan. 2025.

<sup>iii</sup> “Durable Goods | U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).” *BEA*, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 13 Apr. 2018, [www.bea.gov/help/glossary/durable-goods](https://www.bea.gov/help/glossary/durable-goods). Accessed Jan. 2025.

<sup>iv</sup> “The FLW Standard - Food Loss & Waste (FLW) Protocol, Standard and Guidance.” *Food Loss and Waste Protocol*, World Resources Institute, 2021, [flwprotocol.org/flw-standard/](https://flwprotocol.org/flw-standard/). Accessed Jan. 2025.

<sup>v</sup> “Cosmetics & U.S. Law.” *U.S. Food and Drug Administration*, May 2024, [www.fda.gov/cosmetics/cosmetics-laws-regulations/cosmetics-us-law](https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/cosmetics-laws-regulations/cosmetics-us-law). Accessed Jan. 2025.

<sup>vi</sup> “Nondurable Goods | U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).” *BEA*, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 13 Apr. 2018, [www.bea.gov/help/glossary/nondurable-goods](https://www.bea.gov/help/glossary/nondurable-goods). Accessed Jan. 2025.

## Appendix A

### A.1 Calculations for Percent Upcycled input(s) by weight

The calculation of the percentage of Upcycled input(s) in an item formulation is based on the total weight of the Upcycled input(s) as a percentage of the total item formula by weight. Added moisture content shall not be included in this calculation. Non-edible packaging materials, substrates and other non-edible vehicles, such as tea bags, non-ingestibles, and wipes, shall not be included as part of the formulated weight of the item seeking Certification.

**Example 1:** 50 lbs of potato skins are discarded at a manufacturer that produces packaged mashed potatoes. Instead of composting them, the potato skins are dried and ground into a flour weighing 20 lbs. This flour is purchased to be used in an item seeking Certification. The weight of the final batch is 200 lbs. For the weight calculations, this batch of pancake mix is considered to have 10% Inputs, calculated as the weight (20 lbs) of the potato flour at the point of mixing divided by the weight (200 lbs) of the final item.

$$\frac{20 \text{ lbs of Upcycled potato flour}}{200 \text{ lbs pancake mix}} = 10\% \text{ Upcycled input(s) by weight}$$

**Example 2:** 100 lbs of grape pomace from a winery is diverted from compost and instead sold to an ingredient manufacturer. The pomace is processed to remove the seeds from the stems and skins. The seeds (50 lbs) are dried and ground into a flour (30 lbs) with the remaining 10 lbs attributed to moisture content loss and an additional 10 lbs being composted. This resulting grape seed flour is used as an Upcycled input in a batch of packaged cookies seeking Certification. The final batch of cookies at the point of mixing weighs 210 lbs., however 10 of those pounds are from added moisture content, which is excluded from the calculation. For the purpose of the weight calculations, these cookies are considered to have 15% Upcycled input(s), calculated as the weight (30 lbs) of grape seed flour divided by the weight of the final item (200 lbs), excluding any added moisture content.

$$\frac{30 \text{ lbs of Upcycled grape seeds}}{200 \text{ lbs cookies}} = 15\% \text{ Upcycled input(s) by weight}$$

**Example 3:** 50 lbs of potato skins are regularly composted at a manufacturer that produces packaged mashed potatoes. Instead of composting them, the potato skins are dried and ground into a flour weighing 20 lbs total with the remaining 30 lbs attributed to moisture content loss. This potato skin flour is sold for use in an item seeking Certification. This potato skin flour is combined with 10 lbs. of Upcycled Certified spent grain flour and other additional ingredients to create a packaged muffin mix. The weight of the final batch is 200 lbs. For the percentage by weight calculations, this batch of pancake mix is considered to have 15% Upcycled inputs by weight, calculated as the sum of the weight (20 lbs) of the potato flour and spent grain (10 lbs.) divided by the weight (200 lbs) of the final item.

$$\frac{20 \text{ lbs of Upcycled potato flour} + 10 \text{ lbs Upcycled spent grain flour}}{200 \text{ lbs pancake mix}} = 15\% \text{ Upcycled input(s) by weight}$$

## Appendix B

### B.1 Calculations for Tonnage Diverted

The calculation for tonnage diverted shall be based on the US tons (ton = 2,000 lbs) of input(s) diverted from waste over the 12 months preceding the date of initial application for Certification or Certification renewal. The weight of the Upcycled input(s) shall include moisture content lost in later processing steps such as drying or baking, provided that such moisture content loss is documented on chain of custody documentation as specified in Section 3.3.5.

**Example 1:** 35 tons of blueberry pomace has historically been composted. Instead of composting, it is now dried then milled for inclusion as a functional ingredient within a skin cream. The yield of dried, milled pomace is 10 tons. The tonnage at the original point of diversion from waste is 35 tons even though the final weight of the milled pomace is 10 tons. The Applicant/Participant reports \$9.75 million in annual sales from the skin cream in the past year, putting them in the “Tier 3 Product” category (See Table 1). This tonnage diverted because of yearly production of the skin cream exceeds the threshold and therefore is eligible for Certification via the Tonnage Diverted pathway, assuming all other Certification criteria are met.

**Example 2:** 15 tons of juicing pomace including carrot, apple, and kale have historically been discarded to landfill. Instead of sending it to the landfill, the juice pomace is dried and ground into a powder for inclusion in a dog treat seeking Certification. The final juice powder makes up 3% of the treat by weight which does not meet or exceed the percentage threshold of  $\geq 10\%$  by weight for Certification as an Upcycled Certified Product. The Applicant/Participant reports \$4.25 million in annual sales from the treat in the past year, putting them in the “Tier 2 Product” category (See Table 1). This tonnage diverted because of yearly production of the treats exceeds the threshold and therefore is eligible for Certification via the Tonnage Diverted pathway, assuming all other Certification criteria are met.