

UKTEA &
INFUSIONS
ASSOCIATION



UKTIA's Sustainability Committee

2nd March 2021

Introduction – UKTIA

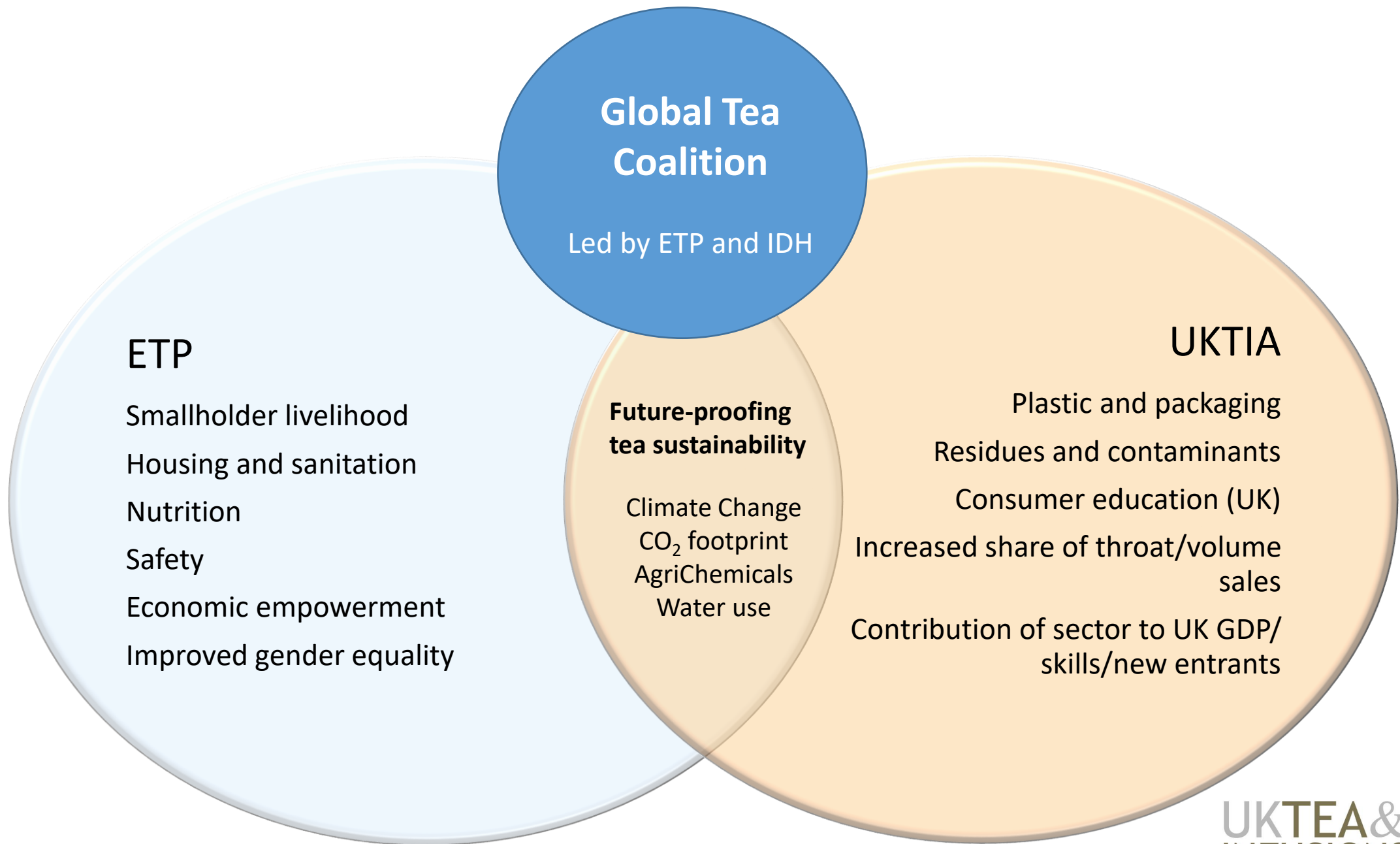
- 1966- 2005 The Tea Council Ltd.
- 2005 - Merger of the Tea Council and UK Tea Association to form the United Kingdom Tea Association Ltd.
- 2014 Merged with UK Herbal Infusions Association to form the United Kingdom Tea & Infusions Association (UKTIA) Ltd.

Discussing Sustainability in the Tea Industry

Historically no specific focus on Sustainability within UKTIA.

In June 2019, the membership came together to discuss which areas UKTIA should focus on and this resulted in the creation of a new Sustainability Committee in January 2020. The remit:

- Support members in their efforts to drive sustainability, with a **focus on what happens at the UK end of the supply chain.**
- Support the work of others e.g., ETP, RFA, Fair Trade, UEBT, etc. on resilience at origin. Presenting a united industry voice.
- Provide technical expertise from the regulatory and policy landscape and other international sources to support specific areas of sustainability work.
- To liaise with the UKTIA Technical Operating Group.
- To focus on national policy priorities e.g., plastics and packaging, Net Zero targets, adoption of Renewable Energy.
- To deliver national activities that promote share of throat for teas and herbal infusions.

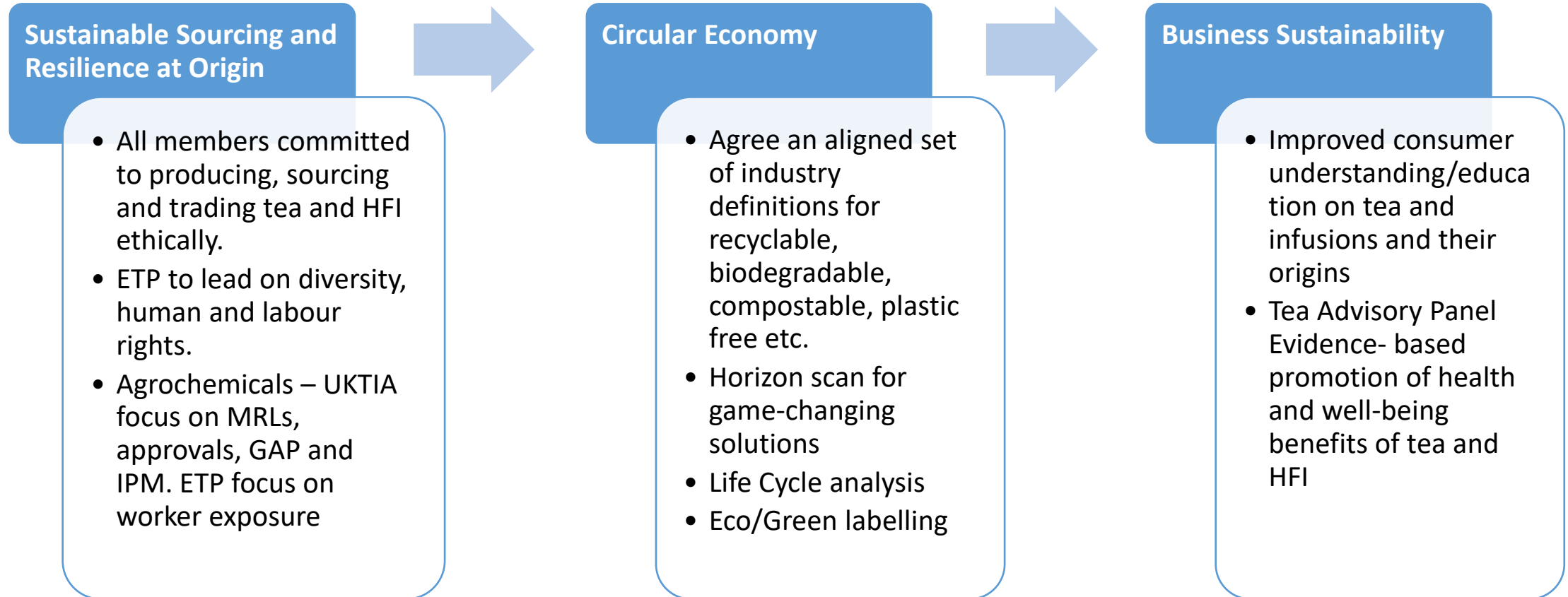


Global Tea Coalition – Three Pillars

ETP and IDH are leading on the development of the GTC under three pillars:

- **EQUALITY:** Developing empowered, safe tea communities with good opportunities for women and young people. OR Champion equality, empowerment and inclusion so all in tea communities are safe and have equal opportunity to progress and uphold a culture of zero tolerance on harassment and discrimination.
- **ENVIRONMENT:** Achieving a carbon neutral tea sector which does not contribute to deforestation and where estates and farmers are resilient to climate change.
- **ECONOMIC LIVING WAGES AND LIVELIHOODS:** Improving the economic sustainability of the industry so that everyone involved in producing tea in our supply chains has good livelihoods, workers earn a living wage and farmers a living income.

Sustainability across the Tea Supply Chain

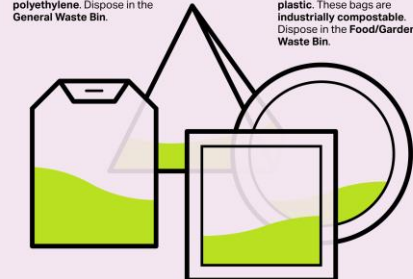


What's in a tea bag?



The bag is sometimes sealed with a type of plastic, typically polypropylene or polyethylene. Dispose in the General Waste Bin.

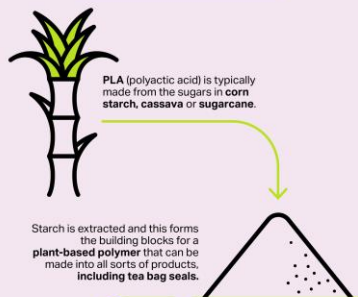
Increasingly bags are sealed with polyactic acid - PLA, a renewable plant-based plastic. These bags are industrially compostable. Dispose in the Food/Garden Waste Bin.



Tea bags can be made of conventional plastics such as nylon or PET. Dispose in the General Waste Bin.

Some are made completely from plant-based materials, such as cotton, or biodegradable paper stitched together with cotton. Dispose in the Food/Garden Waste Bin.

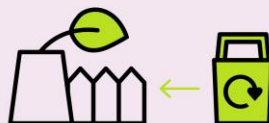
What is PLA?



PLA is preferable mainly because:



PLA tea bags that are industrially composted breakdown into naturally occurring substances such as gases (CO₂), water vapour and organic material.



Compost can be used to enrich soil in farm fields and gardens



How to dispose of tea bags

Once you have made your cup of tea there are a number of ways you can dispose of your tea bag.



Tea bags sealed with plant-based plastic (e.g. PLA), or labelled as biodegradable, can be placed in the Food/Garden Waste Bin.



Tea bags with traditional oil-based plastic seals, should be placed in the General Waste Bin.



Or, you can tear open the bag and empty the tea leaves on a garden compost heap. Please dispose of the bag in the appropriate bin.

Tea bags are changing for the better.

Your tea will always taste great and you can join us in helping to protect the environment by disposing of teabags responsibly.

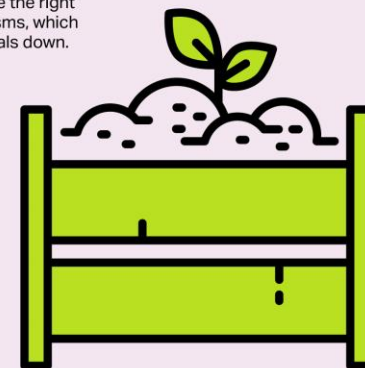
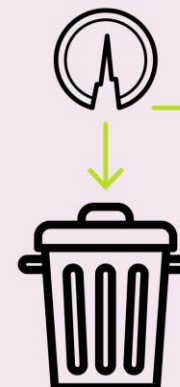
Can I put tea bags on my garden compost heap?



In cooler countries like the UK, home composters do not always reach the temperature needed to breakdown a whole tea bag.

Effective home composting, e.g. on a heap in your garden or a specially designed composting bin, can only be achieved in climatic conditions that promote the right balance of microorganisms, which are able to break materials down.

Bags should be disposed of separately.



You can rip your tea bag open and empty the tea onto your compost heap. Please dispose of the tea bag tissue appropriately.



Work done so far

- Focus on plastic in tea bags.
- Industry definitions document seeking industry alignment on terms such a biodegradable, compostable, plastic-free. A living document.
- Guidance on recycling labelling - Eco/Green labelling racing up the agenda in the UK and EU.
- 2020, our European Association (THIE) started a Plastics and Packaging Working Group. Through this group we are reviewing our UKTIA definitions document and labelling guidance from a European perspective. Working together to seek wider alignment.
- Focus within our Sustainability Committee now widening to discussions on renewable energy, Net Zero targets, life cycle analysis.

THIE Steering Group on the EU Green Deal

- We have reviewed each policy area (CEAP, Sustainable Industry, Biodiversity, Farm to Fork, Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Neutrality) and identified objectives relevant to the tea & HFI sector.
- Plotted where we should lead or where we should contribute to the work of others (e.g. FDE).
- Example objectives where we have sector-specific deliverables
 - Requirements to Reduce Packaging Waste
 - Reduce chemical pesticides use by 50%
 - EU uses 66% Renewable Energy
 - Product Life-Cycle-Assessments / Carbon Footprints
 - Green labelling of consumer products, CO₂, biodegradable, compostable etc.,
 - All of the world's ecosystems are restored, resilient, and adequately protected

Equivalent policy drivers in the UK

UKTIA Renewable Energy benchmark

- As a platform to engage on Renewable Energy/Net Zero objectives (UK and EU) we agreed to survey members on current use and plans to adopt Renewable Energy.
- This also to support consumer engagement project on reducing energy consumption.
- Media drivers – increased tea consumption during lockdown linked to increased energy use in the home.
- To be in a position to communicate with our consumers on energy use and the positives of switching to renewable energy, we first want to understand the industry position.