GME
GELATINE MANUFACTURERS OF EUROPE

GME - Gelatine Manufacturers of Europe - Members

CARBON FOOTPRINT OF GELATINE AND COLLAGEN PEPTIDES

As part of its commitment to sustainable development, Gelatine Manufacturers of Europe (GME) initiated a project to assess the development of the carbon footprint of gelatine and collagen peptides produced by its members over the period 2006–2025.

Scope:

To ensure representative results, the assessment was conducted with the participation of all GME members and covered all raw material types and processing methods.

The study was carried out by an independent consultancy in accordance with international standards for life cycle assessment (ISO 14040/44:2006). It also took account of recent international developments in carbon footprinting, including the GHG Protocol of the WRI and WBCSD, the British carbon footprint specification PAS 2050 and Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) guidance.

Cradle-to-gate and gate-to-gate principles:

GME's assessment adopted a cradle-to-gate approach for gelatine and collagen peptides. The carbon footprint therefore represents total greenhouse gas emissions, expressed in CO_2 equivalents, from the production and processing of raw materials through to the final production and packaging of gelatine and collagen peptides by GME members.

The cradle-to-gate assessment showed that the agricultural raw material supply chain accounts for a significant share of the overall carbon footprint of gelatine and collagen peptides.
The animal husbandry sector has taken significant steps to better understand and reduce its carbon footprint, thereby also helping to reduce the overall carbon footprint of gelatine and collagen peptides. However, this contribution has not been quantified in the GME study. By creating added value from by-products of the meat and fish processing industries, GME members also contribute to these industries' sustainability and to the circular economy.

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As these upstream emissions are outside GME members' control, a further assessment was conducted using a gate-to-gate approach, excluding the raw material supply chain.

Results (gate-to-gate approach):

Carbon Footprint:

The results show a 20 % reduction in the carbon footprint between 2006 and 2025, excluding emissions from the raw material supply chain.

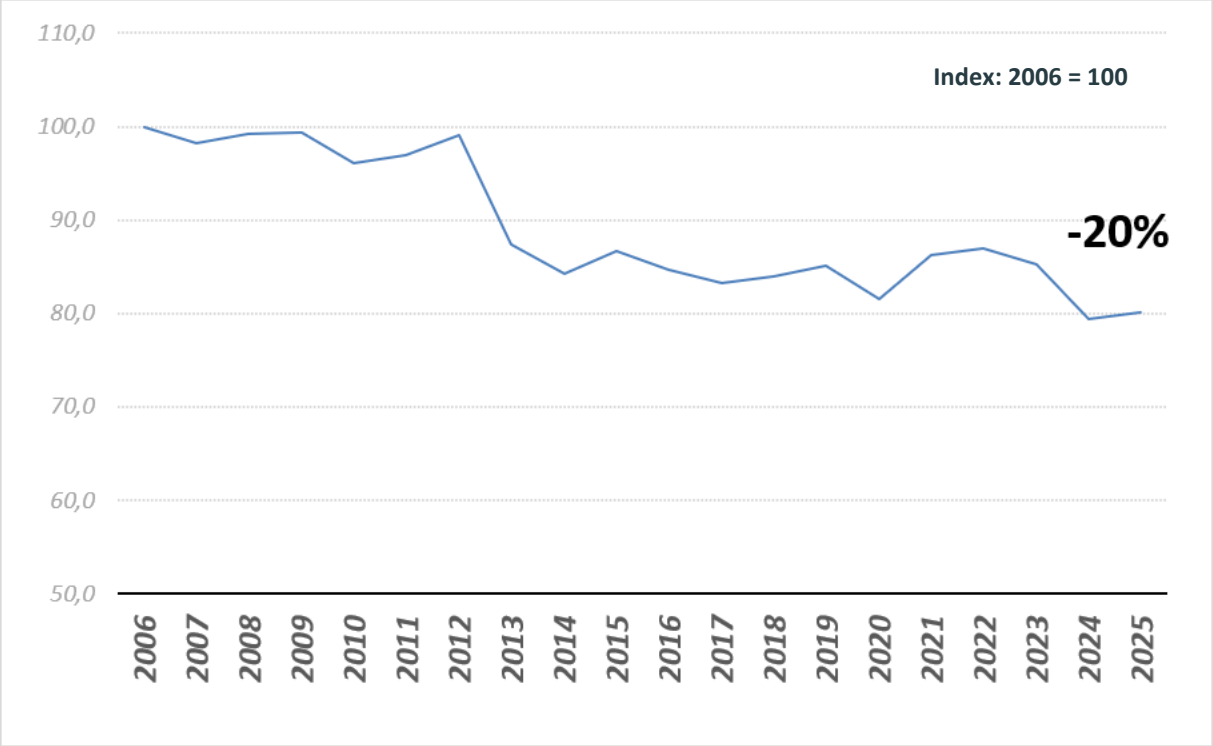


Figure 1: *Weighted average carbon footprint per kg of gelatine and collagen peptides, excluding raw materials (supply chain), of gelatine and collagen peptides between 2006 and 2025 (relative to the total value of 2006 = 100); economic allocation based on 2023-2025 average prices.*

Changes in the carbon footprint are sensitive to the quality of the available raw materials, which affects the yields (amount of collagen present in the raw material for extraction). However, this aspect is largely influenced by general market conditions beyond GME members' control.

The carbon footprint increased by 1 % in 2025 compared with 2024. Year-on-year changes reflect shifts in the energy mix, market conditions and/or product portfolio.

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Energy consumption:

The 2006 to 2025 results show a continuous reduction in energy consumption in the last years with a total reduction of 31 % and reduced by 11 % compared to 2024.

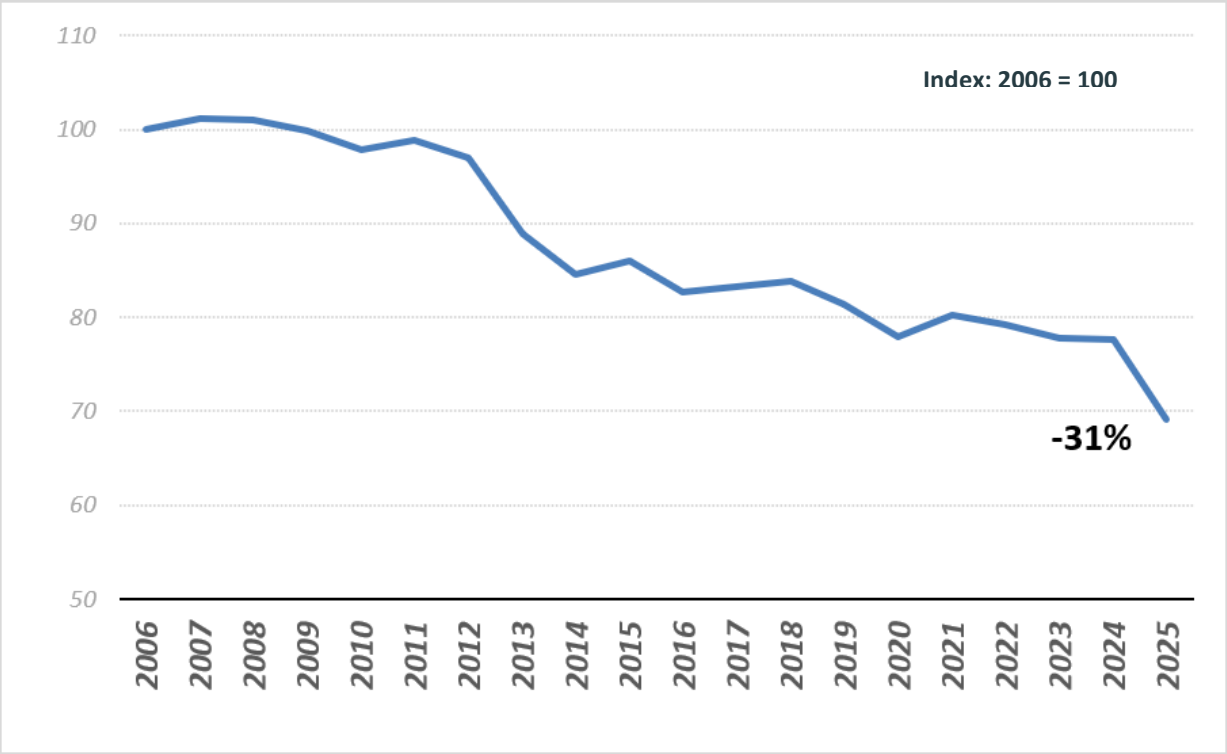


Figure 2*: Weighted average energy use per kg of gelatine and collagen peptides, of GME members between 2006 and 2025 (relative to the total value of 2006 = 100); economic allocation based on 2023-2025 average prices.*

These reductions demonstrate GME members' commitment to continuously improving energy efficiency.

GME members continue to work towards greater process efficiency and have agreed to monitor changes in energy use and carbon footprint in the coming years.

Validation period: until 31 December 2027.

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