GME
GELATINE MANUFACTURERS OF EUROPE

GME - Gelatine Manufacturers of Europe - Members

WATER 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. The results are available in a separate statement.
To enlarge the insight, GME decided in 2016 to include a water footprint project covering the same period.

Scope:
The assessment was made with the cooperation of all GME members and includes all different types of raw materials and all types of processing.

To better understand the water footprint of the gelatine production process, the assessment used both the ReCiPe 2016 water depletion method and the Available WAter REmaining (AWARE) method.

Methodology and background data:
The impact of water from gelatine and collagen peptides production is calculated in a similar way as the carbon footprint: using economic allocation to distribute the impact of water use to the different co-products (based on 2023-2025 average prices).
For this, the framework used for the GME carbon footprint project was adopted to use the water use impact category (Recipe 2016 method) and Available Water REmaining (AWARE) method instead of the CO_2 impact factors. All the same system boundaries and methodological assumptions apply.

Cradle-to-gate and gate-to-gate principle:
As upstream water consumption associated with the raw material supply chain is outside GME members' control, the assessment excludes this stage and follows a gate-to-gate approach.

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EU transparency register n°64879142323-90

Results (gate-to-gate principle):

Water Footprint:

The results show a 26.3% reduction in the water depletion footprint between 2006 and 2025, excluding the raw material supply chain.



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

In 2025, the water depletion impact decreased by 4.4% compared with 2024, excluding the raw material supply chain. This improvement was mainly attributable to reduced on-site water use.

Changes over the years are resulting from changes in energy mix, market and/or product portfolio.

Validation period: until 31 December 2027.

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