

# SUSTAINABILITY GUIDE FOR COMPANIES

Why make your business sustainable?

What are the benefits?

And above all, where to start?

We answer you here !



# INTRODUCTION



Today, climate change and excessive contamination of our environment are increasingly alerting us to the consequences of our consumption patterns and the globalization of our society. Faced with the warning of scientists, we are increasingly led to consider our environment and governments around the world continue to come together to find agreements and solutions. Emission reduction and carbon neutrality targets promise a future below 2 degrees of global warming. Efforts to respect the environment have never been more important than today.

However, 25 years after defining Sustainable Development for the first time, this concept defines the idea of a world that can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, remains a concept that is struggling to be integrated into our society. Companies, as an integral part of the solution, are becoming increasingly aware of their weight and influence on society. Although in some countries legislation helps companies meet environmental standards, making your business sustainable can sometimes be a difficult project to visualize and implement.

Through this report, we will see that valuing the environmental dimension within a company not only allows to comply with the law, but brings many benefits. After explaining the concept of sustainability, the reasons and the benefits of including it at the heart of a company, this report will expose different tools to integrate it into its economic activities. Finally, action ideas will close the report to inspire companies to take the first step.

The BELGOLUX Chamber of Commerce hopes to inspire its readers and invite them to be part of the transition our world needs.

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# ACRONYMS

<b>CO2</b>	Carbon Dioxide
<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility
<b>ESG</b>	Environment, Social and Governance
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse gases
<b>LEED</b>	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
<b>SD</b>	Sustainable Development
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises

## 2. WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

Sustainable Development is a comprehensive approach that aims to ensure long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability. Long considered a luxury reserved for Large Groups, Sustainable Development (SD), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) issues are gaining ground in all companies and worldwide. The COVID-19 health crisis has been an opportunity for many people and organizations to put sustainable development at the heart of their daily concerns. Indeed, the change in behavior induced by this crisis has led to a greater awareness of the fragility of the planet and the many climate changes. It then becomes urgent to act at all levels, especially at the level of companies.





## A) DEFINITION AND CORPORATE'S APPLICATION

Sustainable development is defined as : « *a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. Sustainable development is based on a long-term vision that takes into account the inseparable nature of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of development activities* ».

For businesses, it is defined as a strategy used by an entity to have a positive impact on the environment and communities. This concerns how a company will achieve its environmental, societal and economic goals and remain viable in the years to come. Private sector sustainability is not limited to environmental protection, although it is at the heart of this approach. A sustainable company works in line with social and environmental objectives.

Some companies have already understood the benefits of integrating Sustainable Development. By including it at the heart of their operations, companies create long-term value by focusing on social and environmental impacts and thus also generate internal benefits for the company. They give (i) meaning to their employees who will only be more engaged and loyal, but (ii) also reduce their costs, (iii) mitigate their risks, (iv) strengthen their brand reputation, (v) increase their income, (vi) create new jobs, (vii) attract new investment and (viii) new talent, but above all (ix) secure a place in the future economy.

## CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY IS BASED ON FIVE PILLARS

### 1. PLANET

It refers to the inclusion of strategies to eliminate and offset greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, use renewable energy, manage waste, reuse and recycle materials, or eliminate toxic risks, reducing the carbon footprint along the value chain.

### 2. PEOPLE

It targets practices that promote the health, safety and well-being of employees, customers and communities. This includes activities such as establishing an effective safety culture, ensuring that customers have the information they need to use products safely, and protecting access to basic resources.

### 3. PROSPERITY

It ensures the survival and prosperity of companies in order to have a positive impact in the long term. This can include, for example, reducing costs by using less plastic in product packaging or creating environmental jobs.

### 4. PARTNERSHIP

It aims to revitalize the global partnership with a strengthened spirit of global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all peoples.

### 5. PEACE

It is inclusive, because there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

The challenge of sustainable development is to find a balance between these five pillars: target only economic growth, without considering its effects on the other four pillars, such as environmental degradation, corruption, unfair trade practices, or the level of social inequality will not adequately address the development challenges facing society.

## B) THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were unanimously adopted by more than 190 heads of state and government. They cover all development issues in all countries such as climate, biodiversity, energy, water, poverty, gender equality, economic prosperity or peace, agriculture, education, etc. Each of these targets has a specific target that should be achieved before 2030. The key to achieving this lies not only in the action of national governments, but also in the private sector, society and individuals at the individual level. The 17 SDGs represent a blueprint to transform the world from different perspectives.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





## C) THE NEED TO ACT: SCIENTISTS' RED FLAG

For several years we have been warned by scientists and climatologists that we must stay below 1,5 degrees of warming to avoid irreversible consequences for the planet. In 2023, scientists are once again sounding the alarm with a worrying alarm: the probabilities of exceeding the 1,5° warming threshold have more than tripled in the last two years. Scientists warn that we are closer than ever to the risk of the planet warming by more than 1,5° by 2027. Between rising sea levels, changing seasons, extreme temperatures, torrential rains or hurricanes and forest fires that will multiply becoming increasingly dangerous, all these climate changes warn us that it is necessary to reverse the trend and bring about a radical change.

### BBC VIDEO: EXPLANATIONS ON THE URGENCY TO ACT

In this short video, the BBC explains the scientists' warning.

*Por qué el calentamiento global superará el límite crucial de 1,5 °C para 2027 | BBC Mundo*



## D) HOW DOES THIS AFFECT BUSINESSES?

Given their size and impact, companies are essential partners in the success of the 17 SDGs. Today, the social and environmental commitment of a company has become an expectation of the public, be it associations, consumers, shareholders, or governments.



A company must no longer simply offer goods and/or services, but must contribute to improving the quality of life of society. Take the example of agriculture: if the quality of production is essential to ensure a healthy diet, we must also take into account the remuneration and working conditions of farmers, as well as the impact of agricultural practices on the environment, how trading partners or suppliers are treated (for example fair trade).

The SDGs explicitly call on all companies to use their creativity and innovation capacity to meet the challenges of sustainable development. Although they have been approved by all governments, their success depends largely on the involvement and collaboration of all stakeholders. The SDGs are an opportunity for companies to develop and implement solutions and technologies to address the biggest sustainable development challenges facing our world. The SDGs represent the global agenda for the development of our societies, they allow the largest companies to show how their activity contributes to the progress of sustainable development, both by reducing their negative effects and by increasing their positive effects for human beings and for the planet. By covering a wide range of sustainable development topics relevant to business (poverty, health, education, climate change, environmental degradation), the SDGs can help bring business strategies closer to global priorities.



## BENEFITS OF THE SDGs WITHIN A COMPANY

Companies can use the SDGs as a global framework when developing their strategies, goals and activities. They can thus derive several benefits as well as:

### 1. Identify future opportunities

The SDGs are intended to redirect all public and private investment. Thus, they create new markets for companies that have innovative and transformative solutions.

### 2. Increasing the value of CSR

For example, the SDGs can strengthen economic incentives for societies to use resources more efficiently or to opt for more sustainable alternatives as externalities become increasingly internalized.

### 3. Strengthen relationships with stakeholders and support policies

Companies that align their priorities with the SDGs can strengthen the engagement of their customers, employees and other stakeholders. Those who do not have them have more and more regulatory and reputational risks.

### 4. Stabilizing markets and societies

A company cannot succeed in a society that fails. Investing in the achievement of the SDGs reinforces the foundations of business success: the existence of regulated markets, the transparency of financial systems, good governance of institutions and the absence of corruption.

### 5. Use common language and shared goals

The SDGs provide a common language and framework for action that will help companies communicate more consistently and effectively with stakeholders about their impacts and performance. These objectives enable them to bring together partners to tackle the world's main societal challenges.

# 3. WHAT ARE THE TOOLS TO MAKE YOUR BUSINESS SUSTAINABLE?

In order to make possible the insertion of SD in companies, certifications, standards and guidelines exist to support them during their ecological and sustainable transition. Between ISO and B Corps certifications, CSR and ESG investment guidelines, or the use of the SDG Compass, there are many ways to immerse your company in a sustainable transition with specific tools and clear guidelines.



## A) ISO 14000 CERTIFICATION

Companies and organizations of all types that need practical tools to manage their environmental responsibilities can rely on the ISO 14000 family of standards. They provide a framework that companies and organizations can apply to establish an effective environmental management system. Being certified by the ISO standard is a good way to guide a company to improve various aspects whether it is about environmental management systems (ISO 14001), life cycle analysis (ISO 14040 to 14049) or greenhouse gas emissions (ISO 14063 to 14069).

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WITH THE ISO

Regarding environmental management systems, the ISO 14001 certificate ensures that your organization has a structured management of the environmental aspects related to its activities including compliance with environmental legislation.



Internationally recognized, it helps organizations improve their environmental performance through more efficient use of resources and waste reduction, thereby gaining a competitive advantage and the trust of stakeholders. Intended for any type of organization, whatever its sector of activity, this standard can give the management of a company, its staff and external stakeholders the assurance that the environmental impact is the subject of measures and improvements.

ISO 14001 makes it possible to:

1. Demonstrate compliance with current and future legal and regulatory requirements
2. Strengthen management involvement and employee engagement
3. Improve company reputation and stakeholder trust through strategic communication
4. Achieve strategic objectives by taking environmental issues into account in the management of the company
5. Gain a competitive and financial advantage through improved efficiency and cost reduction
6. Promote better environmental performance of suppliers by integrating them into the organization's business systems

## REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS WITH ISO

Regarding GHG emissions, different standards will allow you to follow a guideline to reduce them by first quantifying, reporting and then reducing them (ISO 14064) while following competency requirements for validation teams and GHG verification teams (ISO 14066), or by meeting the requirements and guidelines for quantifying GHG emissions and carbon footprint of products (ISO 14067).

## B) CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), an international standard, also known as ISO 26 000, is defined as the voluntary integration of social and environmental concerns by companies into their business activities and relationships with stakeholders.

Corporate sustainability is closely linked to Corporate Social Responsibility, although it is a separate business practice. CSR is a broader term, used more generally to describe the practices or actions carried out by a company to advance social and environmental causes. In other words, CSR is the contribution of companies to the challenges of Sustainable Development. Achieving the SDGs through CSR has become a major issue in our current societies.

ISO 26,000, defines guidelines for all those who are aware that socially responsible and environmentally friendly behavior is a key factor for success. This standard is applied to assess organizations' commitment to Sustainable Development and their overall performance. It contains guidelines, not requirements. It therefore does not lend itself to certification, unlike other well-known ISO standards. On the other hand, it helps companies and organisations to translate the principles into concrete actions, and to make the best practices in social responsibility known worldwide. It targets organizations of all types, regardless of their activity, size or location.



## THE 7 CSR THEMES DEFINED BY THE ISO 26 000 STANDARD

1. The governance of the organization
2. Human rights
3. Relationship and working conditions
4. The environment
5. The loyalty of practices
6. Consumer affairs
7. Communities and local development

CSR refers to companies taking into account, on a voluntary and sometimes legal basis, environmental, social, economic and ethical issues, both in their activities and their internal functioning. Steps implemented in terms of social and environmental responsibility in his company both in terms of mission and operation: diversity policy, non-discrimination policy, organization of selective sorting, encouragement of eco-gestures in offices, patronage for biodiversity. The topics covered are various, from awareness to digital sobriety, alternative modes of transport or «good gestures» in food. Moreover, as we have already pointed out when including SD in a company, the inclusion of CSR in your company leads to profitability, in avoided costs, productivity gains, or even direct revenues, through waste reductions, through retraining, re-employment, compensation and wage motivation.

It is possible to call on consultants who can help you implement such actions on these topics. You can also find more information in Prohumana's CSR guide for SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises):

### *Manual de RSE para PYMES*



## C) B CORPS

The principle of being B Corps means measuring its social and environmental impact, and engaging in personal, institutional and legal ways to make decisions to take into account the long-term consequences of their actions in the community and the environment. B Corps companies want to make changes by harnessing market power to bring solutions to social and environmental problems.



B-certified companies are leaders in the global movement for an inclusive, equitable and regenerative economy. B Corp Certification is a designation that a company meets high standards of audited performance, accountability and transparency on factors related to employee benefits and charitable giving, supply chain practices and inputs.

# JOIN THE B CORP MOVEMENT

**Certified**  
**B**  
**Corporation**

Green  
Element



B Corps companies build trust with consumers, communities and suppliers, attract and retain employees and mission-driven investors. A mandatory verification process (every three years) allows companies to renew their certification. They are therefore by definition focused on continuous improvement, which leads to their long-term resilience.

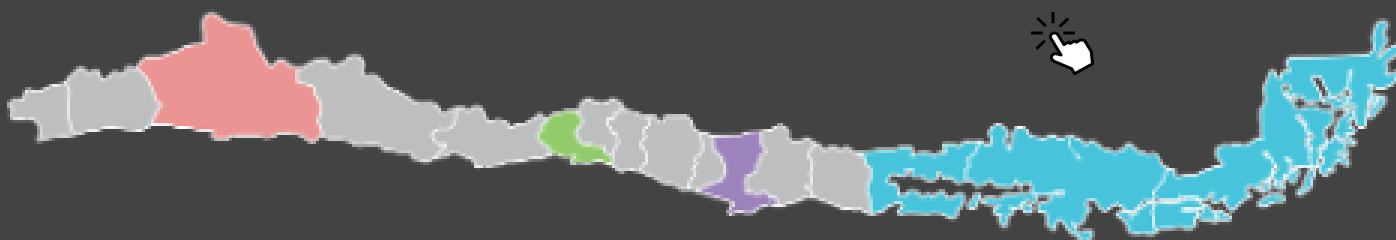
## THE EVALUATION CRITERIA ARE DIVIDED INTO FIVE CATEGORIES

1. The company's impact on the environment
2. The impact of the company on employees
3. The impact of the company on communities
4. The impact of the company on customers
5. The approach in terms of governance

B Corp certification is holistic and does not focus exclusively on a single social or environmental issue. And the process to obtain and maintain certification is rigorous and requires the engagement of teams and departments across your organization.

Different programs exist to start your path to B Corps certification. You can measure your impact in a personalized way with Camino + B or B Mide lo que Importa. Training programmes also exists on Movement B and Enterprises B, and others focused on developing skills and knowledge to support companies in the measurement process with Impact Assessment B. Chilean companies such as [Best Energy](#), [Green Libros](#), [Grupo Educativo](#), [Mujeres del Pacifico](#) or [VOZ](#) are already recognized B Corps.

Local communities exist throughout Chile that will allow you to learn more by contacting them :



## D) ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE

Environment, Social and Governance, or ESG, refers to the three main factors used to assess the sustainability of an investment. It originates from the concept of «triple performance» also called «triple P», for «People, Planet, Profit». Under this concept, companies should focus on each of the three «P's» rather than just «Profits», all of which are equally important in enabling businesses to be sustainable. Unlike CSR, which affects all actors of the economy, ESG is more used in certain professions such as investment, which through environmental commitments, social and corporate governance will measure the sustainability and ethical impact of an investment in a company.



At the heart of ESG is the simple idea that companies are more likely to succeed and generate strong performance if they create value not only for their owners, but also for all their stakeholders – employees, customers, suppliers and society at large, including the environment. Therefore, ESG analysis focuses on how companies act for society and the impact of this action on their current and future performance.

## THE ESG COVERS THREE CRITERIA

### 1. Environmental criterias

They measure the direct or indirect impact of the company's activity on the environment through GHG emissions, electricity energy consumption, waste recycling and respect for biodiversity and risk prevention (oil spills, contamination of groundwater, toxic waste...).

### 2. Social criteria

They refer to the direct or indirect impact of the company's activity on the stakeholders (employees, customers, suppliers, trade unions and local communities) in relation to certain values considered to be universal: human rights, international labour standards, etc. These concerns, for example, the quality of social dialogue within companies, the rate of representation of men/women, the employment of persons with disabilities or from minorities, access to training of employees, prevention of accidents and respect for the rights of employees throughout the supply chain, which therefore involves service providers and subcontractors.

### 3. Governance criteria

They focus on how the company is managed, administered and controlled, which includes the role of shareholders, feminization and independence of the boards of directors and its management, transparency of executive compensation and the fight against corruption, the management structure and the presence of an audit committee.

Companies like Master Sustainability have deep knowledge and understanding of the unique ESG challenges facing different industries. Their experts can adapt solutions to the specific needs of each company. Whether you're a small or large business, they can help you achieve your sustainability goals and make a positive impact.



## E) SDG COMPASS

The SDG Compass is a guide that explains how the SDGs are relevant to your business and presents the tools and information that will allow you to place Sustainable Development at the heart of a company's strategies.

The goal of the SDG Compass is to guide companies on how they can align their strategies as well as measure and manage their contribution to the SDGs. The guide outlines five steps that help businesses maximize their contribution to the SDGs. The five steps of the Compass SDG are based on the recognition of the responsibility of all companies to comply with all relevant legislation, meet minimum standards and prioritize any negative human rights impacts. It is designed to be used at the entity level, but can be applied to the product, site, division or region level.





## THE GUIDE IS ORGANIZED INTO SECTIONS THAT COVER EACH OF THE FIVE STEPS

### 1. SDGS UNDERSTANDING

To help businesses become familiar with the SDGs.

### 2. PRIORITIES DEFINITION

In order to seize the most important business opportunities presented by the SDGs and reduce risks, companies are encouraged to define their priorities on an assessment of their positive and negative aspects, current and potential impact on the SDGs their value chains.

### 3. GOAL SETTING

It is critical to business success and helps drive shared priorities and better performance across the organization. By aligning corporate goals with the SDGs, leadership can engage for sustainable development.

### 4. INTEGRATION

Integrating sustainability into core business and governance, and sustainable integration development goals for all corporate functions, is essential to achieve the goals set.

For more information on the Compass SDG and how to integrate it into a business, check the guide :

### SDG Compass



## F) ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY

One way to implement actions within your company to reduce your carbon footprint is to reduce your GHG emissions or even better, to become carbon neutral.

A carbon neutral company is a company that emits to the atmosphere an amount of CO2 equivalent to that which it mitigates, removes and/or compensates by various means and strategies, thus neutralizing the impact of its carbon footprint. A company in decarbonization is traditionally an operation with a high GHG footprint, which can take the time and invest the necessary resources to reduce its emissions.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of transparency on the part of companies in what is said in their carbon neutrality commitments. This is why it is important to communicate comprehensively and transparently its efforts to align with the carbon neutrality goals defined by science.



## FIVE KEY TIPS TO START CARBON NEUTRALITY CORRECTLY, IN LINE WITH RESPONSIBLE COMMUNICATION STANDARDS

1. To be transparent about its current carbon footprint
2. To refer to the calculation methodology
3. To align with science-based goals
4. To describe your neutrality strategies
5. To approach carbon offsetting with integrity

If you wish to obtain a truthful and global recognition, it is advisable to be certified by an official neutralization test. The company's GHG footprint must be measured using internationally recognized protocols and offset by verifiable and high integrity carbon strategies and credits. The entire process must be transparent and certified by an independent third party in order to gain international recognition and must include ongoing mitigation efforts by the company.



For example, Programa Internacional 100% Carbon Neutral, issues legal certificates in support of its certifications using duly annotated sworn statements for international use, which makes them the only carbon neutrality program in Latin America, taking legal responsibility for the results of its processes and the processes implemented by its international agents.

To learn more about the theme, we invite you to read the following readings :

**Communicate its carbon neutrality**



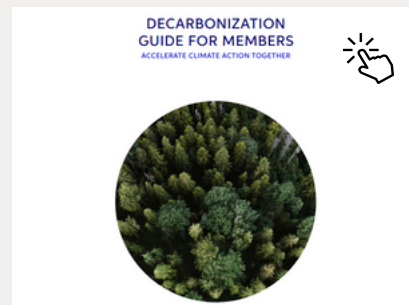
**Mitigate and offset your footprint**



**Programa 100% Carbon Neutral**



**Decarbonization Guide**





# 4. BUT WHERE TO START? THE FIRST STEPS

It may seem ambitious to embark on a certification process to make your business sustainable without having never been involved, or having very little knowledge on the subject. How to know where to start and how to adopt the best strategy for your company? These are issues that obviously deserve reflection.



To begin this process of reflection, we invited companies to start with small simple gestures to better know the impacts of his business, but also the needs of its employees while making small changes by getting hold of bad habits that would have settled within the company. Below, we provide you with some tips that may inspire you to take your first steps towards this transition.

## A) ADOPTING VALUES WITHIN THE COMPANY

It is important that if you decide to include your company in a sustainable development approach that the values of these meet.

To begin with, it is interesting to leave room for discussion and reflection within the company regarding your transition project. Knowing the concerns of all your employees and management will benefit your project by being richer and more complete. In addition, by co-constructing it, you will have the opportunity to know everyone's motivations, attract the curiosity of your employees, who will feel included, and will want, with a high chance, to be part of the change.

Other good values to adopt also are : (i) the inclusion of a healthy working environment, (ii) participation in training, (iii) compliance with environmental regulations and (iv) safety, (v) sustainable use of raw materials, (vi) sponsorship of good works, (vii) respect for others or (viii) proper administration.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION

In order to begin a transition, it is important to raise staff awareness and communicate with employees. A real work of pedagogy and communication within the company is essential for employees to take ownership of the change you want to establish and spread it.

When you begin a change, it is important to repeat it several times, as there may be resistance. In general, it is important to ensure that company staff are aware of your company's responsible policies and practices. Information boards, meetings and seminars are all ideal ways to ensure that employees are aware of and encouraged following these measures.



## B) BUSINESS IMPACT STUDY

Studying the impact of your company before starting to take action or bring sustainability within your company will allow you to understand what your strengths and weaknesses are and where your major negative impacts lie.

In general, the important points to be studied within a company are: (i) to evaluate the use of energy, (ii) raw materials and (iii) water, (iv) to reduce waste and (v) emissions, and (vi) to implement sustainability practices in its business operations.



In addition, a carbon footprint will give you the opportunity to know with certainty your environmental impact and your sources of emissions and will allow you to reduce your carbon emissions effectively. A company can reduce its GHG emissions by taking measures such as (i) improving energy efficiency, (ii) using renewable energy sources, (iii) reducing employee travel, (iv) reducing waste or (v) sustainable forest management.

## C) SIMPLE ACTIONS

Simple actions can be easily adopted in your company without having to invest a significant amount of money or time. Here are some for themes related to waste management, energy consumption or soft mobility.

### WASTE RECYCLING AND PACKAGING MANAGEMENT

Improving the way you recycle by implementing an efficient sorting system in your offices is a first step to reducing your company's footprint. The implementation of new practices must always be ensured by good communication and information: labelling is essential and the information of your workers too.

Moreover, having a kitchen space is a good way to reduce plastic packaging. Providing a microwave encourages employees to bring their own food from home instead of buying packaged food.

You can also take the initiative to reduce the amount of packaging when transporting and delivering your products. This will not only benefit the environment, but will also reduce the costs generated by the company. Informing suppliers of their waste reduction concerns is also a good way to reduce their quantity. If your suppliers are aware of your concerns and you are not alone, it encourages them to adapt to the demand.

Packaging your products in recyclable materials reduces the amount of plastics and packaging in general. If you use paper, it is always better to use paper from responsibly managed forests, for example with FSC or PEFC. The use of recycled paper is even better from an environmental point of view.

## WASTE REDUCTION

Reducing paper waste is also a habit that is easily adopted by minimizing printing and using online services by sharing documents electronically via servers or email. If printing is necessary, consider changing your automatic black and white settings and selecting duplex printing. The use of recycled paper is a good compromise for prints you cannot do without.

In order to avoid food waste, if it concerns your company, an accurate grammage of production can be done upstream. Downstream for example, you can always, via a partnership, redistribute the uneaten food goods to local associations.



## ENERGY USE AND CONSUMPTION

A company can reduce its energy use by taking measures such as (i) installing energy efficient equipment, (ii) improving the energy efficiency of its buildings, (iii) using renewable energy sources and (iv) the implementation of energy saving policies.



In addition, turning off unused devices, ensuring that devices are disconnected, or configuring devices to turn off after a period of prolonged sleep are small actions that continue to make their difference.

Finally, sourcing from a sustainable energy supplier (renewable and local) is ideal and not necessarily more expensive. The installation of your own energy installation is also possible: solar panels, photovoltaic, heat pumps, the options are numerous if you want to produce your own energy, whether on a small or large scale.

## D) GREEN MOBILITY

Sustainable mobility is a pillar of action that companies of all sizes can also use. Soft mobility aims to promote cleaner and more sustainable modes of transport, while reducing costs. It makes it possible to travel taking into account the impact of these means of travel on the environment.

Beyond the ecological aspect, this approach also has economic and social dimensions. Green mobility can sometimes seem complicated to implement in companies due to lack of a budget, but it is possible to promote it without a lot of investment and it has many benefits as: (i) the answer to current environmental issues, (ii) strengthening the employer brand by offering alternative transport solutions to your employees, (iii) increasing the attractiveness of the company, and thus (iv) strengthening its modern and dynamic image.

For this to work, it is necessary to facilitate access to alternative mobility solutions either physically or financially. For example, organising shared mobility within the company, such as carpooling, will reduce the company's impact on the

environment, but will also reduce and mutualise costs and strengthen the social link between workers. Another way is to encourage the use of public transport is by indicating the different modes of public transport near the company buildings, but also for example by making the advantages economically by supporting part of the subscription. Finally, in order to encourage the use of all kinds of green mobility, it is now possible, as an employer, to set up a sustainable mobility package that consists of allocating an allowance to employees moving with "greener" modes of transport to make their home/work journeys. This will only excite employees.

Another way to act for soft mobility is simply not to move if it is not necessary and therefore to promote telework. The reduction of home/work journeys is an undeniable asset when it comes to reducing polluting emissions.

A direct way to act, which nevertheless requires a greater financial investment for the employer, is to reduce the environmental impact of your car fleet if you have one. The provision of bicycles is also an element that will encourage your employees to opt for this mode of transport. Making days of presentation of new bikes and initiation with exercises will create a moment of sharing and will also be an opportunity to remind good reflexes in order to circulate safely in a city.

To learn more about soft mobility in companies, we invite you to read the guide "*Guía para la construcción e implementación de Planes Empresariales de Movilidad Sostenible - PEMS*" by Alianza Empresarial para el Desarrollo (AED) and the Centro para la Sostenibilidad Urbana (CPSU).

***Guía para la construcción e implementación de Planes  
Empresariales de Movilidad Sostenible - PEMS***



## E) TO GO FURTHER

Here are some ideas to go further in your sustainability efforts

1. To connect with other companies with similar environmental goals. This will allow you to share your knowledge or projects and give the opportunity to advise each other, but also to inspire you and why not lead joint projects.
2. To join online networks can be a great opportunity to discuss strategies and identify possible collaborations and opportunities to share resources with other parties.
3. To keep abreast of new trends, existing financial or administrative support promoting the integration of the sustainable dimension within companies.
4. To call on specialized advisors in the field to receive an expert opinion on your company and conduct your actions efficiently.
5. To take the time to learn about Sustainable Development and decide to jump into the water with a certification project!



# 5. COMPANIES THAT ALIGN WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**ENGIE**, an electricity supplier, is working to move from fossil fuel energy production to renewable energy production. The group forms alliances with municipalities to support community projects to improve the well-being of the residents of the municipality as well as promote their integration and cohesion as neighbours.

## Schröder

Experts in lightability™

**SCHRÉDER** develops solutions by combining global expertise to improve lighting levels in Chile by offering impressive energy savings. The company continues to develop new solar lighting solutions that accelerate the adoption of renewable energy and create safe night environments for communities.



**FLUXYS**, active in gas transport and storage, works in line with the carbon neutrality objectives of Europe, but also of Chile. It integrates ten SDGs notably through its LNG production plant **GNL Quintero** in Chile and collaborates with local communities with its Urban Development Plan "Quintero Vive" and its Sustainability Plan for the Bay of Quintero.



Active in the renewable energy sector, the **MACHIELS** group develops solar, wind, biogas plants and produces electricity from recycling. It recycles heavy fuel oils and materials and purifies 1 million m<sup>3</sup> of water per day. The company brings her expertise to Chile by developing some of her projects in Concepción, Quillagua and Chiza.



# AGC

Every year, **AGC** presents a sustainability report on its progress and improvements. It carries out actions throughout its production chain with an interest in energy, recycling, transport, water consumption, the reuse of its packaging and many other aspects with considerable consumption reductions. In 2022, it created its low-carbon glass range.



**KENOZ** produces its caviar by limiting its environmental impacts. Thanks to its modern facilities, the company significantly reduces its water use, its carbon emissions and benefits directly with a lower energy bill. Growing without medicines, the company reuses water and sludge as fertilizer for its neighbors' agricultural plantations and gardens.

# deceuninck

As a glass and door manufacturer, **DECEUNINCK** has opened its new automated recycling line to process materials with superior efficiency and quality. The company aims to create a circular economy and shows its commitment to sustainability through EuCertPlast certification (plastic waste recyclers certification) as well as the VinylPlus label, which recognises the long-standing interest of responsible companies in all aspects of their activities.



Through its projects, **PURATOS** seeks to generate positive social impacts and preserve the environment with its carbon neutrality ambitions. It integrates electromobility, produces its own energy, has its own water treatment system, and plans to comply with the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) environmental certification. The company also creates new plant-based products aware of the lower impact of their production cycle. The company also ensures the ethics and sustainability of its raw materials by using the Cacao Trace program, which promises a consistent chocolate that benefits all players in the chain.



Present in Chile since the late 1960s, the **TRACTEBEL** company, part of the **ENGIE** group, participates in major projects of thermoelectric power plants, gas pipelines, hydroelectric or green hydrogen projects. In 2021, the company announced its commitment to achieve zero net emissions in its global operations.



The **JOHN COCKERILL** Group develops technological solutions by providing added value in areas such as sustainable production, green mobility or facilitating access to renewable energy. The Group participates in projects such as air treatment or renewable energy projects in Chile with its subsidiary **INGEQUIP**.



**GNL TALCAHUANO** restores natural gas in southern Chile in harmony with the needs of the community and considering its environment. The company integrates sustainable development into its projects with high environmental standards, taking care of the health of people and the safety of the population.



**Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile (SQM)** supports renewable energy companies with its products. It is aligned with the SDGs, which set targets for carbon neutrality, high standards of transparency of its activities, reduction of water consumption, creation of social values and gender equality.



**NICOLE ET CÉDRIC**, artisan chocolatier, supplies cocoa sustainably through the use of the Cacao-Trace program ensuring the production of consistent chocolate, higher taste, higher incomes for the farmer as well as ongoing research to improve their lives.



**EDN Abogados**, supports its employees towards sustainable consumption by reducing waste and inviting them to use soft mobility through competitions. As a law firm, EDN also plays a pioneering role in educating its clients about ESG investment funds.

# 6. CONCLUSION

In recent years, the growing concern of the international community about the effects of climate change has prompted institutions and businesses to be aware of the importance of their environmental impact and to make efforts to reduce their contamination and turn to sustainable management of their activities.

Companies play a key role in addressing the climate crisis by being an integral part of the solution. The alignment of their strategy on sustainable development allows to reduce their environmental impacts, minimizing their carbon footprint or their contamination, but also generates positive impacts for the whole of society. In addition, by integrating sustainable practices into their operations, companies thus secure a place in the future economy.

Through this document, we went through different tools to initiate the change towards a sustainable development strategy and to support companies in their transition. The means are numerous and diverse: following guidelines through for example CSR, ESG, following the methods of the SDG Compass, or certifying with international standards such as ISO, B Corps or carbon neutrality.

Sustainable Development is a concept that addresses multiple themes and a wide range in which companies may be afraid to venture into it. Despite its complex image perceived by some, its potential and effectiveness are undeniable and its integration at the scale of each company would ensure a functional future, fair and equal for all.

The Chamber of Commerce BELGOLUX is convinced that the change is underway and hopes to have made its readers discover innovative ideas as well as to have strengthened the transition and sustainable strategy projects of its readers.

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# INFORMATION

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We remind you that the purpose of this report is only to provide, for information purposes only, advice and existing methodologies for integrating Sustainable Development at the heart of its business.

This situation may change over time and we will inform you in due course.

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