Environmental policy template

This template is centred around European Sustainability Reporting Standards E1-E5, while broadly incorporating the commitments in the Swedish Regions’ Supplier Code of Conduct. It is structured to allow you to adapt it based on your operations and value chains, including the double materiality analysis you conduct under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, if you are in scope of this directive.

Note that even if some topics are not material for your own operations, they may be material in the manufacturing of goods or in the extraction of raw materials. Also note that according to the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, you shall develop this policy in consultation with your employees and their representatives.

**Environmental Policy**

**1. Introduction**

[Company Name] is committed to environmental sustainability.

This policy aligns with ISO 14001 and supports our efforts to mitigate environmental impacts, comply with legal and regulatory requirements, and continuously improve our environmental performance. We recognize our responsibility to address climate change, pollution, water and marine resources, biodiversity, and the circular economy across our value chain.

We also recognize the interdependence between environmental protection and human rights. This means that we respect the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, which is an integral part of the full enjoyment of the right to life, health, food, water and sanitation.

**2. Scope**

This policy applies to:

* All [Company Name] operations and business activities.
* Our value chain, including the operations and business activities of suppliers, contractors, and business partners.
* Stakeholders and communities affected by our environmental footprint and the footprint of our suppliers, contractors and business partners.

**3. Environmental Protection**

We are committed to identifying, preventing, and mitigating environmental risks and impacts across our operations and value chain. Our commitments include the following key areas:

**3.1 Climate Change**

We acknowledge the urgent need to address climate change and commit to:

* **Climate change adaptation** – Implementing measures to increase resilience to climate-related risks in our operations and value chain.
* **Climate change mitigation** – Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in line with national and international climate goals. We have set a science-based target to reach net-zero by [YYYY].
* **Energy** – Transitioning to renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency in all business activities.

**3.2 Pollution**

We are committed to minimizing pollution through responsible practices, including:

* **Pollution of air** – Reducing emissions of pollutants into the air, such as particulate matter and volatile organic compounds.
* **Pollution of water** – Preventing contamination of freshwater and marine ecosystems.
* **Pollution of soil** – Implementing practices to prevent contamination of soil from hazardous substances.
* **Pollution of living organisms and food resources** – Avoiding the release of harmful pollutants that could affect human health and ecosystems.
* **Substances of concern** –Identifying, evaluating, and phasing out hazardous substances, through substitution and alternative processes where applicable, to reduce health and environmental risks and improve resource efficiency.
* **Substances of very high concern** – Complying with relevant regulations, such as REACH, to restrict the use of toxic chemicals and promote safer alternatives.
* **Microplastics** – Reducing and preventing microplastic pollution in products and operations by controlling chemical use and exploring innovative solutions.

**3.3 Water and Marine Resources**

We recognize the importance of sustainable water management and commit to:

* **Water consumption** – Reducing water use and promoting water efficiency.
* **Water withdrawals** – Ensuring responsible sourcing of water to prevent over-extraction.
* **Water discharges** – Managing wastewater responsibly to prevent environmental harm.
* **Water discharges in the oceans** – Preventing marine pollution through proper waste treatment.
* **Extraction and use of marine resources** – Ensuring sustainable use of ocean-based resources.

**3.4 Biodiversity and Ecosystems**

We are committed to protecting biodiversity and ecosystems by addressing:

a) Direct impact drivers of biodiversity loss

* **Climate change** – Mitigating emissions to prevent further biodiversity loss.
* **Land-use, freshwater-use, and sea-use change** – Avoiding habitat destruction and degradation.
* **Direct exploitation** – Ensuring sustainable sourcing and production methods.
* **Invasive alien species** – Preventing the introduction and spread of harmful species.
* **Pollution** – Reducing pollutants that contribute to ecosystem degradation.
* **Others** – Continuously assessing emerging risks to biodiversity.

b) Impacts on the state of species, the extent and condition of ecosystems, and dependencies on ecosystem services

* **Species population size and global extinction risk** – Monitoring and minimizing our impact on wildlife. No raw materials from species listed in CITES or as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species are used in our products.
* **Land degradation, desertification, and soil sealing** – Preventing harmful land-use practices impacting the extent and conditions of ecosystems.
* **Ecosystem services** – Identifying impacts and reducing dependencies on natural ecosystems.

**3.5 Circular Economy**

We aim to transition to a circular economy by:

* **Resource inflows, including resource use** – Using sustainable and renewable materials and reducing the use of virgin raw materials through optimization, increased recycling, and reuse of raw materials.
* **Resource outflows related to products and services** –Designing products and services for reuse, recycling, and extended lifespan to minimize waste and promote circular solutions.
* **Waste** – Implementing waste reduction strategies in line with a circular economy and promoting responsible storage, handling, transportation and disposal of waste, to protect the health of workers and affected communities as well as the environment.

**4. Implementation and Environmental Management**

We monitor and improve performance through an environmental management system in accordance with ISO 14001, including the precautionary principle.

Environmental risk assessments and life-cycle analyses are conducted to identify areas for improvement.

Suppliers and business partners are required to comply with our environmental standards and adopt sustainable practices.

A notification mechanism is in place for stakeholders to report environmental concerns confidentially.

[add link to notification mechanism]

**5. Governance and Accountability**

The Board of Directors oversees environmental commitments, performance and strategic direction.

Senior management is responsible for policy implementation and compliance.

Regular training and capacity building on environmental management are provided to employees and business partners.

**6. Reporting and Transparency**

We disclose our material impacts, risks and opportunities in accordance with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, including the European Sustainability Reporting Standards.

Audits and assessments ensure compliance with ISO 14001 and other environmental regulations.

Stakeholder engagement ensures continuous improvement of our environmental practices.

**7. Review and Continuous Improvement**

This policy is reviewed at least every two years and updated without undue delay following significant changes. Revisions reflect evolving legal standards, best practices, and stakeholder feedback.

We are committed to protecting the environment in our operations and value chains.

Approved by:

[Name]

[Title]

[Date]