

Sustainability at Retail

IN JANUARY 2016, THE UNITED NATIONS began to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agenda was a transformative plan of action based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that addressed the urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. In reaction to the growing need for sustainability, the Shop! Global Council identified five of the UN Sustainability Development Goals that were most applicable to the retail industry. These were chosen out of a variety of factors including:

- The need for greater economic responsibility and greater local employment.
- The need for efficient use of resources.
- The need for waste management in production sites and displays production.
- The need for the use of clean technologies & processes (renewable energy, eco calculator).
- The need for Shop! to speak as one voice for the industry on Sustainability at Retail.



UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPLIERS



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

Increase R&D and added value for goods and services.

- Use 100% biodegradable and renewable materials, like mushrooms, for packaging.
- Look for other environmentally sensitive material alternatives and develop improved methods of reusing by-products and waste.
- Engage with governments in high-growth markets to discuss ways in which more sustainable building products, transportation solutions and manufacturing techniques can help develop local infrastructure and economies, also thereby creating new markets for products.
- Build cross-sector partnerships to unlock complementary investments in infrastructure and technology
- Pursue investment in all aspects of physical infrastructure required to support the development of markets including water, technology/ connectivity, storage logistics, etc..

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Increase focus on reduction of raw material consumption/energy consumption, development of re-employment and recycling, in anticipation of end of life.

- Apply the concept of a circular economy by designing products with end-of-product lifecycle reuse and recycling in mind.
- Incorporate innovative efficient technologies, such as 3D printing, into manufacturing processes to reduce waste from long-run production and prototyping.
- Develop and implement improved processes to reduce, reuse and recycle water, raw materials, nonrenewable minerals, other inputs, by-products, and waste.
- Identify and adopt new technologies and process improvements to reduce fossil fuel combustion in industrial manufacturing plants.
- Increase energy efficiency in industrial manufacturing plants and across distribution networks.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

To achieve this goal [to not exceed +2°C], global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced from 40% to 70% in 2050 (compared to 2020 levels), and reach levels of emission close to zero by 2100.

- Set science-based carbon emission targets in line with the sectoral decarbonization pathway and encourage suppliers, distributors, and customers to do the same.
- Set an internal price on carbon in line with a 2-degree Celsius pathway.
- Take steps to measure, reduce and report climate exposure and progress on actions to confront climate change on an annual basis, continuing to increase the level of transparency and consistency of reporting across the industry sector.
- Support high-level partnerships and industry associations advocating for responsible public policies on climate.
- Focus on resource efficiency in manufacturing and product solutions.




Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources.

- Collaborate with other stakeholders to collect and utilize marine plastic waste (such as plastic bottles and discarded fishing nets) in product manufacturing.
- Implement a water stress assessment determine the cost of water to the business and find ways to eliminate costs.
- Evaluate water usage in production and consider installing a closed-loop water system to reduce water usage.
- Implement improved waste treatment systems to avoid releasing pollutants into the natural environment, which could filter back to the oceans and seas.
- Ensure supplier and distributor companies that ship goods by sea adhere to environmental standards for marine shipping.



Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.

- Only use wood from certified sustainable sources.
- Support forest protection programs.
- Apply the Sustainable Forestry Policy Sector Standard and RSPO Principles and Criteria to business relationships and investments in the forestry and palm oil sectors. Strive to eliminate agriculture-driven deforestation and implement sustainable land-use commitments.
- Evaluate sourcing and packaging practices and determine ways to mitigate ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.
- Commit to Zero Waste to Landfills.



To learn more about Sustainability at Retail, read the full white paper at shopassociation.org/industry-reports/