United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s)
# Table of Contents

- The sustainability strategy of the Lenzing Group: "Naturally positive" ................................................................. 3
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ..................................................................................... 4
- Links ...................................................................................................................................................................... 7
The sustainability strategy of the Lenzing Group: "Naturally positive"

"Naturally positive", the Lenzing Group’s sustainability strategy, was developed from the results of the materiality analysis and is firmly rooted in the Lenzing Group’s sCore TEN strategy. Within the dimensions People – Planet – Profit, this strategy defines those sustainability areas where Lenzing can do the most to create a more sustainable world. This is the essence of Lenzing’s Naturally positive thinking. A successful implementation of this thinking requires supporting activities in several focus areas to reinforce the sphere of influence.

The sustainability strategy “Naturally positive” is the basis for Lenzing’s approach to contributing to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs are a collection of 17 goals adopted by all Member States of the United Nations in 2015 to address global economic, social and environmental challenges and achieve a more sustainable future by 2030. Progress is being made in many areas but with just 10 years to go, the UN is calling for a ‘Decade of Action’ to accelerate sustainable solutions and to address the world’s biggest challenges.

In 2020, the SDGs celebrated their fifth anniversary in the middle of a pandemic. Sustainable development plays an important role in addressing global challenges such as the current health crisis by aiming to provide access to healthcare and clean water for all.

One of the priorities of the post-COVID-19 period must be to maintain the downward trend in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that began during the pandemic last year. This unforeseen occurrence may be seen as opportunity to entrench the decline in emissions, in order to achieve the climate change targets of the Paris Agreement.

The company recognizes its responsibility and sees its pioneering role in the textile and nonwovens industries as an opportunity to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Lenzing identified the following SDGs to which it can make the biggest contribution:

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<th>SDG</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Lenzing’s action</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>End poverty in all its forms everywhere.</td>
<td>One example for Lenzing’s contribution to SDG 1 is a social impact project in Albania in cooperation with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). This project aims at supporting the development of certain rural areas by using natural resources in a sustainable manner as well as fostering alternative income opportunities for the communities. Part of the project is the afforestation of 20 ha of degraded land. This area surrounds an Eco-Social Farm, an institution for people with disabilities. As part of the project, a collaboration with the Eco-Social Farm has been set up to employ people who would not stand a chance of getting a job in the normal labor market. Read more about the project here: [Trees for Albania – Corporate Sustainability Update (lenzing.com)].</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.</td>
<td>Lenzing provides employees at all production sites with an in-house primary care system that complements the existing local health systems. Furthermore, the company uses medical partners in the regions around the sites to offer its employees a diagnosis and therapy service tailored to the site’s size and local needs. In particular, in 2020, a number of measures were taken due to COVID-19-pandemic to protect all employees. For more information, please see Sustainability Report 2020, from page 127. In cooperation with an Austrian tampons producer, Lenzing supports 1,000 women in Austria by donating more than 100,000 tampons to a charity called Caritas.</td>
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<td>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.</td>
<td>The production of dissolving wood pulp and fiber entails water consumption and emissions to water. Therefore, water stewardship is one of the focus areas of Lenzing’s sustainability strategy. Lenzing considers water-related issues in the upstream and downstream value chain of its products. The Lenzing Group aims to contribute to sustainable use of water wherever it can influence matters either directly or indirectly. For 2022, the Lenzing Group set itself the target of improving its specific wastewater emissions by 20 percent (baseline 2014). In order to reach this target, the company will invest in upgrading its wastewater treatment infrastructure. Additional ambitious targets and corresponding measures were set in 2020 and are described in the Sustainability Report 2020, page 32.</td>
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<td>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.</td>
<td>Pulp and fiber production are energy-intensive processes. Lenzing contributes to SDG 7 by improving energy efficiency, using energy conversion technologies for heat and electricity, employing renewable fuels, switching from coal to natural gas and implementing its biorefinery concept. Dissolving wood pulp production in Lenzing’s biorefineries at the Lenzing and Paskov sites is not only self-sufficient in terms of covering its own energy needs, it actually produces surplus energy. This surplus energy (steam and electricity) is used on-site for purposes such as fiber production or export to the local grid. Within the framework of the science-based target Lenzing relies on renewable energy for new investments.</td>
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<td>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</td>
<td>The Lenzing Group makes a major contribution to strengthening the economy in the regions where it operates by creating jobs. The public sector benefits in the form of tax revenues and social security contributions. One of Lenzing’s priorities is to ensure sustainable production patterns (SDG 12) in order to promote sustainable economic growth. The socio-economic effects of the activities of the Lenzing Group are summarized in a table on page 99 in the Sustainability Report 2019.</td>
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<td>Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.</td>
<td>Innovation and sustainability are at the heart of Lenzing’s sCore TEN strategy. Every innovation, whether it be process-, product-, or application-related, is evaluated from the very beginning in terms of sustainability. At Lenzing, innovation is driven by sustainable thinking and paying due regard to both the life-cycle perspective and the net-benefit principle. Sustainable innovations include continuous improvement of Lenzing’s existing technologies and processes as well as the driving of systemic change through forward-looking solutions and business models on a large scale. Limited resources are driving solutions to a circular economy. Lenzing is continuously innovating to contribute to a resilient and circular industry. For more information, please see Lenzing’s circular economy vision in the Sustainability Report 2020 on page 42.</td>
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Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

In the spirit of circular economy, Lenzing aims for sustainable production patterns through sustainable sourcing, efficient use of wood as a raw material and efficient and sustainable production, e.g. through the implementation of its biorefinery concept at the Lenzing and Paskov sites.

Upcycling techniques are included in the production process (REFIBRA™ and Eco Cycle technology). Life-cycle based thinking and partnerships with stakeholders along the value chain contribute to more sustainable consumption patterns.

One example is the #ItsInOurHands environmental initiative, which has significantly contributed to the more conscious handling of wet wipes in the last 12 months. For more information, please see Sustainability Report, page 59 and https://itsinourhands.com/.

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

By setting a science-based target, Lenzing takes action to tackle climate change-related problems. Lenzing has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions per ton of product by 50 percent by 2030 compared to a 2017 baseline and net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050.

The Science Based Targets (SBT) initiative has scientifically validated Lenzing’s climate target and confirms that the target is in line with the Paris Agreement’s central aim to limit global temperature rise this century to 2 degrees Celsius For more information about SBT please see Sustainability Report, page 81.

Furthermore, the Lenzing Group is a member of the CEO Climate Leaders Group of the World Economic Forum and a signatory to the United Nations Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action.

Conserve and sustainably use the world’s oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Microplastics are a major pollution problem in freshwater bodies and the sea. With its fibers based on wood and a responsible production process, Lenzing ensures that its fibers are compostable and biodegradable in marine and freshwater environment and therefore are not contributing to plastic litter issues.

The company contributes towards SDG 15 with its longstanding practice of responsible sourcing, in particular with regard to its main raw material, wood. Lenzing strictly complies with its Wood and Pulp policy and sources only from sustainably managed forests and plantations. Since all Lenzing fibers are compostable and biodegradable in soil, Lenzing is not contributing to plastic litter issues.

Lenzing supported the ‘Earth Day Campaign’ 2019 and thereby the restoration of the Yosemite National Park in California, USA. With the support of this initiative, One Tree Planted was able to plant 115,000 trees in total across over 875 acres. On behalf of Lenzing 16,141 trees were rooted into the earth. This replaces some of the area destroyed during the California wildfires. This reforestation activity also contributes to SDG 13.

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

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Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal SDG 17 and having implemented “Partnering for systemic change” as a focus area, Lenzing acknowledges that complex global challenges call for a collaborative approach. Therefore, the Lenzing Group regularly engages with a wide range of stakeholders and business partners along the value chain in order to help raise the bar as regards sustainability in the textile and nonwovens industries.

For more information, please see focus paper “Stakeholder engagement”.

Links

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): https://sdgs.un.org/goals

#ItsInOurHands environmental initiative: https://itsinourhands.com/

SDG Dashboard: Sustainable Development Report 2020 (sdgindex.org)


Lenzings campaigns on consumer education and climate protection
#MakeItFeelRight
#FeelsSoRight
#TrueCarbonZero