LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRY SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Dr. Onur Görgün

Table of Contents

15 Communication Strategy

16 Epilogue

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We must act now to avert the climate crisis.

This begins with recognizing our impact so that both our members and their suppliers and customers can make the right choices.

President’s Message

Esteemed Stakeholders,
Since taking office in 2022, we have made significant efforts to achieve what we set out to do, one of which is to protect our future generations by ensuring industry sustainability. To that end, I am excited to present our Sustainability Action Plan, which outlines our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals. This action plan will help inform specific and measurable objectives to transform our industry.

As we all know, the manufacturing of products has a significant impact on the environment and we must take steps to ensure that our practices are sustainable for future generations. Sustainable production refers to the manufacturing of products with minimal impact on the environment, ensuring that we do not deplete natural resources or cause harm to the planet. This is especially true for the leather and leather products industry, which has long been associated with environmental concerns such as water pollution, air pollution, chemical use and deforestation.

However, the leather industry has taken important steps towards sustainability in recent years and these efforts are ongoing. Through the responsible use of resources, the sector is reducing its impact on the environment and communities. Sustainable production and responsible use of resources are critical for the leather and leather products industry to reduce its impact on the environment and support human rights and labor standards. As an industry, we can create a more sustainable and ethical future by adopting practices that are responsible for the environment and human life.

This action plan is a commitment from the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council to manage the sustainability project in a responsible manner. It aims to share with you our journey so far and our vision of where we are heading. Aligning our work with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, this document aims to guide us as we turn the sustainability vision of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council into reality. We recognize that achieving our purpose requires being a reliable, transparent and accountable community partner and is critical to increasing our value for our stakeholders.

While our purpose is our guide, I am of the belief that it is our actions that really matter. We are ready to work together to redesign the production of leather and leather products and create a better legacy for future generations. The goals set out in our Sustainability Action Plan and reported each year in our Sustainability Report will guide us in our quest for responsible production.

Sincerely,
Güven Karaca
President

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Sustainability Committee is responsible for leading and overseeing sustainability initiatives within the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council. Committee members collaborate with various stakeholders to develop and implement strategies that support environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices across the industry.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Collaborating with key stakeholders to develop a comprehensive sustainability strategy aligned with the objectives of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council and best practices in the industry,
2. Exploring environmentally sound practices across the value chain, including sustainable resource utilization, waste management, energy efficiency and water efficiency, and sharing them with members,
3. Sharing industry trends and innovations in sustainable materials, production techniques and technologies with members to ensure that the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council can realize its goals,
4. Building collaboration with relevant organizations, governmental institutions and industry partners to promote sustainability in the leather industry,
5. Advocating for fair labor practices and social responsibility in the industry,
6. Collaborating with relevant stakeholders to improve employee safety, welfare and training programs,
7. Promoting practices that support diversity, equality and inclusion in the workplace and supply chain
8. Ensuring compliance with laws, regulations and industry standards related to sustainability and ethical practices,
9. Communicating the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's sustainability performance and initiatives to internal and external stakeholders through regular reporting and engagement activities,
10. Representing the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council at sustainability-oriented conferences, forums and events,
11. Building strong relationships with external partners to support sustainability goals.

OUR VISION

The vision of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council is to be the driving force behind a sustainable and thriving leather and leather products industry characterized by excellence, innovation and responsible practices. We envision a future that is globally recognized as a hub for leather and leather products manufacturing, known for its commitment to sustainability and ethical business practices.

Sustainability is at the core of this vision, guiding each and every decision and action. We aim to transform the leather and leather products industry by leading the way in adopting sustainable sourcing practices, minimizing environmental impact and promoting circular economy principles. Our aim is to create a future where the leather value chain is characterized by transparency, traceability and a profound respect for nature.

We envision a leather and leather products industry that embraces innovation and pushes the boundaries continuously. By fostering a culture of creativity, research and development, we will empower our members to pioneer cutting-edge technologies and processes that reduce waste, increase efficiency and improve product quality.

At the heart of our vision is the idea of collaboration and inclusion. We strive to develop strong partnerships between our members, stakeholders and industry players by creating a supportive network where ideas are shared, information is exchanged and common goals are pursued. Working together, we aim to elevate the entire industry, strengthen its position in the global market and ensure sustainable growth for all.

In our vision, we aspire to be a credible voice by actively engaging with policymakers, regulators and international organizations to shape policies that support sustainable practices and facilitate market access for our members. By influencing industry standards and promoting ethical trade, we will ensure the long-term success and competitiveness of our members in the global arena.

We seek to use innovative and environmentally friendly processes, procure materials in an ethical way and reduce waste to minimize our impact on our planet. We believe that our commitment to sustainability will not only help protect the environment, but also benefit our customers, our employees and our communities. By working together, we wish to create a future where the production of leather and leather products contributes to the welfare of people and the planet.

OUR MISSION

As the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council, our mission is to lead the sustainable growth and development of the leather and leather products industry, while upholding the values of innovative and responsible business practices.

We are committed to increasing the competitiveness of our members and ensuring their long-term success in the global market. By encouraging collaboration and knowledge sharing among our members, we strive to create an environment that fosters continuous improvement, excellence and sustainable practices throughout the leather value chain.

Sustainability is at the heart of our mission. We recognize the importance of preserving our natural resources and protecting the environment for future generations. As the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council, we are committed to advancing sustainable practices in the leather and leather products industry by promoting responsible sourcing, minimizing waste, reducing carbon emissions and adopting environmentally friendly technologies.

Our mission goes beyond economic concerns, as we are deeply committed to the welfare of our employees, our customers and the communities we serve. We aim to create a safe and inclusive working environment that values diversity, nurtures creativity and supports the professional development of our members.

As the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council, we envision a future where the Turkish leather industry is globally recognized for its excellence, sustainability and commitment to ethical business practices. Through our collective efforts, we will continue to produce the highest quality leather products while creating positive change in the industry, inspiring others and ensuring a lasting legacy for future generations.

OUR VALUES

We aspire to be a thriving industry that operates more for the benefit of humanity and our planet in the long term. We focus our members and their supply chains on building a sustainable economy by measuring and acting on their social and environmental impact.

Our Values;

Safety:
The health and safety of our employees, suppliers and the public is of utmost importance.

Environmental Responsibility:
We strive to go beyond what is necessary; we find environmentally and human health solutions to manage development and growth while protecting the natural environment.

Community Engagement:
As informed members of the community, we actively work to serve the needs of the community and promote social welfare and wellbeing.

Transparency:
We fulfill our commitments in an open and transparent manner. We aim to be accurate, consistent and understandable in all information provided to our stakeholders.

Accountability:
As part of our corporate governance, we ensure that accountability guides all our actions, decisions, behavior and reporting.

Integrity and Performance:
We hold ourselves to high standards and strive to fulfill our commitments in an effective and sustainable manner.

RESPONSIBILITY and ACCOUNTABILITY

We believe it is important to share our environmental, social and governance (ESG) commitments, standards, procedures and policies. As the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's sustainability efforts spread to the grassroots, the principles and policies we adopt will become more specific to each stage of sustainability.

The foundation of our ESG policy recognizes the following principles:

1. Our aim is to contribute to the sustainable growth of the leather and leather products industry and to provide a lasting economic benefit in our society.
2. Responsible corporate behavior regarding environmental, social and governance factors can have a positive impact on long-term financial performance. Doing the right thing is important for the healthy growth of the leather and leather products industry.
3. Environmental responsibility:
   a. We plan to reduce the environmental impact of operations by promoting sustainable practices such as energy and water conservation, waste reduction and responsible chemical use.
   b. We emphasize the use of environmentally friendly materials, including environmentally friendly tanning processes and sustainable raw material sourcing.
   c. We promote initiatives that aim to mitigate climate change and work towards carbon neutrality or carbon footprint reduction targets.
4. Social responsibility:
   a. We support fair labor practices and prioritize the wellbeing and safety of workers throughout the supply chain by ensuring compliance with labor laws and regulations.
   b. We value diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity in the industry by fostering a workplace environment that values and respects all kinds of employees.
5. Governance and Ethics:
   a. We embrace ethical behavior, responsible decision-making and compliance with applicable laws and regulations by establishing transparent and accountable governance practices within the Association.
   b. We value ethical sourcing practices, including avoiding materials from illegal or unsustainable sources and promoting traceability and supply chain transparency.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRY COUNCIL IN THE NEW TERM

The leather and leather products industry faces several challenges in the transition to sustainable practices. Firstly, there is a lack of knowledge and awareness among industry professionals about sustainable leather production practices. Secondly, the transition to sustainable practices requires significant investments in new processes and technologies, which can be difficult and costly to implement for small companies. Third, the lack of regulatory frameworks and incentives to promote sustainable practices can make it difficult for companies to rationalize investment.

While there are some challenges to the industry's transition to and sustainability of sustainable practices, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council is committed to promoting sustainable practices in the Turkish leather and leather products industry and plans to implement a number of initiatives to positively change the environmental impact of manufacturing leather and leather products. The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will also focus on improving working conditions and promoting ethical practices in the industry.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council, whose main objectives are to support the development of the Turkish leather and leather products industry and to increase the competitiveness of Turkish leather and leather products in the world market, aims to ensure the sustainability of the sector.

To achieve these goals, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will provide its members with a range of services, including technical support, training and consultancy activities, accompanied by this action plan. Thus, by raising awareness on the importance of sustainability and social responsibility in the sector and ensuring compliance with ethical practices and international standards, it will increase the resilience of the industry against the changes to come.

Representing the interests of leather and leather products exporters, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will take on an important role in promoting sustainability in the industry.

In order to contribute to sectoral sustainability, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will encourage its members to adopt environmentally friendly practices such as reducing water and energy consumption, minimizing waste and using environmentally friendly chemicals in the production process.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will also play a role in promoting sustainability in the supply chain by encouraging its members to source leather from suppliers that prioritize animal welfare and ethical practices.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will raise awareness of sustainability issues among its members and the public to promote sectoral sustainability. It will implement seminars, workshops and other training and consultancy activities to promote sustainable practices in the industry.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will also collaborate with other industry associations, governmental institutions and non-profit organizations to develop sustainability initiatives and policies that benefit the leather and leather products industry.

CURRENT SITUATION AND BACKGROUND

The Turkish leather and leather products industry has a long history dating back to the earliest times of mankind. Türkiye is known for producing high quality leather and leather products, especially leather, footwear, bags, belts and leather/fur clothing. Türkiye's leather industry is also known for its ability to produce a wide variety of leather species such as cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat.

Türkiye is a major exporter of leather and leather products, and Europe is the largest market for Turkish leather products. Other important export markets include Russia, the Middle East and North Africa.

Especially in the European Union, the change within the scope of sustainability is gaining momentum at an increasing rate. Important steps are being taken for the Textile, Apparel, Leather and Footwear industries, including the leather and leather products industry. The Textile, Apparel, Leather and Footwear industry is among the largest industries in the world economy in terms of monetary and employment size and continues to grow. It employs millions of people worldwide, the majority of whom are women. However, it is also considered to be very vulnerable to social and environmental abuses. Studies and research have shown that the Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear industry is typically characterized by poor working conditions and violations of workers' rights. Especially in low-income manufacturing countries, workers are known to be faced with low wages, long working hours, and restrictions on freedom of association and collective bargaining. It is considered that the Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear value chain has become increasingly buyer-driven over the years, leading to low prices, increased time pressure and poor conditions of payment. It is noted that lengthy global supply chains and lack of vertical integration (outsourcing multiple production steps) make transparency and accountability for environmental, social, human rights and governance requirements increasingly complex, facilitate lowest-standard production globally and amplify the impacts of transportation.

According to the research;

1. Clothing and footwear production emits more greenhouse gas emissions than international flights and maritime transport combined.
2. Only 1% of the materials used in the production of Textiles, Clothing, Leather and Footwear are recycled. The global textile and clothing industry is currently responsible for 92 million tons of waste per year.
3. Unfair procurement practices are recognized as a root cause of human rights violations. Low procurement prices and short deadlines for manufactured goods undermine the ability of producers to provide decent working conditions and increase the risk of human rights violations.

In order to address these challenges, the European Union has taken a number of measures. Many EU Member States have adopted or ratified the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, adopted in 2011, which incorporate elements of human rights due diligence into law. To ensure the transition to a sustainable textile industry in a circular economy, the European Commission will set quantitative targets for product footprint reduction and waste prevention, complemented by preparedness targets for reuse and recycling. It is estimated that extending the lifespan of clothes by an extra nine months of active use would reduce carbon, water and waste footprints by around 20-30% and reduce the cost of resources used to procure, wash and dispose of clothes by 20%. The Waste Framework Directive already mandates the separate collection of textiles by January 2025. It requires all producers to finance the end-of-life management of the products they place on the market. So far, only France has established an EPR scheme for end-of-life clothing, linen and footwear. This means that companies putting textiles on the French market are required to ensure that textile wastes are properly collected, treated and recycled.

Therefore, it has become a priority that global production and consumption must be reduced in absolute terms in order to significantly reduce the overall environmental footprint of the Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear industries, and at the same time, the sustainability standards developed for Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear products must ensure that the welfare value is fairly distributed across the value.

The Turkish leather and leather products industry has started to increase its efforts on sustainable production in recent years. In this context, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council has adopted to operate in accordance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 and has started planning to disseminate this among its members. However, it is envisaged that the European Union Green Deal and the legal regulations related to this deal will have significant impacts on the Turkish leather and leather products industry. Considering the significant share of the European Union market by itself in the export of leather and leather products, this action plan has been formulated in order for our industry members to adapt faster to the change starting from today and for our exports to the European Union to grow further.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The global goals are a set of 17 goals and 169 targets, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

The global goals aim to help all countries around the world achieve the sustainable development goals. These goals cover areas such as ending poverty and hunger, gender equality, good health and well-being, quality education, clean water and sanitation, climate action, economic growth, jobs and industrial innovation, sustainable cities and communities, zero hunger, good quality of life, protection of aquatic life, protection of life on land, peace, justice, strong institutions and partnership.

The global goals provide a comprehensive framework covering all aspects of sustainable development and help all countries around the world to achieve these goals. These goals set out the steps to help everyone achieve a better future and ensure that the whole world moves forward in a sustainable way.

The Global Goals aim to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The 17 goals are interlinked and cover a range of issues including poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, renewable energy, economic growth, infrastructure, inequality, peace and justice.

The Global Goals aim to provide a framework for a better and sustainable future for all people, and countries are expected to work towards achieving them by 2030. The Global Goals also recognize the need for collaboration and a multi-stakeholder approach, with governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and individuals all playing a role in achieving the goals.

EUROPEAN UNION GREEN DEAL

The European Union Green Deal is a comprehensive plan put forward by the European Commission to make the European Union a climate-neutral region by 2050. As a result of the European Union's current climate and energy legislation, the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by 24% compared to 1990, while the European Union economy has grown by nearly 60% over the same period, decoupling growth from emissions. This tested and proven legal framework underpins this legislative package.

The Plan, adopted in 2019, covers all sectors of the economy, from transport to energy and agriculture to industry, and aims to transform the European Union. It seeks to transform the European Union into a sustainable, resource-efficient and competitive economy, while at the same time improving the welfare of its citizens.

The European Union Green Deal includes a wide range of policy initiatives, including climate action, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, circular economy, sustainable mobility and a just transition to a climate-neutral economy. The European Union Green Deal is an ambitious plan that requires significant investments and cooperation between governments, businesses and citizens. To achieve its goals, the European Union has proposed a number of financing mechanisms, including the European Green Deal Investment Plan, the Just Transition Fund and the Horizon Europe research program.

The European Union Green Deal includes a wide range of policy initiatives, in particular;

Climate Action:

The Green Deal aims to become the first carbon neutral continent by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union to net zero levels by 2050. It sets out a comprehensive strategy to achieve this goal, including increasing the use of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, protecting and restoring forests, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, reducing the use of harmful chemicals, reducing waste, recycling materials and supporting sustainable transport, including the use of electric vehicles and the promotion of cycling and walking.

Biodiversity:

The Green Deal aims to halt biodiversity loss and restore damaged ecosystems in the EU by 2030. It proposes measures to protect and restore forests, promote sustainable agricultural practices and reduce the use of harmful chemicals.

Sustainable Agriculture:

The European Union Green Deal proposes a "Farm to Fork" strategy that aims to promote sustainable food systems, reduce food waste and improve the nutritional quality of food. It also includes initiatives to support farmers in the transition to sustainable agricultural practices.

Clean Energy:

The Green Deal aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the EU's energy mix to 32% by 2030 and create a carbon-free energy system by 2050. It proposes measures to support the development of new technologies such as hydrogen and focuses on carbon capture and storage.

Circular Economy:

The European Union Green Deal proposes a Circular Economy Action Plan that aims to reduce waste and promote the sustainable use of resources. It includes initiatives to promote the recycling of materials, reduce plastic waste and improve the durability and reparability of products.

Sustainable Mobility:

The Green Deal aims to promote sustainable transport, including the use of electric vehicles, the development of public transport systems, and the promotion of cycling and walking.

Just Transition:

The European Union Green Deal features a Just Transition Mechanism that aims to support the regions and sectors most affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy. It aims to provide funds to support the development of new industries and retrain workers in sectors facing job losses.

In conclusion, the European Union Green Deal is a comprehensive plan proposed by the European Commission to transform the EU into a sustainable, resource-efficient and competitive economy while improving the welfare of its citizens. It covers all sectors of the economy and includes initiatives that promote sustainable farming, clean energy, circular economy, sustainable mobility and a just transition to a climate neutral economy.

The European Union Green Deal is an important step towards a more sustainable and equitable future for Europe and the world. Its success will depend on the commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders and the EU's ability to overcome the challenges and obstacles ahead.

The European Union Green Deal, an ambitious plan to make the European Union climate neutral by 2050, includes a set of policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote energy efficiency and protect biodiversity.

The leather and leather products industry is an important contributor to the global economy, generating significant income and employment opportunities. However, the industry is also associated with environmental and social impacts such as deforestation, water pollution and human rights violations. The European Union Green Deal has implications for the leather and leather products industry as it aims to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns.

This includes reducing the environmental and social impact of the industry, improving animal welfare and promoting circularity in the use of resources.

Fit for 55:

Introduced on December 11, 2019 by the Commission, the European Green Deal sets the goal of making Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050. In July 2021, the European Climate Law entered into force, making the European Union's climate commitment binding, stipulating a reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels by 2030. As a result of the European Union's current climate and energy legislation, the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions fell by 24% compared to 1990, while the European Union's economy grew by nearly 60% over the same period, decoupling growth from emissions. This tested and proven legal framework underpins this legislative package.

"Fit for 55" is the European Commission's set of legislative measures to align the European Union's climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% from 1990 levels by 2030. Regarded as a crucial instrument for Europe to become the world's first climate neutral continent by 2050 and to make the European Green Deal a reality, the regulation covers;

1. Implementation of an Emissions Trading System for new industries and the tightening of the existing European Union Emissions Trading System,
2. Increased use of renewable energy and greater energy efficiency,
3. Faster deployment of low-emission transportation modalities and the infrastructure and fuels to support them,
4. Alignment of taxation policies with the objectives of the European Green Deal,
5. Measures to prevent carbon leakage and measures to protect and enhance our natural carbon sinks.

The measures described below under "Fit for 55" are all interlinked and complementary. It is stated that "Fit for 55" and its revenues are needed to ensure a transition that makes Europe fair, green and competitive, sharing responsibility equitably across different industries and Member States and providing additional support where appropriate.

The European Union Emissions Trading System is designed to serve the European Union's 2050 target by setting a price per unit of carbon emissions and reducing the cap on emissions from certain industries each year.

To complement the significant spending on climate in the European Union budget, Member States will spend all of their emissions trading revenues on climate and energy-related projects. A dedicated portion of revenues from the new system for road transport and buildings should address the potential social impact on vulnerable households, micro-businesses and transport users.

The Effort Sharing Regulation assigns reinforced emission reduction targets to each Member State for buildings, road and inland maritime transport, agriculture, waste and small industries. Recognizing the different starting points and capacities of each Member State, these targets are based on GDP per capita, with adjustments to account for cost-effectiveness.

Member States also share responsibility for the removal of carbon from the atmosphere, which is why the Land Use, Forestry and Agriculture Directive sets an overall European Union target for carbon removal through natural sinks, equivalent to 310 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 2030. States are expected to prioritize and expand carbon sinks to achieve this target. By 2035, the EU will aim to achieve climate neutrality in the land use, forestry and agriculture sectors, including non-carbon dioxide (CO2) agricultural emissions from fertilizer use and livestock production. The European Union Forest Strategy aims to increase the quality, quantity and resilience of the European Union's forests. It will support foresters and the forest-based bio-economy by protecting biodiversity and setting out a plan to plant three billion trees across Europe by 2030, while keeping harvesting and biomass utilization sustainable.

Energy production and use accounts for 75% of European Union emissions, so it is crucial to accelerate the transition to a greener energy system. The Renewable Energy Directive will set an increased target to produce 40% of the energy needed by the European Union through renewable sources by 2030.

Specific targets for the use of renewable energy in transport, heating and cooling, buildings and industry have been proposed and all Member States will contribute to this goal. In addition, sustainability criteria for the use of bioenergy have been strengthened to meet both climate and environmental objectives.

To reduce overall energy use, reduce emissions and tackle energy poverty, the Energy Efficiency Directive will set a more ambitious binding annual target to reduce energy use at EU level. It will guide how national contributions are established and will approximately double the annual energy saving obligation for Member States. The public sector will be required to renovate 3% of its existing buildings each year to manage the renovation process, create jobs and reduce energy use and costs to taxpayers.

A series of measures are needed to tackle rising emissions in road transport to complement emissions trading. Stricter carbon dioxide (CO2) emission standards for cars and vans will accelerate the transition to zero-emission mobility by aiming to reduce the average emissions of new cars by 55% from 2030 and 100% from 2035 compared to 2021 levels. By 2035, all new cars registered will be zero-emission. To ensure that drivers can charge or refuel their vehicles on a reliable network across Europe, the revised Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive will require Member States to expand charging capacity and install charging and refueling points on main motorways at regular intervals, every 60 kilometers for electric charging and every 150 kilometers for hydrogen refueling, in line with zero emission vehicle sales.

Aviation and marine fuels are considered to cause significant levels of pollution. The Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive requires aircraft and ships to have access to a clean electricity supply at major ports and airports. The ReFuelEU Aviation Initiative will oblige fuel suppliers to blend increasing levels of sustainable aviation fuels in jet fuels taken at European Union airports, including synthetic low-carbon fuels known as e-fuels.

Similarly, the FuelEU Maritime Initiative will encourage the uptake of sustainable marine fuels and zero-emission technologies by introducing a cap on the greenhouse gas content of energy used by ships calling at European ports.

The tax system for energy products should protect and enhance the Single Market and support the green transition by setting the right incentives. The new version of the Energy Taxation Directive proposes aligning the taxation of energy products with European Union energy and climate policies, promoting clean technologies and abolishing outdated exemptions and reduced rates that currently encourage the use of fossil fuels.

Finally, the Border Carbon Regulation Mechanism will place a carbon price on imports of a targeted selection of products to ensure that ambitious climate action in Europe does not lead to 'carbon leakage'. This will ensure that European emission reductions contribute to global emission reductions, rather than pushing carbon-intensive production out of Europe. It also aims to encourage industry outside the European Union and international partners to take steps in the same direction.

Emissions Trading System:

The European Union Emissions Trading System is designed to serve the European Union's 2050 target by setting a price per unit of carbon emissions and reducing the cap on emissions from certain industries each year. Having successfully reduced emissions from power generation and energy-intensive industries by 42.8% over the last 16 years, the European Union aims to further lower the emissions cap and increase the annual reduction rate. The European Commission also aims to phase out free emission allowances for aviation and align with the global Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), which includes transport emissions. A separate emissions trading system for road transport, buildings and fuel distribution has been established to address the lack of emission reductions in road transport and buildings.

The Emissions Trading System is the focal point of the European Union's policy to tackle climate change and the key instrument for cost-effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It was the world's first major carbon market and remains the largest. The System;

1. is valid in all European Union countries as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway,
2. limits emissions from around 10,000 installations in the energy sector and manufacturing industry, as well as from aircraft operators operating between these countries and destined for Switzerland and the United Kingdom,
3. covers around 40% of the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions,
4. covers emissions from maritime transport from 2024 onwards.

The Emissions Trading System is based on the principle of 'cap and trade'. An upper limit is set on the total amount of certain greenhouse gases that can be emitted by operators under the system. The cap is reduced over time so that total emissions fall. Within this cap, operators purchase emission allowances that they can trade with each other as needed. The cap on the total number of allowances available ensures that they have a value.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism:

In the face of growing climate change concerns and the urgent need to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, countries around the world are exploring innovative solutions to address this global challenge. One of these solutions is the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The CBAM represents a policy instrument that aims to address both environmental and economic concerns by setting a price on carbon-intensive imports.

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism is a policy measure designed to address the potential risk of carbon leakage and ensure a level playing field for industries by avoiding a burden on domestic producers. It aims to encourage countries to reduce carbon emissions while promoting a fair global trading system. The CBAM achieves this by imposing a carbon price on imported goods based on their carbon footprint, similar to carbon pricing mechanisms already in place in domestic economies.

The European Union (EU) has introduced the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism policy instrument as part of its ambitious climate goals. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism is a policy instrument designed to address the risk of potential carbon leakage and create a level playing field for industries within the European Union. It aims to encourage global partners to adopt similar carbon pricing mechanisms and reduce carbon emissions. Under the CBAM, certain imported goods will be subject to a carbon price corresponding to their carbon footprint, in line with the EU's internal carbon pricing system.

Aims of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism:

Climate Impact Mitigation:

The main aim of the European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism is to incentivize both European Union and non-European Union countries to reduce their carbon emissions.

By extending the European Union's internal carbon pricing system to imports, the BCAM encourages carbon-intensive industries to adopt cleaner technologies and practices, ultimately contributing to global efforts to mitigate climate change.

Equating Actors:

The European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism ensures that European Union industries operating under strict environmental regulations are not at a competitive disadvantage compared to their foreign counterparts with lower climate standards. By subjecting imports to the same carbon price, the CBAM promotes fair competition and prevents carbon leakage, preventing production from moving to countries with weaker environmental policies.

Benefits of the European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism:

Promotion of Global Climate Action:

The European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism incentivizes non-EU countries to adopt more ambitious climate policies. By internalizing the cost of carbon emissions, it creates economic incentives for countries around the world to adopt greener practices and align with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Protection of Production:

The European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism aims to protect European Union industries from unfair competition emanating from countries with low environmental regulations. This protection aims to ensure that sectors operating in the European Union, which are often subject to strict emission reduction targets, can compete on a level playing field and invest in sustainable practices without facing economic disadvantages.

Maintaining Innovation and Technological Progress:

The European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism aims to incentivize the development and implementation of low-carbon technologies and innovations. Industries are encouraged to invest in research and development that boosts clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainable production practices in order to remain competitive and avoid carbon costs.

Potential Negative Impacts of the European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism:

Trade Relations and Potential Disputes:

The European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism may be perceived as a barrier against trade by the non-EU countries.

Data Accuracy and Methodological Standards:

Measuring the carbon footprint of imported goods accurately likewise requires accurate methodologies and reliable data. International standardization and cooperation will be crucial to ensure transparency, reliability and consistency in calculating emissions associated with traded goods.

Global Cooperation and Cohesion:

The success of the European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism relies on encouraging other countries to adopt similar carbon pricing mechanisms. The focus of this mechanism is to build trust and enhance international cooperation to prevent potential carbon leakage and ensure a more coordinated and effective global response to climate change.

In sum, the European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism represents a policy instrument that aims to revolutionize global trade by integrating climate-related issues.

The mechanism demonstrates the European Union's commitment to steering the world towards a sustainable future by incentivizing emission reductions, equalizing trade between countries and promoting global cooperation. Aside from challenges such as trade disputes and data accuracy, it has enormous potential to drive transformative change and accelerate the global transition to a low-carbon economy. There will be incentives as other countries observe and evaluate the European Union's approach to advance sustainable trade practices and achieve a more livable planet for future generations.

Operation of the European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism:

According to the Commission's proposal, the CBAM will first undergo a transitional phase until the end of 2025. Once in full force by 2026, it will operate as follows:

European Union importers of goods covered by the CBAM will register with national authorities where they can also purchase CBAM certificates. The price of the certificates will be calculated based on the weekly average auction price of European Union Emissions Trading System allowances expressed in €/tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) emitted. By May 31 each year, the EU importer will declare the quantity of goods imported into the European Union in the previous year and the embedded emissions in those goods. At the same time, the importer will submit the number of CBAM certificates corresponding to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions embedded in the products. If importers can prove, on the basis of verified information from third country manufacturers, that a carbon price has already been paid during the production of the imported goods, the corresponding amount can be deducted from their final invoice.

Deforestation:

The 2030 Agenda, agreed by world leaders in September 2015, guides the development of policies to eradicate poverty and hunger worldwide, promote inclusive and sustainable growth, reduce inequalities, combat climate change and environmental degradation, and manage our natural resources sustainably.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), forests are at the core of the 2030 Agenda, providing food, medicines and biofuels for more than 1 billion people, protecting soil and water, hosting more than three-quarters of the world's terrestrial biodiversity and helping to combat climate change. Forests contribute to socio-economic development, providing many products and services that create jobs and income for millions of people.

Our planet has a total forest area of 4.06 billion hectares (ha), equivalent to 31 percent of the total land area. This area is equivalent to 0.52 hectares per person, but is not evenly distributed geographically. It is estimated that 54% of forests are located in the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, the USA and China.

The rate of net forest loss decreased significantly over the period 1990-2020, due to a reduction in deforestation in some countries and an increase in forest area through afforestation and natural expansion of forests in others. The rate of net forest loss is estimated to have declined from 7.8 million hectares per year in 1990-2000 to 5.2 million hectares per year in 2000-2010 and to 4.7 million hectares per year in 2010-2020. According to European Union sources, a larger area than the EU was lost to deforestation between 1990 and 2020, and the European Union is thought to account for about 10% of these losses. To counteract this negative impact, the European Union has enacted legislation on deforestation covering cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soy, wood, rubber, charcoal and printed paper products. In addition, the new legislation focuses on both human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples.

To combat climate change and biodiversity loss, the new law obliges companies to ensure that products sold in the European Union do not lead to deforestation and forest degradation. While no country or product will be banned, companies will only be allowed to sell products in the EU if the supplier of the product publishes a "due diligence" declaration confirming that the product does not originate from deforested land or cause deforestation. In addition, companies will have to verify that these products comply with the relevant legislation of the country where they are produced, including human rights, and that the rights of affected indigenous peoples are respected.

The deforestation legislation covers cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soya and wood, rubber, charcoal, printed paper and products containing, fed on or made from them (such as leather, chocolate and furniture). Within 18 months of the entry into force of this regulation, the European Commission will classify countries or parts of them as low, standard or high risk based on an objective and transparent assessment. Products from low-risk countries will be subject to a simplified due diligence procedure. The proportion of controls will be carried out on operators based on the risk level of the country at a rate of 9% for high-risk countries, 3% for standard risk and 1% for low risk. The competent European Union authorities will have access to relevant information provided by companies, such as geographical location coordinates, and will carry out checks with the help of satellite tracking tools and DNA analysis to check where the products come from. For non-compliance with the deforestation legislation, the companies concerned will be fined at least 4% of their total annual turnover in the European Union.

SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR TEXTILES STRATEGY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union Sustainable and Circular Textiles Strategy, which also covers the leather and leather products (footwear, leather goods and apparel) sector, has been developed for the textile industry, which is characterized by short-term use, reuse, repair and fiber-to-fiber recycling and is based on a linear model that generally does not set quality, durability and recyclability as priorities for design and manufacturing.

As the production and consumption of textiles continues to increase, so does their impact on climate, water and energy consumption and the environment. Global textile production nearly doubled between 2000 and 2015, while clothing and footwear consumption is expected to increase by 63% by 2030, from its current level of 62 million tons to 102 million tons. In the European Union, the consumption of textiles, most of which are imported, is reported to have on average the fourth highest negative impact on the environment and climate change from a global life cycle perspective and the third highest impact in terms of water and land use. Approximately 11 kg per capita and 5.8 million tons of textile waste is generated in the European Union each year.

Clothing accounts for the largest share of textile consumption in the European Union at 81.6%. Clothing is among the sectors that contribute most to climate impact due to their tendency to be used for a short time before going to waste, unsustainable patterns of overproduction and overconsumption. Known as fast fashion, which encourages consumers to continue buying rapidly produced, lower quality and lower priced clothes, the increasing demand for textile products leads to inefficient use of non-renewable resources, including the production of synthetic fibers from fossil fuels.

The complex global textile value chain has also faced social challenges, arising in part from pressures to minimize production costs to meet consumer demand for affordable products. Child labor in the apparel sector is a serious concern. Improving supply chain sustainability also has an important gender equality dimension, as women make up the majority of the low-paid and unskilled textile workforce.

With a growing interest in social and environmental sustainability, the European Union aims to strengthen global value chains and thus contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals worldwide.

These challenges and opportunities call for more systemic solutions aligned with the European Green Deal, built around a clean and circular economy that drives economic growth in a sustainable, climate-neutral, energy- and resource-efficient and nature-friendly way. The 2020 Circular Economy Action Plan and the European Union Industrial Strategy 2021 update identify the textile industry as a key product value chain with strong potential for transition to sustainable and circular production, consumption and business models. Businesses, consumers and public authorities in the European Union are already focused on increasing the sustainability and circularity of this industry, but the transition is slower than expected, while the industry's environmental and climate footprint remains significant.

Building on the work that has already been done, the European Union aims to become a global pioneer in sustainable and circular textile value chains, new technological solutions and innovative business models by securing a green and digital transition, taking into account social challenges and ensuring compliance with sustainability requirements. This will be possible by reducing the environmental footprint of textiles throughout their life cycle, increasing the resilience and competitiveness of the industry, improving working conditions according to international labor standards and allowing the value of textiles to be preserved in the economy for as long as possible and reducing external dependency.

Waste Management within the Scope of Sustainable and Circular Textiles Strategy:

Following the publication of the Sustainable and Circular Textiles Strategy, which sets out the key principles to drive change in the textile industry, the European Commission has put on its agenda several tools including ecodesign, waste management, transparency, labeling, micro-plastics and extended producer responsibility (EPR) as part of its vision for the future of the textile industry in Europe. From product design to waste management and from new business models to regulated green claims, the draft addresses some key areas of improvement for a more sustainable textile industry and lays the foundations needed for future legislation. Accordingly;

Ecological Design:

The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) establishes the framework for setting ecodesign requirements for various product categories, including textiles. While textile products are already subject to specific requirements (use of chemicals, labeling), they do not contain specific requirements for circularity (durability, reparability, recyclability). The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation is designed to set ecodesign performance requirements for textile products, information requirements and the Digital Product Passport. The European Commission has also proposed a transparency obligation for large companies to publicly disclose the number of products they discard and dispose of and their subsequent treatment for reuse, recycling, incineration or landfill. Bans on the disposal of unsold products or textiles are also envisaged.

Waste Management / Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):

The European Commission is also working on a regulation on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). It is important to make producers responsible for the waste generated by their products and to decouple the generation of textile waste from the growth of the industry. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) will encourage product design that

promotes circularity throughout the material life cycle and considers the end of life of products. Considering that textile waste needs to be collected separately by January 1, 2025 under European Union waste legislation, many European Union Member States are already required to put EPR requirements for textiles on their agenda.

Green Claims:

The European Commission is promoting consumer transparency, including recognition and the transition to digital labeling. It is thought that 39% of sustainability claims in the textile industry may be false or deceptive. Therefore, it is aimed to provide consumers with comparable and reliable sustainability information at product level, and to facilitate more sustainable consumer behavior.

As a result, it is projected that if the textile industry continues on its current path, it will continue to emit approximately twice the emissions required to comply with the Paris Agreement by 2030. Despite the importance of the situation, around 5.8 million tons of textiles are discarded every year in the European Union and less than 1% of textiles are directly recycled into new textiles. Promoting lower impact materials, processes and business models is seen as key to creating sustainable growth in the European Fashion industry.

Action Plan:

- Actions under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation following its adoption
  - Mandatory performance requirements for the environmental sustainability of the textile products (2024)
  - Digital Product Passport for textiles with information requirements on environmental sustainability (2024)
  - Mandatory requirements concerning green public procurement and Member State incentives (2024)
  - Disclosure of the number of discarded products by large enterprises and their subsequent treatment, and measures on banning the destruction of unsold textiles (2024)

- Other actions for sustainable production and consumption
  - Empowering consumers in the green transition and ensuring the reliability of green claims (2022)
  - Review of the Textile Labelling Regulation and considering the introduction of a digital label (2023)
  - Revision of the EU Ecolabel criteria for textiles and footwear (2024)
  - Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules for apparel and footwear (2024)
  - Initiative to address the unintentional release of microplastics from textile products (2022)
  - Review of the Best Available Techniques Reference Document for the Textiles Industry (2022)
  - Enforcing the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive in the textile sector (As of 2023)
- Actions on waste challenges
  - Extended Producer Responsibility requirements for textiles with eco-modulation of fees and measures to promote the waste hierarchy for textile waste (2023)
  - Launch of work on the setting of preparing for re-use and recycling targets for textiles (2022)
  - Enforcing the restrictions on exports of textile waste outside the OECD and developing criteria for distinguishing waste from second-hand textile products (2023)

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Supported by our core values, principles and ESG policies, this document sets out a series of objectives aimed at helping us achieve our vision.

This action plan is designed to help illuminate our path by outlining key commitments without measurable targets, as a result of the current situation obtained through on-site visits.

With the adoption and participation of our industry members in this action plan, we can have a basis on which we can set specific performance targets. As we move to the next stage of development, we will be able to set measurable performance benchmarks and report annually on sectoral progress. We want to make sure that our intentions are clear and our path is defined, from the sharing of this document with industry members and the public to the setting and monitoring of performance benchmarks.

The purpose of our sectoral sustainability action plan is to design the objectives related to this purpose and the actions required to achieve these objectives, as summarized in the table below. It is known that some of the enterprises in the sector have already carried out the designed activities, while others are still at the initial stage. For this reason, each stage that needs to be completed, from the most basic to the most advanced actions, has been included in the action plan. In accordance with the "continuous improvement" principle of sustainability, the activities have been determined either as establishment or development. We need to remember that sustainability is a never-ending journey. For this reason, there may be obstacles to the realization of any of the actions we foresee. We should accept this obstacle as an improvement of the process and continue to lay the stones on the road to sustainability.

Another important issue is the financing of the activities that our member enterprises need to realize in their sustainability journey. Both the European Union and our country have already implemented some financial support for financing sustainable activities, and a significant number are still in their planning stages.

It is important that our businesses follow these opportunities closely. As the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council, we plan to continuously inform the sector about the financing opportunities and the new supports to be announced. In addition to this, we plan to include the URGE (Development of International Competitiveness) Projects of our Ministry of Trade as an important financing model within the scope of the "strength comes from unity" approach and in the light of the clustering model.

In this framework, we plan to support the sustainable growth journey of our member enterprises by designing the sustainability action plan of the leather and leather products industry within the framework of the goals, objectives and activities in the table given below.

GOAL

Ensuring Sustainable Growth in the Leather and Leather Products Industry

Target 1
Compliance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Target 2
Compliance with the European Union Green Deal Regulations

Target 3
Implementation of ESG Reporting System and Certification

Action 1:

Establishment/Development of the Environmental Management System

Action 2:

Establishment/Development of the Social Compliance Management System

Action 3:

Design of Data Collection Tools and Data Collection Process

Action 4:

Aspect and Impact Analysis and the Establishment/Development of Performance Indicators

Action 5:

Establishment/Development of Restricted Substances Management System

Action 6:

Establishment/Development of Chemical Management System

Action 7:

Establishment/Development of Waste Management System

Action 8:

Establishment/Development of Product End-of-Life Management

Action 9:

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices

Action 10:

Ensuring Water Efficiency and Water Recovery

Action 11:

Establishment/Development of Traceability System and Responsible Supply Chain Structure

Action 12:

Establishment/Development of Internal and External Management System

Action 13:

Establishment/Development of Occupational Health and Safety Management System

Action 14:

Establishment of Life Cycle Analysis Methodology and Realization of the Analysis

Action 15:

Combining the Science-Based Goals Initiative and Life Cycle Analysis Systems

Action 16:

Integration of Certification Processes and Ensuring Third Party Validation

Action 17:

Establishment/Development of ESG Reporting System

Action 18:

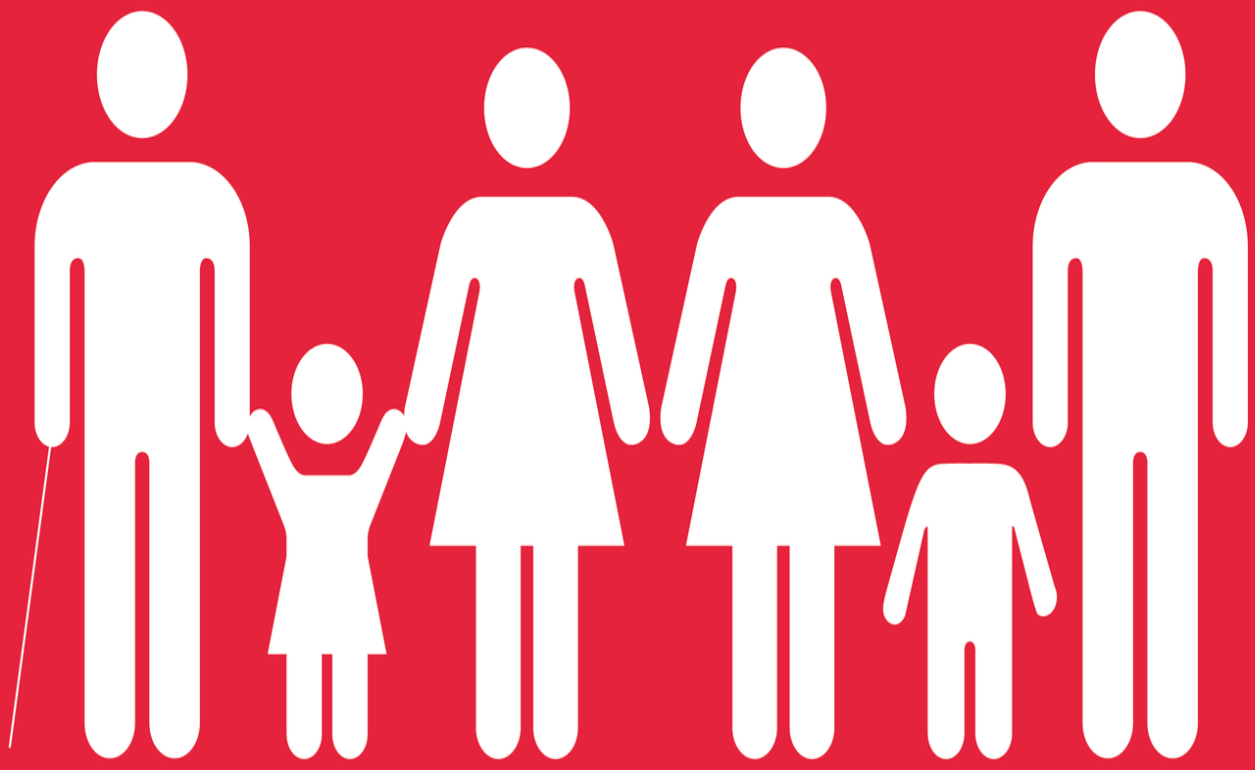
Incorporating Sustainability into the Education Curricula of Students and Youth

ACTIONS PLANNED TO BE PERFORMED BY THE LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Although the primary focus of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council is to increase the exports of the leather and leather products industry, it aims to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and equitable society, and thus to establish sustainable growth in the leather and leather products industry.

In this context, in the light of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will support the activities it recommends to be realized by its member enterprises with the following activities.

1 NO POVERTY



By 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council aims to support Goal 1 by prioritizing sustainable economic development, equitable trade practices and social responsibility in the leather and leather products industry.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to contribute to the eradication of poverty and economic empowerment by fostering an environment that promotes decent work, equitable wages and inclusive growth.

Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Creating Decent Work Opportunities: It will prioritize the creation of decent work opportunities in the leather and leather products industry, ensuring equitable wages, safe working conditions and equal opportunities for all workers. It will contribute to poverty reduction by providing stable employment and empowering individuals.
2. Supporting Socially Responsible Practices: It will encourage its members to adopt socially responsible practices such as equitable trade principles and ethical sourcing. It will contribute to poverty reduction by promoting transparency and responsible supply chain management, ensuring fair incomes for all actors involved in the production process.
3. Skills Development and Capacity Building: It will support training programs, vocational training and skills development initiatives to improve the skills of human resources in the leather and leather products industry. By equipping individuals with skills, it will enable them to access better job opportunities and reduce poverty by improving livelihoods.
4. Supporting Local Economic Development: It will support local economic development by encouraging its members to source materials and services locally. This will stimulate economic growth, create job opportunities and contribute to poverty reduction in the surrounding communities.

2

ZERO HUNGER

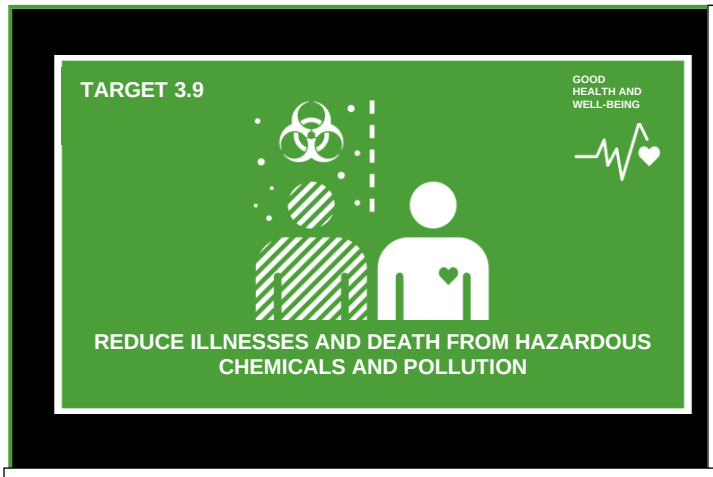
By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems to implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

While leather and leather products production is not directly linked to food security, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to promote responsible sourcing of raw materials to ensure that leather production does not contribute to land degradation, deforestation or other environmental impacts associated with unsustainable agriculture.

Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Promoting sustainable land use: It will encourage its members to source leather from suppliers that practice sustainable land use and avoid activities that lead to deforestation, habitat destruction or soil degradation. This will help protect ecosystems and biodiversity, indirectly supporting food security.
2. Promoting sustainable farming practices: Although not directly involved in agriculture, it will promote sustainability standards for suppliers of raw materials such as raw leather. This includes ensuring that livestock are raised in an environmentally sound manner, with appropriate feed, veterinary care and adherence to animal welfare standards.
3. Minimization of waste and use of resources: It will advocate for the efficient use of resources in leather production, including water and energy. By implementing measures to minimize waste and pollution, it will indirectly contribute to sustainable resource management and help alleviate pressures on natural resources crucial for agriculture.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to play an important role in mainstreaming Goal 3 by prioritizing the health and safety of workers in the leather and leather products industry and ensuring a safe and healthy working environment. By promoting safe working conditions and supporting responsible practices throughout the leather production process, it will help prevent work-related illnesses and injuries and improve overall well-being among the workforce.

It aims to ensure that producers of leather and leather products are aware of appropriate chemical management, including proper storage, use and disposal of chemicals to reduce pollution and contamination in air, water and soil, and that they are aware of national/international legal regulations on chemicals.

Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Occupational health and safety: It will ensure that member companies comply with regulations and standards on occupational health and safety. This will include actions such as providing appropriate training on workplace hazards, promoting the use of personal protective equipment and encouraging the implementation of safety protocols in enterprises to prevent accidents and injuries.
2. Chemical management and worker protection: It will promote responsible chemical management practices in the leather and leather products industry. This will include the proper handling, storage and disposal of chemicals to protect workers from exposure to hazardous substances. In this context, it takes the following aspects into account;

- Appropriate chemical management in line with international regulations and practices,
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment,
- Use of detectors for potentially hazardous gases such as Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S),
- Implementation of necessary measures inside and outside the enterprise for a safe workplace,

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to play an important role in mainstreaming Goal 4 by prioritizing education and training initiatives for its members in the leather and leather products industry. By investing in workforce development, it will contribute to improving the overall knowledge, skills and competencies of individuals in the leather and leather products industry.

Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Vocational training and apprenticeship: It will cooperate with educational institutions and training centers to develop vocational training programs specifically tailored to the needs of the leather and leather products industry.
2. Skills development and capacity building: It will organize workshops, seminars and training sessions to enhance the technical skills and capacities of its members. This will include training on sustainable production practices, quality control, product design and other related areas to improve the overall competitiveness and professionalism of the industry.
3. Knowledge sharing and best practices: It will facilitate knowledge sharing among its members by creating platforms for information exchange, promoting collaboration and disseminating best practices. This will foster a culture of continuous learning and innovation in the leather and leather products industry.

6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

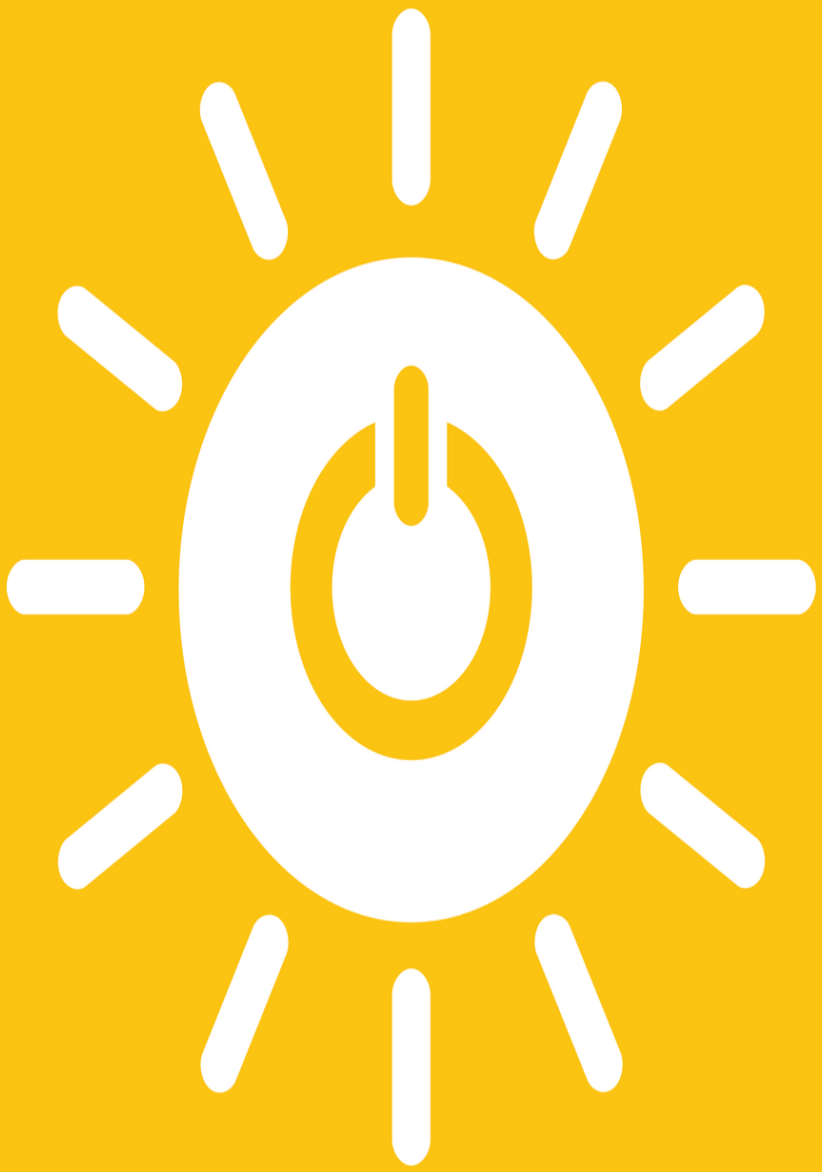
The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to play an important role in supporting Goal 6 by prioritizing responsible water management practices in the leather and leather products industry and raising awareness on water conservation in the leather and leather products industry. It will contribute to the sustainable management of water resources by encouraging the implementation of measures to reduce water use and minimize pollution.

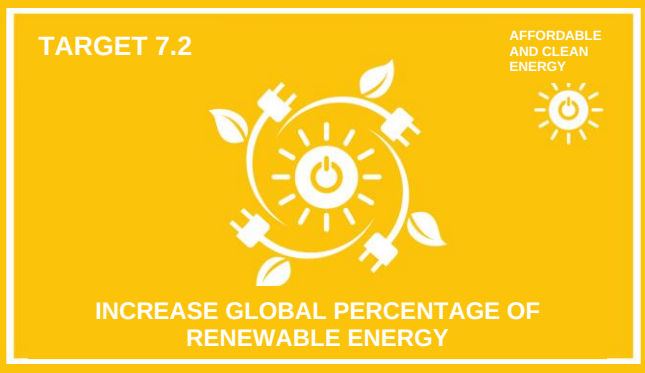
Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Water efficiency and saving: It will encourage its members to adopt water efficient technologies and practices in their leather production facilities. This will include implementing water recycling systems, optimizing processes to minimize water consumption and promoting awareness among employees on the importance of water saving.
2. Prevention of pollution: It will promote responsible wastewater management in the leather and leather products industry. This practice involves treating wastewater before discharge to ensure that it meets environmental standards and does not contribute to water pollution.
3. Supply chain engagement: It will collaborate with suppliers and partners to promote responsible water management throughout the leather supply chain. This will include ensuring their adherence to water management practices and promoting the use of sustainable materials and processes that minimize water use.

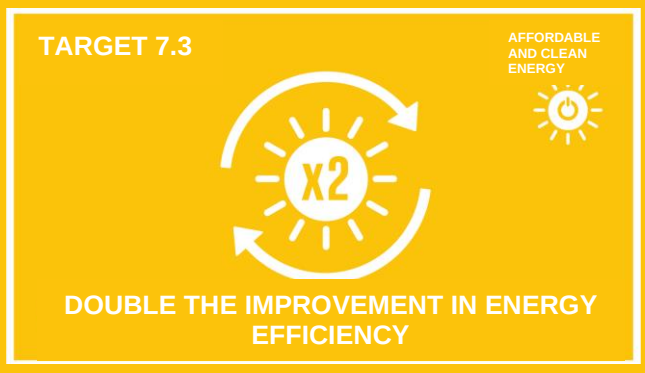
7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY





By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.



By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

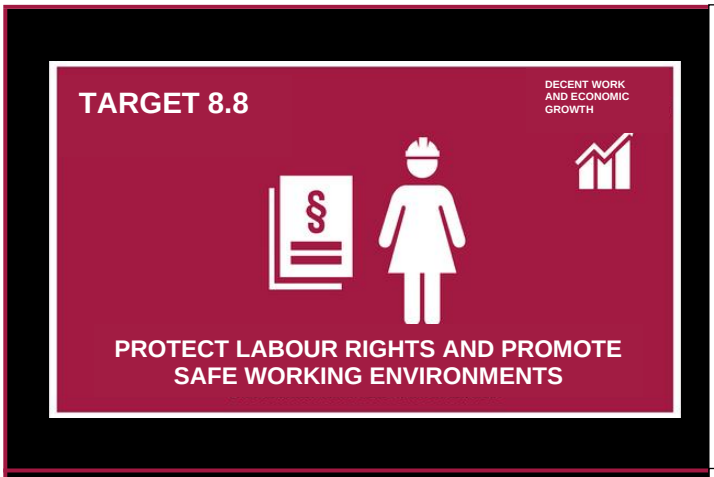
The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to play an important role in mainstreaming Goal 7 by prioritizing energy efficiency and advocating for the use of renewable energy sources in the leather and leather products industry. By adopting sustainable energy practices, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, lowering energy costs and ensuring a more sustainable energy future.

Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Energy efficiency improvements: It will encourage its members to implement energy efficient technologies and practices in their production facilities. This will include upgrading equipment and machinery to more energy efficient models, optimizing production processes to minimize energy consumption, and raising employee awareness of energy saving practices.
2. Adoption of renewable energy: It will promote the use of renewable energy sources such as solar or wind energy. This will include collaborating with energy providers, government agencies and other stakeholders to facilitate the transition to renewable energy and increase access to sustainable energy options for member companies.
3. Energy audits and assessments: It will support energy efficiency studies, audits and assessments for member companies to identify areas for improvement in terms of energy efficiency.
4. Training and capacity building: It will provide training and capacity building programs to educate its members on energy efficient practices and renewable energy technologies. This will include workshops, seminars and knowledge sharing platforms to disseminate information on energy saving techniques and renewable energy solutions.

8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to play an important role in supporting Goal 8 by promoting sustainable economic growth and creating decent work opportunities in the leather and leather products industry. It will contribute to building a more inclusive and sustainable economy by prioritizing fair labor practices, promoting job creation and supporting economic development.

Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Job creation and employment opportunities: It can actively work to create new job opportunities in the leather and leather products industry. This will include supporting entrepreneurship, encouraging innovation and collaborating with educational institutions to align industry needs with the skills of the workforce.
2. Decent working conditions: It will promote equitable and safe working conditions in the leather and leather products industry. This will include promoting compliance with labor laws and standards, ensuring equitable wages, providing access to social protection and prioritizing workers' health and safety.
3. Skills development and capacity building: It will support skills development and capacity building initiatives to increase the knowledge and competencies of human resources in the leather and leather products industry. It will include the provision of training programs, apprenticeships and vocational training to improve employability and career advancement opportunities.
4. Supply chain transparency and responsible sourcing: It will encourage its members to prioritize responsible sourcing practices, including ethical labor standards, throughout the leather and leather products supply chain. This will include promoting transparency, equitable trade and responsible purchasing practices to ensure that the production of leather and leather products is sustainable and in line with ethical principles.
5. Collaboration and partnerships: It will enhance collaboration and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including governmental institutions, industry associations and non-governmental organizations, to collectively work for sustainable economic growth and decent work in the leather and leather products industry.

12 RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling reuse.

Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to play an important role in mainstreaming Goal 12 by prioritizing sustainable consumption and production practices in the leather and leather products industry. By integrating environmental and social considerations into the production process and promoting responsible consumption, it will contribute to reducing the environmental footprint of leather products and promoting a more sustainable industry.

Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Sustainable sourcing and raw material management: It will promote sustainable sourcing practices in the leather and leather products industry. This will include promoting the use of responsibly and ethically sourced materials, such as alternative materials that are sustainable or have a lower environmental impact.
2. Resource efficiency and waste reduction: It will encourage its members to adopt resource-efficient production methods and minimize waste generation. This will include optimizing the use of materials, implementing recycling and waste management systems, and developing innovative solutions to reduce the environmental impact of production processes.
3. Product design for sustainability: It will promote the principles of sustainable product design in the leather and leather products industry. This includes encouraging the development of durable and environmentally friendly products, as well as promoting circular design approaches that prioritize recyclability, reparability and reuse.
4. Consumer awareness and responsible consumption: It will raise awareness among consumers on the environmental and social impacts of leather products. This includes educating consumers on sustainable consumption alternatives, promoting ethical and responsible purchasing practices and providing information on the environmentally friendly qualities of leather products.
5. Collaboration and engagement: It will collaborate with stakeholders across the leather value chain, including suppliers, manufacturers, retailers and consumers, to promote sustainable consumption and production practices. This includes sharing best practices and collaborating with initiatives that promote a more sustainable leather industry.
6. Monitoring and reporting: It will promote the establishment of mechanisms to monitor and report on the sustainability performance of member companies. This includes monitoring key sustainability indicators such as resource consumption, waste generation and emissions to measure progress and identify areas for improvement.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

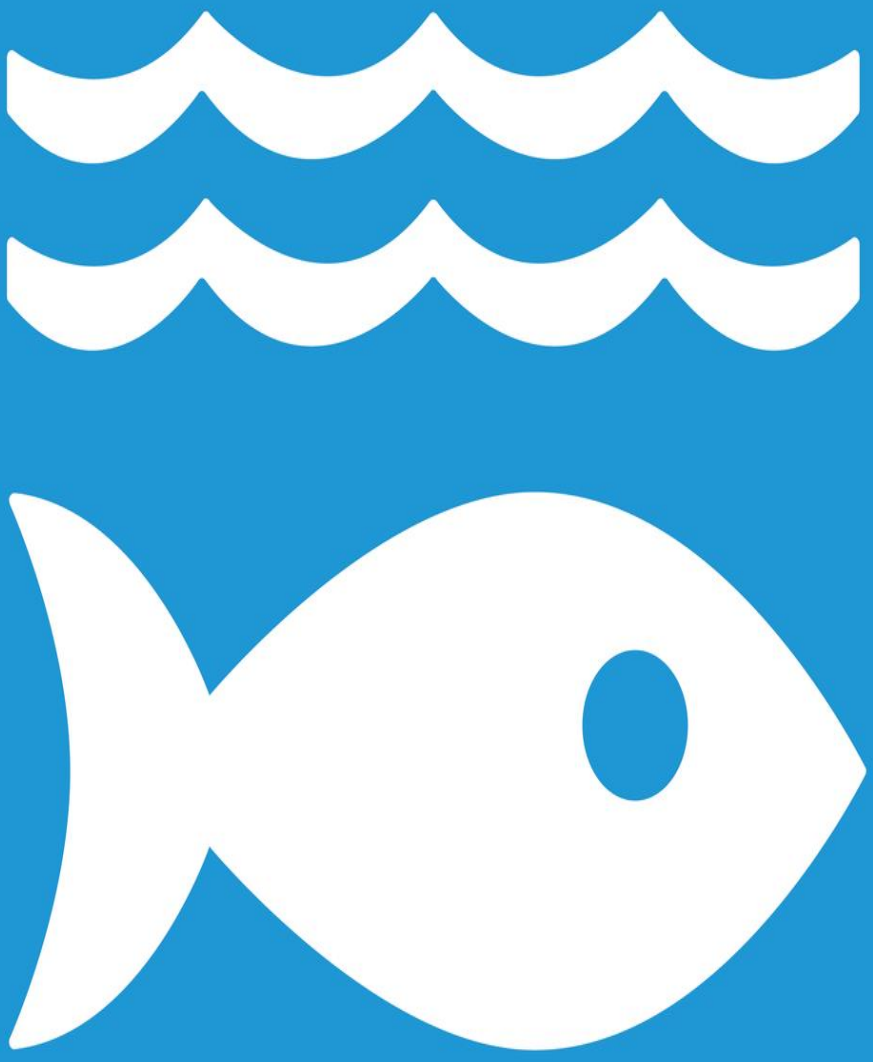
The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to play a role in supporting Goal 13 by prioritizing climate action and encouraging its members to adopt sustainable practices that reduce the environmental impact of the leather industry. By raising awareness on climate change, promoting energy efficiency and supporting initiatives to reduce carbon footprint, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will contribute to building a more climate resilient and sustainable industry.

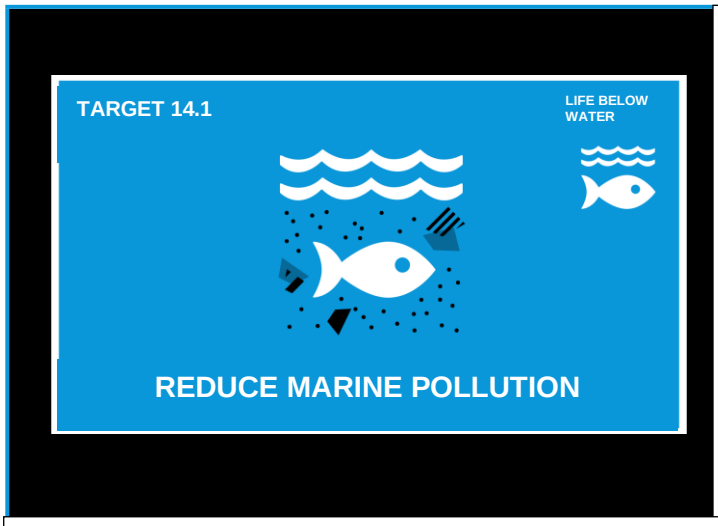
Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Climate awareness and education: It plans to facilitate climate awareness programs and education initiatives for its members. This includes organizing workshops, training sessions and awareness-raising campaigns to educate stakeholders about the risks and impacts of climate change and the role they can play in mitigation and adaptation efforts.
2. Energy efficiency and adoption of renewable energy: It will promote energy efficiency measures and encourage member companies to adopt renewable energy sources. This includes supporting energy efficiency and audits, providing guidance on energy saving practices and advocating for policies that promote renewable energy in the leather and leather products industry.
3. Reducing carbon footprint: It will support its members in measuring, monitoring and reducing their carbon footprint. This includes promoting the use of life cycle analysis (LCA) methodologies, identifying opportunities to reduce emissions and supporting initiatives to offset or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Collaboration on climate initiatives: It will collaborate with other organizations such as NGOs, governmental institutions and research institutions to develop and implement climate-related initiatives. This includes participating in industry-wide sustainability programs, sharing best practices and supporting research and development efforts to find innovative solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

14

LIFE BELOW WATER





By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to play a role in supporting Goal14 by prioritizing the responsible sourcing of raw materials and advocating for sustainable production practices in the leather and leather products industry. The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources by ensuring that material sourcing does not contribute to overfishing or other harmful practices, minimizing pollution and waste in production processes.

Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Prevention of pollution: It will promote pollution prevention measures in the leather and leather products industry to minimize the release of pollutants into the environment. This includes promoting the use of environmentally friendly chemicals, implementing wastewater treatment systems and supporting research and development of cleaner production technologies.
2. Waste reduction and recycling: It will encourage its members to minimize waste generation. This includes implementing waste management systems, exploring opportunities to reuse or upcycle waste from leather and leather products production and supporting initiatives that promote the principles of circular economy.
3. Collaboration with stakeholders: It will collaborate with relevant stakeholders, such as suppliers, manufacturers and environmental organizations, to develop and implement initiatives that contribute to marine conservation. This includes participating in industry-wide programs, sharing best practices and supporting research and development efforts related to sustainable sourcing and production.
4. Producer awareness: It will raise producer awareness on the importance of responsible sourcing and production practices in relation to marine conservation. This includes providing information on sustainable alternatives, promoting environmentally friendly choices and collaborating to ensure transparency in the supply chain.

15

LIFE ON LAND

By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to play a role in supporting Goal 15 by prioritizing sustainable sources of raw materials, promoting forest conservation and advocating for responsible land use practices in the leather and leather products industry. The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council plans to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems by ensuring that raw materials are obtained from sustainable sources, promoting the protection of forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, and minimizing the impact of leather and leather products production on biodiversity.

Leather and Leather Products Industry Council;

1. Sustainable sourcing of raw materials: It will promote sustainable sourcing practices among its members with respect to materials used in production. This includes promoting the use of certified or responsibly sourced materials and supporting initiatives that promote sustainable agricultural and forestry practices.
2. Protection of forests: This includes supporting initiatives that fight deforestation, promote sustainable forest management practices, and advocate for the protection of forests, which are vital for biodiversity and provide important raw materials for the leather industry.
3. Protection of biodiversity: It will promote biodiversity conservation by minimizing the impact of leather and leather products production on ecosystems and wildlife. This includes adopting sustainable production practices that reduce habitat destruction, supporting initiatives that protect endangered species and raising awareness on the importance of protecting biodiversity.

ACTIONS SUGGESTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY MEMBER ENTERPRISES

Action 1 - Establishment / Development of the Environmental Management System

The Environmental Management System is a framework that companies can use to manage their environmental impact and sustainability performance. It is a structured approach to environmental management that can help organizations identify and prioritize their environmental risks and opportunities, set goals and objectives, and measure and monitor their progress towards sustainability goals.

Sustainability requires an Environmental Management System because it helps companies integrate environmental considerations into core business operations and decision-making processes. It allows companies to identify opportunities to reduce environmental impacts and increase resource efficiency, while at the same time improving their profitability and enhancing their reputation as responsible corporate entities.

Companies can benefit from an Environmental Management System in several ways;

1. An Environmental Management System can help reduce environmental risks and obligations by identifying potential environmental impacts and developing strategies to minimize them.
2. An Environmental Management System can help companies comply with environmental regulations and avoid administrative penalties or fines.
3. An Environmental Management System can help companies reduce costs by improving energy and resource efficiency, reducing waste and optimizing production processes.
4. An Environmental Management System can enhance a company's prestige and competitiveness by demonstrating its commitment to sustainability and attracting environmentally conscious customers and investors.

If a company wishes to benefit from an Environmental Management System, it should follow a structured approach to the implementation of an Environmental Management System, such as the ISO 14001 standard, which provides a framework for developing and certifying this process. This includes identifying the company's environmental risks and

opportunities, setting environmental goals and objectives, developing an action plan to achieve those goals, implementing the plan, monitoring progress and continuously improving the Environmental Management System over time.

For this reason, the first step for companies and the industry to move towards sustainable growth should be the establishment of a structure in which processes are documented, recording systems are created and performance measurement is ensured through these records. With the establishment of this structure, leather and leather products manufacturers will have policies and procedures regarding production processes, and will determine roles and responsibilities with a redesigned organization chart in accordance with these policies and procedures. Within the framework of this structure, human resources, one of the most important assets of companies, will be able to fulfill important responsibilities such as ensuring compliance with legal requirements, keeping the necessary records, determining the current situation, setting future goals together with the company management, achieving the realization of the goals and thus contributing to both the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and achieving compliance with the European Union Green Deal.

Sources of Social Compliance: Initiatives, Methodologies and Organizations

Leather Working Group:

The Leather Working Group (LWG) is a multi-stakeholder organization established to promote sustainable and environmentally responsible practices in the leather industry. It is not one person, but a collective effort of various stakeholders in the industry.

The LWG was established in 2005 and includes members from different segments of the leather supply chain, including brands, retailers, manufacturers, suppliers and technical experts. The organization's primary focus is to improve the environmental and ethical performance of leather production.

The LWG aims to reduce the environmental impact of leather production, increase traceability in the supply chain and promote responsible sourcing and production practices.

Sustainable Leather Foundation (SLF):

Sustainable Leather Foundation's vision is to provide improvement and education for more sustainable practices in the production of leather and leather products. SLF is engaged in all aspects of sustainability: environmental, social and governance. As a non-profit organization, SLF provides a transparent and inclusive approach to showcase sustainable good practices throughout the value chain. In addition, SLF ensures that consumers have a clear mechanism to see and understand the sustainable characteristics of leather as a material and the work the industry is doing to ensure good practices.

The aim of the SLF is to unite all leather value chain stakeholders in ensuring a sustainable future for the leather and leather products industry by shining a light on innovation and best practices, providing a mechanism for improvement and education, while protecting the social and economic welfare of communities.

Action 2 - Establishment / Development of the Social Compliance Management System

In the context of growing sustainability concerns, investors, customers and other stakeholders expect companies to operate in a socially responsible and ethical manner. Companies that fail to meet these expectations risk losing their businesses and investments. In order to meet the Social Compliance requirement, which is one dimension of sustainability, it is necessary to establish a Social Compliance Management System applicable throughout the leather and leather products industry.

A Social Compliance Management System is a system that helps organizations ensure that their operations and supply chains meet social and ethical standards. Social compliance refers to a company's responsibility to operate with respect for human rights, equitable labor and ethical business practices.

Social compliance is a continuous process by which organizations seek to protect the health, safety and rights of their employees, the communities in which they operate, the environment, and the lives of workers in their supply and distribution chains. Social compliance can also be referred to as sustainability, which includes ethics (treatment towards people and animals), the environment and the economy.

The Social Compliance Management System serves to verify that the safety, health and freedom of movement of an organization's employees are in compliance with the appropriate wage standards, local regulations and laws. The Social Compliance Management System mainly contributes to sustainability in the following areas;

1. Underage labor
2. Collective bargaining
3. Discrimination
4. Housing
5. Environment
6. Freedom of association
7. Harassment

8. Health and safety
9. Forced labor
10. Wages
11. Excessive working hours

Social Compliance is important for companies for several reasons:

Prestige and trademark:
Companies that fail to meet social and ethical standards risk damaging their prestige and trademarks. Negative publicity, boycotts and social media backlash can have a significant impact on a company's image and financial performance.

Legal and regulatory compliance:
Social compliance is also a legal and regulatory requirement in many countries and industries. Non-compliance can result in fines, legal action and damage to a company's reputation.

Employee loyalty and retention:
Socially responsible companies are more attractive to employees who want to work for an organization that shares their values. A company that values its employees and treats them fairly is more likely to retain its workforce.

Supply chain management:
Social compliance is critical to managing a company's supply chain. Ensuring that suppliers and subcontractors meet social and ethical standards can reduce the risk of supply chain disruptions, legal liabilities and negative publicity.

Stakeholder expectations:
Investors, customers and other stakeholders are increasingly expecting companies to operate in a socially responsible and ethical manner. Companies that fail to meet these expectations risk losing their businesses and investments.

As it can be clearly seen, social compliance is crucial for companies to ensure a responsible and ethical approach to their businesses, manage risks, and maintain their reputation and competitiveness in the marketplace. By adopting a social compliance management system, companies can demonstrate their commitment to social and ethical standards, reduce social and ethical risks, and enhance their reputation and financial performance.

The need to establish a social compliance management system in a company requires taking into account the efforts of the International Labor Organization in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes social justice and decent working conditions for all workers.

International Labour Standards established by the International Labour Organization are guidelines and principles that establish minimum social and labor rights for workers. There are more than 190 ILO conventions and recommendations covering various aspects of labor and social policy. ILO core conventions, recognized as fundamental principles and rights at work, include the following:

Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining:

Workers have the right to form and join trade unions and to bargain collectively with employers.

Elimination of forced or compulsory labor:

All forms of forced labor, including human trafficking, debt bondage and slavery, must be eliminated.

Elimination of child labor:

Children under 18 years of age should not be employed in work harmful to their health, education, physical, mental or social development.

Elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation:

Workers must be treated fairly and without discrimination based on race, sex, religion, age, disability or other factors.
In addition to the core conventions, the ILO has established a number of other standards on issues such as working conditions, employment, social security and occupational health and safety.
While international labor standards are not legally binding, they provide a framework for countries to develop their own national laws and policies and ensure that workers' rights are protected. Companies can also use international labor standards as a baseline reference for their social compliance management systems to ensure that their operations and supply chains comply with ethical and social standards.

Sources of Social Compliance: Initiatives, Methodologies and Organizations

There are social compliance management systems that can be taken as reference both for the design of a decent leather and leather products sector by meeting the social compliance requirements of sustainability and for meeting legal regulations and international customer expectations. These are;

ISO 26000, Social Responsibility:

This document, published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in 2010, does not provide any certification, but only a guideline for organizations that take social responsibility into account. It identifies the seven core principles of social responsibility:

1. Accountability,
2. Transparency, ethical behavior,
3. Respect for stakeholder interests,
4. Respect for the rule of law,
5. Respect for international norms of behavior,

Sustainable Leather Foundation (SLF):

Sustainable Leather Foundation's vision is to provide improvement and education for more sustainable practices in the production of leather and leather products. SLF is engaged in all aspects of sustainability: environmental, social and governance. As a non-profit organization, SLF provides a transparent and inclusive approach to showcase sustainable good practices throughout the value chain. In addition, SLF ensures that consumers have a clear mechanism to see and understand the sustainable properties of leather as a material and the work the industry is doing to ensure good practices.

The aim of the SLF is to unite all leather value chain stakeholders in ensuring a sustainable future for the leather and leather products industry by shining a light on innovation and best practices, providing a mechanism for improvement and education, while protecting the social and economic welfare of communities.

SAI 8000:

The SA8000 certification standard was published in 1997 by Social Accountability International, a non-profit social welfare group. A voluntary program, SA8000 is considered the first global standard that is scalable to organizations of any size in any country.

SA8000 certification indicates that a company has maintained SA8000 standards for three years. It encourages self-management in areas of social accountability and provides third-party audits to ensure companies are compliant. Based on the provisions of the International Labor Organization and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the standard focuses on eight measurable areas and management:

1. Child labor
2. Forced labor
3. Health and safety
4. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
5. Discrimination

6. Disciplinary practices
7. Working hours
8. Remuneration
9. Management System

Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI):

The Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) is not an audit and certification system, but provides an improvement methodology for businesses and farms seeking certification. BSCI is an initiative of the Foreign Trade Association (FTA) and works to provide a consolidated compliance framework that can be applied across multiple sectors.

Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SEDEX):

Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit was developed by the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) to bring together best practices in existing audit methods. Sedex, which stands for Supplier Ethical Data Exchange, is a non-profit membership organization that provides a platform for companies to share and manage ethical and responsible business practices in their supply chains. Sedex was founded in 2004 and is based in London, UK.

Sedex provides a database that allows companies to share information on labor standards, health and safety, environmental impact, business ethics and other aspects of responsible and ethical business practices. The platform is designed to facilitate collaboration and transparency between buyers and suppliers and enable companies to better manage their social and ethical risks.

Sedex offers a range of audit and assessment services to help companies evaluate the social and ethical performance of their suppliers. These assessments are conducted by third-party auditors and cover a range of standards, including the Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA) and other social compliance standards.

Using Sedex, companies can demonstrate their commitment to responsible and ethical business practices, manage their social and ethical risks, and improve transparency and collaboration in their supply chains. Sedex has more than 60,000 members in 180 countries, including some of the world's largest retailers, manufacturers and suppliers.

While Social Compliance Management and Audit Systems are not limited to the above, there are also a number of other Social Compliance Management and Audit Systems currently in use. These are;

Fair Labor Association (FLA):

The FLA is a collaboration of companies, universities and other groups that help to ensure safe working conditions.

Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP):

WRAP is a non-profit organization based in Virginia. They are focused on providing guidance to apparel and footwear manufacturers worldwide on ethical labor practices based on decisions of the International Labor Organization. WRAP conducts its work within the framework of 12 published principles.

AIM-PROGRESS (Association des Industries de Marque or European Brands Association):

The global voluntary initiative of fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) manufacturers promoting "responsible sourcing" is supported by AIM in Europe and GMA in the US.

Action 3 - Design of Data Collection Tools and Data Collection Process

During and after the establishment of the Environmental Management System and the Social Compliance Management System together or separately over a period of time, data collection design is required in order to make efficient use of these systems. Data collection;

- Production Data: Monthly tracking of the amount of product produced in the enterprise,
- Energy Consumption: Monitoring the electricity, natural gas, coal, diesel fuel consumption of the enterprise. In addition to each energy item being in its own unit value, this tracking is also done by tracking all energy consumption as a single unit and examining its effect on unit product production.
- Water Consumption and Wastewater Quantity and Quality: Due to the importance of water consumption especially in leather production and the impact of wastewater quality on the environment, monitoring the amount of water used in production and the quality of wastewater generated after production.
- Monitoring of hazardous wastes generated during the production process. Chemical drums, packaging of powdered chemicals, wastes contaminated with chemicals etc., waste oils, batteries, cartridges, fluorescents generated due to machine and equipment maintenance are among the hazardous wastes to be monitored. In addition to monitoring these wastes generated in both leather production and leather products production, it is important to establish regular waste storage areas within the enterprise and to periodically deliver the accumulated wastes to licensed recycling companies.
- Monitoring of non-hazardous wastes generated during the production process. Although non-hazardous wastes of similar nature are generated in the production of bovine leather and ovine leather in leather production, these non-hazardous wastes are utilized or disposed of in different ways due to the differences between bovine raw leather and ovine raw leather. Non-hazardous wastes generated in the production of leather products are also of the same nature. Similarly, it is important to monitor these wastes, as well as to establish regular waste storage areas within the enterprise and to periodically deliver the accumulated wastes to licensed recycling companies.

Testing the amount of chromium oxide in chromium leather and post-chroming residual water specific to leather production and using the test results to improve environmental performance. By determining the amount of chromium oxide, information can be obtained on how much of the chromium used in leather production is bound to the leather and how much of it is removed from the plant with the wastewater. A low amount of chromium in the wastewater is important for both the efficient use of the enterprise resources and the environmental performance of the enterprise.

Another parameter specific to leather production that needs to be monitored is ammonia measurements. It occurs especially in the descaling process of leather production and is harmful to human health if inhaled. For this reason, it is necessary to periodically measure the ambient environment or to continuously monitor the presence of ammonia in the environment by installing a fixed detector.

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) is an important parameter that must be monitored in the finishing process in leather production and in all stages of leather products production that require dyeing, especially in the edge dyeing process. Chemicals used for dyeing have a certain solvent content and have negative effects on human health. For this reason, the VOC % values in the safety data sheets of the chemicals used and their monthly usage amounts should be monitored.

Data Type	Leather Production	Leather Products Production
Production		
Energy Consumption		
Water Consumption		
Amount and Quality of Waste Water		
Hazardous Wastes		
Non-Hazardous Wastes		
Chromium Oxide Content		
Oil Content		
Ammonia Level in the Environment		
Volatile Organic Compounds		
Chemical Inventory		

Action 4 - Aspect and Impact Analysis and the Establishment/Development of Performance Indicators

In leather and leather products production, data collection design and data should be recorded within regularly established environmental management and social compliance management systems. In addition, it is necessary to determine the potential impacts of companies and to establish performance indicators in this context.

The concept of aspect and impact analysis is widely used in environmental management to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts of business activities. However, it can also be used in social compliance management to identify and assess the potential social and labor impacts of business activities.

Aspect and impact analysis involves identifying relevant aspects of business activities that may have social or labor impacts, assessing the significance of these aspects, and identifying measures to address potential negative impacts. For instance, a company may identify the use of child labor in its supply chain as a significant social compliance issue and devise measures to address it, such as implementing social compliance standards for suppliers, conducting supplier audits, and providing training and capacity building.

By conducting aspect and impact analysis for social compliance, companies can identify and address potential social and labor risks in their operations, demonstrate their commitment to ethical and responsible business practices, and build trust among stakeholders.

Aspect and impact analysis is a process used to identify and assess the potential environmental, social or other impacts of an organization's activities, products or services and includes the following steps:

Identification of Aspects:

The initial step in an aspect and impact analysis is to identify the aspects of the organization's operations, products or services that may have an impact on the environment, society or other interests. These aspects include activities such as energy use, waste generation, emissions, labor practices and supply chain management.

Assessment of the Importance of the Identified Aspects:

Once the aspects are identified, the next step is to assess the potential importance of each aspect. This process allows to assess the likelihood and potential magnitude of each impact and to identify which aspects are more significant.

Identification of Measures:

Based on the assessment of the significance of each aspect, the organization can then identify measures to address potential negative impacts. This entails developing policies, procedures or initiatives to reduce the impact of the aspect or prevent it from occurring in the first place.

Implementation and Monitoring of Measures:

Once measures are identified, they need to be implemented and monitored to ensure that they are effective in managing the identified impacts. The organization needs to establish metrics or indicators to track progress and periodically review the aspect and impact analysis to ensure that it remains up to date.

By conducting an aspect and impact analysis, organizations will better understand the potential environmental, social or other impacts of their operations, products or services. This information will help them identify opportunities to improve their performance, reduce risks and demonstrate their commitment to sustainable and responsible business practices.

The quantifiable measures to be determined within the scope of the implementation and monitoring process of the measures also constitute the performance indicators of the enterprises. These performance indicators provide important information for monitoring the sustainability of enterprises. Using this information, various tools can be developed for the management of production and production-related factors.

Action 5 - Establishment/Development of Restricted Substances Management System

Chemical management refers to the process of managing the safe and sustainable use, transportation, storage and disposal of chemicals. It involves identifying and assessing the risks associated with the use of chemicals, implementing measures to control these risks and monitoring their effectiveness.

The management of chemicals is important for several reasons. Many chemicals can pose a risk to human health and the environment if not handled or disposed of properly. Some chemicals can be toxic, flammable, explosive or corrosive. Exposure to these chemicals can cause a range of health problems, from skin irritation and respiratory problems to cancer and reproductive disorders. In addition, chemicals can have negative impacts on the environment, such as soil and water pollution, and can damage ecosystems.

Effective chemical management includes the following key elements:
Chemical Inventory:
Developing an inventory of chemicals used in an organization, including the quantity used, their properties and location.

Risk Assessment:

Assessing the potential risks associated with the use, handling, storage and disposal of chemicals.

Control Measures:

Implementing measures to control the risks associated with the use of chemicals, such as substituting safer alternatives, improving handling and storage practices, and implementing engineering controls.

Training and communication:

Ensuring that employees are trained in the safe use and disposal of chemicals and communicating risks and control measures to relevant stakeholders.

Monitoring and Reporting:

Monitoring the effectiveness of control measures and reporting on performance, including the use of key performance indicators and reporting on incidents and near misses.

By implementing effective chemical management practices, organizations can minimize the risks associated with the use of chemicals, protect human health and the environment, and ensure compliance with relevant regulations and standards. In addition, emphasis can be placed on sourcing chemicals from chemical suppliers within the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) program, which covers many sectors, or requesting chemical suppliers to participate in the ZDHC program.

ZDHC stands for Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals. It is a global collaboration of apparel and footwear brands, retailers, manufacturers and chemical suppliers working to ensure the adoption of sustainable chemistry and best practices in the textile, leather and footwear industries.

Many global brands and retailers have adopted ZDHC standards as part of their responsible sourcing and sustainability strategies. By complying with ZDHC guidelines, leather and leather goods manufacturers can improve their environmental performance, competitiveness and enhance their reputation among customers and stakeholders who are increasingly concerned about environmental and social issues.

Action 6 - Establishment/Development of Chemical Management System

Waste management system refers to the process of collecting, transporting, processing, recycling and/or disposing of waste materials in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner. It covers the entire life cycle of waste from generation to final disposal.

The main objective of a waste management system is to minimize the negative impacts of waste on human health, the environment and society as a whole. It includes various strategies and techniques to reduce, reuse, recycle and properly dispose of waste materials, which are aimed at optimizing resource use and minimizing pollution.

The key components of a waste management system include:

Waste Collection: This involves the organized collection of waste from household, commercial and industrial sources. Waste collection systems can range from curbside collection of household waste to specialized collection services for hazardous materials.

Waste Transportation: Collected waste is then transported to appropriate facilities for further processing, treatment, recycling or disposal. Transportation methods depend on the type and quantity of waste and may include trucks, trains or ships.

Waste Treatment and Processing: Waste treatment processes aim to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste as well as recover valuable resources. Treatment methods include composting, anaerobic digestion, incineration and mechanical or biological treatment. These processes help to reduce the environmental impact of waste and extract value from specific waste streams.

Recycling and Resource Recovery: Recycling involves recovering materials from waste and transforming them into new products. It helps to conserve natural resources, reduce energy consumption and minimize the need to extract raw materials. Recovery involves the production of energy from waste and is the most effective waste management system after recycling according to the waste hierarchy.

Waste Disposal: Proper waste disposal is required for waste that cannot be reused, recycled or recovered. Sanitary Landfilling is the most common method of waste disposal, but it needs to be carefully managed to prevent environmental pollution.

Regulatory Framework: A well-functioning waste management system requires a regulatory framework that sets standards, guidelines and enforcement mechanisms. Regulations ensure compliance, promote waste reduction and facilitate the safe treatment and disposal of waste.

The benefits of an effective waste management system include:

Environmental Protection: Proper waste management minimizes pollution, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and conserves natural resources. It helps prevent soil, water and air pollution, protect ecosystems and preserve biodiversity.

Human Health and Safety: A well-managed waste management system reduces waste-related health risks, such as the spread of disease and exposure to hazardous substances. It also protects individuals and communities from accidents, fires and other safety hazards from improper waste disposal.

Protection of Resources: Recycling and recovering materials from waste saves energy and conserves natural resources by reducing the need to extract raw materials. Waste-to-energy processes can also generate renewable energy, contributing to a more sustainable energy mix.

Economic Opportunities: Waste management systems can create job opportunities and stimulate economic growth through recycling industries, waste treatment plants and resource recovery initiatives. It can promote a circular economy in which waste is recognized as a valuable resource.

Overall, a comprehensive waste management system is crucial for sustainable development, promoting environmental stewardship, protecting human health, conserving resources and mitigating the impacts of waste on our planet.

Sectoral Waste and Current Assessment Methodology

Hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are generated during the production of leather and leather products. Hazardous wastes consist of wastes such as chemical drums, powdered chemical packaging, contaminated wastes, waste oil, etc. and are handed over to licensed disposal facilities. However, the situation of non-hazardous waste is different and the current situation is as shown in the table below.

Waste	Bovine Leather Production	Ovine Leather Production	Assessment Method
Rawhide Pruning	Oil Production	Oil Production	Recycling
Fleshing	Oil Production	Oil Production	Recycling
Chromium Leather Pruning and Shavings	Salpa Fertilizer	Energy Production Sanitary Landfill	Recycling Recovery Sanitary Landfill
Crust and Finished Leather Pruning Finished Leather Cutting Waste	Salpa Small Accessories	Energy Production Sanitary Landfill	Recycling Recovery Sanitary Landfill
Abrasive Powder	Salpa	Energy Production Sanitary Landfill	Recycling Recovery Sanitary Landfill
Trap	-	Energy Production Sanitary Landfill	Recovery Sanitary Landfill

The current situation in Leather Products production is as presented in the table below.

Waste	Assessment Method
Leather Trimmings	Sanitary Landfill
Dust and Fibrous Wastes	Sanitary Landfill
Non-Leather Components (zippers, threads, buttons, buckles, etc.)	Sanitary Landfill
Packaging Materials	Recycling

Action 7 - Establishment/Development of Waste Management System

Product end-of-life management refers to the process of handling and managing products, materials or substances at the end of their useful life or when they become waste. It includes strategies and practices aimed at minimizing environmental impact, promoting resource conservation and ensuring that products or materials are recycled or disposed of in a safe and responsible manner.

The objective of product end-of-life management is to maximize the value and minimize the negative impacts associated with the disposal or treatment of products, materials or substances that have reached the end of their intended use. Waste management encompasses a variety of activities, including recycling, reuse and appropriate disposal methods.

Key aspects of product end-of-life management include:

Waste Management: Waste management involves the collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of waste materials in an environmentally sound manner. It aims to reduce waste volume, minimize pollution and prevent harm to human health and the environment.

Recycling and Repurposing: Recycling involves the conversion of waste materials into new products or raw materials. It includes processes such as sorting, cleaning and converting waste into reusable materials. Reuse means finding alternative uses for products or materials that have reached the end of their life, extending their useful life and reducing waste.

Resource Recovery: Resource recovery focuses on recovering valuable resources from waste materials. It includes techniques such as extracting reusable components, producing energy from waste or extracting raw materials for further use.

Disposal and Treatment: Some materials or substances may require special treatment or disposal methods due to their hazardous nature.

Proper disposal minimizes the risks to human health and the environment and ensures that harmful substances are under control. Methods may include sanitary landfilling, incineration or specialized treatment facilities.

Benefits of effective product end-of-life management:

Environmental Protection: Appropriate product end-of-life management reduces pollution, prevents the release of hazardous substances into the environment and minimizes the depletion of natural resources. It helps protect ecosystems, air, water and soil quality and reduces the negative impact of waste on the environment.

Resource Conservation: Effective product end-of-life management promotes resource conservation by maximizing the recovery and reuse of valuable materials. Recycling and reuse efforts reduce the need for virgin resources, save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect natural habitats.

Circular Economy: Product end-of-life management is an integral part of the circular economy concept. By promoting recycling, reuse and resource recovery, it helps to create a closed-loop system that continuously reuses materials, reduces waste generation and promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Economic Opportunities: Product end-of-life management can create economic opportunities. Recycling industries, waste management facilities and resource recovery initiatives can stimulate job creation, support local economies and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient economy.

Product end-of-life management plays a crucial role in minimizing environmental impacts, conserving resources and promoting sustainable practices. Through recycling, reuse and responsible disposal, waste generation can be minimized, reducing pollution and supporting a more circular and sustainable economy. Through appropriate end-of-life management, it can enable a more sustainable future that balances economic development with environmental protection and resource conservation.

Action 8 - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices

In the face of climate change and increasing energy demand, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources are becoming increasingly important. Energy efficiency refers to the process of using energy in the most efficient and effective way, minimizing energy waste and maximizing the output or benefits from energy consumption. It involves the adoption of technologies, practices and policies that reduce energy demand while maintaining or improving efficiency.

Benefits of Energy Efficiency:

Mitigation of Climate Change: Energy efficiency plays a vital role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By optimizing energy use, it is necessary to reduce dependence on fossil fuel-based energy sources, which are the largest contributors to climate change. Energy efficient practices in buildings, industry and transportation help mitigate the effects of climate change by significantly reducing carbon emissions.

Energy Savings: Energy efficiency helps conserve natural resources by reducing overall energy demand. It reduces the need for additional energy infrastructure such as power plants and transmission lines, thus conserving land, water and other resources associated with energy production.

Cost Savings: Energy efficient technologies and practices provide significant cost savings for individuals, businesses and governments. By reducing energy consumption, energy bills are lowered and financial resources can be reallocated for other purposes to ensure sustainability. In addition, investments in energy efficiency have the potential to generate long-term economic benefits and job creation.

Renewable energy sources are derived from naturally renewable resources such as sunlight, wind, water and biomass. These sources offer a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels as they do not deplete finite resources and produce little or no greenhouse gas emissions during operation.

Benefits of Renewable Energy:

Reducing Carbon Emissions: Renewable energy sources produce little or no greenhouse gas emissions during energy production, contributing significantly to climate change mitigation. Transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy helps decarbonize the energy sector, reduce air pollution and improve overall air quality.

Energy Independence and Security: The use of renewable energy sources reduces dependence on fossil fuel imports and increases energy independence and security.

Job Creation and Economic Growth: The renewable energy sector shows significant potential for job creation and economic growth. Investments in renewable energy infrastructure, manufacturing and research and development stimulate employment opportunities, revitalize local economies and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future.

Integration of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:

Synergies between energy efficiency and renewable energy are crucial for achieving sustainable energy goals. Energy efficiency measures reduce overall energy demand, making it easier to meet energy needs with renewable resources. Simultaneously, renewable energy provides a clean and sustainable power source for energy efficient systems and technologies.

In summary, energy efficiency and renewable energy are indispensable for achieving sustainability and combating climate change. By optimizing energy use through efficiency measures and switching to clean and renewable power sources, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve natural resources, increase energy security and promote economic growth.

Action 9 - Water Consumption Efficiency and Water Recovery

Water saving and water recovery are important considerations in the leather and leather products industry. Leather production involves stages, all of which require significant amounts of water. The impact of this industry on water resources and the environment requires an increased focus on the implementation of water saving and water recovery measures.

Water Need:

The leather industry traditionally uses large amounts of water throughout its processes. This high water use puts stress on local water resources and ecosystems, and the discharge of untreated wastewater can lead to pollution and environmental degradation.

Water Saving Strategies:

To address these challenges, industry is increasingly adopting water-saving technologies and practices. Optimizing production processes, developing water-saving methods and using chemicals can minimize water consumption.

Collaboration and Regulations:

Addressing water-related challenges in the leather industry requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including manufacturers, regulators and environmental organizations. Industry organizations can implement sustainable water use practices, and more research and development efforts can lead to the creation of innovative solutions for water conservation and recovery.

Consumer awareness:

Growing consumer awareness of the environmental impacts of leather production is driving demand for more sustainable practices. Consumers prioritizing environmentally friendly products can encourage the industry to adopt responsible water management practices such as water efficient production and transparent labeling.

The leather and leather products industry recognizes the importance of water saving and water recovery to reduce its environmental footprint. By adopting technologies and sustainable practices and fostering collaboration, the industry can move towards more responsible and efficient water use and ultimately contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

Action 10 - Establishment/Development of Traceability System and Responsible Supply Chain Structure

Traceability refers to the ability to track and trace the entire journey of a product or material along the supply chain, from its origin to its final destination. In the leather and leather products industry, traceability is of great importance due to various factors such as environmental sustainability, ethical sourcing and consumer safety. It provides transparency and accountability, allowing stakeholders to monitor and ensure responsible practices throughout the production and distribution process.

Environmental Sustainability: Traceability enables the identification of the source of leather and leather products, including the origin of raw materials such as raw hides or skins. This information is crucial for assessing the environmental impact associated with the production of leather and leather products, including land use, water consumption, chemical use and deforestation. With traceability, companies can make informed decisions to reduce their ecological footprint and work towards sustainable practices.

Ethical Sourcing and Animal Welfare: Traceability allows the supply chain to be monitored to ensure compliance with ethical standards and animal welfare regulations. It ensures that raw hides are sourced from suppliers that follow humane practices, comply with animal welfare regulations and avoid illegal or unethical activities such as illegal poaching or trafficking of endangered species. By tracing the origin of leather, companies can demonstrate their commitment to responsible sourcing and gain the trust of informed consumers.

Quality Control and Safety: In the leather and leather products industry, traceability helps ensure product quality and safety. It allows the identification of potential risks, such as the presence of hazardous substances or chemicals in leather or related materials. By tracing the supply chain, manufacturers can verify suppliers' compliance with safety standards and regulations and minimize the risk of harmful substances entering the production process. It also facilitates product recalls when necessary, ensuring consumer safety and protecting brand reputation.

Consumer Trust and Transparency: Traceability provides consumers with information about the products they buy, enabling them to make informed choices in line with their values and preferences. It enables consumers to understand the origin of leather products, production processes and sustainability information. By offering transparency, companies can build trust, enhance their brand reputation and meet the growing demand for ethically sourced and environmentally responsible products.

Legal Compliance and Due Diligence: Traceability helps companies comply with regulations and standards relevant to the leather industry. It ensures compliance with regulations such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), enabling due diligence to verify the legality and authenticity of supply chains. Compliance with traceability requirements can also protect companies from legal risks associated with the use of illegally sourced materials.

In summary, traceability is essential in the leather and leather products industry as it ensures environmental sustainability, ethical sourcing, consumer safety and legal compliance. By establishing and actively implementing traceability systems, companies can ensure responsible practices, build consumer trust and contribute to a more transparent and sustainable supply chain in leather and leather goods production.

Action 11 - Establishment/Development of Internal and External Management System

Internal and external order of a business refers to the maintenance and cleaning of a workplace or facility. It includes various activities such as cleaning, organizing and maintaining a safe and orderly environment.

Safety: Leather production facilities often use heavy machinery, chemicals and potentially hazardous substances. Effective practices help prevent accidents, injuries and occupational hazards. Regular cleaning and proper storage of equipment and materials reduces the risk of slips, trips, falls and exposure to harmful substances. A clean and well-organized workplace also allows for easy navigation, minimizing the potential for accidents and promoting a safe working environment.

Product Quality: The production of leather and leather products requires precision and attention to detail. A clean and organized facility helps prevent contamination and ensures product quality. Dust, debris or foreign particles can adversely affect the quality and appearance of leather and leather products. By implementing good practices such as regular cleaning and proper storage, the risk of product defects and customer complaints is reduced, resulting in higher quality products.

Efficiency and Productivity: A well-maintained and organized workplace increases efficiency and productivity in leather and leather goods production facilities. When tools, equipment and materials are easily accessible and properly organized, time spent searching for items is minimized, leading to smoother operations and increased productivity. An organized work environment also allows for streamlined workflows, reducing delays and optimizing production processes.

Compliance with Regulations: Leather and leather products production facilities are subject to various environmental, health and safety regulations. Adequate cleaning practices help ensure compliance with these regulations.

Regular cleaning, proper waste management and the use of appropriate storage methods contribute to meeting legal requirements. By adhering to regulations, leather and leather products manufacturing facilities can avoid fines, maintain a positive reputation and demonstrate their commitment to responsible practices.

Employee Morale and Well-being: A clean and well-organized workplace has a positive impact on employee morale and well-being. It fosters a sense of pride and satisfaction among employees, creating a more pleasant and comfortable working environment. Good cleaning practices also contribute to better air quality and improve the health and well-being of the workforce by reducing the risk of allergens or respiratory irritants.

Image and Customer Perception: Practices related to the internal and external order of the enterprise reflect the overall image and professionalism of the production facilities for leather and leather products. A clean and well-maintained facility creates a positive impression on visitors, customers and business partners. It conveys a sense of organization, efficiency and attention to detail, enhancing the reputation and credibility of the facility. A positive image contributes to customer satisfaction, trust and potentially increased business opportunities.

As a result, internal and external order practices are vital to maintaining safety, product quality, productivity, regulatory compliance, employee morale and a positive image in the production facilities for leather and leather products. Effective practices can create a safe, organized and productive work environment, ensure high quality products and foster a positive work culture in the production facilities for leather and leather products.

Action 12 - Establishment/Development of Occupational Health and Safety Management System

Occupational health and safety refers to the measures and procedures implemented to protect the well-being and physical integrity of individuals in the workplace. In the context of leather and leather production facilities, occupational health and safety is extremely important due to the risks and hazards specific to the industry. Here are some important points regarding the importance of occupational health and safety in leather and leather production facilities:

Worker Protection: The production of leather and leather products involves a variety of processes and tasks that can pose risks to workers' health and safety. These can include exposure to hazardous chemicals, operation of heavy machinery, handling of sharp tools and physical strain from repetitive tasks. Implementing occupational health and safety measures helps protect workers from injuries, accidents and occupational health problems, ensures their well-being and promotes a safe working environment.

Compliance with Regulations: Leather and leather production facilities are subject to local, national and international regulations regarding occupational health and safety. Adhering to these regulations is not only a legal requirement, but also necessary to maintain a positive reputation, avoid fines and demonstrate the facility's commitment to responsible practices. Facilities can ensure compliance with regulations and industry standards by developing and implementing occupational health and safety procedures.

Accident Prevention: Proper implementation of occupational health and safety measures significantly reduces the risk of accidents and injuries in leather and leather products production facilities. This includes providing adequate training to workers, maintaining and inspecting machinery and equipment, implementing safety protocols and conducting risk assessments. By identifying potential hazards and taking proactive measures to prevent accidents, facilities can create a safer working environment for their employees.

Employee Wellbeing and Morale: Prioritizing health and safety in the workplace has a direct impact on employee well-being and morale.

Research shows that when employees feel safe, supported and protected, their overall job satisfaction increases. A positive work environment that focuses on occupational health and safety supports employee engagement, reduces stress levels and increases productivity. It also contributes to attracting and retaining skilled employees by fostering a positive work culture.

Product Quality and Customer Trust: Health and safety practices in the production facilities for leather and leather products have a direct impact on product quality and customer confidence. Ensuring a safe and hygienic environment minimizes the risk of contamination, product defects and recalls. By consistently delivering high quality products that meet safety standards, facilities can build trust with customers, leading to customer loyalty and positive brand reputation.

Environmental Impact: Occupational health and safety measures in leather and leather products production facilities also cover environmental considerations. Appropriate waste management, responsible chemical management and pollution prevention practices reduce the impact on the environment. By incorporating environmentally friendly practices, facilities can minimize their ecological footprint, contribute to sustainability goals and comply with environmental regulations.

Consequently, occupational health and safety practices are essential in the production facilities for leather and leather products to protect workers, comply with regulations, prevent accidents, improve employee well-being, ensure product quality and minimize environmental impact. Facilities that prioritize occupational health and safety create a safer and more sustainable working environment that benefits both employees and the overall success of the business.

Action 13 - Establishment of Life Cycle Analysis Methodology and Realization of the Analysis

Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) is a systematic methodology used to assess the environmental impacts of a product or process throughout its entire life cycle, from raw material extraction to disposal. It takes into account various stages, including extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, transportation, product use and end-of-life operations. LCA provides valuable insights into the environmental footprint of a product or process, enabling informed decision-making and identification of opportunities for improvement. In the context of the production of leather and leather products, LCA is of significant importance for several reasons:

Environmental Impact Assessment: LCA allows for a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impacts associated with leather production. It takes account of the consumption of energy, water and raw materials throughout the life cycle, as well as emissions to air, water and land. By quantifying these impacts, LCA provides a holistic view of the environmental performance of leather and leather products and identifies areas where improvements can be made to reduce environmental burdens.

Sustainable Material Selection: LCA helps to select sustainable materials for the production of leather and leather products. By comparing the environmental impacts of different materials, LCA helps to identify alternatives with a lower environmental footprint. For example, it can assess the impacts of different types of leather or other materials used in the production of leather products and enables informed decisions to be made on material choices that minimize environmental damage.

Process Optimization: LCA enables the identification of process improvements to reduce environmental impacts. LCA evaluates different stages of the production of leather and leather products, highlighting areas where efficiency gains can be achieved, such as energy and water consumption, waste generation and emissions. It provides insight into the environmental performance of different production techniques and helps to implement cleaner and more resource efficient practices.

Supply Chain Management: LCA considers the entire supply chain of theproduction of leather and leather products, including raw material sourcing and transportation. It helps identify potential environmental impacts associated with these stages, such as deforestation, habitat destruction and greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. LCA supports supply chain management strategies that promote sustainable sourcing, reduce transportation distances and minimize environmental impacts along the entire value chain.

Product Design and Innovation: LCA facilitates sustainability-first product design and innovation. By assessing the environmental impact of different product designs, LCA helps identify opportunities for optimization, such as reducing material use, increasing durability and minimizing waste generation. LCA supports the development of more sustainable leather products that meet customer needs while minimizing environmental burdens.

Communication and Transparency: LCA provides a scientifically rigorous and transparent framework for sharing the environmental performance of leather and leather products with stakeholders. It promotes transparency and accountability by enabling businesses to provide credible information to consumers, stakeholders and regulators.

Ultimately, LCA is a valuable tool for assessing the environmental impacts of the production of leather and leather products. It supports sustainable decision-making by providing information on issues that contribute negatively to the environment, facilitating material selection, optimizing processes, managing the supply chain, promoting product innovation and enhancing communication and transparency. By incorporating LCA into their practices, leather and leather products industry stakeholders can work to reduce the environmental footprint of their products and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Action 14 - Combining the Science-Based Goals Initiative and Life Cycle Analysis Systems

The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) is a joint effort between CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project), the United Nations Global Compact, the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). SBTi helps companies set science-based targets (SBTs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The connection between SBTi and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) lies in the common goal of addressing environmental impact and sustainability. While LCA assesses the environmental footprint of a product or process throughout its life cycle, SBTi focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a company's operations. Using LCA, a company can learn about the environmental impacts of its products and then use SBTi to set emission reduction targets in line with climate science.

In the context of the production of leather and leather products, the importance of SBTi and its connection to LCA can be summarized as follows:

Climate Action: The production of leather and leather products, like any manufacturing process, contributes to GHG emissions through energy consumption, raw material extraction and transportation. Applying the SBTi framework allows leather and leather products manufacturers to set emission reduction targets based on scientific evidence. By linking SBTi to LCA, companies can identify sources of emissions in their production processes and supply chains and focus their efforts on reducing the emissions that matter most.

Environmental Footprint: LCA provides a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impacts of leather and leather products throughout their life cycle. By integrating SBTi with LCA, companies can align their emission reduction targets with their overall sustainability goals by taking the entire value chain of their products into account. This holistic approach ensures that emission reduction efforts target areas with the greatest potential for impact and sustainability improvements.

Stakeholder Engagement: SBTi are widely recognized and endorsed by investors, governments and NGOs as a credible framework for setting emission reduction targets. By adopting SBTi and reporting progress, manufacturers of leather and leather products can increase stakeholder engagement, attract investment and demonstrate their commitment to addressing climate change. The integration of LCA data provides additional transparency and credibility to the emission reduction efforts undertaken by companies.

Market Differentiation: As sustainability becomes an increasingly important factor in consumer decision-making, companies that can demonstrate a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing environmental impacts have a competitive advantage. By integrating SBTi and LCA, manufacturers of leather and leather products can differentiate themselves in the marketplace, showcase their sustainability efforts and meet the evolving expectations of environmentally conscious consumers.

Supply Chain Collaboration: Leather production involves multiple stages and suppliers, making it imperative to engage with the supply chain to achieve emission reduction targets. Integrating SBTi and LCA encourages collaboration and engagement with suppliers to collectively reduce emissions and improve sustainability performance. This collaborative approach promotes transparency, information sharing and innovation throughout the supply chain, leading to more sustainable practices and products.

Put briefly, SBTi provides a framework for setting science-based emission reduction targets, while LCA offers a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impact of leather and leather products. Integrating these two approaches allows companies to align their emission reduction efforts with the broader sustainability goals of their products. By adopting SBTs based on LCA insights, manufacturers of leather and leather products can address climate change, reduce environmental impacts, engage stakeholders, differentiate in the marketplace and collaborate with supply chains for a more sustainable future.

Action 15 - Integration of Certification Processes and Ensuring Third Party Validation

The Turkish leather and leather products industry needs to ensure that the success of these practices is verified by third parties through existing certification systems, along with the fulfillment of the requirements in the action plan set out in this document. While it is essential to test the healthy functioning of all these systems, which are proposed to be established in order to ensure sustainability, through internal audit methods and to carry out corrective actions for disruptions, both external audits through third-party audits and meeting customer demands by accredited and reliable third parties will provide impartial assessment and consequently prestige.

Certification refers to the process of verifying and proving that a product, service or system meets the standards or criteria set by a recognized authority or organization. It involves an independent assessment conducted by a certification body to ensure compliance with predetermined requirements. The certificate provides assurance to stakeholders that the certified organization meets established standards, promoting trust, reliability and accountability. It is important for several reasons:

Quality Assurance: Certification assures consumers and stakeholders that a product or service meets predetermined quality standards. It verifies that the business has undergone a rigorous assessment and meets certain criteria, ensuring consistent and reliable performance. Certification helps to create confidence in the quality and reliability of products and services and to promote customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Compliance with Regulations and Standards: Certification plays an important role in ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Certifications are often aligned with industry-specific standards, regulations or codes of practice.

By undergoing certification audits, organizations demonstrate their commitment to meeting these requirements, minimizing legal risks and ensuring the health, safety and well-being of consumers and the environment.

Credibility and Market Differentiation: Certification enhances the credibility and reputation of organizations by providing independent verification of sustainability claims. Certified businesses provide competitors and consumers with evidence that the certified product or service has undergone rigorous assessment. Certification can be a valuable marketing tool that helps organizations differentiate themselves and gain a competitive advantage in export markets.

Risk Management: Certification helps manage the risks associated with various aspects of production processes. It helps identify vulnerabilities and areas for improvement, ensuring that processes and systems meet recognized standards and best practices. Certification bodies often conduct periodic audits or inspections to ensure continuous compliance, allowing organizations to proactively address potential risks and vulnerabilities.

Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility: Certifications related to sustainability and corporate social responsibility demonstrate an organization's commitment to environmentally friendly, socially responsible and ethical practices. Certification systems in areas such as environmental management, energy efficiency, fair trade or labor practices help organizations meet sustainability goals, enhance their reputation and attract socially conscious consumers and investors.

International Trade and Access to Markets: Certification systems facilitate international trade by ensuring compliance with global standards. They prove that products meet the requirements of specific markets or regulatory frameworks, allowing for a smoother market access and reducing trade barriers. Certifications can be particularly important in sectors such as food safety, organic products and information security, where international standards and consumer confidence are crucial.

As a result, certification plays a vital role in ensuring quality, compliance, reliability and risk management. Consumers, stakeholders and regulatory bodies trust the certified organization's adherence to recognized standards or criteria. By becoming certified, organizations can differentiate themselves in the market, manage risks, demonstrate sustainability and social responsibility, and facilitate international trade. Overall, certification promotes transparency, accountability and trust in various sectors and industries.

Major third-party audit mechanisms that can be used in the leather and leather products industry are as follows.

Third Party Organization	Scope	Relevant Sector
Leather Working Group	**Environment**	Leather
Sustainable Leather Foundation	**Environment, Social and Governance (ESG)**	Leather and Leather Products
Eco-Label	**Environment**	Leather Products
Eco2L	**Energy Efficiency**	Leather
SA8000	**Social Compliance**	Leather and Leather Products
BSCI	**Social Compliance**	Leather and Leather Products
Sedex	**Social Compliance**	Leather and Leather Products
Higg Index	**Environment and Social Compliance**	Leather and Leather Products
Furmark	**Traceability**	Precious Fur Woolen Leather (Fur Suede) Leather and Fur Garment
I.C.E.C	**Traceability**	Leather

Action 16 - Establishment / Development of ESG Reporting System

ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) reporting refers to sharing a company's environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance and practices with interested parties in writing in a systematic manner. It includes reporting on various aspects of a company's operations, including its environmental impact, social initiatives and governance structure. ESG reporting is becoming increasingly important in business as stakeholders, including investors, customers, employees and regulators, demand greater transparency and accountability on sustainability and responsible business practices.

In the context of the production of leather and leather products, ESG reporting is important for several reasons:

Environmental Impact: ESG reporting allows leather and leather goods manufacturers to disclose their environmental performance and impact. This includes reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, water use, waste generation and other environmental indicators. By providing transparency on these aspects, companies can highlight their efforts to minimize environmental damage, adopt sustainable practices and promote responsible resource management.

Supply Chain Responsibility: The production of leather and leather products involves complex supply chains, often spanning multiple countries and involving diverse stakeholders. ESG reporting encourages companies to assess and report on the social and environmental impacts of their supply chains. This includes disclosing efforts to ensure responsible sourcing of raw materials, promoting fair labor practices, and addressing issues such as deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity conservation.

Social Responsibility: ESG reporting enables companies to demonstrate their commitment to social responsibility. This includes reporting on initiatives related to employee well-being and safety, diversity and inclusion, labor rights, community engagement and responsible marketing practices.

By reporting on these aspects, manufacturers of leather and leather products can demonstrate their efforts to create positive social impacts and contribute to the well-being of their employees and communities.

Governance and Ethics: ESG reporting covers governance practices and ethical standards within a company. It includes reporting on the company's governance structure, board diversity, executive compensation, anti-corruption measures and commitment to ethical business practices. By sharing information on governance and ethics, companies can demonstrate their commitment to transparent and responsible decision-making and enhance trust and credibility among stakeholders.

Investor and Consumer Trust: ESG reporting plays an important role in attracting investors and consumers who prioritize sustainability and responsible business practices. Investors are increasingly taking ESG factors into account when making investment decisions, and consumers are becoming more aware of the environmental and social impacts of the products they buy. By providing transparent and credible ESG reporting, manufacturers of leather and leather products can increase investor and consumer trust, differentiate themselves in the market and attract socially responsible investors and consumers.

Compliance with Legislation: ESG reporting is also affected by regulatory requirements and guidelines. Companies operating in jurisdictions with mandatory reporting frameworks are required to comply with specific ESG reporting obligations. By adhering to these requirements, manufacturers of leather and leather products can ensure regulatory compliance, avoid penalties and maintain a positive relationship with regulators.

In conclusion, ESG reporting is important in the production of leather and leather products as it allows companies to share their environmental, social and governance practices in a systematic way. It helps them demonstrate their commitment to sustainability, responsible sourcing, social responsibility and ethical business practices. ESG reporting increases transparency, builds trust among stakeholders, attracts investors and consumers, and contributes to the overall credibility and long-term success of the manufacturers of leather and leather products.

Action 17 - Incorporating Sustainability into the Education Curricula of Students and Youth

The continuity of sustainable practices of the leather and leather products industry is of course important for the training of human resources in this direction.

Educating young people and students about sustainability is crucial for several reasons:

Shaping ways of thinking and values: Education programs provide an opportunity to instill sustainable values and ways of thinking in young people. By raising and educating on sustainability issues, they can develop awareness of the relationship between social, economic and environmental aspects. This in turn shapes decision-making processes and encourages responsible behavior that contributes to a sustainable future.

Equipping with Knowledge and Skills: Education equips young people with the knowledge and skills needed to address sustainability challenges. It provides them with a holistic understanding of sustainability principles and practices. It enables them to actively participate in finding innovative solutions to sustainability challenges by developing skills such as critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration.

Promoting leadership and empowerment: Education programs allow young people to develop leadership skills and become agents of change. By providing them with platforms to voice their opinions and participate in sustainability initiatives, they gain confidence and have the ability to take action. Young leaders have the potential to drive sustainable practices in their communities, educational institutions and future workplaces.

Promoting sustainable career pathways: Education for sustainability opens up a variety of career opportunities aligned with sustainable development goals. By preparing young people and students for sustainable career pathways, education programs contribute to the development of a skilled workforce capable of addressing current and future sustainability challenges.

Promoting innovation and creativity: Young minds are often more open to exploring new ideas and challenging traditional practices. Education programs provide a platform for young people to foster innovation and creativity in finding sustainable solutions. By encouraging critical thinking, exploring alternative approaches and embracing interdisciplinary thinking, education programs can unlock their potential to contribute new perspectives and innovative ideas.

Promoting sustainable lifestyles and consumer choices: Education programs can influence the behavior and consumption patterns of young people. Education promotes sustainable lifestyles by raising awareness about the impact of personal choices on the environment and society. As consumers, young people have the power to increase demand for sustainable products and services and influence businesses to adopt more sustainable practices.

Long-term impact and intergenerational equality: Investing in youth education has long-term benefits for sustainability. By equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills, they can become future leaders, decision-makers and agents of change. Their understanding of sustainability issues and commitment to responsible practices will have a lasting impact on shaping policies, driving innovation and ensuring intergenerational equality.

In conclusion, educating youth and students about sustainability is crucial to creating a sustainable future. It empowers them to be responsible and active contributors to addressing environmental, social and economic challenges. By promoting knowledge, skills, values and leadership qualities, education programs prepare young individuals to make informed decisions, drive innovation and champion sustainable practices in their personal and professional lives.

Potential Sustainability Training Topics in the Leather and Leather Products Industry:

Sustainable manufacturing practices for leather and leather products: It will cover sustainable production principles, including the use of environmentally friendly chemicals, energy-efficient technologies, water recovery and waste reduction strategies.

Environmental impact of leather and leather products production: It will cover the environmental impact of the production of leather and leather products, including water and energy consumption, carbon emissions and waste generation, and how to minimize these impacts through sustainable practices.

Occupational Health and Safety: It will cover the potential hazards associated with leather and leather goods production, such as chemical exposure, and how to minimize these risks through appropriate safety measures and personal protective equipment.

Marketing and Branding: It will cover marketing and branding of sustainable leather products, including certification, use of eco-labels, narrative and social media.

Environmental Regulations and Standards: It will cover environmental regulations and standards governing the leather and leather products industry, including water and air quality regulations, waste management regulations and standards for internal and external layout of the business.

Sustainable and Ethical Sourcing: It will cover how to meet the criteria for sustainable and responsible sourcing of raw materials.

Water Management: It will cover the efficient use of water in leather production, including water reuse and recycling, and how to minimize the water footprint of leather production.

Energy Management: It will cover the efficient use of energy in the production of leather and leather products, including the use of renewable energy sources and energy saving technologies.

Chemical Management: This will cover the safe use and disposal of chemicals used in the production of leather and leather products and how to minimize the environmental and health risks associated with these chemicals.

Waste Management: It will cover the management of solid and liquid waste generated in the production of leather and leather products, including waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

Social Responsibility and Labor Standards: Cover social responsibility and labor standards governing the production of leather and leather products, including worker health and safety, equitable labor practices and human rights.

Corporate Governance and Transparency: It will cover corporate governance and transparency practices that ensure accountability and ethical behavior in the production of leather and leather products.

Sustainability Reporting and Performance Assessment: This will cover the reporting and assessment of sustainability performance in the production of leather and leather products, including the use of sustainability metrics and indicators and the development of sustainability reports.

Sustainability Reporting Frameworks: It will cover various existing sustainability reporting frameworks, including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the Integrated Reporting Framework and the European Union Directive on Corporate Sustainability Reporting.

Sustainability Reporting Standards: It will cover the standards that govern sustainability reporting, including materiality, completeness, accuracy, transparency, identification of stakeholder groups, development of stakeholder engagement strategies, and reporting of stakeholder feedback.

Sustainability Reporting Process: It will cover the steps involved in the sustainability reporting process, including data collection, data analysis, data validation and data reporting.

Sustainability Reporting Tools: It will cover the use of software tools to facilitate sustainability reporting, including sustainability management platforms, data visualization tools and sustainability reporting software.

Assurance and Verification: This will cover assurance and verification of sustainability reports, including the use of third-party auditors and the development of internal audit programs.

Emerging Trends in Sustainability Reporting: It will cover emerging trends in sustainability reporting, including the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning, the inclusion of non-financial risks in reporting, and the adoption of new reporting frameworks and standards.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): It will cover the selection and use of sustainability KPIs, including environmental, social and governance (ESG) indicators related to sustainability performance.

Integration with Financial Reporting: It will cover the integration of sustainability reporting with financial reporting, including the development of integrated reports and the alignment of sustainability KPIs with financial performance indicators.

Continuous Improvement: It will cover continuous improvement of sustainability reporting, including the use of feedback mechanisms, benchmarking and target setting.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Methodologies: It will cover LCA methodologies used in the leather and leather products industry.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

At the end of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's sustainability action plan, it is crucial to develop an effective communication strategy for the successful implementation and dissemination of sustainability initiatives. The communication strategy aims to engage stakeholders, raise awareness and showcase the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's commitment to sustainable practices in the leather and leather products industry.

Some of the key components to consider for a communication strategy are:
Clear and Consistent Communication: Clear and concise messages will be developed that highlight the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's sustainability goals, achievements and ongoing efforts, emphasizing the positive impact of sustainable practices on the environment, society and the industry as a whole. A simple and accessible language that can be easily comprehended by a variety of stakeholders will be used.

Multi-Channel Approach: A variety of communication channels will be utilized to effectively reach different target audiences. This will include traditional media such as press releases and interviews, as well as digital platforms such as the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's website, social media accounts and email newsletters.

Stakeholder Engagement: Key stakeholders will be engaged, including member companies, employees, governmental institutions, NGOs and consumers. It is planned to use open and transparent communication channels to gather feedback, address concerns and encourage collaboration. Workshops, seminars and networking events are envisaged to facilitate dialogue and exchange of ideas.

Narrative and Case Studies: Success stories and case studies highlighting the positive impact of sustainable practices in the leather and leather products industry will be shared. Examples of member companies that have successfully implemented sustainable initiatives, showcasing their successes, challenges and lessons learnt will be highlighted. Compelling visuals and narratives will be used to engage stakeholders and inspire others to do the same.

Training and Education: Educational resources and training programs will be offered to raise awareness and build capacity among member companies and employees. Continuous learning and knowledge sharing will be encouraged to ensure the adoption of sustainable practices across the sector by providing information on sustainable practices, environmental regulations and social responsibility.

Collaboration and Partnerships: Opportunities for collaboration with other sustainability-focused organizations, industry associations and relevant stakeholders will be explored. Alliances will be built to amplify the message, share best practices and advocate for sustainable policies and initiatives.

Measurement and Reporting: Progress on the sustainability goals and targets set out in the action plan will be regularly measured and reported. A transparent and reliable reporting mechanism will be developed to communicate the performance of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council to stakeholders. It will be shared at every opportunity that we recognize the importance of accountability and continuous improvement in driving sustainability practices in the leather and leather products industry.

Continuous Engagement: Sustainability is an ongoing journey and the communication strategy is designed to reflect the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's commitment to continuous improvement. Feedback and suggestions from stakeholders will be encouraged and strategies will be adapted accordingly. Communication channels will be active to keep stakeholders informed about updates, achievements and new initiatives.

By implementing a comprehensive communications strategy, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council will effectively communicate its sustainability action plan, engage stakeholders and inspire action within the sector. Clear and consistent communication, stakeholder engagement, narrative, education, collaboration, measurement and continuous engagement are regarded as key elements to ensure the successful communication and implementation of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's sustainability initiatives.

EPILOGUE

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's sustainability action plan is designed to represent a commitment to drive positive change in the leather and leather products sector. The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic viability by aligning its goals and objectives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Throughout this action plan, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council outlines a comprehensive set of actions and initiatives that address key sustainability challenges in the leather and leather products sector. It takes a holistic approach to sustainability, from establishing management systems and promoting responsible resource utilization and traceability to developing cleaner technologies and improving waste management practices.

Furthermore, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council recognizes the importance of collaboration and stakeholder engagement in achieving sustainability goals. By fostering partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders, it will leverage collective expertise and resources to achieve substantive change. The communication strategy outlined in the action plan will ensure that the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's efforts are effectively communicated, thereby raising awareness and inspiring others to do the same.

It is important to note that the sustainability action plan is not a one-off effort but an ongoing commitment to continuous improvement. The Leather and Leather Products Industry Council recognizes the need for regular monitoring, measurement and reporting to track progress and identify areas for further improvement. By embracing a culture of learning and adapting, it can be at the forefront of sustainable practices and will lead the way in responsible leather and leather products production.

We believe that the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council's sustainability action plan provides a strong foundation for a more sustainable and ethical industry. By placing sustainability at the center of their operations, member companies will be able to create positive social and environmental impacts while ensuring long-term economic viability.

Through collaboration, innovation and shared responsibility, the Leather and Leather Products Industry Council aspires to pave the way to a more sustainable future for the leather and leather products industry.