

B&S

Sustainable Choice Scorecard

Sustainable products
and responsible brands

Committed to making sustainable products available to everyone, anywhere

At B&S, we understand the impact of the choices we make and the responsibility we have in ensuring a liveable future. Through the way we run our own operations and through the products we offer to our customers.

Today, the global community is increasingly aware of the pressing challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, inequality and extreme poverty. As society we also have a growing concern about issues like animal welfare, overfishing of the oceans, deforestation and loss of biodiversity.

Consumers are therefore more and more interested in where products come from, what ingredients they are made of, under what conditions they are manufactured and what their impact on the planet is. Consumers require companies and brands to provide transparent information on these matters. At B&S we are mindful of these needs, which is why we are prioritising two main action areas: sourcing and supplying products that take sustainable practices into account and making them easily available for our customers.

As we expand and sharpen our portfolio and partnerships, B&S has set a commitment to offer a minimum of 2,000 sustainable product alternatives by 2030. Our [approach to responsible sourcing and sustainable products](#) as well as this document serve as a framework to guide the decisions we make, the sourcing and sales activities we undertake and the business partnerships we enter into.

Furthermore, our [Supplier Code of Conduct](#) clarifies what we expect from our suppliers in relation to environmental, social and governance matters. This also means we expect our direct suppliers to operate and collaborate with partners that comply with the minimum standards set out in the Code.



A Sustainable Choice

Numerous companies we collaborate with strive to improve their products by focusing on improving their sustainability practices. Together with our suppliers, we actively assess our product offering to identify attributes and certifications based on sustainable practices. With this careful screening, we are able to highlight responsible brands and products through our *Sustainable Choice* selection.

This selection is intended to serve as a guide to help our customers navigate the sustainability landscape and encourage them to purchase responsible products and brands. We aim to make these items easy to identify, and therefore included them as an additional section in our product offering on some of our e-commerce platforms.



Areas covered

Brands and products highlighted by our *Sustainable Choice* selection meet specific attributes related to the following areas:

- 1. Nature protection**
Reducing negative impact on the environment
Produced whilst protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, promoting water stewardship and preventing pollution. Examples include organic produce, MSC fish, UTZ/Rainforest Alliance, climate neutral products, recyclable and/or plastic free packaging.
- 2. Fair conditions**
Respecting human rights
Produced under fair, safe and ethical labour and working conditions. Examples include FairTrade and BSCI.
- 3. Animal welfare**
Protecting animals' quality of life
Produced under animal friendly circumstances or without animal-based ingredients. Examples include vegan, vegetarian, animal cruelty free, BLK (NL).



Our methodology

Our 'Sustainable Choice' Scorecard is our guidance methodology for when we at B&S perceive a product or brand to be a sustainable, conscious choice.

We mapped various sustainability labels and certifications, as well as social compliance standards that are widely used in the product areas we cover: food, beauty, personal care, liquors, health and consumer electronics. For this analysis, we were assisted by third party consultancy Sustainalize- by ERM. Subsequently, we validated these labels, certifications and standards through the '[Keurmerkenwijzer](#)' from Milieu Centraal¹ and ISEAL Alliance².

As the field of sustainability is in constant development and subject to local circumstances, we assess and update the methodology we use on a regular basis.

We carefully selected sustainability labels, certifications, systems and schemes based on a number of screening criteria:

- External party validation or ISEAL Code Compliant
- Focus on reducing negative impacts on sector level
- Go beyond legal minimum requirements
- Transparency on requirements

These are divided into three levels:

1. Brand and supplier level: accredited social compliance standards
2. Product level: validated sustainability labels, certifications, systems and schemes
3. Packaging level: sustainability characteristics of packaging materials used and its recyclability potential.



¹ An independent Dutch organisation which focusses on promoting sustainable business practices.

² Global membership organisation for credible sustainability standards.

B&S approved sustainability labels and certifications



Suppliers & Brands

Validated sustainability and social compliance schemes which we use to define our responsible suppliers and sustainable brands in alphabetic order.

Amfori BSCI

The Amfori Business Social Compliance Initiative is an initiative which enables companies to monitor, assess and improve workplace standards across their own global supply chain.



Bcorp

A company certification scheme regarding social and environmental performance. Companies must comply with below three criteria to receive the certification:

- A high social and environmental performance, which is determined by the B impact assessment and the risk review. A company must have a score of 80 or higher.
- A legal commitment to make sure the company's corporate governance structure accounts to all stakeholders.
- A transparent company, by having publicly available information on the company's performance.



Ecovadis

Sustainability rating mechanism to assess a company's material sustainability impacts. Based on completing a questionnaire on environment, ethics and labour conditions topics. Information needs to be based on publicly disclosed company information.

We only include companies who received a Gold or Silver score.



Smeta

A social auditing scheme for companies to assess their suppliers labour conditions. The audit focusses on four topics being labour, health & safety, environmental and ethical performances of a company.



Products & Ingredients

Validated sustainability labels and certifications which we use to define our sustainable product range in alphabetic order.

4C

Aims to embed sustainability in coffee supply chains across environmental, social and economic dimensions. Facilitates coffee farmers in 18 countries to participate in sustainable markets and profit from higher economic outcomes, improved and fair working conditions and the preservation of precious landscapes and biodiversity.



Aquaculture Stewardship Council

Certification scheme for environmentally and socially responsible farmed seafood. The ASC standards include requirements which address potential impacts of aquaculture such as water quality, responsible sourcing of feed, disease prevention, animal welfare, the fair treatment and pay of workers and community engagement.



Better Chicken Commitment
[BBC]

Set of standards for chicken welfare addressing issues such as breeding for fast-growth and high-yield, housing, stocking density, and slaughter methods.



Beter leven keurmerk
[BLK:1-3]

Better Life Label is a Dutch certification scheme for animal welfare indicating the animal-friendliness of the production of meat, eggs and dairy produce. The more stars – ranging from 1 to 3 – the more attention is paid to animal welfare.



BonSucro

Membership platform to accelerate sustainable sugarcane production, processing and trade around the world. Aims to improve the environmental impact of sugarcane, ensure decent working conditions and respecting human rights in farming and milling activities.



Carbon Trust

Certification which validates the product footprint is achieving ongoing emission reductions and any outstanding emissions are offset in accordance with PAS 2060. PAS 2060 is the internationally recognised specification for carbon neutrality published by BSI. It sets out the requirements for quantifying, reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for organisations and products.



Cleanright charter [product logo]

The product logo warrants that the ingredients used do not harm aquatic life. There are requirements regarding the amount of packing material used and all plastic packing should be 100% recyclable. All products must provide information on the economical use of energy, water and the product.



Climate Neutral Certified

Climate Neutral Certified is a label of the Climate Neutral Group, which aids organisations to reduce their climate impact. The label is based on the Paris Agreement. A company must reduce 25% of their scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and provide yearly evidence of this reduction to receive the label. Unavoidable emissions need to be compensated to net zero as per VCS or Gold standard.



CO₂ Neutral label

Products certified by Vinçotte which validates the CO₂ emissions calculation, reduction and offsetting of the product's carbon footprint. Every CO₂ Neutral label has a QR code that shares key information on the carbon footprinting scope, reduction plan targets, financing climate projects and longer term ambitions.



Cosmébio BIO/ECO

Guarantees that production of cosmetics production takes place in an environmentally friendly manner and that part of the ingredients come from organic farming. Used ingredients must be 95% natural origin and 5% from organic farming.



**COSMOS
Natural**

An environmental label. Non-natural ingredients are allowed if there are no alternatives. Only a limited number of additives are allowed in production. Palm oil and products derived from it must come from organic farming or be RSPO certified.



**COSMOS
Organic**

An environmental label. At least 20% of ingredients need to be from organic farming. Non-natural ingredients are allowed if there are no alternatives. Only a limited number of additives are allowed in production. Palm oil and products derived from it must come from organic farming or be RSPO certified.



**Cruelty
free**

Proves the product and ingredients are not tested on animals. (USA and Canada only)



Demeter

Label for biodynamic agriculture and food. Focuses on topics soil, healthy food, biodiversity, animal welfare and the future of agriculture.



Ecocert

A French label which focuses on organic products. 95% of the vegetable ingredients must be organic. There must be a company environmental plan. In addition, there are requirements regarding packaging and the degradability of ingredients.



Ecogarantie

Label that focuses on environmental requirements for cleaning products. Vegetable and animal ingredients must originate from organic farming, controlled wild harvesting or a fairtrade brand. The use of GMO is forbidden.



Ecolabel

Official European environmental label for non-food products such as cleaning products, laundry detergents, tissue paper, and cosmetic products. This means that products with this label have a lower environmental footprint than conventional products over their entire lifecycle i.e. contain less hazardous chemicals, are designed to last longer and easier to repair, and that are manufactured generating less waste and CO₂.



EKO

A Dutch label for organic farming. 95% of the vegetable ingredients must be organic. Works on sustainability in ten different areas: product lifecycle, soil, raw materials, biodiversity, pure and clean living, animal welfare, energy and climate, social and fair, packaging and management.



EPEAT

An American certification scheme to see the effect of a product on the environment. Bronze certification indicates a company complies with all the EPEAT requirements on energy use, used materials and how long a product will last. A silver certification means all requirements + 50% of the non-mandatory requirements have been met and 75% of the non-mandatory for the Gold status.



Fairtrade

Focuses on decent working conditions and fairer prices for farmers and workers in developing countries including a Premium amount on top of the selling price that is to be invested in the local community.



Fair for Life

Focuses on fair trade for producers in socio-economically vulnerable positions. The label can be found on food products that consist of at least 80% agricultural ingredients that meet Fair for life requirements.



Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Standard used for wood, paper and cardboard products and packaging. Ensures responsibly managed forestry, no deforestation and protection of biodiversity, safety protocols for workers and respecting land rights by collaborating with local communities living in and around the forests.



GGN Certified aquaculture

An international label that stands for certified, responsible farming and transparency. The label has requirements regarding labour conditions in accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) of the UN, quality of water and protecting ecosystems.



Global Organic Textile Standard [GOTS]

A label that has requirements for the production of the fibres. At least 70% or at least 95% of a textile product must consist of organically produced materials.



Marine Stewardship Council [MSC]

The MSC Fisheries Standard is a set of requirements for sustainable fishing to ensure healthy fish populations, protecting habitats and threatened species and minimising environmental impacts.



NaTrue

A standard for natural cosmetics. There are 3 degrees: 1. Natural cosmetics: ingredients are natural and processed as little as possible. 2. Natural cosmetics with an organic content: at least 70%. 3. Organic cosmetics: at least 95% of the agricultural raw materials are organic.



Natural cosmetics standard

A label for natural products that has requirements on the used production techniques, used ingredients and packaging needs to be recyclable.



Nature & Progrès

A label for organic products. The label can be found on food products, cosmetics and detergents. Focuses on requirements on the use of biodiversity, seasonality, animal welfare, short chain and use of raw materials.



Nature care product	Encourages the optimal use of renewable raw materials in products. The label can be found on detergents. Raw materials need to be from organic farming and not based on petrochemicals. GMO is prohibited.	
Naturland Aquakultur	A German label. Organic producers and processors refrain from using pesticides, mineral fertilisers, genetic engineering and many additives.	
Nordic Ecolabel	A Scandinavian environmental label for cosmetics, appliances and cleaning products. There are requirements to minimise the product packaging, make it recyclable and from recycled material. The use of microplastics is forbidden.	
Organic Content Standard (OCS)	A label for textiles to demonstrate it consist out of 100% of organic material. Focuses on requirements for cultivation for raw material and fiber production.	
On the way to planet proof	A Dutch label which focuses on nature, climate and animals. There are requirements regarding monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, neutral organic matter balance, fertilisation plan, crop protection with a preference for less environmentally harmful products, and proper reuse of water.	
Organic agriculture Europe certification	The official European label for organic products. Guarantees that production takes place according to the strict rules of organic farming, processing and sales. The label is anchored in European legislation.	

Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC)

Guarantees paper and wood products are derived from sustainably managed forests.



Rainforest Alliance

Aims to protect forests and improving farmer livelihoods by promoting human rights, and helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Products include coffee, tea, chocolate, fruit or paper goods.



Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

Set of environmental and social criteria which companies must comply with in order to produce Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO). Deforestation is prohibited, and high-value ecosystems and endangered species are protected. There are requirements in accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) of the UN, such as a ban on child labour, forced labour and discrimination, and the guarantee of freedom of association and a safe working environment.



Roundtable of Responsible Soy (RTRS)

A certification scheme that guarantees zero deforestation and conversion by soy production. Promotes the responsible production of soy by focussing on five key topics being legal compliance and good business practices, responsible labour conditions, responsible community relations, environmental responsibility and good agricultural practices.



Soil association

Label for organic produce as per European laws about the production of organic food. Also includes criteria related to animal welfare and protecting human health. Child labour and forced labour are prohibited.



<p>Sustainable Rice Platform [SRP]</p>	<p>Promotes to improve smallholder livelihoods, ensure resource efficiency and built climate change resilience in rice systems.</p>	
<p>TCO Certified</p>	<p>A Swedish certification for IT products. There are requirements regarding energy consumption, used materials, recyclable and reusable packaging. It also focuses on fair working conditions, child labour and the use of raw materials from conflict areas.</p>	
<p>USDA Organic</p>	<p>Official American label for organic farmed products. These products must be 100% organic, unless they are processed products: in that case at least 95% of the ingredients must come from organic farming. No use of artificial fertilizers and chemical pesticides. GMO is prohibited. Only approved additives may be used.</p>	
<p>UTZ</p>	<p>Focuses on improving farming methods to generate more income as well as how to adapt to climate change and protect the environment. Since 2018 it is part of Rainforest Alliance meaning the UTZ certification is gradually transitioning over to the Rainforest Alliance certification programme.</p>	
<p>Vegan</p>	<p>Label which guarantees the product does not contain any ingredients, process aids or other substances from animal origin being meat, poultry, fish and seafood, dairy, eggs or honey.</p>	
<p>Vegetarian</p>	<p>Label which guarantees the product does not contain animal proteins being meat, poultry, fish and seafood.</p>	

Packaging

Product's inner- and outer packaging that (fully) consists of below mentioned sustainable materials. For these characteristics currently not always an official label exists. In these instances we ask for supporting documentation.

When relevant, we highlight the sustainability characteristics of packaging used. However, as the main impacts often lie in the production of products and its respective choice of ingredients, we do not classify a product as being a 'Sustainable Choice' if solely the packaging characteristic is considered to be more sustainable.

- Reusable: packaging designed and used for refilling purposes
- Recyclable: packaging can be completely recycled
- Plastic free: packaging does not contain any plastic materials
- Recycled content: packaging consists out of minimal 50% recycled plastics
- FSC or PEFC: packaging made from FSC or PEFC certified materials
- Renewable: packaging only made from renewable materials



Our strategy & commitments in motion

We are taking action to build a more sustainable future and contribute to the well-being of the communities in which we operate.

More information can be found in our strategy, principles and policies.

[Go to documents](#)

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