



Be resource conscious



Enjoying our products today
whilst safeguarding tomorrow's planet

Introduction

While our planet is already under great stress from climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and so on, the global consumption of raw materials such as biomass, fossil fuels, metals and minerals is expected to double in the next forty years, while annual waste generation is projected to increase by 70% by 2050. Resource extraction and processing already accounts for half the worldwide greenhouse gas emissions and more than 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress.

Our economy is based on extracting from the Earth, using the raw materials to produce goods and then throwing those goods away, thereby losing those valuable raw materials forever. Only a tiny percentage of all manufactured goods is recycled and the remaining mountains of waste are clogging our land, waterways and oceans killing flora and fauna, while incinerating waste is posing health hazards on humans as well as flora and fauna.

This linear take, make, use, waste process is not sustainable. In the long term, we will run out of natural resources. That is why we must move towards a circular economy. By not taking more than what our earth can replenish. And by reusing, repurposing, and recycling products as much as possible.

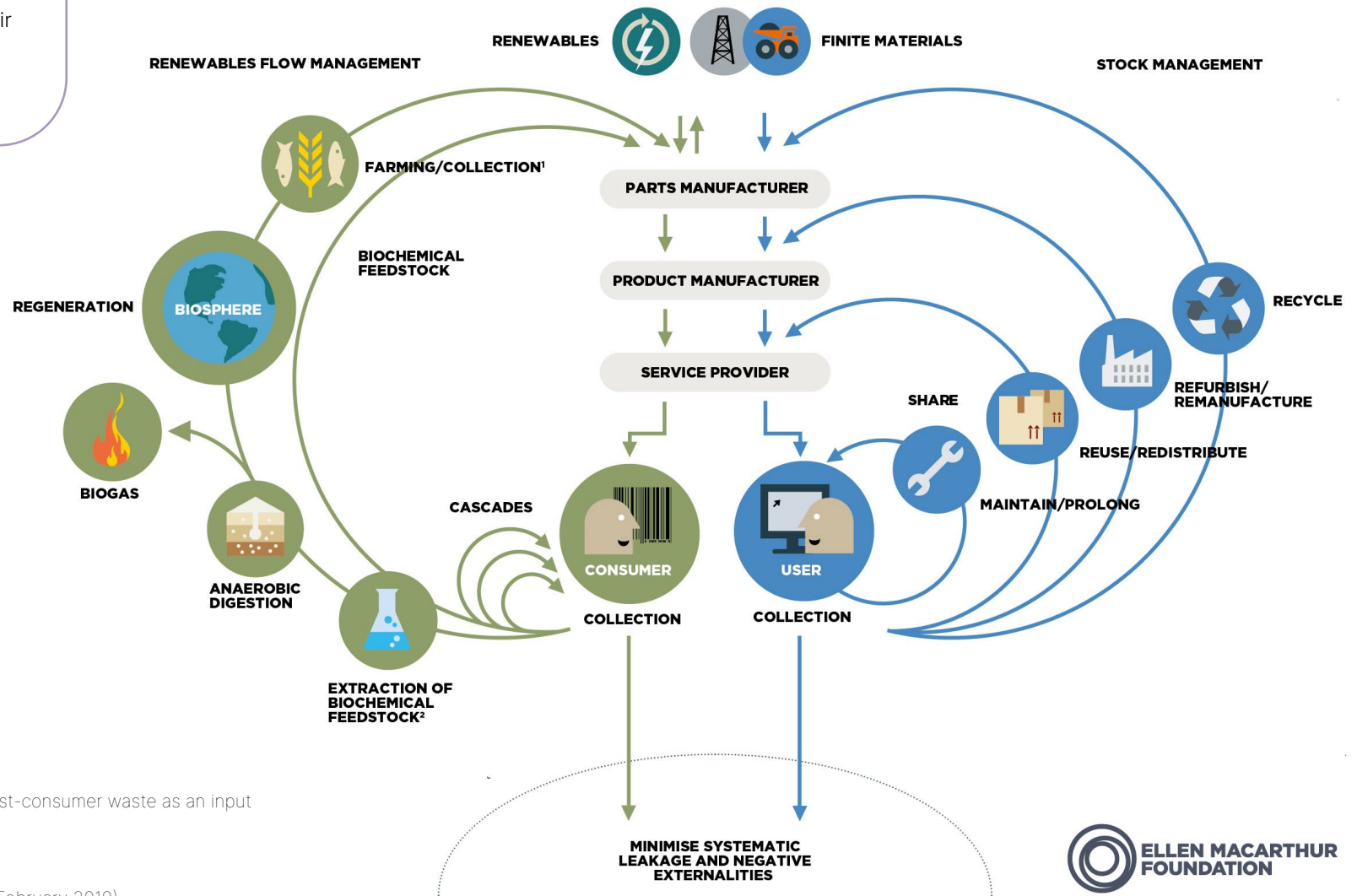
In Europe, scaling up the circular economy is an important part of the European Green Deal strategy for a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy that decouples economic growth from resource use, safeguards the long-term competitiveness of the EU, and leaves no one behind. Apart from having the potential to significantly reduce waste, it is an important step towards achieving the EU's goal of climate neutrality by 2050.

We need to see waste as a valuable resource and need to develop new business models and innovative product design.

The circular economy is based on three principles:

- Eliminate waste and pollution
- Circulate products and materials at their highest value
- Regenerate nature

In a circular economy, resources are not wasted but recovered in a system that is continuous and long-lasting, with the goal of keeping them functioning at their highest potential and retaining their value as resources.



¹ Hunting and fishing

² Can take both post-harvest and post-consumer waste as an input

Source
Ellen MacArthur Foundation
Circular economy systems diagram (February 2019)
www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org
Drawing based on Braungart & McDonough,
Cradle to Cradle (C2C)



Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. It acts as a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

The circular economy is linked to every SDG, as is depicted by the image on the right.

We have selected Sustainable Development Goal 12 to monitor the impact of being resource conscious and to adapting our business activities towards a circular economy.

Goal 12 aims to 'Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.'

- Target 12.2: 'by 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources'.
- Target 12.3: 'by 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses'.
- Target 12.5: 'by 2030 substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse'.



Source: [Wasteaid](#)



Our commitments

We will send zero waste to landfill by 2030 and contribute to a circular economy.

We will achieve this by preventing (packaging) waste, optimising recycling efforts and by using sustainable materials for packaging, buildings and retail shops.

Reduce resources

We use fewer resources by not overdesigning our specialty brands¹ packaging and reducing packaging used in logistics. We optimise our forecasting processes to prevent waste from being generated. In addition, we design our shop materials and furniture with longevity and circularity in mind.

Maximise recycling

We use recyclable materials in our specialty brands and logistics packaging and see waste as a valuable resource rather than a cost; we segregate our waste optimally and enhance its revenue streams.

Use sustainable materials

We maximise the use of renewable and recycled content and select materials from sources with the lowest environmental impact.

¹ Hereafter: specialty brands include private labels and licensed brands.



Our packaging materials

We want to develop and use sustainable and renewable packaging materials in our warehouses and our specialty brands. We reduce the amount used, use more sustainable materials and ensure that packaging materials can be recycled.

Targets 2030

- 20% reduction of packaging materials for our specialty brands and logistics
- 95% recyclable packaging materials for our specialty brands and logistics
- 100% paper and cardboard packaging from sustainable sources¹
- 50% recycled content for plastic packaging of our specialty brands



Our waste

We see waste as a valuable resource which should be segregated optimally to enable recycling. We will reduce waste generated in our warehouses and shops, optimise its recycling potential and eliminate waste going to landfill.

Targets 2030

- Zero waste to landfill
- 80% of our waste is being recycled
- 50% less food and medical waste



Our materials use

We aim to optimise the use of building materials and use renewable and sustainable materials in our business processes.

Targets 2030

- To be determined

¹ FSC, PEFC, and maximised use of recycled fibers

Our Principles



Our packaging materials

Rethink

Designing for the purpose of circularity

Reduce

Reducing the amount of packaging we use in the first place

Reuse

Ensuring packaging is and can be reused in a suitable manner

Recycle

Ensuring packaging can be recycled

Resource

Maximising the use of recycled content and selecting materials from sustainable renewable sources with lowest environmental impact



Our waste

Reduce

Reducing the amount of waste that is generated in the first place.

Recycle

Seeing waste as a valuable resource and segregating optimally to enable recycling.



Our material use

Reduce

Designing for circularity and reducing the amount of building and shop materials we use in the first place.

Recycle

Ensuring building materials and shop furnishings can be recycled.

Resource

Maximising the use of renewable and recycled materials whilst selecting materials from sources with lowest environmental impact.

A photograph of two people walking away from the camera down a grassy path in an apple orchard. The person on the left is wearing a straw hat, a blue and white striped shirt, and white pants, carrying a wicker basket. The person on the right is wearing a yellow jumpsuit. Both trees and the ground are covered with ripe red apples. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

Our plan of action



Our packaging materials

Scope: specialty brands' packaging and secondary packaging materials added in our own operations for the purpose of warehousing, repacking, and shipping activities.

Rethink

Designing for the purpose of circularity

- We rethink the concept of our products such as enabling concentrated product substances.

Reduce

Reducing the amount of packaging we use in the first place

- We do not overdesign our packaging or use excessively large or heavy packaging for the product content
- We use smaller packaging in our e-commerce channel by limiting the amount of 'air' in a package
- We only use 'filler' in our packaging when necessary
- We do not use glitter in our products and packaging

Reuse

Ensuring packaging is and can be reused in a suitable manner

- We reuse packaging materials as much as possible when repacking.
- We reuse logistical resources as much as possible (pool-pallets instead of single use).
- We offer end consumers the option of delivery in a 'reused' cardboard box.

Recycle

Ensuring packaging can be recycled

- We assess whether and the extent to which the packaging material can be recycled by the end consumer at the start of a new product development process.
- We use our 'do/ don't' overview' and the KIDV recycling check as guiding documents to design for recycling.
- We inform the end consumer of the correct disposal manner through clear labelling.
- We develop and implement returnable packaging deposit schemes in accordance with national legislations.

Resource

Maximising the use of recycled content and selecting sustainable, renewable materials or with lowest environmental impact

Recycled content

- We use as much recycled content as possible for our paper/cardboard, metal, and glass packaging.
- We use recycled content for our plastic packaging, preferably derived from consumer waste.
- We maximise the use of recycled plastic for non-food packaging.

Renewable materials & lowest environmental impact

- We use paper and cardboard from sustainably managed forests.
- We use sustainable biobased raw materials and ensure they are not derived from sources competing with food production.
- We evaluate if the chosen material has the lowest environmental footprint for the requirements of the product at hand. For example, paper is not always the best packaging material. In some cases, plastic options are preferred as they prolong the product shelf life, can be recycled, and use less water and energy to produce.



Our packaging materials

Does

Generic:

- Use as few material as possible
- Use the right size packaging for e-commerce shipments by eliminating unnecessary empty space
- Go mono; use one type of material only
- Ensure packaging elements of different material types are easily to be separated from each other

Plastic:

- Use PET, PE and PP
- Transparent or lightly coloured
- Use recycled content as much as possible and request proof of usage of post-consumer waste
- Labels/sleeves/stickers: use the same material as packaging, as small as possible and as less printed as possible
- Use transparent and unprinted (shrink) foil
- When using biobased plastics; always check with the sustainability manager of B&S

Paper:

- Maximise recycled fibre content and/ or FSC certified. Use virgin FSC when in direct contact with food.
- Use PFA free paper
- Use paper tape and stickers on paper and cardboard packaging

Don'ts

Generic:

- Don't overdesign, no excessively large packaging, overly complex or with a lot of air

Plastic:

- Don't use PET for non-food related items as it disturbs the recycling process
- Don't use laminates or coatings when possible
- Limit the use of black foil where possible
- Don't use full/partial sleeves, especially not with metallic components
- Don't use 'compostable' and 'biodegradable' plastics. Always liaise with the sustainability manager of B&S when a supplier makes such claim.

Paper:

- Don't use laminates or coatings when possible
- Don't use virgin paper, except when in direct food contact.

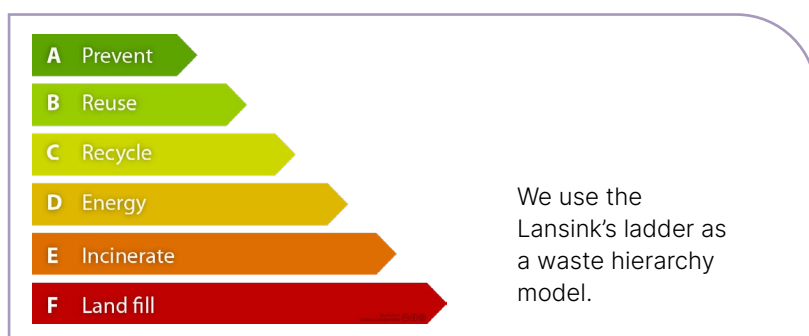
Materials not to use:

- PV(d)C (except for medicines)
- (E)PS
- Carbon black
- Glitter



Our waste

Scope: waste generated in our own warehouses, offices and shops.



Reduce

Cutting down the amount of waste generated in the first place

- We jointly analyse our waste streams with our waste contractor to assess how much waste is generated.
- We determine why there is waste and make adequate prevention plans.
- We optimise our forecasting processes and further improve purchase and sales alignment.
- We donate food items that are close to their use by dates but are still suitable for use. We will collaborate with the Dutch food banks.
- We donate returned medical items that are close to their use by dates but are still suitable for use.
- We minimise our residual waste stream.
- We use ISO 14001 as a vehicle to incorporate circular economy and waste elimination targets to enable integration within business processes and procedures.

Recycle

Seeing waste as a valuable resource and segregating optimally to enable recycling

- We offer suitable and sufficient waste segregation methods for our warehouse and shop employees.
- We train our employees to segregated waste correctly.
- We increase revenues from waste streams by analysing existing uses and developing alternatives.
- We assess in which countries which types of waste streams are currently being incinerated (with and without energy recovery) or are ending up as landfill. We will make adequate plans with the entities involved to prevent waste going to landfill and increase recycling potential.

Donate	Recycle	Prevent
food	paper & cardboard	generic
medicines	plastic	hazardous
electronics	glass	
personal care	wood	
	metal	



Our materials use

Scope: building materials for warehouses, offices and shop design and furnishing.

Reduce

Designing for circularity and reducing the amount of building and shop furnishing materials we use in the first place

- We improve the longevity and durability of building and furnishing materials.
- We reuse our furnishing materials through modular design without compromising the shopping experience.
- We use square instead of circle furnishing items to reduce the amount of cut offs during the production process.
- We repair our furnishing and warehouse material instead of replacing them whenever possible to both achieve cost efficiencies as well as reduce consumption of raw materials.

Recycle

Ensuring materials can be recycled

- We incorporate end of life recycling potential in the decision-making processes for selecting building materials and shop furnishings.
- We ensure shop furnishing can be recycled through easy dismantling and enabling adequate segregation of the various components.

Resource

Maximising the use of renewable and recycled content whilst selecting materials from sources with lowest environmental impact

- We maximise the use of sustainably sourced building and shop furnishing materials;
 - recycled materials
 - certified materials
 - renewable materials

Scope: office supply and other facility materials purchased

- We provide our employees in warehouses and shops with responsible work attire that is organic cotton or recycled polyester. We have a circular return cycle in place. The manufacturer is SA8000/SMETA/BSCI certified.
- We print as little as possible in accordance with Digital First. If we do print, we use 100% FSC and unbleached paper.
- We work with a cleaning company that prioritises sustainability in terms of the cleaning supplies used, and that has a sound and fair personnel policy in place.
- We offer affordable, healthy and sustainable options in our catering choices.
- We select IT suppliers who have a sound sustainability policy and supply energy efficient devices.

Our strategy & commitments in motion

We are already taking action to build a more sustainable future and contribute to the well-being of the communities in which we operate. Join us and follow our progress at www.bs-group-sa.com/about-us/sustainability/

Principles and policies

This policy is established by the Sustainability Department and applies to the entire B&S Group. It will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

B&S has various sets of policies in place governing the performance of its entities and ensuring implementation of action plans throughout our company. More information can be found in the following publications:



Climate action



Be resource conscious



Responsible products and responsible sourcing



Empowered people



Code of Business Ethics



Supplier Code of Conduct

[Go to documents](#)

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