

Burkhalter Group

SDG Report

2020/2021



Source: United Nations Department of Global Communications, 2019

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN)

The Burkhalter Group consists of around 50 small and medium-sized electrical engineering companies with strong local roots. Known everywhere in Switzerland as “Your local electrical partner”, they primarily assume their responsibility to society and the environment as close neighbours. To be able to classify the impact of their business activities in terms of sustainable development, the globally recognised 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN), which are expected to be achieved by all countries by 2030 (Agenda 2030), provide useful guidance.

The Burkhalter Group carried out an analysis in the reporting year to establish a credible reference to the SDGs. By using a guideline¹ for the implementation of sustainability targets in SMEs as guidance, it was able to determine those measures in the company whose positive and negative effects have a significant impact on the SDGs. It also made clear where the Burkhalter Group makes contributions to the rather abstract SDGs and which of them are of relevance to the company. The findings revealed that entrepreneurial activities largely have a positive impact on SDGs 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 12. The relevant key topics were therefore marked with the respective SDG icons. The contributions to SDGs 3, 12 and 13 were identified as focus SDGs. It is here that the company sees the greatest leverage and also the greatest responsibility – to make a significant contribution to more sustainable development directly or via its customers.

Accordingly, the Burkhalter Group will also report progress in its commitment to sustainability in relation to the SDGs in the future. In the medium term, the SDGs are also to be clearly reflected in the objectives.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



What does this mean for the Burkhalter Group?

The lack of skilled workers and increased social pressure in their personal lives is leading to employees being exposed to more stressful situations. To reduce stress and avoid compensation and sickness, the Burkhalter Group has increased its range of professional external support in the areas of interpersonal communication, burnout prevention and coaching.

Measures¹ and key topics to contribute to achieving this goal

- Making it easy for people to talk openly about stress, offering courses for resilience (ability to cope with pressure), carrying out employee surveys about stress in the workplace, learning to recognise burnout and take it seriously: **Leading employer in the sector**
- Encouraging a climate of trust and appreciation: **Compliance**

Ambition

- The Burkhalter Group intends to further expand its offering in this respect and work on the database and coordinating the various services at a higher level.

¹«Die Sustainable Development Goals für und durch KMU»



SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

What does this mean for the Burkhalter Group?

As a non-manufacturing company, the Burkhalter Group purchases electrical materials from several hundred suppliers in Switzerland. To live up to its responsibility at the upstream stage of its value chain, it has concluded framework agreements with the 100 or so top-selling or strategically most important suppliers, from which it purchases around 80% of its electrical materials. In these, the company promotes better conditions for people and the environment, among other things.

Measures¹ and key topic to contribute to achieving this goal

- Campaigning for people- and environmentally-friendly production conditions in procurement markets: **Sustainable procurement**

Ambition

- The Burkhalter Group intends to develop social and environmental responsibility in the supply chain



SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

What does this mean for the Burkhalter Group?

The Burkhalter Group causes just under 4,400 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year. These are largely attributable to the 1,500 or so company vehicles. Its buildings, numbering over 100, in Switzerland are also sources of emissions.

Measures¹ and key topic to contribute to achieving this goal

- Reducing the buildings' CO₂ footprint, checking the vehicle fleet's climate compatibility: **Reduction in CO₂ emissions**

Ambition

- Developing climate protection

Goals

- The Burkhalter Group intends to switch 10% of project manager vehicles to alternative drives by the end of 2025.
- In the Burkhalter Group, 90% of total electricity used is to be CO₂-free (incl. nuclear power) by the end of 2023.

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