

Burkhalter Group SDG Report 2022



Source: United Nations Department of Global Communications, 2019

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

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by 193 UN Member States in 2015 provide a global frame of reference for sustainable development. They take equal account of economic, social and environmental aspects and outline the sustainable future to which we should aspire. All UN Member States are obliged to achieve the goals. However, the SDGs are also aimed at the private sector and require companies to make a contribution to the global sustainable development goals through their business activities.

In 2021, the Burkhalter Group established which SDGs are of relevance for it and to which its key topics will make a positive or negative contribution on the basis of an official guideline¹⁾. It was established that business activities largely have a positive impact on SDGs 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 12. The relevant key topics are marked with the respective SDG icons in the report. At the same time, it was clear that the positive impacts on SDG 3 and 12 can be improved and that the Burkhalter Group must work more actively to protect the climate (SDG 13). SDGs 3, 12 and 13 were identified as SDGs of focus for these reasons:



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

Key topics: Leading employer in the sector, High occupational health and safety standards

Relevance for the Burkhalter Group

The lack of skilled workers and increased social pressure is leading to employees being exposed to stressful situations. Employee absences due to stress is a topic that must be taken seriously. In the building technology sector, active prevention of accidents and protection from occupational diseases is critical. Occupational health and safety is an essential component of governance.

Contribution of the Burkhalter Group to achieving SDG 3

The Burkhalter Group relies on an attractive package of social and financial incentives to retain its existing employees and attract new ones. These include treating others with respect and an appreciative and motivating working environment.

To reduce stress and avoid sickness and compensation, the Burkhalter Group has increased its range of professional external support in the areas of interpersonal communication, burnout prevention and coaching. It is easy for people to talk openly about stress in the company; courses and coaching sessions to increase resilience are provided. The Burkhalter Group encourages a climate of appreciation and trust. The company is guided by internal safety guidelines, a management system for occupational health and safety certified to ISO 45001, relevant employment laws, collective labour agreements and the Accident Insurance Act.

Ambitions for 2023

The Burkhalter Group aims to expand its range of stress prevention and reduction services. In 2023, we hope to widen our support network through additional external coaches (regional and multi-lingual). Management training sessions will be carried out in the HVACP division where both corporate culture, various leadership styles and dealing with challenging situations will be discussed.

¹⁾ "The Sustainable Development Goals for and through SMEs"



SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Key topics: Decentralised procurement, Thorough implementation of environmental regulations on site

Relevance for the Burkhalter Group

The Burkhalter Group works in the ancillary building trade, i.e. it is involved in upgrading buildings with its services. Due to the decentralised corporate structure, the material to be installed on construction sites, which must comply with specific laws, regulations, standards and safety standards and satisfy certain requirements (such as fire resistance, durability), is purchased from several hundred suppliers. Around 90% of them are located in Switzerland.

Contribution of the Burkhalter Group to achieving SDG 12

To live up to its responsibility in its upstream value chain, the Burkhalter Group has concluded framework agreements with the 100 or so top-selling or strategically most important suppliers, from which it purchases around 80% of its materials. In these, suppliers state whether they have a quality assurance, environmental management and or an occupational health and safety management system that complies with the ISO standard. Decentralised procurement can protect the environment, as the transport routes involved tend to be shorter.

By signing the framework agreements, the suppliers undertake to comply with the applicable laws and agreements and to familiarise themselves with the Burkhalter Group's Code of Conduct.

The Burkhalter Group's environmental sphere of influence on construction sites is restricted to the thorough implementation of environmental regulations and the proper disposal of material. Group companies use resources responsibly. Requirements, laws and regulations as well as industry standards are complied with; environmental criteria and environmental standards are taken into account.

Ambition for 2023

The Burkhalter Group is aware that sustainability criteria will have to be increasingly included in the procurement process in the future. As a result of the merger with poenina holding ag, the focus in the reporting year was on aligning procurement policy in the HVACP division with that of the Electrical Engineering division. The relevant legal requirements to ensure that due diligence is carried out are to be gradually integrated into procurement policy from 2023 onwards.



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

Key topic: Reducing CO₂ emissions within the company

Relevance for the Burkhalter Group

The Burkhalter Group calculates its own CO₂ emissions and is gradually taking measures to reduce them. The company is involved in construction projects where energy efficiency, renewable energies and contributions to climate protection play a key role. With its services and its expertise, the Burkhalter Group can influence the environmental efficiency of the construction sector.

Contribution of the Burkhalter Group to achieving SDG 13

The Burkhalter Group causes approximately 4,495 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year (scope 1 and 2). These are largely attributable (96%) to the 1,800 or so company vehicles. The buildings taken into consideration in the environmental impact assessment are also relevant sources of emissions.

The Burkhalter Group prepared a climate roadmap for the targeted reduction of CO₂ emissions (see section 4.1 “Reducing CO₂ emissions within the company”).

Ambitions

As part of the revised climate roadmap, the environmental impact assessment is to be extended to the entire Burkhalter Group in 2023. Energy-efficiency measures are to be implemented in its own buildings and in the vehicle fleet. Wherever possible, the Burkhalter Group intends to use CO₂-free or renewable energy. The analysis of scope 3 emissions that has been started will gradually be extended to other categories and the company as a whole and targeted reduction measures will be implemented in a subsequent step.

Goals

- The Burkhalter Group intends to switch around 50% of project manager vehicles to alternative drive systems by the end of 2025.
- Around 90% of electricity used throughout the Burkhalter Group is to be CO₂-free (incl. nuclear power) by the end of 2023.

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