



**worldsteel**  
**Sustainability Charter Member**

What does it mean  
to be a worldsteel  
Sustainability  
Charter Member?

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## 1. Introduction

**Sustainability is a business requirement and no longer optional. Ethical and socially responsible companies need to be able to demonstrate to their stakeholders how they perform and where they are heading regarding many aspects of environmental, social and economic governance.**

worldsteel has taken a new purpose-driven and action-oriented approach to encourage steel producers and associations to be proactively engaged in worldsteel's sustainability programmes and to continue to progress on their sustainability journey.

worldsteel first published a Sustainability Charter in 2009, which was subsequently reviewed on a 3-yearly basis. In early 2021, we carried out a materiality assessment – a survey of relevant stakeholders – to ensure that our Charter is fit for purpose and includes the key topics that are of greatest importance to our key stakeholders (both internal and external). This led to the development of 9 sustainability principles, covering the areas of environment, social, governance and economics (ESGE).

For the first time, we have introduced a set of criteria for each of the 9 principles and we ask our members to provide evidence that they are aligned with these criteria. The CEO or Chairperson of worldsteel member companies who successfully meet the 20 criteria will be invited to sign the Charter and will be subsequently recognised as a Charter Member for a 3-year period. While the activities of Charter Members are not assessed annually, the expectation is that they continue to participate in all relevant worldsteel activities while being a Charter Member.

The 20 criteria are relevant for our steel producing member companies; we also welcome our national and regional steel association members to sign the Charter. These associations operate rather differently to steel producing members, but their criteria for signing still cover each of the 9 principles.

The revised Charter is a step forward in harmonising existing worldsteel sustainability activities, including the 8 Sustainability Indicators, Steel Safety Day, the LCI data collection programme and the annual Steelie Awards. The signing of the Charter is an eligibility criterion for worldsteel's Sustainability Champions Recognition Programme.

The Charter aims to be inclusive of all worldsteel members despite their diverse and varying geographical and cultural backgrounds, business structures and stakeholder requirements.

The focus of the Charter is on alignment with widely agreed and practised sustainability goals and actions, and the sustainability initiatives of worldsteel. Importantly, worldsteel Charter Membership is not a certification scheme and should not be represented as such.

## 2. Objectives

The aim of the Charter is:

- to reflect the evolving business environment and the increasing sustainability awareness of the industry;
- to respond to increasing pressures and sustainability expectations from society, including customers, NGOs, investors, the local community and other external stakeholders;
- to promote alignment with current sustainability initiatives and standards, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- to address the increasing importance of several key issues that have not previously been covered by the principles, such as climate change and supply chain management; and
- to reaffirm the steel industry's commitment to sustainability and demonstrate the industry's willingness to work towards higher standards.

## 3. Charter Membership eligibility

For steel companies and national and regional steel association members to be eligible to become a Charter Member, the following criteria must be met:

- Steel companies and associations must be a member of worldsteel.
- Steel companies must provide evidence relating to all the 20 criteria.
- National and regional associations must demonstrate that they are active in projects or initiatives in each of the areas covered by the 9 principles.

## 4. Criteria

The table below lists each of the principles and their specific criteria for which evidence will need to be provided in order for a company to be considered for eligibility to sign the Charter. **The criteria marked in bold are part of existing sustainability-related programmes at worldsteel.** Assuming a company participates in each of the data collection programmes with worldsteel, no further data provision is required for those criteria. National and regional associations do not need to meet the 20 criteria outlined below but should demonstrate that they are active in each of the areas covered by the 9 principles.

It should also be noted that:

- Companies signing the Charter will need to resubmit their application every 3 years.
- Charter Membership is an eligibility criterion to become a Sustainability Champion.

	Topic	Principle	Criteria
1	Climate action	Proactively address climate change and take effective actions to minimise the industry's GHG emissions.	<p><b>1. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or energy consumption data provided to worldsteel</b> or national governments.</p> <p>2. Plans and goals established for CO<sub>2</sub>/GHG emissions reduction.</p>
2	The circular economy	Maximise the efficient use of resources throughout the life cycle of steel products and support society to achieve a circular economy.	<p><b>3. LCI data provided to worldsteel</b> and/or available through certified environmental declarations.</p> <p><b>4. Data on co-products, landfilled and incinerated material provided to worldsteel.</b></p>
3	Environmental care	Conduct operations in an environmentally responsible manner.	<p>5. Investment and/or implementation of environmental site-related improvement projects undertaken.</p> <p>6. Information published on air pollutants and on water use.</p> <p><b>7. Use of an environmental management system.</b></p>
4	Safety and Health	Maintain a safe and healthy workplace and act on health and safety incidents, risks and opportunities.	<p><b>8. Safety data provided to worldsteel.</b></p> <p>9. Use of a safety and health management system.</p> <p>10. Safety performance statistics published.</p> <p><b>11. Participation in worldsteel Steel Safety Day.</b></p>
5	Our people	Enable our people to realise their potential while providing them with an inclusive and fair working environment.	<p><b>12. Employee training time provided to worldsteel.</b></p> <p>13. Human resource management policies in place.</p>
6	Local communities	Build trust and create constructive relationships with local communities.	14. Community engagement, investment, and/or involvement in CSR activities.
7	Responsible value chains	Lead responsible business practices through the value chain.	15. Use of supply chain and/or procurement management codes or systems.
8	Ethical & transparent operations	Conduct operations with high standards and transparent processes.	<p>16. Code of business conduct in place.</p> <p>17. Publication of Sustainability or CSR report.</p> <p>18. Stakeholder engagement and communications.</p>
9	Innovation and prosperity	Pursue innovations for technologies and products to achieve sustainable economic development.	<p><b>19. Investment in new processes and products (CAPEX + R&amp;D) data provided to worldsteel.</b></p> <p><b>20. Economic Value Distributed (EVD) data provided to worldsteel.</b></p>

## 5. Contacts

For more information on Charter Membership, please contact one of the following:

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