



**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 to be proactively engaged in worldsteel's sustainability programmes and to continue to progress in their sustainability journey.

The updated worldsteel Sustainability Charter published in 2022 includes 9 principles covering the areas of environment, social, governance and economics (ESGE). Each principle is accompanied by relevant objectives and criteria, which form the basis for the revised Charter. The CEO or Chairperson of worldsteel members who provide evidence regarding the 20 criteria, are invited to sign the Charter and are subsequently recognised as a Charter Member for a 3-year period.

The revised Charter is a step forward in harmonising existing worldsteel sustainability activities, including the 8 Sustainability Indicators, worldsteel day for safety and health, the LCI data collection programme, the annual Steelie Awards and finally, the Sustainability Champions Recognition Programme.

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

The focus of the Charter is on alignment with widely agreed and practiced sustainability goals and actions. Importantly, worldsteel Charter Membership is not a certification scheme and should not be represented as such, and worldsteel will not be validating the information submitted by members. For specific data collection projects, worldsteel staff carry out significant data quality checks.

## 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 associations 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 – full details are provided in the Criteria Specification document.
- National and regional associations must demonstrate that they are active in projects or initiatives in each of the areas covered by the 9 principles.

Consideration for eligibility takes place every 3 years. worldsteel members can become a Charter Member outside of the regular 3-year update but will need to re-apply to become a Charter Member during each regular 3-year update to the Charter. A logo for the eligible years will be provided for member use. If a company is no longer a member of worldsteel a new logo will not be provided.

Charter Membership is an eligibility criterion to become a worldsteel Sustainability Champion.

## 4. 2022 – 2024 Charter Member

- The first version of the revised Charter was published in March 2022 and is updated when new members join.
- Application for Membership consideration can be submitted anytime of the year. Performance related to the previous year or most recent year available will be used as the basis for consideration.
- Members will be invited to sign the Charter as soon as their application has gone through the consideration process and is accepted.
- Although worldsteel will not expect each company who has signed the Charter in 2022 to complete an application form for Charter Membership in 2023 and 2024, it is expected that

members participate in each of the worldsteel data collection activities as well as worldsteel day for safety and health every year, as per section 8 of this document.

- In case of expired data, members need to resubmit new data to remain a Charter Member.

## 5. 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.

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

## 6. Contacts

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

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