

Sustainability report 2023

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Introduction

One of the great challenges of our time is that we must start taking care of our planet. At Essem Design, we believe that the best way to take care of our environment is to create products that are designed and produced to last for a long time. We believe in sustainability throughout the entire process, from design to delivery and warranty.

We meet the requirements according to the environmental certification ISO 14001:2015 and the quality certification ISO 9001:2015 and our work is characterized by continuous improvements. We are constantly monitoring the environment to be able to adapt to new requirements that come from our stakeholders.

We have analyzed our impact on the UN's global goals for sustainable development and identified which of these are most relevant to our operations, and where our business operations can have the greatest positive impact.

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Design





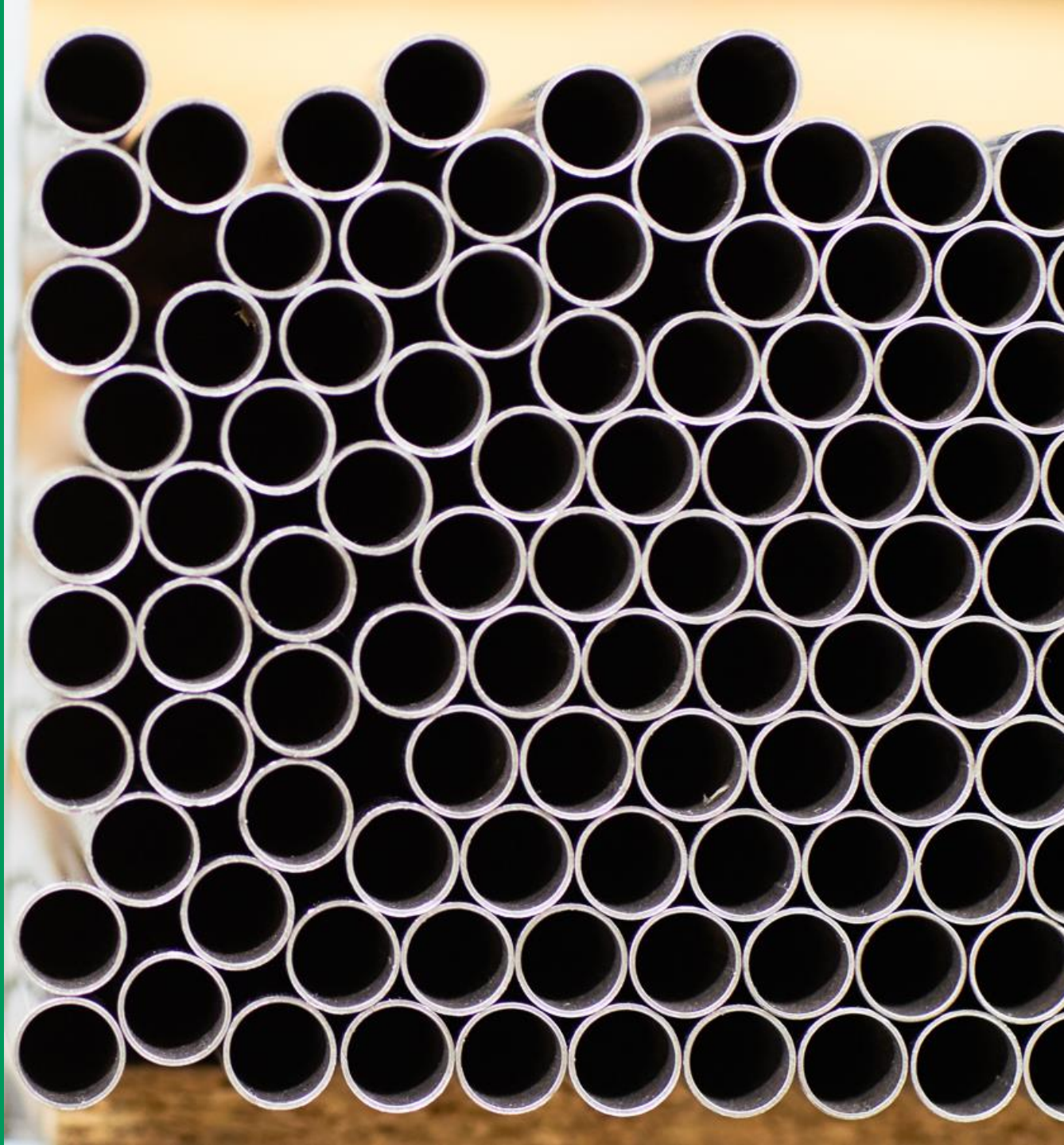
Design

Sustainability already starts at the design stage. There, conditions are set for function, material selection, production, packaging and transport. Our goal for all our products is to become functional classics that live on for generations, products that we ourselves recognize from childhood and that our grandchildren will be proud of. Just like with the Nostalgia hat rack, which was already designed in the 1930s. Sustainability was then not something that was talked about, it was taken for granted.

When developing new products, material choices are important and we prioritize functional materials that have the least possible environmental impact, as well as all other sustainability aspects.



Material





Material

The Nostalgi hat rack has been made from recycled aluminum from the start. For us, aluminum is the given material because the metal is one of the few materials that can be reused forever without losing quality. We constantly strive to increase the proportion of recycled materials in our products.

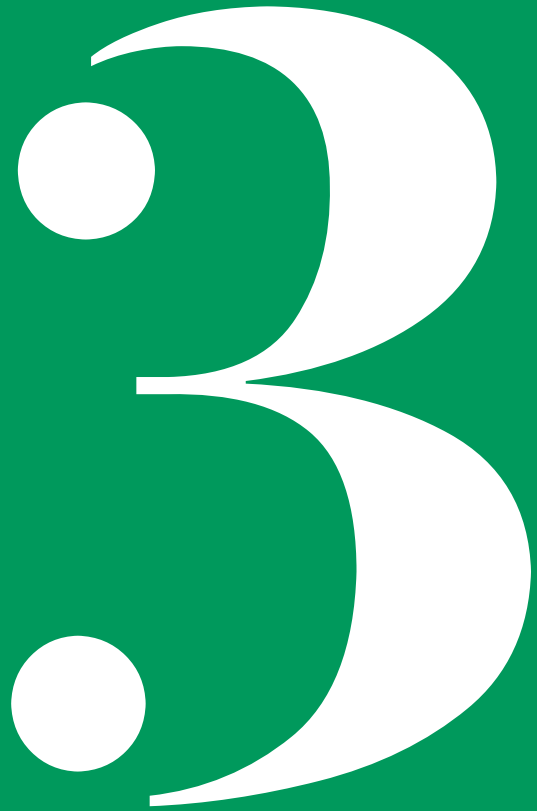
Waste material is something we try to give a new life to and sometimes it gives rise to new products. Both our Gustav hook strip and our Ulrika wall storage are partly made from waste materials.

Of material that we do not produce ourselves, 68% is produced in Sweden. 46% of all the material we buy is manufactured in our immediate vicinity. It is part of our purchasing strategy to have control over the manufacturing process also at our suppliers to achieve the best possible quality and to minimize transport.

We have been members of FTI since the organization was formed. In this way, we have taken producer responsibility for recycling packaging long before it became a requirement in Sweden. From 2020, we will also take responsibility for recycling packaging in Germany. The packaging for our products contains 70% of recovered fibre and the packaging is designed in such a way that it should be easy to sort and recycle.

It is important that our material choices contribute positively to the global supply of clean water.

Energy & Production





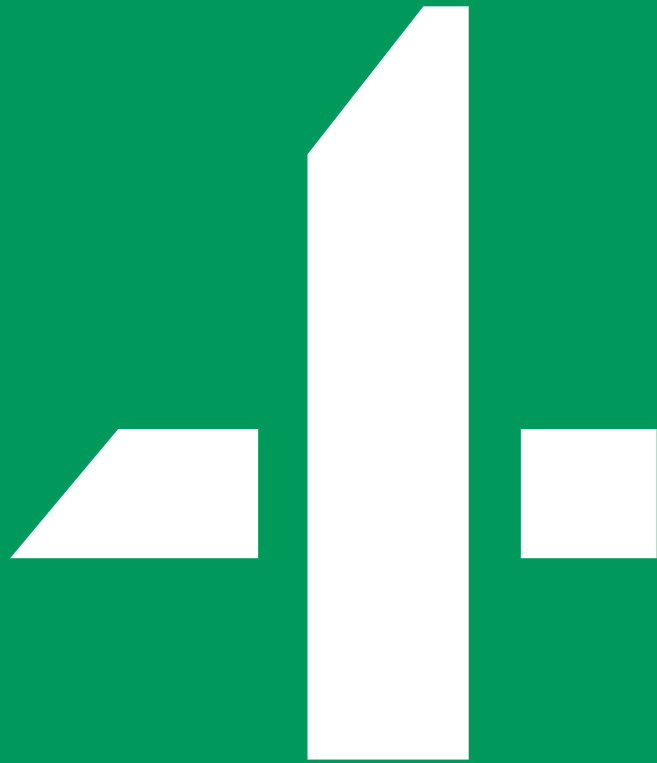
Energy & Production

As of November 2023, our electricity production from solar cells is as large as our annual consumption. In support purchases, the electricity comes from green energy sources. Our premises in Anderstorp are heated by geothermal energy and all lighting consists of energy-efficient LED lamps. We constantly review the need for resources. An increased turnover requires a larger production area. In 2021, we expanded with a storage area where we store components that do not require heating. In this way, we increased the storage area without increasing energy use. During 2023/24, we are expanding the production area by building modern and energy-efficient premises, where the focus is also on providing the staff with a good working environment.

During the year we upgraded our compressor equipment to reduce its electricity consumption. We also follow our suppliers' work with reduced energy consumption.

To meet the environmental requirements of the future, we drive hybrid cars charged with green electricity.

Transport





Transport

To minimize the transport space of each product, we work actively to develop and streamline new packaging. New products are developed to be able to be disassembled and in the best possible way to be transported in flat packages. The goal is to transport as little air as possible. Once the products have been unpacked, the packaging must be as easy to sort and recycle as possible.

We measure and we have a low percentage of returned products. Only 1.5% of the order lines that we sell via our e-commerce are returned. We take care of all returns ourselves at the factory in Anderstorp. We go through the condition of the product and then we give it a chance at a lower price via our Archive on the website. We work continuously to minimize returns by constantly updating and reviewing the information; texts, images, technical data on our website. Everything to ensure that our customers have the best possible experience before and after a purchase.

We use well-established carriers, who in turn have a modern car fleet that strives for less environmental impact and follow Swedish laws and agreements, with good working conditions for their employees.

We minimize transport from us by collecting shipments and using pick-up points.

Product life cycle





Product life cycle

The product's life cycle is important to us. This means that it should be easy to replace parts and that our products should be of the best possible quality to extend their lifespan. Our products have a warranty period of 10 years, but our goal is for them to last 20, 30, 100 years more. We also sell spare parts on our website and our customer support answers questions regarding the restoration of old products. We are members of Byggvarubedömningen, which works to produce non-toxic and sustainable products.



100%

of all aluminum is recyclable. The material does not lose quality no matter how many times it is recycled, and it can be recycled endlessly.

5%

of the energy required to extract aluminum is needed to recycle the metal.

75%

Of all manufactured aluminum is still in use today.

Social sustainability





Health care per year SEK 5 000.
Our employees use an average of
89% of it.

Social sustainability

We work for inclusion and equality. We also believe that it is important to have an inspiring environment for our employees. We moved into new premises in Anderstorp in 2018 and our ambition is to create an environment where our employees thrive. We attach great importance to competence development, not least in environmental matters.

Several of our employees have roots in sports associations. We want to encourage our employees to have an active leisure time, which is why we offer generous health care. Every September we cycle and walk together extra to raise money for various charity projects.

We have our own code of conduct that is based on the UN's principles regarding social sustainability. We communicate it with our suppliers and follow up that it is complied with. We choose our suppliers carefully. We want there to be a good working environment and decent working conditions for employees throughout our supply chain. Our purchasing strategy is based on long-term and close relationships with our suppliers, transparency, mutual respect, cooperation and the pursuit of improvements, both in terms of quality and sustainability.

We prefer organic and locally produced food when we celebrate with our employees.



Of our 17 employees are:

A large, white, stylized number 8 is centered on the page. The number is composed of two interlocking loops, with the top loop being slightly larger than the bottom loop. The font is a clean, modern sans-serif style.

men

A large, white, stylized number 9 is centered on the page. The number is composed of a large, rounded top loop and a smaller, circular bottom loop. The font is a clean, modern sans-serif style.

women

Carbon footprint



Three products now got their carbon footprints verified:



Classic Hat Rack

11.3 kg CO₂ eq.



Nostalg Hat/Shoe Rack
Oak/Aluminium

2.86 kg CO₂ eq.



Mama Hook

0.44 kg CO₂ eq.

Carbon footprint

During the year 2023, we have produced a LCA report and EPDs for our three largest sales products.

It is the first step in measuring our impact on the environment.

Learn more in our Environmental Product Declarations (EPD):

[Classic Hat Rack](#)

[Nostalg Hat/Shoe rack Oak/Aluminium](#)

[Mama Hook](#)



Carbon footprint

While we do a lot to reduce our products' environmental impact, we are aware that there are areas where we can improve.

To be able to measure our work towards a more sustainable company, we will shortly present our current situation by calculating our emissions in Scope 1, 2 and 3 according to the GHG protocol Green House Gas Protocol. The goal is to reduce our emissions each year towards emissions "0" in 2045.



The Journey has just begun.

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Feel free to contact us for feedback or for ideas on how we can develop our sustainability work. Email info@essem.se and mark the subject line Sustainability.