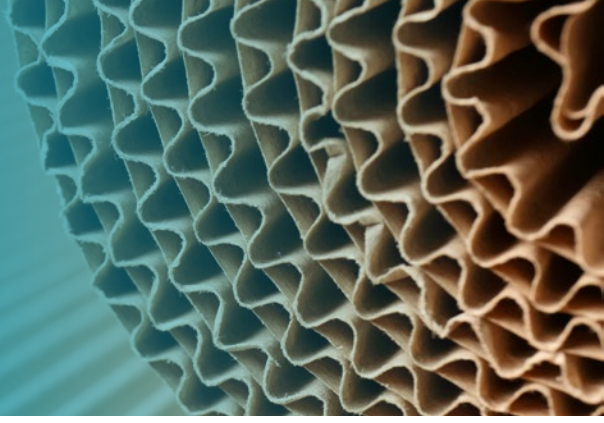


# SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

FEFCO's commitments  
to support a more  
sustainable industry

JULY 2025 - V.1

# ABOUT FEFCO



FEFCO, The European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers, **represents the interests of the industry** across Europe and addresses a wide range of issues, from technical topics to economical questions.



Corrugated packaging plays a strategic role in **ensuring the resilience and efficiency of the European Union's supply chain**. Serving as the **backbone of logistics** for essential sectors such as food, pharmaceuticals, and consumer goods, it enables the **circular, safe, and efficient transport of approximately 75%<sup>1</sup> of goods across Europe**.



Made from bio-based materials, **corrugated packaging is not only recyclable but also holds the highest recycling rate among fibre-based packaging in the EU – exceeding 90%<sup>2</sup>**.



With an **average recycled content of 88%<sup>3</sup>**, it contributes significantly to a robust market for secondary raw materials and is a **key enabler of the circular economy**. This sustainable profile positions corrugated cardboard as a **long-term solution for securing global supply chains while conserving valuable resources**.



Corrugated cardboard also provides **excellent product protection** thanks to its distinctive wave-shaped structure, shielding goods from pressure and impact during transport and storage. Despite its strength, it is lightweight, reducing material use and transportation emissions. Ongoing innovations in packaging design continue to lower material consumption without compromising protection – supporting the broader goals of **sustainable resource use**.



As the voice of the European corrugated industry, **FEFCO is committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050, or earlier, while continuing to accelerate our sustainability initiatives**.

1. FEFCO <https://www.fefco.org/circular-by-nature>  
2. Industry data  
3. FEFCO LCA 2023

# OUR SUSTAINABILITY SUPPORT TO MEMBERS

FEFCO keeps encouraging all its members to work towards a more **sustainable future** by:



Promoting **awareness** and fostering dialogue on sustainability through various **Committees** and **Working Groups** open to members



Offering **guidance** and **best practices**



Ensuring **transparent access** to accurate and reliable industry data



Identifying **opportunities for collaboration** to tackle common challenges

# OUR CHARTER COMMITMENTS TO SUSTAINABILITY

1

Promote and **support** our material

2

Contribute to **reduce the environmental footprint** of the industry

3

Enhance a **safe and attractive workplace** in our industry

4

Ensure **product safety and design**

5

Be a **transparent and reliable partner** to our stakeholders and society

# 1

## PROMOTE AND SUPPORT OUR MATERIAL

FEFCO is committed to highlighting the sustainable strengths of corrugated packaging:



**Circular by Nature initiative:** corrugated packaging is renewable, recyclable, and biodegradable by design while maintaining efficiency. It keeps materials in the loop through recycling [ #CircularByNature ]

**Advocating for regulatory frameworks** that recognise the environmental value of paper-based packaging



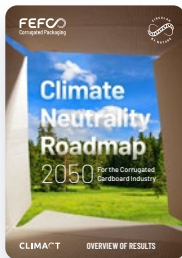
Actively **communicating** the benefits of corrugated board as part of the circular economy

**Industry science-based studies and figures** to demonstrate the performance of our material



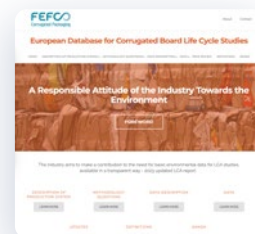
# 2

## CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF THE INDUSTRY



**FEFCO's Climate Neutrality Roadmap** establishes a pathway towards an envisioned decarbonised economy with a plan that can be implemented by FEFCO members. This involved compiling robust evidence and data to support the environmental case for corrugated packaging.

**The Industry's Life Cycle Inventory (LCI)**, updated biennially, to report and database the gate-to-gate life cycle inventory data to produce corrugated base papers and corrugated products. The intention is to publish high quality and transparent LCI data for use in life cycle studies.



**Carbon Calculation Tool** as a support for FEFCO members in creating their roadmap towards net zero emissions, by assisting companies in calculating their carbon footprint and providing the quantitative first bases to construct a SBTi compliant roadmap.

**Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) Chart** provides principles and a checklist for the industry to ensure having a harmonised approach to PCF calculation, which is essential to ensure comparability, credibility, and transparency.



### 3

## ENHANCE A SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE WORKPLACE IN OUR INDUSTRY

People are the most valuable resource, and FEFCO is supporting healthy and safe working places:



**High standards** of health, safety, and well-being in every facility via industry sharing of **best practices**



Set of **practical advice** for machines and good practices to improve safety in the corrugated industry



Safety **statistics** at European level which are collected once a year on a voluntary basis to provide an overview for member companies to benchmark internally their performance with the average for the European corrugated industry and to encourage improvements



Sharing and **discussion** around safety alerts to raise **awareness**

### 4

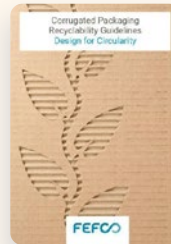
## ENSURE PRODUCT SAFETY AND DESIGN



### FEFCO code

the internationally applied system for corrugated packaging design, develops originally in the late 1960s, as a common base for communication internally

with customers all over the world. The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the code is publicly available.



### FEFCO design for recyclability guidelines

provides the industry with a practical set of tools to implement in the recycling of paper and board, ensuring the optimal use of natural

resources and minimising their environmental impact.

### 5

## BE A TRANSPARENT AND RELIABLE PARTNER TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS AND SOCIETY

In addition, FEFCO collaborates widely across the supply chain and other associations for shared sustainability goals.



Fibre Packaging Europe  
Renewable. Circular. Sustainable.



« Through this Sustainability Charter, FEFCO reaffirms its role as a responsible, innovative, and forward-looking leader in sustainable packaging. Together with our members and partners, FEFCO is committed to continuous progress, guided by science, transparency, and a shared vision for a climate-neutral Europe. »



# ANNEX I

## FEFCO Sustainability Chart for Events *Seminar, Summits and Workshops*



Like many European associations, FEFCO faces sustainability challenges related to travel, energy consumption, and food waste associated with events. In response, it is actively working to **reduce the environmental footprint** of its activities while maintaining high standards and **increasing awareness of environmental impacts**.

The **FEFCO Sustainability Chart for Events** outlines key initiatives and actions aligned with internationally recognised standards:

- **ISO 20121:2024** - Event sustainability management systems
- **ISO 14001:2015** - Environmental management systems
- **ISO 26000** - Social responsibility



**As part of its commitment to the sustainable development of the corrugated board industry, FEFCO is committed to ensuring that these events have an impact on the environment and climate change.**

### THIS CHART IS SET OUT TO:

- Provide a **practical checklist** for organising sustainable events
- **Educate stakeholders** on best environmental practices
- Support and promote a positive, **responsible image** of the corrugated packaging sector

### FOCUS AREAS INCLUDE:



**Waste reduction**



**Energy efficiency**



**Social inclusion**

# 1

## COMMUNICATION

Effective communication is essential to the success of any sustainable initiative. It not only informs but also inspires actions, fosters accountability and builds trust among stakeholders. In the context of sustainable events, **clear and transparent communication** helps participants understand the environmental and social goals behind every decision—from waste reduction measures to accessibility features.

By sharing objectives, progress, and outcomes, FEFCO engages its audiences, encourages responsible behaviour, and amplifies the positive impact of our efforts.

This is why FEFCO is committed to:

- **Organising safe, sustainable and accessible events.**
- **Reducing the environmental impact of the event.**
- **Raising awareness of the participants to sustainable events.**

### BEFORE THE EVENT

- Communicate the event's sustainability strategy on the event website
- Engage with partners to align on sustainability commitments
- Announce event's accessibility (e.g., for people with reduced mobility)
- Publish media content with a focus on environmental responsibility

### DURING THE EVENT

- Share social media posts with environmental focus using the hashtag **#CircularByNature** representative of our actions
- Together with the venue, highlight key environmental features (e.g., *recycling points, water stations, nursery, toilets*) with a venue-specific map

### AFTER THE EVENT

- Satisfaction survey of the participants incl. sustainability parameters
- Share with members an evaluation report detailing all sustainability actions—both successful and areas for improvement

## 2

## FEFCO EVENT SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS

When organising events, FEFCO wants to align with the sustainability principles set forth by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The list of key actions per thema is listed below.

### CATEGORY: VENUE

#### Goals:

- Choose venues respecting sustainability standards (healthy, green or sustainable label)
- Ensure venue with central location and / or easy access by public transport
- Ensure that the waste management strategy of the venue is in line with the 4Rs (*Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*)
- Energy efficiency and energy savings

### CATEGORY: WASTE MANAGEMENT

*Events often generate significant amounts of waste, which can also result in substantial financial costs. The primary sources typically include packaging, single-use items, and promotional materials from partners and sponsors. To address this, organisers should adopt the internationally recognised 4Rs principle: **Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**. Applying this hierarchy helps minimise waste generation at the source. To ensure effective implementation, a comprehensive waste management plan should be developed in advance, with clear strategies to reduce waste and maximise recycling and reuse opportunities throughout the event.*

#### Goals:

- Engage suppliers in reducing and/or reusing packaging
- Ban of plastic bottles
- Zero single-use plastics
- Integration of recycling stations with signage on how to sort
- Favors reusable branding or décor or ensure its recyclability
- Reduce printed support / materials and encourage the use of technology

### CATEGORY: ENERGY USE

*Achieving and maintaining optimal energy procurement and usage throughout the event can help minimise energy costs while reducing the event's overall environmental impact. A balanced approach ensures efficient energy use, prioritises renewable sources where possible, and mitigates both the positive and negative effects on the environment.*

#### Goals:

- Target venue using renewable energy
- Use energy saving devices
- Encourage everyone to switch off lights, thermostats or computers when leaving premises / facilities



## CATEGORY: TRANSPORTATION

*Transportation is often the largest contributor to an event's environmental footprint. Encouraging the use of low-emission or alternative modes of transport – such as public transit, carpooling, or rail – can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, ensuring that the event venue is easily accessible by sustainable transport options not only lowers its carbon footprint but also promotes inclusivity and convenience for all participants.*

### Goals:

- Promote public transport and provide guidance on how to access the event by public transport in advance
- Book accommodation close to the event and provide information on how to get from the hotel to the event using public transport
- Consider organising green transport if the event is taking place in a less accessible place
- Shuttle services for group passengers

## CATEGORY: SOCIAL IMPACT

*Economic and social factors are integral to sustainability. By sourcing services and supplies from local businesses, event organisers can significantly contribute to the local economy. It's essential for organisers to consider the broader impact of their events—how they can support local communities and enhance the lives of attendees. This focus not only strengthens the community but also adds meaningful value to the event, fostering a positive and lasting legacy.*

### Goals:

- Prioritise local suppliers over international ones
- Make your event accessible to all and do not tolerate any discriminatory behaviours

## CATEGORY: FOOD & BEVERAGE

*The food and beverage sector of an event plays a significant role in its overall sustainability impact. From sourcing ingredients locally to reducing food waste and minimising packaging, every decision can contribute to a more sustainable event.*

### Goals:

- Local catering, locally sourced ingredients (or in case of seafood ensure that it is sustainably sourced)
- Order less food / serve smaller portions to avoid waste food or favour finger foods
- Donate leftover food, paper napkins, plates, condiments or decorations to local food banks and charities
- Promote the use of reusable bottles and cups, encourage refilling them via tea and coffee in bulk
- Offer substantial vegetarian options
- Offer free tap water



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