



THE GREEN LINE
TO STANDARDS

Work Programme 2020



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About ECOS

ECOS is the only environmental organisation worldwide specialised in standardisation.

We are an international network of members sharing a vision of a clean and healthy environment where people live in respect of the planet and its natural resources, preserving them for future generations. ECOS aims to influence the development of ambitious standardisation, legislation and political strategies to promote the transition to a clean and circular economy that respects planetary boundaries, as well as to combat climate change.

ECOS promotes and defends environmental interests in key political and legislative processes, and the development of standards for products and services. Thanks to nearly 20 years of experience and a strong network of members and experts, our role in these processes is highly valued and widely recognised.

We cover a wide range of areas, from climate change, clean energy systems and transport, ecodesign and material efficiency, to circular economy, bioeconomy, waste management and environmental health.

ECOS is officially recognised in the EU as one of the four organisations whose work must be supported to ensure standards better serve society and that the European Standardisation System is more legitimate. We closely cooperate with the European standardisation organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI), as well as their international counterparts (ISO and IEC).



Introduction

2020 is shaping up to be a pivotal year. The new European Commission will begin implementing the European Green Deal with a series of innovative strategies such as a new Circular Economy Action Plan. ECOS will take the opportunity to push for ambitious political, legislative and standardisation strategies to promote the urgent transition to a clean and circular economy and combat climate change.

2020 will also see the beginning of the implementation of our new five-year Strategic Plan, which foresees that ECOS will ensure the appropriate use of standards in support of environmental legislation and policy, and strive to strengthen the environmental voice in the standardisation system at the national, European and international levels, while, at the same time, reinforcing our political influence.

Although standardisation is often regarded as a technical work area, ECOS sets out to break the barriers between standardisation work, EU environmental policy and legislation, and European and national environmental NGOs. In 2020, we will continue to raise awareness and interest in the standardisation work and thus foster greater involvement of environmental NGOs in standards-making.

We will represent, coordinate and empower environmental organisations to engage in standardisation, working to deploy a wider membership base, and improving the capacity of members to engage in standardisation. We will employ our expertise supporting not only our members, but also our partners in a number of campaigns and coalitions such as the Rethink Plastic alliance, the Coolproducts campaign, the Coalition for Energy Savings and the Right to Repair campaign.

In 2020, we will keep pushing for the standardisation system at all levels to be more inclusive so as to enable effective participation of our environmental voice.

We thank our staff, members, experts and funders, and look forward to delivering this ambitious work programme by engaging in key political and legislative processes, and the development of standards for products and services.

Justin Wilkes
Executive Director

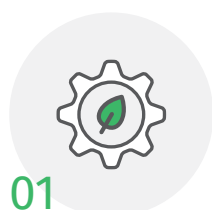




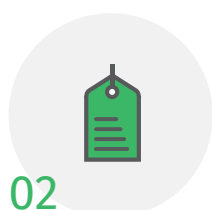
This year, we will pay particular attention to these priority issues:

- Making the **circular economy** a reality, both from a policy and standards perspective;
- Pushing for a drastic **reduction of plastics** use and pollution, and enabling environmentally-sound recycling;
- Campaigning for a high level of ambition in the **implementation of the ecodesign policy** to embed circular and low carbon thinking at design stage for a wide range of products including construction, textiles, electronics, heating, and batteries;
- Promoting **climate-friendly technologies**, including smart homes, buildings and products, such as electric vehicles and climate-friendly natural refrigerants.

Our activities will revolve around the following main work areas:



01
Environmental
Assessment
& Management



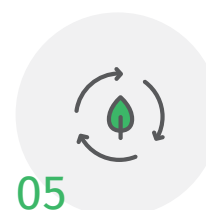
02
Ecodesign
& Energy
Labelling



03
Sustainable
Products
& Materials



04
Climate Change
Mitigation
& Adaptation



05
Waste to
Resource



01

Environmental
Assessment
& Management



01

Environmental Assessment & Management

Our response to environmental problems requires a cross-sectoral and integrated approach. This is why ECOS promotes the development of robust tools to assess the quality of the environment we live in, the environmental performance of companies, products and processes, and to channel investments towards environmentally-friendly activities.

Environmental Assessment & Management

We aim to improve the tools to measure organisation and product environmental footprint in order to push economic operators worldwide to perform better. We will work to:

- Contribute to the development of international standards that help ensure consistent, transparent and reliable environmental management systems, as well as robust environmental performance evaluation such as Life Cycle Methods, taking all possible environmental aspects into account;
- Ensure compatibility between international standards and European policy objectives.

[Learn more](#)

Activities

01

Under ISO/TC 207 “Environmental Management” sub-committee 5 on “Life Cycle Assessment”, contribute to the development and revision of international standards tackling horizontal environmental aspects with a focus on life cycle assessment standards.

02

Under ISO/TC 207 sub-committee 7 on “Greenhouse Gas Emissions”, contribute to the development of international standards characterising “carbon neutrality” and assessing climate change through radiative forcing.

03

Contribute to the work of the European Commission on its Product Environmental Footprint.

Circular Economy Tools

Our goal is to promote an improved understanding of circular economy through the development of standards and guidance tools, supporting public and private actors with the implementation of circular strategies. We will work to:

- Help develop coherent circular principles as well as guidance for implementation at ISO level;
- Help develop an international, robust methodology to assess the circularity of products, business models or organisations;
- Help embed circular thinking within CEN strategy and activities.

[Learn more](#)

Activities

01

Contribute to the standards and tools developed under ISO/TC 323 “Circular Economy”.

02

Contribute to strategic discussions within CEN, notably those of the Strategic Advisory Body on the Environment (SABE) and the new CEN/CLC Joint Group on “Circular Economy”.

Traceability & Credible Claims

Our goal is to ensure that environmental information provided to businesses and consumers is transparent and fair. We will work to:

- Contribute to the development of standards that provide clear guidance on B2B and B2C environmental information;
- Ensure the existence of checks and balances mechanisms to avoid misleading or incorrect information;
- Raise the ambition of sustainability standards.

Activities

01

Promote accurate environmental communication to avoid greenwashing, notably as part of ISO/TC 207/SC 3 “Environmental labelling”.

02

Finalise the development of a horizontal standard on Chain of Custody under ISO/PC 308 and ensure environmental-consistency and coherence with other commodity specific standards such as wood or cocoa.

03

Contribute to the developments within ISO/TC 287 “Sustainability of wood and wood processes”.

04

Liaise with sustainability schemes (such as ISEAL’s members) to ensure that ISO standards do not undermine already well-established and more ambitious certification systems.

05

Examine new partnership possibilities with voluntary sustainability schemes and other private initiatives with a view to improve their governance and ambition levels.

[Learn more](#)

Sustainable Finance

We aim to channel investments towards environmentally sound and climate-proof options. We will work to:

- Ensure an appropriate distinction between investments that are intrinsically green, those finance activities that are only transitory or that would have happened anyways, and those that are brown, i.e. causing significant harm to the environment such as air, soil or water pollution, climate change, resource depletion or biodiversity loss;
- Support only investments that substantially contribute to environmental objectives, provided their overall environmental benefits are high, unequivocally measurable and significantly outweigh their potential environmental impacts;
- Enable the disincentivisation of brown investments;
- Prevent false, misleading claims or greenwashing;
- Effectively support a transparent and open financial system.



Activities

01

Finalise the development of standards on green bonds and green loans, including a taxonomy listing green activities as well as disclosure requirements, as part of ISO/TC 207 “Environmental Management”.

02

Finalise the development of a standard on climate finance, which aims to define, manage and disclose the contribution – and risks – of investments contributing to long-term climate goals, in relation to both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as part of ISO/TC 207.

03

Participate in the work of ISO on green finance, laying down criteria to characterise green projects and help monitor their contribution to environmental objectives.

04

Monitor the development of standardisation deliverables on sustainable finance within ISO/TC 322, focusing on principles for sustainable investments, including environmental and social aspects.

05

Ensure a close link between the work of the EU on sustainable finance and that of ISO.

[Learn more](#)

Air Quality

Our objective is to improve the monitoring of air quality in the EU to safeguard people's health and protect the environment. We will work to:

- Ensure the development of solid mercury measurement methods in the context of the Industrial Emissions Directive;
- Reinforce existing standard measurement methods for particulate matter pollution, especially PM10, PM2.5, with a focus on filter clogging and between sampler variation;
- Push for a better modelling technique to widen the geographical coverage of air quality monitoring in the EU;
- Ensure high quality for the measurement of PM and gases while promoting the use of low-cost sensors by NGOs and citizen groups.

Activities

01

Ensure coherence between Best Available Technique Reference Documents and standardisation deliverables under CEN/TC 264 "Air quality".

02

Contribute to the standardisation work on mercury measurement in the context of the Industrial Emissions Directive, notably by influencing the work programme and scope of work.

03

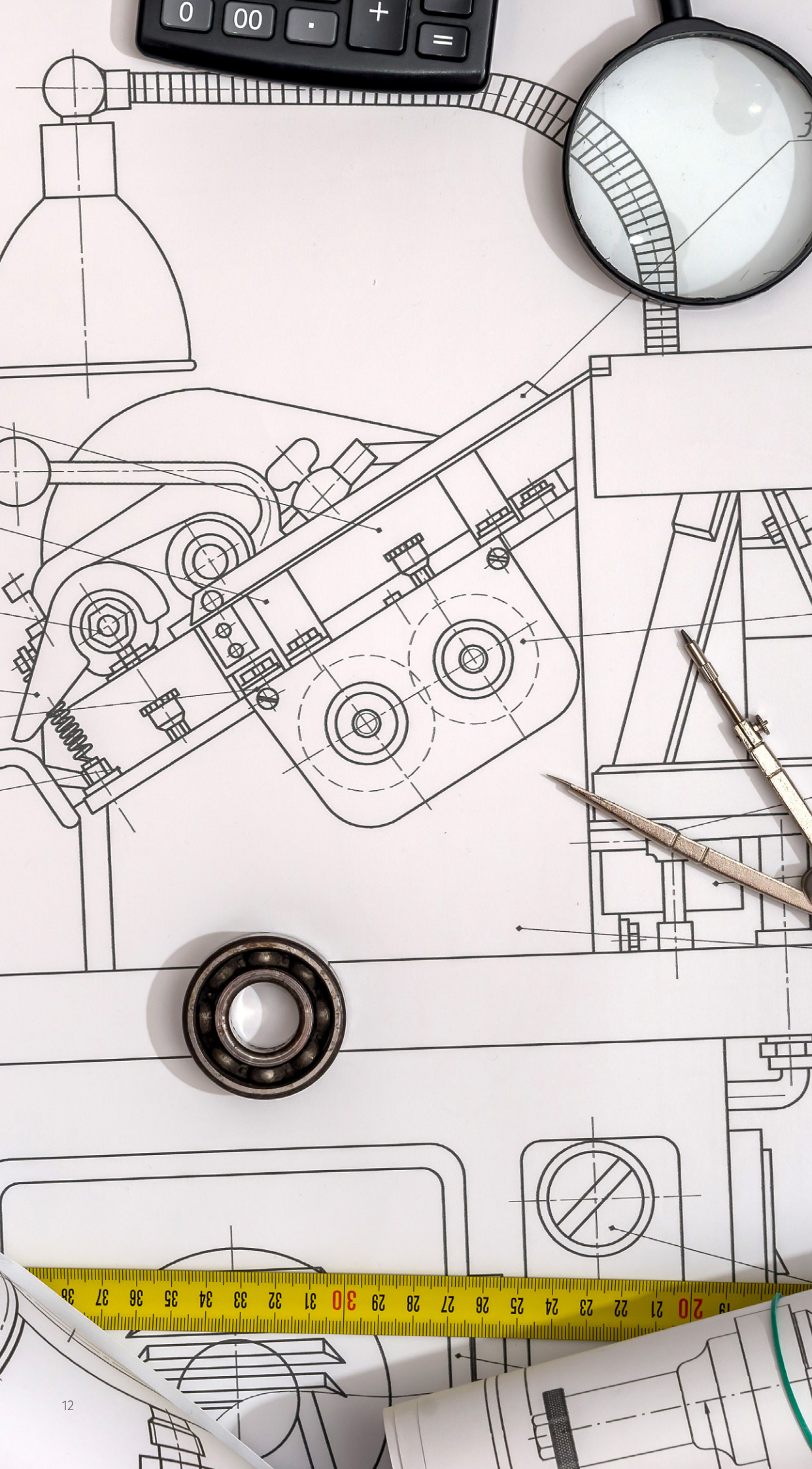
Contribute to the development of standards on modelling technique to assess air quality in a comparable manner.

04

Participate in the work of CEN/TC 264/WG 42 on low-cost sensors.

[Learn more](#)





02

Ecodesign
& Energy
Labelling



02

Ecodesign & Energy Labelling

The ecodesign and energy labelling policies are very effective tools to achieve major energy and resource savings. Banning the least efficient products from the market (through ecodesign) and nudging consumers towards better ones (through energy labelling) can bring about a major reduction of CO₂ emissions. The ambitious implementation of these policies is vital for the success of the circular economy and climate neutrality agendas.

ECOS is the only environmental NGO involved in this work from beginning to end: from the preparatory studies helping the development of regulations, through debates on the legal texts and the elaboration of the underpinning test methods, to support in the implementation of the measures.

Ecodesign & Energy Labelling Policies

We aim to push for a high level of ambition in the implementation of the policies to maximise the energy savings potential and embed circular thinking at design stage. We will work to:

- Ensure a swift adoption of a comprehensive Ecodesign Working Plan, listing key products to be investigated during the period 2020-2024;
- Push for ambitious measures on priority products such as smartphones and computers, especially to make them more durable and easier to repair;
- Obtain major improvements during the revision of the measures for heating and cooling products, which represent 50% of the EU annual energy consumption;
- Strive for more progressive measures that target product durability, repairability, toxicity, and recyclability at design stage, and make sure these are replicated to all products regulated by ecodesign and beyond;
- Push for the inclusion of new type of information on energy labels, such as information on product durability or repairability.

Activities

01

Contribute to the development of product-specific regulations, from the preparatory studies to the Ecodesign Consultation Forum discussions, public consultations, to Member State votes and final adoption.

02

Collaborate with a variety of partners and co-lead the activities of the [Coolproducts campaign](#) and the [European Right to Repair campaign](#).

03

Carry out advocacy campaigns and produce our own studies on priority issues.

04

Contribute to improving the policy and its impact.

[Learn more](#)



Ecodesign & Energy Labelling Standardisation

Our goal is to help shape a solid methodological basis to support the ecodesign regulations. Technological developments require new, state-of-the-art standards, while new concepts introduced in the policy, such as material efficiency, create the need for harmonised definitions and methods. We will work to:

- Strive for ecodesign test methods that properly reflect the real-life use of products, discourage circumvention attempts and are ambitious from an environmental perspective;
- Make sure that the material efficiency standards developed over the past year, now translate into robust product-specific standards;
- Make sure that all ecodesign standards support the implementation and intention of legislations, starting at standardisation request stage.

Activities

01

Play a key role in the development and implementation of the standards which support ecodesign and energy labelling and foster a more balanced political debate.

02

Support initiatives aimed at reinforcing consumer-relevance and anti-circumvention in standards.

03

Provide input to ecodesign standardisation requests issued by the European Commission, and flag standardisation developments needed to facilitate regulatory work.

[Learn more](#)

Ecodesign & Energy Labelling Implementation

Our objective is to ensure the proper enforcement of the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations and help increase their impact. We will work to:

- Help shape a market surveillance regime that is sufficiently solid to ensure the full delivery of the expected environmental benefits;
- Ensure that the EU database for products with an energy label (EPREL) delivers for market surveillance purposes and consumer information;
- Participate in and help shape EU projects that contribute to increasing the impact of the legislation.

Activities

01

Contribute to market surveillance discussions and to the development of the EU database EPREL.

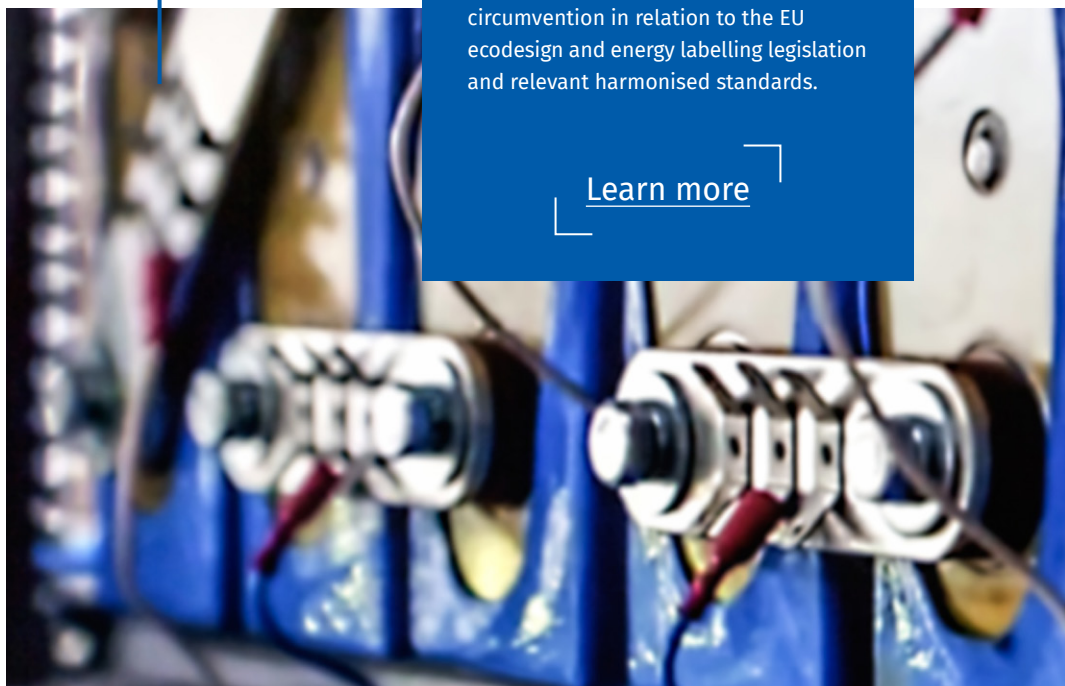
02

Participate in the [H2020 HARP project](#) to encourage consumers to replace outdated space and water heaters with efficient systems.

03

Participate in the H2020 [ANTICSS project](#), whose aim is to assess and define circumvention in relation to the EU ecodesign and energy labelling legislation and relevant harmonised standards.

[Learn more](#)



Batteries

The benefits of the development of electromobility and electricity produced by renewable sources, notably in terms of reduced CO₂ emissions, could be undermined by the impacts of an unsustainable, wide-scale production of batteries. We aim to push the European Union to act to mitigate the negative impacts of battery production. We will work to:

- Ensure that a robust policy and standardisation framework is adopted that encompasses sustainability criteria for battery design. As a priority, we will work to facilitate a second life for electric vehicle batteries, by their reuse in energy storage;
- Set binding collection and recycling targets and a minimum share of recycled content.

Activities

01

Weigh in the development of a policy framework for sustainable batteries.

02

Help develop robust standards to support the ambition of the framework and existing policies, notably to enable second life for electric vehicle batteries and to optimise battery recycling.

03

Contribute to the standardisation request and follow up work on material-efficient battery recycling.

[Learn more](#)





03

Sustainable
Products
& Materials



03

Sustainable Products & Materials

The shift to a circular economy requires addressing all sustainability aspects of products and materials. A lifecycle approach – examining sourcing, design, production, use and recycling – is essential to minimise environmental impacts and maximise societal benefits. Eventually, circular principles must be applied across all sectors and product groups.

Plastics

Our goal, as part of the Rethink Plastic alliance, is to reduce plastics use, tackle plastics pollution and enable environmentally-sound recycling. We will work to:

- Advocate for the ecodesign of plastic products and systems to reduce the overall use of plastics;
- Eliminate substances of concern from plastic products, especially harmful chemicals;
- Ensure quality of sorted plastics waste and recycled plastics;
- Limit plastic littering and microplastic pollution;
- Contribute to state-of-the-art methodologies to assess plastic pollution and microplastic emissions;
- Introduce standards for an integrated approach to limit plastic pellet loss along the supply chain.

Activities

01

Contribute to the revision of the essential requirements for packaging to prioritise prevention and reuse over recyclability.

02

Contribute to the development of standards for tethered caps under the Single Use Plastics Directive.

03

Ensure the issuing of an ambitious standardisation request on the circular design of fishing gear in support of the Single Use Plastics Directive.

04

Push for standardisation developments to help facilitate reuse systems through common formats and typing.

05

Critically assess and raise awareness on existing shortcomings of commonly used standards, definitions and claims relating to plastics and help improve them when relevant.

06

Advocate for a comprehensive policy framework to tackle microplastics emissions and contribute to standards for harmonised data collection and analytical methods to assess unintentional leakage of plastics, including from tyres, plastic pellet loss, and synthetic fibre wear-off.

07

Contribute to the development of sound recycling operations in the EU through robust standards related to pre-treatment and sorting as well as quality of recycled plastic materials within the CEN/TC 249 Working Group on “Plastics Recycling” and the CEN/TC 261 Working Group on “Material Recycling”.

08

Push for the development of an ambitious policy framework on biodegradable plastics and raise the bar on criteria for biodegradability as part of the CEN/TC 261 Working Group on “Organic Recycling” and ISO/TC 61 Working Group on “Biodegradability”.

09

Contribute to the development of standards for the traceability and declaration of chemical content in plastic products.

[Learn more](#)

Bioeconomy

We aim to promote the development of a bioeconomy keeping the carrying capacity of the Earth, while staying within planetary boundaries. We will work to:

- Argue for the development of a sustainable and circular bioeconomy, recognising that biomass is a renewable yet limited resource, and based on a prioritisation for high value applications in the use of biomass, such as food and feed rather than fuels (the so-called cascading use principle);
- Raise awareness on the environmental issues related to bioeconomy to avoid it being presented as sustainable per se;
- Identify and enforce best environmental practices for bio-based products and bioenergy applications.

Activities

01

In accordance with the Renewable Energy Directive II, promote the revision of European standards to harmonise the assessment of biofuels that trigger a “low indirect land use change” risk, and avoid loopholes.

02

Under the [STAR-ProBio](#) project, promote sustainability schemes for bio-based products proving high environmental performance and taking into consideration biomass production, conversion, use and end-of-life, and including a broad range of criteria such as GHG emissions, direct and indirect land-use change, energy use, biodiversity loss, water use, soil quality, etc.

03

Participate in any further developments under CEN/TC 411 with a focus on sustainability criteria for bio-based products.

[Learn more](#)

Textiles

Our goal is to make sure that textiles on the EU market are circular, durable and produced in a sustainable way, without hazardous chemicals. We will work to:

- Push for the establishment of a robust policy strategy on circular textiles, that includes an integrated product policy addressing all environmental aspects throughout the value chain;
- Promote minimum requirements for textiles placed on the EU market;
- Advocate for the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility for manufacturers, to set up take-back schemes prioritising preparation for reuse and closed-loop recycling.

Activities

01

Support the development of standards for circular design, methods to determine recycled content, high-quality textile-to-textile recycling and labelling on durability and recyclability.

02

Contribute to the policy discussions on the EU Circular Textiles Action Plan.

03

Contribute to the setting-up of an NGO coalition for sustainable textiles.

Chemicals

Our goal is to make our environment toxic-free by eliminating or minimising the use of problematic substances in products, as well as promoting the development of standards and legal requirements that ensure the safety of nanomaterials. We will work to:

- Promote strict requirements on problematic substances, such as flame retardants and nanomaterials;
- Help develop a comprehensive EU policy framework on a toxic-free environment and nanomaterials;
- Help prevent external ignition requirements in European and international standards related to the safety of products, that prescribe the use of flame retardants above other non-toxic solutions;
- Ensure the development of clear, harmonised definitions for nanomaterials and nanotechnologies and promote their safe and sustainable use through the adoption of adequate safety and risk assessment methodologies;
- Ensure consistency between the technical work and political developments concerning nanotoxicology and risk assessment.



Activities

01

Promote the use of the CEN Guide addressing chemicals in consumer-relevant products and the development of related requirements for key consumer product groups.

02

Contribute to the new CEN/TC 462 “Regulated Chemicals in Products”.

03

Contribute to policy discussions and cooperate with partners in order to achieve an ambitious legislative framework on chemicals.

04

Contribute to the CEN and ISO Technical Committees on nanotechnologies, respectively CEN/TC 352 and ISO/TC 229.

05

Contribute to H2020 projects on governance of nanomaterials, notably as a partner in H2020 RiskGONE and NANORIGO projects, and as part of the NMBP-13 cluster.

[Learn more](#)

Buildings & Construction Products

Our goal is to apply circular principles at building and product level. Construction products should be made from low-carbon, sustainable and non-toxic materials, and should be easy to repair and reuse. Buildings should not only be energy-efficient but also designed in a circular way. We will work to:

- Push for an ambitious EU strategy on circular construction;
- Influence the revision of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) to include progressive requirements on circularity, as well as strict limits on substances of concern;
- Ensure that the standards delivered under the standardisation request M/350 on the assessment of the integrated environmental performance of buildings are updated with circularity aspects in mind;
- Improve communication on sustainability assessments of buildings and construction products.

Activities

01

Contribute to the development of horizontal standardised methods for the assessment of the sustainability aspects of buildings and construction products under CEN/TC 350.

02

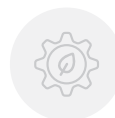
Push for standards on resource-mapping of buildings, selective demolition of buildings, and construction waste management.

03

Identify and address obstacles created by CEN standards for circular, low-carbon construction.

[Learn more](#)





04

Climate Change
Mitigation
& Adaptation



04

Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

With the effects of climate change becoming increasingly visible and a growing determination to prevent a dramatic global temperature increase of 2°C, ECOS aims at full decarbonisation and circularisation of the economy.

We want to make sure that standards contribute to a successful achievement of the Paris Climate Agreement, the Montreal Protocol, and the EU “Clean Planet for All” strategy, by making clean-tech solutions easily accessible to consumers and the market – be they electric vehicles, smart grids, clean hydrogen or low global warming potential refrigerants.

Smart Homes, Buildings & Appliances

Our goal is to ensure a clean, smart and secure power system, based on solutions that facilitate a higher share of renewable energy sources in the power grid and allow for the full use of demand-side flexibility. We will work to:

- Support the development of the “Customer Energy Manager” standard, an interface that facilitates the integration of renewable energy in the power grid and the possibility for consumers to change their energy usage in relation to grid signals;
- Improve interoperability, cyber-security and consumer-friendly requirements within relevant standards.



Activities

01

Contribute to European and international technical bodies of relevance e.g. CLC/TC 205 “Home and Building Electronic Systems”, CEN-CLC-ETSI Smart Energy Grid Coordination Group, CEN-CLC-ETSI Smart Meter Coordination Group.

02

Contribute to European Commission’s Smart Grid Task Force Steering Committee and the European Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation.

03

Contribute to European and international standardisation technical bodies of relevance, e.g. CLC/TC 59X “Performance of household and similar electrical appliances” and IEC/TC 59 “Performance of household and similar electrical appliances”.

04

Maintain and strengthen strategic outreach activities, with EU officials and key stakeholders and contribute to the stakeholder coalition IDEAS Platform.

[Learn more](#)

Electric Vehicles

We aim to contribute to reducing GHG emissions from the transport sector through increased market-share of electric vehicles, and thanks to an interoperable, secure and cost-effective electromobility infrastructure.

We will work to:

- Ensure electromobility standardisation supports the implementation of EU policy for sustainable transport;
- Ensure a seamless infrastructure for electromobility throughout Europe by pushing for a revision of the EU Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive;
- Ensure that smart charging of electric vehicles allows for the provision of demand-side management services and facilitates the greater penetration of variable renewable energy generation sources.

Activities

01

Contribute to European and international standardisation bodies of relevance, such as the CEN-CLC-ETSI eMobility Coordination Group (eM-CG), IEC/TC 69 “Electric road vehicles and electric industrial trucks” and CLC/TC 69X “Electrical systems for electric road vehicles”.

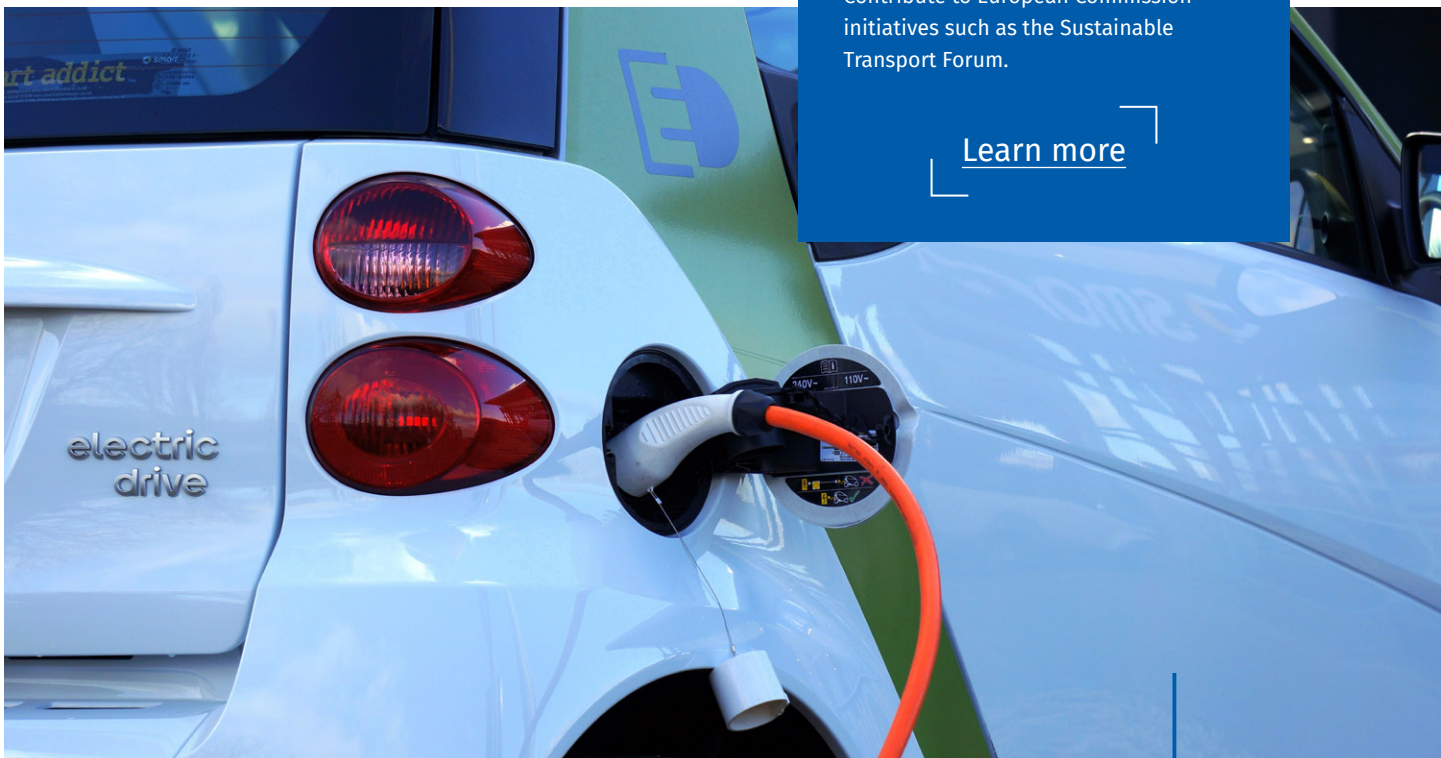
02

Contribute to the development and promotion of ISO/IEC 15118 “Road Vehicles – Vehicle to Grid communication interface”.

03

Contribute to European Commission initiatives such as the Sustainable Transport Forum.

[Learn more](#)



F-gases

Our goal is to reduce the climate impact of fluorinated gases (F-gases), including refrigerants used in refrigerating, air-conditioning and heat pump (RACHP) systems, as well as that of sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), the most potent greenhouse gas on the planet used in the electricity sector. We contribute to the creation of appropriate market conditions for the widespread utilisation of climate-friendly natural refrigerants on the one hand, and the ban of SF₆ on the other. We will work to:

- Improve requirements for natural refrigerants in European and international safety standards;
- Push for a European ban of SF₆ from medium and high voltage switchgear through a revision of the EU F-Gas Regulation;
- Ensure consistency between political developments and related standardisation activities, to safeguard hard-won political achievements.

Activities

01

Contribute to European and international standardisation bodies of relevance such as CEN/TC 182 and ISO/TC 86 “Refrigerating systems, safety and environmental requirements”, CLC/TC 61 and IEC/TC 61 “Safety of household and similar electrical appliances”, including the F-Gas Standardisation Request Working Group.

02

Draft standardisation requirements for natural flammable refrigerants, based on the outputs of the [LIFE FRONT project](#).

03

Contribute to the operation of the [LIFE FRONT Standards Action Group](#).

04

Provide technical expertise and analysis to EU officials and other stakeholders and participate in the EU F-Gas Consultation Forum.

[Learn more](#)

Energy Intensive Industries: Cement & Steel

We aim to contribute to the decarbonisation of energy-intensive industries, by creating opportunities for innovative, low-carbon materials and products, specifically in the cement and steel sectors. To this end, ECOS will contribute to continued development of performance-based standards for cement and cementitious materials, as well as steel and steel-based products. We will work to:

- Drive a performance-based approach to standards to make space for new, low-carbon alternatives to traditional materials such as Portland cement-based products or coal powered virgin steel production;
- Remove the barriers created by standards to shift to low-carbon alternatives, by extending the list of cements in current product standards;
- Support stringent environmental requirements within forthcoming product standards to help market creation for low-carbon steel;
- Ensure alternative constituents or secondary materials can qualify as supplementary or input materials respectively to drive circularity in both sectors.

Activities

01

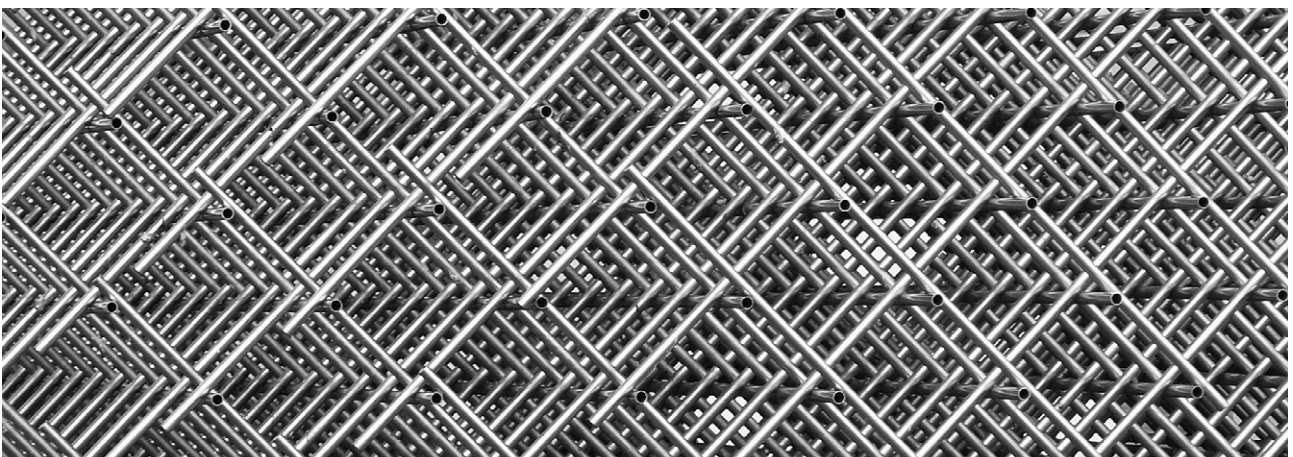
Contribute to CEN/TC 51 on “Cement and building limes” and CEN/TC 104 on “Concrete and related products”.

02

Contribute to CEN/TC 459 Sub-Committees for Iron and Steel based products.

03

Carry out advocacy activities towards an improved cement and steel policy framework.



Hydrogen

Our goal is to ensure that hydrogen is a clean and renewable-sourced energy carrier, by supporting truly clean production technologies that do not make use of fossil (natural) gas. We will work to:

- Ensure that standardisation on terms and definitions does not result in a misleading terminology that justifies hydrogen production from non-renewable sources;
- Ensure that Guarantees of Origins are a real tool to trace sustainable and renewable energy sources.

Activities

01

Participate in CEN-CLC/TC 6 “Hydrogen in Energy Systems” and contribute to most relevant work items, including Terms and Definitions and European Commission’s standardisation initiatives (i.e. mandates).

02

Participate in CEN-CLC/TC 14 “Energy management, energy audits, energy savings” to contribute to the newly created Working Group on “Guarantees of origin for hydrogen”.

03

Contribute to European Union’s initiatives dealing with hydrogen, including the upcoming Decarbonisation Package, the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive and the “Clean Planet for All” strategy to 2050.

[Learn more](#)



Adaptation to Climate Change

Our objective is to reduce our vulnerability to climate change impacts while contributing to broader environmental and climate protection objectives. We will work to:

- Make current infrastructure standards in the field of energy, transport, buildings and ICTs more climate resilient;
- Promote nature-based solutions (e.g. green infrastructures) to reduce the vulnerability of physical infrastructure;
- Ensure that adaptation is not promoted through the implementation of harmful technologies, such as the increased use of refrigerants in cities.

Activities

01

Continue to participate in the work of Adaptation to Climate Change Coordination Group, and ensure that the group extensively tackles the topic of adaptation to climate change across infrastructures, including topics currently not dealt with such as agriculture, as well as better promotes nature-based solutions.

02

Monitor major developments at ISO level on horizontal standards tackling adaptation to climate change aspects.

[Learn more](#)





05

Waste to
Resource

05

Waste to Resource

Waste prevention should always be our priority. However, even in the transition to a circular economy, residual streams from production and consumption processes will remain. Turning waste into resource using secondary raw materials helps reduce the use of virgin materials and environmental degradation.

Our goal is to ensure that reliable, harmonised standards promote sustainable recycling and preparation for reuse.

Treatment standards help ensure the quality of secondary raw materials, based on state-of-the-art processing techniques that avoid any harmful emissions. This way we can prevent the landfilling or incineration of valuable resources.

Waste of Electronic & Electrical Equipment (WEEE)

We aim to ensure that WEEE is optimally collected, treated and recycled within Europe, preventing the release of hazardous chemicals into the environment while optimising material-efficient reuse and recycling. We will work to:

- Advocate for stronger EU regulations and enforcement to ensure adequate treatment and recycling of WEEE, with specific attention for substances of concern;
- Stimulate material-efficient recycling and recovery of secondary raw materials, particularly Critical Raw Materials;
- Ensure that recycling standards do not obstruct preparation for reuse.

Activities

01

Participate in CENELEC Technical Committee (TC 111x) which deals with environmental aspects of electrical and electronic products and systems, and join the discussions of TC 111 at IEC level.

02

Contribute to the H2020 project [CEWASTE](#), which aims to develop a voluntary certification scheme for the recycling of critical raw materials.

03

Follow up on the standardisation request on material-efficient recycling of WEEE.

[Learn more](#)



Sludge & Organic Fertilisers

We aim to ensure optimal soil quality by fostering the use of organic matter such as composts and digestate on land. We will work to:

- Promote the transition from mineral to organic fertilising products;
- Ensure the safe and sustainable use of organic materials as fertilising products.

[Learn more](#)

Activities

01

Participate in the work of CEN/TC 260/ WG 8 on organic and organo-mineral fertilisers, including the development of methods to measure heavy metals.

02

As part of the [H2020 STAR-ProBio project](#) formulate policy recommendations on good land use practices including sustainable use of organic fertilising products.

03

With the help of our members, monitor issues associated with trading of CE-marked fertilising products in the EU.

Waste Characterisation & Management

Our goal is to contribute to the EU Circular Economy Strategy and revised Waste Directives to ensure proper environmental characterisation of wastes and improved framework conditions for re-use and recycling. We will work to:

- Support the EU Circular Economy Strategy and influence standardisation developments to minimise landfill as well as incineration and co-incineration of waste;
- Influence solid recovered fuels standards to ensure a high level of environmental protection and limit their wider use, especially when made largely from plastic.

Activities

01

Contribute to the activities of CEN/TC 292 on “Waste characterisation”, as well as CEN/TC 444 on “Horizontal tests methods for environmental characterisation of solid matrices”.

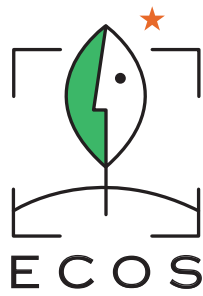
02

Contribute to the work of ISO/TC 300 on “Solid recovered fuels”.

03

Follow up on ancillary action on secondary materials with a focus on Critical Raw Materials from complex end-of-Life products other than WEEE and batteries.

[Learn more](#)



ECOS is the only environmental organisation worldwide specialised in standardisation.

We are an international network of members sharing a vision of a clean and healthy environment where people live in respect of the planet and its natural resources, preserving them for future generations. ECOS aims to influence the development of ambitious standardisation, legislation and political strategies to promote the transition to a clean and circular economy that respects planetary boundaries.

ECOS promotes and defends environmental interests in the development of standards at European and international level, as well as in the development of technical environmental product policies. Thanks to nearly 20 years of experience and a strong network of members and experts, our role in these processes is highly valued and widely recognised.

The green line to standards



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