



# WORK PROGRAMME 2025

JANUARY 2025



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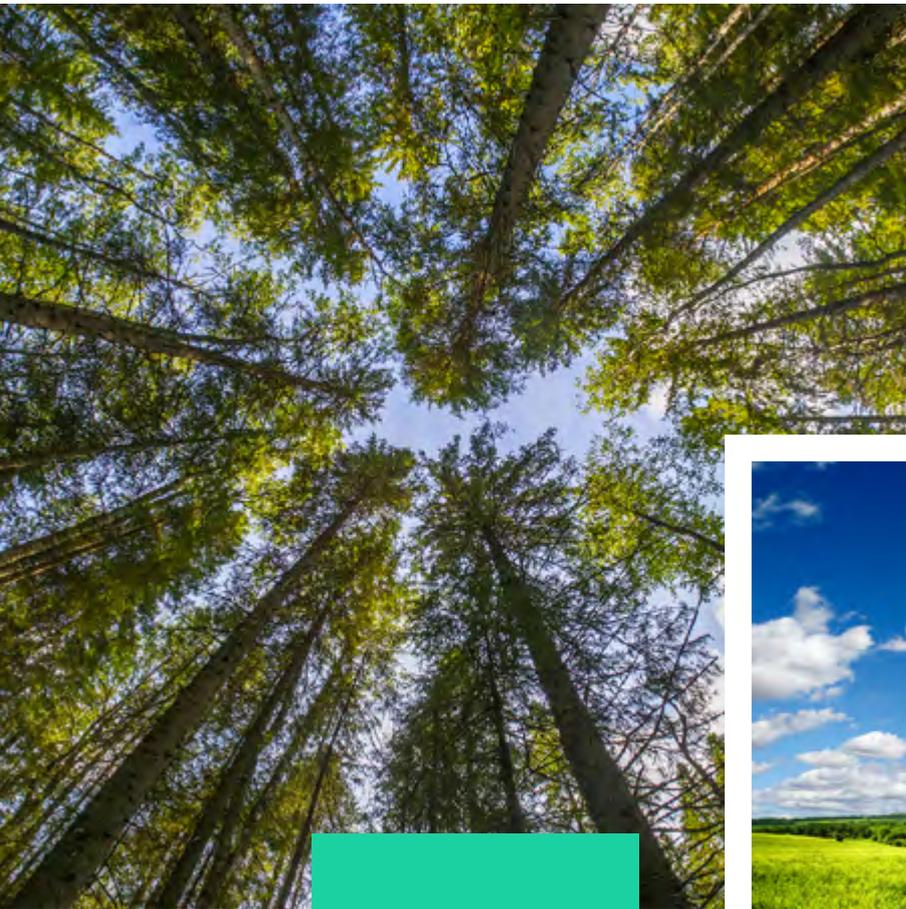
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# ABOUT ECOS

ECOS, Environmental Coalition on Standards, is an international NGO with a network of members and experts advocating for environmentally friendly technical standards, policies and laws.

We ensure the environmental voice is heard when they are developed and drive change by providing expertise to policymakers and industry players, leading to the implementation of strong environmental principles.



# INTRODUCTION

Science is clear: humanity has exceeded six out of nine planetary boundaries, and we are about to breach the seventh. 2023 was the warmest year on record, with average global temperature likely to exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in the next five years – a limit the world had agreed not to surpass. In the midst of a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, we will not meet our Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

We need a wake-up call, and we need it now. There are no quick fixes for the challenges we are facing. **The environmental crisis must be tackled in a systemic way**, ensuring a reconfiguration of our core systems to make them sustainable. This has been recognised by the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the European Green Deal – but we are still at the beginning of our collective journey towards sustainability.

In 2025, ECOS will work to create momentum for an ambitious vision, backed with political decisions, allowing for fundamental, systemic changes to the way we consume and produce.

Solutions exist and are attainable – but we have no time to lose. Moving away from fossil fuels, greening industrial processes, making sustainable products the norm, and efficiently guiding our markets towards best practices – all of the above will set us on the path to meeting our climate goals and, more broadly, to sustainability. In 2025, ECOS will work towards these priorities, and our activities will be guided by two key principles: sufficiency and impact.

Sufficiency, because we need to drastically reduce the environmental footprint of our societies and recalibrate our consumption and production systems to respect the physical limits of the planet. Impact, because we strongly believe that environmental organisations such as ECOS must continue to strengthen their influence, to bring us closer to real change.

As the only environmental NGO systematically at the table where standards are developed, ECOS is perfectly placed to drive, define and assess how to drastically improve the environmental sustainability of key sectors and products. We will rely on our unique position and expertise to deliver and implement the green transition – one where environmentally ambitious policies are supported by robust standards, serving the environment, and protecting our planet.

“**The environmental crisis must be tackled in a systemic way.**”

In 2025, we will prioritise the following environmental areas:



## Clean energy

An energy system that respects planetary boundaries



## Industrial decarbonisation

Keeping the bar high and setting the right incentives



## Circular economy

A toxic-free, sustainable and just circular economy that fits the planet



## Environmental transparency

Rewarding products and companies with low environmental impacts



## Nature protection and restoration

Frameworks for nature and human health to thrive

# HOW DO WE WORK?

For over 20 years now, ECOS has worked towards a healthy and clean environment, protected by robust rules that respect nature and its resources. Representing a network of almost 60 members worldwide, we bring our environmental expertise and vision to environmental discussions.



## Standardisation

We are the environmental voice in the standardisation system.



## Policy & advocacy

We advocate for a high level of environmental ambition for major legislative developments.



## Campaigns

We push for change to happen through numerous campaigns with members and partners.



## In standardisation

- We represent the environmental voice in the Standardisation System.
- We push for robustness and environmental ambition in the development of key standards.
- We advocate for the standardisation system to be as open and inclusive as possible, at all levels.
- In Europe, we are recognised as an official partner. ECOS is one of the so-called “Annex III organisations” recognised by the Standardisation Regulation.
- In Africa, we work to build relationships with key partners and stakeholders that can support active engagement in standards. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Standardisation Organisation ARSO to do this.
- We advocate for the development of certain missing standards that can help the implementation of crucial environmental policies or innovations.
- We make sure standards and policy objectives are compatible, as well as that policy ambition is not undermined by decisions made at standardisation level.
- We raise awareness and interest in the standardisation work, fostering greater involvement of environmental NGOs in standards-making.



## WHAT DO STANDARDS DO?

Standards can provide **important definitions**, determining, for example, how much biobased content a product should have to be called 'biobased', or what criteria are needed for packaging to be termed 'reusable'. They can also **provide measurement methods** that will facilitate the **enforcement of policies**, for instance on how to assess product reparability.



## At policy level

- We bring our technical expertise to push for a high level of environmental ambition for major legislative and policy developments. We are there even before the legislative process starts, to help prepare the ground for discussion, and we closely follow the process from all the way through the final decisions. Finally, we remain present for the implementation phase.
- Internationally, we cooperate with the United Nations, as an accredited observer to the UN Environment Programme and its governing bodies, namely, the United Nations Environment Assembly, and as a member of the [One Planet Network](#), [Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction](#), and the [Cool Coalition](#). We also actively contribute to the Global Electronics Council's [EPEAT ecolabel](#).



- We work with the EU institutions, particularly as a member of the European Commission's Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Consultation Forum, the High-Level Expert Group on Energy Intensive Industries, the CBAM expert group, High-Level Forum on Standardisation, and as an observer on the Committee on Standards.



## Through campaigns

- With the support of our extensive network of members and partners, we push for change to happen.
- We run advocacy campaigns to call for certain measures or reorient others, be it on heating, sustainable products, plastic packaging or

biodiversity standards. Nothing is too complex, or too technical – we translate difficult issues into engaging calls to action, motivating our audiences to support our work.

- We know that by joining forces with like-minded partners, we are maximising our impact, ensuring a cleaner environment for all.
- ECOS is active in a number of impactful alliances and campaigns such as the [Rethink Plastic alliance](#), [Break Free From Plastic](#), [Coolproducts](#), [Right to Repair](#), [Better Without Boilers](#), [Cool Heating Coalition](#), the [Alliance for Low-Carbon Cement & Concrete](#), [Platform for Electro-mobility](#), [Coalition for Energy Savings](#), [Wardrobe Change](#), and the [Global Cooksafe Coalition](#), where we cooperate with other NGOs, progressive companies, and researchers.



**“With the support of our members, experts and partners, we push for change to happen.”**

# INCREASING GLOBAL REACH: ECOS AFRICA OFFICE

Environmental issues are interconnected and unconstrained by borders. We need global efforts that ensure environmental ambition – something ECOS has been progressively working towards as part of our international strategy.

Our work focuses on bringing a holistic approach to tackling the triple planetary crisis the world is currently facing. This involves continuing to raise the environmental ambition of policies and standards, while acknowledging the differences and priorities based on geography and levels of development.

To strengthen our global reach, with a particular focus on the African region, we opened our new ECOS Africa office in 2024 to contribute to Agenda 2063. Building on our two-decade success in shaping an effective and impactful ECOS ecosystem of members, experts and alliances in Europe and internationally, we now aim to work with African environmental stakeholders, coupling our expertise in standards and policy with their knowledge and experience, with the aim to reinforce their participation in decision-making forums – both standardisation and policy-making bodies.



## OUR FOCUS IN 2025



Develop an **effective network** of members, experts, alliances, and key partnerships.

Foster **greater engagement of environmental stakeholders in Africa** in policy and standards development.



Raise awareness and **build capacity** for engagement in standards and policy work.

In 2025, we will strive to develop synergies and impactful partnerships, fostering a complementarity approach with our partners and funders. Leveraging our status as key participants in European and international standardisation and policy making, we will also push for inclusiveness in developing environmental solutions, not least through growing ECOS Africa's membership, experts hub, and partnerships.

**“In 2025, ECOS will seek to expand its impact and work in the African region, raising the environmental ambition in policies and standards across borders.**

# MAKING STANDARDISATION WORK FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

For over 20 years, ECOS has been working to ensure effective representation of the environmental interest in standardisation. Standards are an important tool which, if adequately used, can contribute to a healthy and clean environment. In the absence of mandatory requirements or binding commitments, standards play a central role in defining methodologies for companies and organisations to follow. International, regional and national standards are also an important mechanism for facilitating trade, including environmental goods and services.

ECOS works to raise awareness about the need for new or revised standards for crucial environmental policies or innovations, pushing for robustness and environmental ambition in policies and laws. We strive for the environmental voice to be heard when these important documents are developed, and for public policy ambition to be supported by high quality standards.

We bring vision to national, regional, and international discussions. We drive change by providing insights and expertise on strong environmental principles to both policymakers and industry players, and through building new partnerships with like-minded organisations worldwide.

Beyond our efforts to improve the environmental ambition of standards, we work towards an inclusive and effective system, reinforcing the participation and rights of societal stakeholders.

In 2025, ECOS will continue this work and further target the inclusiveness of the standardisation processes as a fundamental overarching principle.

We will focus our work on:

## International level

- Increasing our presence in key international standardisation organisations, pushing for greater environmental know-how in the standards, as well as facilitating access to the standards development process for environmental stakeholders.
- Continuing as an active contributor to ISO's commitment to have more environmental stakeholders at the table (London Declaration).
- Seeking more partnerships worldwide, including with environmental actors and standards organisations.

## Europe - regional level

- Influencing the formulation and implementation of standardisation policy in the EU to ensure standards work for the environment by delivering an inclusive and strategic European Standardisation System in support of high environmental ambition.
- Contributing technical expertise to a wide range of standardisation deliverables, as well as the identification of standardisation needs to support EU laws and policies.
- Engaging with the European Standardisation Organisations and other relevant actors within the System to ensure standardisation serves public interest and supports sustainability.

## Africa - regional level

- Engaging with the African Regional standardisation organisations, and particularly ARSO, as well as their members, to raise awareness on the importance of environmental expertise in the development of standards.

## National level

- Developing increasing awareness, capacity and engagement among national environmental NGOs in standardisation.
- Building meaningful partnerships at national level on common environmental challenges.

# OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

In 2025, we will prioritise five areas:



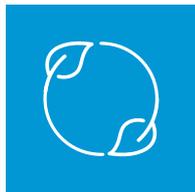
## Clean energy

An energy system that respects planetary boundaries



## Industrial decarbonisation

Keeping the bar high and setting the right incentives



## Circular economy

A toxic-free, sustainable and just circular economy that fits the planet



## Environmental transparency

Rewarding products and companies with low environmental impacts



## Nature protection and restoration

Frameworks for nature and human health to thrive

Our 2025 priorities will contribute to the attainment of the following Sustainable Development Goals:



In this section, we will explore the crucial importance of these priorities for our environment, our objectives, and how we intend to deliver our work in these areas. A full list of our activities can be found in the comprehensive 'Our Work Areas' section.



## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

# Clean energy

### An energy system that respects planetary boundaries

In 2025, we still largely rely on fossil fuels, which are the main driver for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and a primary cause of human-made climate change. We need to transition to a cleaner energy system – at a faster pace, and with better results.

We still mainly use oil and gas to heat our homes, generate electricity, drive cars and power key industries but it does not end here: new sectors are now emerging, which contribute to the alarming status quo, including the growing digital sector and resource-intensive and power-hungry data centres and electronic products.

We cannot wait any longer: the energy sector needs a rapid transformation, and its decarbonisation should be a top priority. In parallel, we must make sure that the overall energy production and consumption is reduced in every sector, by means of energy efficiency and sufficiency measures.

We have reached a point when not even turning to renewable energy and electrification will be enough. The switch itself will not stop our strong reliance on natural resources and critical metals, or phase out



health-damaging chemicals (PFAS), used in such key clean energy technologies as batteries, heat pumps or electrolyzers. We therefore urgently need to substantially reduce our energy consumption and accompany the energy transition with a sufficient and circular approach.

### Renewable, circular and... sufficient approach

For years now, ECOS has been highlighting the need for an energy system based on renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and sufficiency. A system that is respectful of people, health and natural resources.

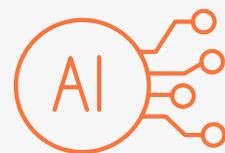
Policies and standards can help the shift by supporting the deployment of truly clean technologies and promoting energy sufficiency, while moving away from dangerous chemicals and unsustainable solutions that lock our energy system in dirty fossil energy sources.



**50%** of global trade of materials in 2020 = fossil fuels



**15%** of climate impacts of the built environment come from metals



**Training AI** consumes as much electricity as over **1,000** U.S. households in a year



An important part of the solution will be ensuring circularity of natural resources such as critical raw materials. They must be preserved, retained, and managed in a socially respectful way, and strict circularity provisions set by regulations, and underpinned by ambitious standards, will be key.

While geopolitical tensions keep fuelling the existing economic and energy crisis, climate change is becoming a multiplier of instability. We must not delay action aimed at supporting the energy transition, ensuring resilience and protecting vulnerable communities.



### OUR FOCUS IN 2025



**Renewable and efficient**  
key sectors (heating, transport, digital).

**Materials needed** for the energy transition (critical raw materials).



“For years now, ECOS has been highlighting the need for an energy system based on renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and sufficiency.”





## Our activities in 2025

- Advocate for a smart electrification of key sectors, such as heating, cooking and transport, and a power system that is based on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.
  - Advocate for the widespread deployment of renewable-based heating solutions, as well as policies and standards supporting efficient and F-gas-free heat pumps.
  - Work towards standardised communication protocols which foster smart charging of electric vehicles and smart energy management, and ensure their uptake in relevant policies.
  - Work to tighten the energy efficiency thresholds and pollutant emissions of cooking appliances and biomass heating in policies and standards.
  - Ensure sound international standards setting calculation methodologies for GHG emissions from hydrogen production.
- Push for policies, supported by standards, to set the ambition for reduced energy demand, including through improved energy efficiency and sufficiency measures.
- Advocate for energy-related products and data centres to be efficient and circular, using ecodesign and energy labelling, and ensuring that negative environmental impacts of emerging technologies such as AI are limited.
- Support energy transition policies that take a sufficient, non-toxic and circular approach.
  - Make sure that policies and standards on critical raw materials take circularity and sustainability aspects into account.
  - Advocate for a phase-down of PFAS in clean technologies for the energy transition, especially in view of the restriction under the EU REACH Regulation.

## Who we work with



## Our projects





## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

# Industrial decarbonisation

## Keep the bar high and set the right incentives

Industrial activities cause pollution, use large amounts of energy and require enormous quantities of precious raw materials. But above all, they are a main contributor to climate change, representing roughly a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Unless we address this issue head-on, there will be no meeting of our climate goals.

### **Green transition will not happen without industrial decarbonisation**

Industrial actors must play their part in getting to climate neutrality. We need a change of mindset, coupled with an ambitious – and effective - legislative and standardisation framework. Today, these are still lacking in environmental ambition, often protecting the status quo and impeding transparency and true environmental shift. It is time for a change – we need standards and legislation that promote low-impact materials, protect the environment and climate, encourage innovators and frontrunners, and provide fair and non-discriminatory access for all market actors.



### **Policy and standards for a bulletproof solution**

The (lack of) sustainability of the sector relies on many factors, including the proliferation of energy-intensive intermediate products, need for transparency on their environmental impacts, or ineffective public procurement rules.

While intermediate products receive much less public attention than other polluting materials such as plastic, ECOS has long ago identified them as crucial on our path to decarbonisation. The topic might be technical, but the solution is not more complicated than in other cases: we need to speed up decarbonisation, aiming at net zero well before 2050.



**Industrial activities =**  
**25%** of global  
GHG emissions



**Public procurement =**  
**14%** of EU GDP



**Cement =**  
**8%** of global  
CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



Take cement, for example: a high-impact and ubiquitous material, whose production relies on outdated, prescriptive standards that focus on cement content instead of its performance and function. This must change: together with our [Alliance for Low-Carbon Cement & Concrete](#) we have been calling for a new generation of cement standards, which would align with relevant legislation, rely on neutral performance criteria, and – at last – open the market to a wide uptake of low-carbon cements.

At the same time, consumers need to be provided with reliable information on the environmental impacts of different materials, goods or services along their entire life cycle, and this will only be possible if we develop sound methods for calculating those impacts. Only this way will the information become accurate and transparent, enabling end users to make informed – and sustainable – choices.

These choices are particularly critical when it comes to public spending, which covers a lion's share of the construction sector's demand. With public contractors' buying powers accounting for a staggering 14%



of EU GDP, it is surprising that no mandatory Green Public Procurement approach for construction products exists – although some cities and regions are already leading the way. The existing public procurement legislation in place is poorly followed in EU Member States, leaving a lot of environmental potential untapped.



## OUR FOCUS IN 2025



Ensure **cement standards** are fit for purpose and create a level playing field for low-carbon cements.

Revise **standards on life-cycle analysis** of construction products.



**Green Public Procurement** in the EU.



## Our activities in 2025

- In the EU, push for meaningful and strong delegated acts setting environmental criteria for construction materials in the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) and steel in the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), at the same time setting the agenda for the new European Commission and Parliament.
- Cooperating with the Alliance for Low-Carbon Cement & Concrete (ALCCC), contribute to the revision of European cement standards (EN 197 series), turning them from recipe-based into performance-based, to ensure a wide uptake of low-carbon cement and concrete on the market.
- Build momentum for the overhaul of EN 15804, a European standard on life-cycle analysis (LCA) of construction products, and the basis for future mandatory data, to make LCAs more transparent, realistic and comparable.
- Promote Green Public Procurement (GPP) for construction products and shape the revision of the Public Procurement Directive to make it serve environmental goals.
- Work towards the decarbonisation of the steel sector, and advocate for new policy measures and standardisation developments.

## Who we work with





## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

# Circular economy within ecological limits

## A toxic-free, sustainable, just circular economy that fits the planet

It goes without saying: the existing production and consumption patterns are unsustainable and put stress on our fragile ecosystems. Resources are extracted, processed, consumed and thrown away at an ever-increasing pace. This, in turn, drives the triple planetary crisis – a combination of three interlinked issues: climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. And we urgently need to tackle all three if we are to have a viable future on our planet.

The circular economy, up until not long ago a novelty and a popular buzzword, has become a widely acknowledged systemic model. But its implementation is very much lagging behind. Production continues to skyrocket, and [Earth Overshoot Day](#) comes earlier and earlier each year.

While (properly implemented!) circular economy is certainly part of the solution, it has become clear that circularity on its own will simply not be enough. We need to slow down, substantially limit our production and consumption, and change the established patterns.



### Setting on a new course

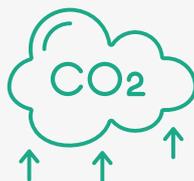
We need a new direction: produce less, use less and for longer, while regenerating our ecosystems. We need a circular economy that fits within planetary boundaries.

Such a solution framework would help create a production and consumption system that meets societal needs, while working to restore natural ecosystems. Driven by systemic thinking and design, such circular economy would ensure we eliminate waste and pollution, minimise resource extraction, use, repair and reuse products and materials, and regenerate nature.

“The existing production and consumption patterns are unsustainable and put stress on our fragile ecosystems.”



By 2060 globally **resource extraction** could rise by **60%** compared to 2020 levels



**Material resources** extraction and processing = **55%** of global GHG emissions



In the past 5 years, we consumed almost **30%** of all the materials **humanity consumed in 1900**



The rule of thumb is rather simple: we should only produce what we really need, designing our products to make sure that products are sustainable, circular and non-toxic. In practice, this means that:

- resource extraction is reduced;
- the amount of resources used in production (water, energy, land, etc.) is reduced;
- waste, pollution and toxic chemicals are eliminated;
- resources are prioritised for uses with long-lasting applications, and (re)used for as long as possible;
- renewable energy sources are the norm;
- nature is protected and restored in the process.

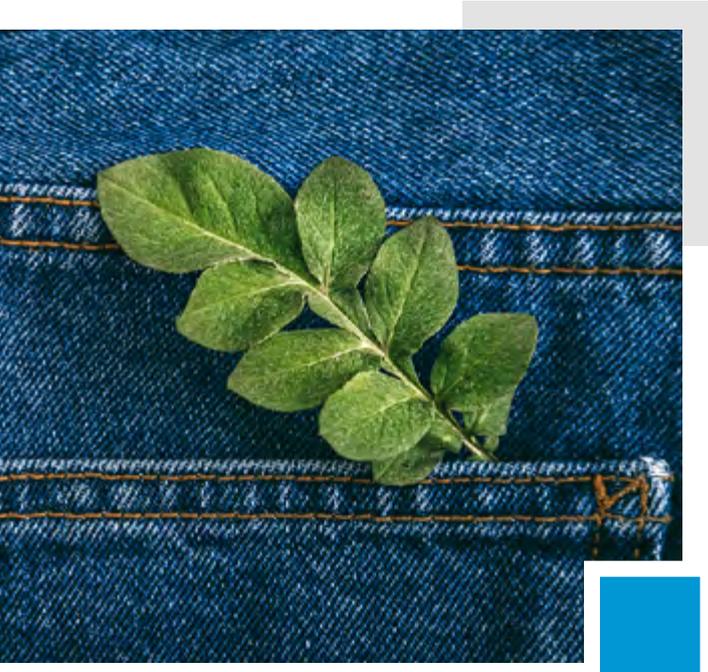


### A circular economy embracing sufficiency in global value chains

In 2025, ECOS will continue to ensure circular economy policies and standards contribute to reducing resource use and environmental pollution levels in resource-intensive value chains.

We will focus on several important regulatory developments such as the finalisation and implementation of the UN Plastic Treaty, and promoting the transition to circular economies regionally and globally, to decouple economic growth from resource use, minimising the economy's impact and protecting the planet.

At EU level, we will work to ensure an ambitious implementation of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, a visionary policy framework meant to ensure products are sustainable by default, and the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, a new set of rules to continue to promote refill and reuse systems, and reduce our dependence on single-use packaging.



## OUR FOCUS IN 2025



Product policies



Plastics



Textiles



Toxic-free products



## Our activities in 2025

- Support the global implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12, Responsible Consumption and Production.
- Push for collaborative actions on the triple planetary crisis within the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
- Advocate for sector-specific policies to reduce global plastic consumption and support the effective implementation of the UN Plastics Treaty.
- Advocate for policies and standards that unlock sufficiency, and equitable development of solutions.
- Advocate for binding targets for the reduction in the use of resources and generation of waste at both EU and national levels.
- Push for a deep transformation of key sectors and products through an ambitious implementation of the EU Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), including environmentally sound standards to support it.
- Ensure key product and material streams are long-lasting and non-toxic by design.
- Advocate for material and chemical transparency throughout value chains.
- Push for a dramatic reduction of packaging waste, mainstreaming refill and reuse for the sector.
- Work towards ambitious standards in key sectors such as packaging, textiles and waste.

## Who we work with



One planet  
handle with care



RIGHT TO  
REPAIR



EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY STRATEGY



for a toxics-free future



## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

# Environmental transparency

## Rewarding products and companies with low environmental impacts

Environmental transparency must become a global policy priority. It allows companies to demonstrate integrity, and consumers or investors to compare the environmental performance of businesses. It also creates demand for better-performing products, which, in turn, continuously raises the bar on environmental protection. Finally, it allows companies to transparently communicate their environmental pledges and civil society organisations to hold them accountable for their (lack of) engagement.

There is a caveat of course: environmental transparency tools such as green claims or corporate reporting are only as strong as the data behind them. This is why it is crucial to ensure that all information is reliable, comprehensive, comparable and environmentally relevant.

### We have achieved a lot...

The EU provides an encouraging case study of progress. Sustainable processes, nature-positive companies, responsible investments, green bonds, carbon-neutral



packaging... Soon enough, businesses will need to think twice before they self-award such a label.

Policymakers, prompted by NGOs such as ECOS, noticed the need to curb the proliferation of environmental claims on products and services. Thanks to progressive legislation, EU consumers will soon be less exposed to greenwashing. Environmental claims will be regulated, with some of the most notorious ones (such as 'climate-neutral' products) will be effectively banned. In parallel, corporate sustainability reporting has become more mainstream, nudging companies to implement comprehensive environmental strategies.



**76%** of products on EU market carry a **green claim**



**50%** are misleading, unsubstantiated or inaccurate



**92%** of global GDP is covered by **net-zero pledges**



**...but so much more remains to be done!**

The environmental community has applauded these changes, but we must not rest here: so much remains to be done – both in and outside of the EU! Without strong enforcement mechanisms, misleading and inaccurate environmental information will continue to be an obstacle to the green transition. In fact, transparency and accountability are often still perceived as a burden or a ‘nice-to-have’, rather than an absolute must, which will allow companies to monitor their ability to contribute to the transition and continuously improve.

We need strict regulations and provisions on how to design corporate transition plans to accompany long-term thinking and ambitious target setting, what companies may or may not claim, and how to best share this information with their customers, investors, public procurers and regulators.

Functional environmental transparency tools will also help disclose the true environmental costs of raw materials, production processes and products. Only this way can we ensure that sustainable practices, products and companies truly get the recognition they deserve.

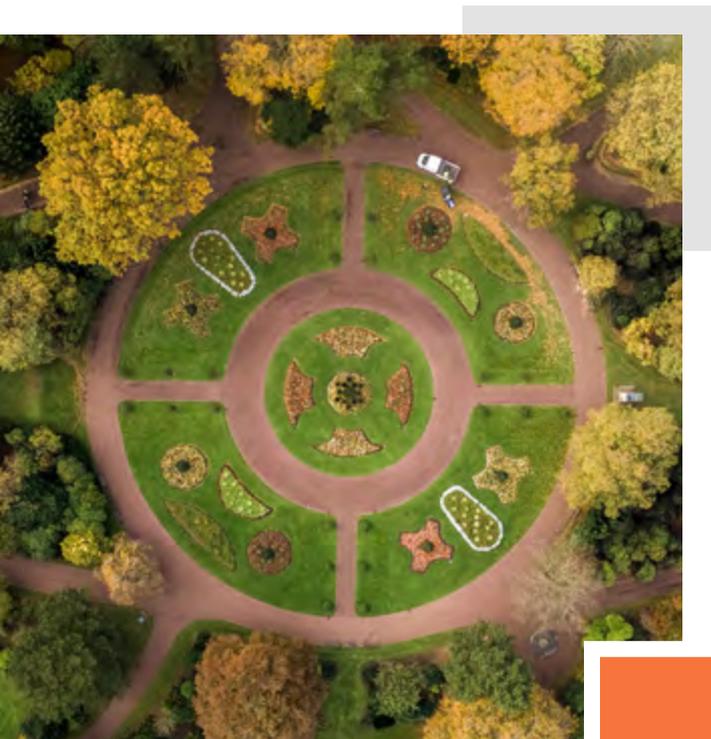


**OUR FOCUS IN 2025**



Tools allowing companies, investors, policymakers, and consumers to **calculate and communicate their true environmental impacts.**

Mainstreaming of these tools in high-impact sectors, such as **construction, energy, textiles, or food.**



“**Environmental transparency must become a global policy priority.**”



## Our activities in 2025

- Support the adoption of standards, guidelines and policy frameworks at international, European and national levels to ensure transparent, reliable, and relevant environmental communication.
- Debunk all narratives promoting false solutions, or giving partial environmental information.
- Fight marketing promoting climate-, plastic- or any other 'environment-neutral' product, company or policy and/or relying on environmental credits and offsets.
- Ensure that environmental assessment methodologies such as the Product Environmental Footprint reflect the true impacts of product.
- Work to develop supply chain transparency tools, such as the EU Digital Product Passport and strong chain of custody requirements.
- Support the shaping of corporate sustainability reporting standards in high-impact sectors, such as food, textiles, chemicals, construction, and mining.
- Push for voluntary sustainability schemes to raise their environmental ambition and transparency.
- Work to develop standards and policy frameworks allowing to identify green investment opportunities and assets.
- Promote the adoption of credible and transparent transition plans for businesses, in line with science-based targets.
- Advocate, where relevant and meaningful, for the development of product scores to be displayed visibly and clearly for consumers, to ensure the uptake of sustainable products.

## Who we work with



One planet  
handle with care



Alliance for  
Corporate  
Transparency



INDEPENDENT  
SCIENCE BASED  
TAXONOMY

## Our projects





## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

# Nature protection and restoration

## Frameworks for nature and human health to thrive

The triple planetary crisis we are faced with today – climate change, pollution and nature and biodiversity loss – stems from an unsustainable pressure on nature and its resources, driven by unsustainable production and consumption.

We need to act, replacing our carbon tunnel vision with a holistic one, which will prioritise protection of human and ecological health, at the same time putting an end to biodiversity breakdown. This ecological transition must be inclusive of local communities and land managers, ensuring their health and livelihoods in contributing to reducing pressure on nature, as well as protecting and restoring ecosystem functions.

### Protect, reduce, restore

Enabling healthy and thriving nature and ecosystems is a key priority for ECOS. We work towards an absolute reduction of pressure on nature, to protect and restore biodiversity and enhance the recognition of ecosystem functions, at the same time improving ecological health of soil, air and water.



But this can only be achieved if robust laws are in place and standards work hand in hand with them to ensure sustainable, fair and long-term use of what nature can provide. These practices should be supported by an economy which is restorative, regenerative, and distributive by intention and by design, supported by the highest environmental sustainability standards. We also need to ensure that our definitions, targets and methodologies push for reducing pollution and resource extraction, production and consumption.

It is encouraging to see that several major frameworks for nature protection and restoration were adopted globally and in the EU in the first half of this decade – including the United Nations Global Biodiversity Framework (2022). But these frameworks require regular monitoring and reporting against set targets, and this can only be ensured through robust standards. ECOS will be there every step of the way.



**2021-2030**  
decade of **ecological restoration**



Happening now:  
**6<sup>th</sup> mass extinction**  
in geological history



**95%** of our food  
comes from **soil**



### In 2025, ECOS will focus its efforts on three areas:

- Biodiversity, with implementation of existing legislation, supported by robust biodiversity assessments.
- Forests, as the EU is in co-decision regarding the Forest Monitoring Law, as well as implementing the EU Deforestation Regulation and other key forest-related policies.
- Agriculture and food systems, supporting policies and standards for ambitious minimum requirements on products coming from those systems, land monitoring, as well as requirements in support of ecological land management and improved human health.

“Enabling healthy and thriving nature and ecosystems is a key priority for ECOS.”

### OUR FOCUS IN 2025



Biodiversity



Forests



Agriculture and food systems



Soil health

## Our activities in 2025

- Push policymakers to protect biodiversity and soil health and restore their loss through legislation, robust reporting obligations, implementable methodologies, indicators and measurements, ensuring greenwashing is eliminated.
- Support the effective implementation of policy measures for monitoring ecosystems with robust standard methodologies.
- Advocate for policy measures that support nature protection and restoration, are inclusive of local stakeholders, and do not rely on compensation or offsetting schemes that contribute to greenwashing.
- Push for a better recognition and accounting of impacts on soil and biodiversity including in forests and farms, in policy, standards and lifecycle analysis tools, since these tools are backing policy decisions to promote one practice over another.

## Who we work with

# OUR WORK AREAS

In addition to our carefully selected priorities, in 2025 we will work on a broad range of crucial environmental areas. You will find an overview of these below.

## Climate Change & Energy

- Sustainable buildings
- Decarbonised energy-intensive industries
- Renewable, efficient & resilient energy supply
- Decarbonised & efficient energy consumption

## Sustainable Production & Consumption

- Plastics & packaging
- Textiles & furniture
- Electronics & batteries
- Construction products
- Designing chemicals & waste out



## Environmental Transparency

- Green claims & eliminating greenwashing
- Sustainable finance and corporate reporting
- Traceability
- Voluntary sustainability certifications

## Nature Protection & Restoration

- Forest, land and agriculture
- Measuring soil health & biodiversity loss
- Bio-based products
- Forestry & soil

## ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION ON STANDARDS

### ECOS - Environmental Coalition on Standards

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