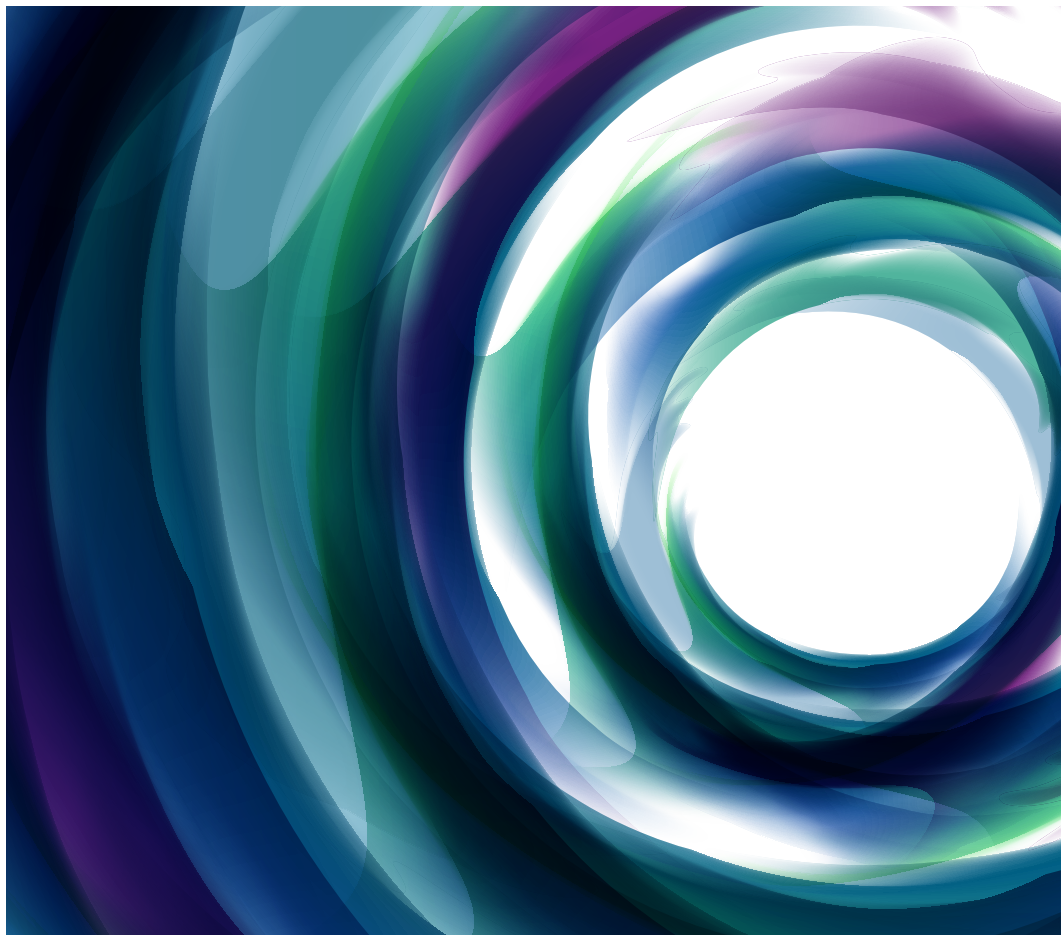




Pollution and Business

Implementing holistic approaches

July 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAIRWOMAN'S MESSAGE	3
POLLUTION AND BUSINESS	4
Implementing holistic approaches	
SECTION 1	6
POLLUTION EXPOSURE: ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, ECONOMIC AND REPUTATIONAL ISSUES	
Human health, biodiversity and climate issues	6
Issues at stake for business	7
SECTION 2	10
LEVERAGING CORPORATE EXPERTISE FOR RISK AWARENESS AND ASSESSMENT	
Enhancing understanding and transparency of the environmental and health impacts of products	10
Vital expertise for local public authorities to better understand and manage their risks	11
SECTION 3	14
REDUCING POLLUTION ACROSS PRODUCT AND SERVICE LIFE CYCLES, OR HOW TO BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS	
Products: eco-designing products to reduce their impacts	14
Production and transport: reducing exposure to the pollutants they emit	18
End-of-life products: optimising for greater circularity	22
SECTION 4	25
THE EMERGENCE OF HOLISTIC APPROACHES IN CORPORATE STRATEGIES AND BUSINESS MODELS	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	33

CHAIRWOMAN'S MESSAGE

Pollution has become the leading cause of preventable death worldwide, responsible for 9 million premature deaths each year.* It harms people's health, degrades ecosystems, and seriously undermines corporate economic performance. It also underscores a reality: reducing pollution is not an option; it is a strategic imperative.

Within EPE's Health and Environment Committee, our guiding conviction is that environmental issues can no longer be addressed in isolation. Holistic approaches, from One Health to analyses of the health-climate-biodiversity-food-water Nexus, demonstrate that human health, ecosystems, and economic resilience are deeply interconnected.

EPE member companies have recognised this and are taking action. They are enhancing transparency around the substances they use, developing eco-design innovations, substituting or eliminating certain molecules, reducing emissions from their sites, and improving the end-of-life of their products. They are also collaborating constructively with scientists, public authorities and stakeholders across their value chains to better characterise pollutants and accelerate the development of solutions.

These actions are not easy to undertake amid a lack of harmonised tools, scientific uncertainties, fragmented regulation, and sometimes contradictory economic trade-offs. Yet collective ambition is growing. Businesses are demonstrating that it is possible to act at the source, balance health, climate and biodiversity with performance, and anticipate future transitions.

By gradually incorporating these holistic approaches into their strategies, they are paving the way for models that are not only compatible with planetary boundaries but also create value and build resilience. As this brochure shows, the transformation is well under way and already bearing fruit. The challenge now is to broaden the movement and accelerate.

I thank all EPE members for their feedback and commitment, which are helping to shape consistent and ambitious pathways. Together, we can step up our efforts to build a future in which pollution reduction, public health and economic prosperity go hand in hand.

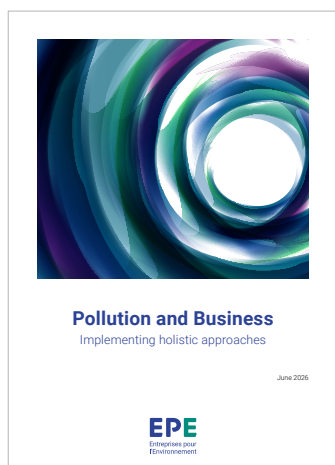
Estelle Brachlianoff

Chief Executive Officer, Veolia

President, Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EPE)

* Lancet 2024.

POLLUTION AND BUSINESS



Implementing holistic approaches

Work carried out with member companies of the Association française des Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EPE) over the past four years within the Health and Environment Committee has highlighted the drivers and limits of reducing exposure to pollution from businesses' industrial activities and their products and services. A holistic approach, such as One Health or Nexus, appears to be the most effective and sustainable way to improve human, animal and ecosystem health.

9 million

premature deaths worldwide each year are caused by pollution

75%

of emerging diseases are linked to environmental factors, such as pollution

More than

10,000

different chemicals can be used in plastics

EPE

Entreprises pour
l'Environnement

www.epe-asso.org

Somewhat vague regulations due to limited scientific knowledge

► Poor knowledge of the **chemical composition of certain products**, at times even among the businesses themselves and their suppliers.

► **Partial lack of harmonised tools for measuring human toxicity** and ecotoxicity, particularly for emerging pollutants.

► **Scientific uncertainties** regarding the environmental and health impacts of certain substances (e.g. microplastics, PFAS, nanomaterials) and the 'cocktail effects' of these substances.

► **Lack of reference values** for emerging, unregulated pollutants. Businesses need to set **their own thresholds**, which may become obsolete as regulations evolve.

► **Complexity of the plastic collection and recycling sectors**: lack of economic attractiveness, collection and recycling difficul-

ties, traceability and availability issues, technological challenges, and a lack of outlets for recycled plastics. Public authorities play a key role in organising economically viable recycling sectors through financial support and circular economy-friendly regulations. The unstable regulatory framework in recent years has not fostered the development of these sectors.

► **Lack of clarity regarding certain upcoming regulations** (e.g. plastics, PFAS), which undermines efforts to address these issues at an early stage right from the product design phase, even though such efforts require difficult-to-secure **investment** as well as research and development **time**.

Drivers deployable by businesses and the banking sector

- ▶ Contributing to a **better understanding of conventional and emerging substances and of pollution** by enriching databases.
- ▶ Increasing commitments to **transparency** of product composition, accompanied by educational initiatives for customers, consumers and authorities.
- ▶ Acting **upstream at the product/service design phase** – including **forgoing** and/or **substituting** certain substances/materials, and reducing the product's overall impact – is the most effective approach.
- ▶ Developing **collaborations** across sectors and value chains with public authorities, scientists, associations, NGOs, and experts is a powerful **catalyst** for implementing actions to **reduce exposure** to conventional and emerging pollutants (upstream and downstream of emission sources).
- ▶ **Surpassing and/or anticipating regulations** to achieve further emissions reductions, particularly for emerging pollutants not yet subject to regulation and for production sites outside the European Union or other countries with stringent environmental and health standards.
- ▶ Deploying **financial instruments** to encourage businesses to adopt virtuous approaches to reduce exposure to conventional and emerging pollution, such as forgoing or substituting certain chemical compounds, developing collection and recycling systems for plastic waste, and introducing alternatives to conventional agriculture to reduce chemical inputs. Investors adopt these measures to avoid **stranded assets** and **mitigate reputational and legal risks**.

Gradual integration of holistic approaches, such as Nexus or One Health, into business models

Reducing exposure to pollution is essential to safeguarding human health, ecosystems and corporate economic resilience. Environmental issues can no longer be addressed in isolation, as everything is **interconnected** (see the planetary boundaries model).

Broadening the discussion on exposure reduction to include **integrated approaches** such as One Health, Nexus, or the conclusions of EPE's 2030 Milestone study⁽¹⁾ would enable the implementation of more **robust and resilient** solutions.

Implementation, however, is complex because these issues are **difficult to link** across the scientific, analytical (LCA, metrics), and regulatory (fragmented texts) levels.

Businesses have many other parameters to consider (economic, regulatory, financial, human, technological, etc.), and their stakeholders do not

all share the same expectations. In fact, these expectations can sometimes be contradictory (e.g. short-term profit versus long-term investment to restore a natural space).

The examples in this brochure show that an increasing number of EPE member companies are adopting this approach and changing their business models under pressure from their investors or customers, while preparing their companies to face the complex environmental challenges ahead.



(1) EPE, 2030 Milestone for the Ecological Transition, December 2023.

SECTION 1

POLLUTION EXPOSURE: ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, ECONOMIC AND REPUTATIONAL ISSUES

Human health, biodiversity and climate issues

The cross-cutting nature and interconnection of environmental issues are clearly illustrated by the **planetary boundaries**

model, which is familiar to businesses today. Updated in 2025, the model shows that seven of the nine boundaries have now been breached (*Figure 1*).

Figure 1. Chart showing the state of planetary boundaries in 2025⁽²⁾



The 2025 update to the Planetary boundaries. Licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 3.0. Credit: 'Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, based on analysis in Sakschewski and Caesar et al. 2025'.

By 2022, the boundary for the release of **novel entities into the biosphere** also known as **"chemical pollution"**, had been crossed, as the production and release of chemical substances increased faster than the world's ability to assess their impacts.⁽³⁾ All environmental compartments of the planet thus contain radioactive elements, heavy metals and numerous anthropogenic organic compounds, particularly microplastics.

Their effects on the environment and health can be harmful and are difficult, if not impossible, to remove once released.

This pollution affects human health and biodiversity and contributes to climate change (*see Key findings box*). In fact, the sources of atmospheric pollutants often coincide with those of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions,⁽⁴⁾ with the production or transport of chemical substances largely powered by fossil fuels.

(2) Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, based on analysis in Sakschewski and Caesar et al. 2025.

(3) Persson (L.) et al. "Outside the Safe Operating Space of the Planetary Boundary for Novel Entities", Environmental Science & Technology, 2022, No 56.

(4) WMO (World Meteorological Organisation), "Vicious circle of climate change, wildfires and air pollution has major impacts", Press release of 5 September 2024.

KEY FINDINGS

► **9 million premature deaths worldwide** are caused by pollution each year, including **6.7 million** due solely to **air pollution**.⁽⁵⁾



► **25%** of **chronic diseases** and up to **75%** of **emerging diseases** are linked to environmental factors, such as pollution.⁽⁶⁾



► **Global annual plastic production** soared from:

2M		438M
tonnes	to	tonnes
in 1950		in 2018

It could **double by 2050**.



► More than **10,000 chemical substances** may be used in the manufacture of plastics.⁽⁷⁾



► Today, **99%** of **plastics are derived from fossil fuels** which are composed of carbon atoms derived from hydrocarbons.

► **22%** of **global plastic waste** is sent to uncontrolled landfills, burned in open pits, or released into the environment.⁽⁸⁾



► **The PFAS family** (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) comprises several thousand molecules, grouped into different categories, with extremely diverse properties, making it difficult to identify a common toxicity profile: endocrine disruptor, carcinogenic, teratogenic, immunotoxic, neurotoxic, etc.

► **Pollution** of oceans, freshwater, soil and air is **one of the five main drivers of biodiversity loss**.



Issues at stake for business

According to the European Parliament, "*chemicals are part of our daily lives, contributing to our wellbeing, health and security. They might also be useful for developing low-carbon, zero-pollution and energy-efficient technologies and products*".⁽⁹⁾ There

are several hundred thousand chemical substances, with use varying widely across sectors, marketed products, and activities studied. Some are essential and have no alternative, while others may be regarded as "non-essential". They do not all have the

(5) Fuller (R.) et al. "Pollution and health: a progress update", The Lancet Planetary Health, Vol. 6.

(6) IUCN, "Comprendre le concept une seule santé", January 2026.

(7) UNEP, "Chemicals in Plastics – A Technical Report", May 2023.

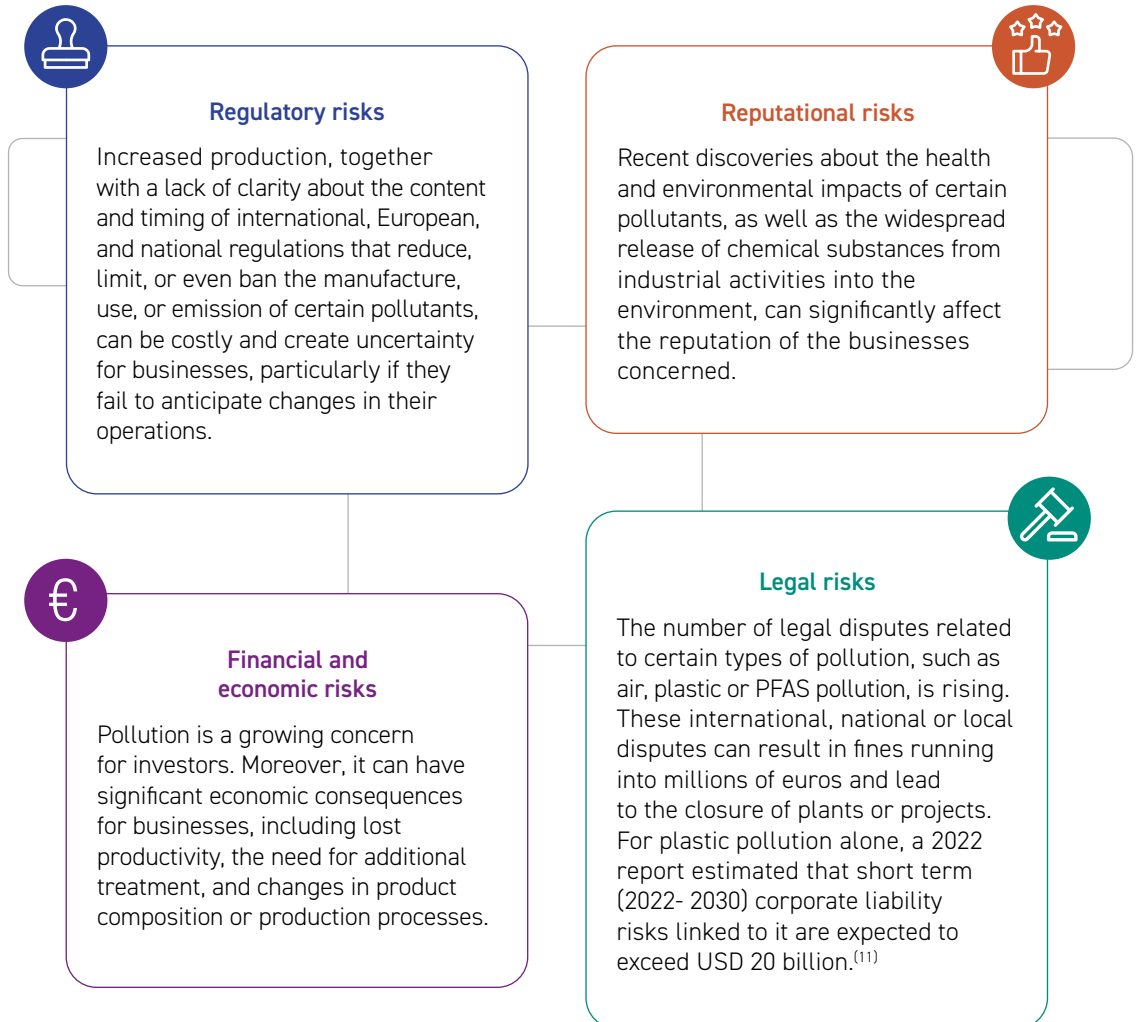
(8) OECD, "Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options", Policy Highlights, 2022.

(9) European Parliament text, "Targeted scrutiny of the EU chemicals strategy for sustainability", June 2025, p. 2.

same social and environmental impact, and not all are sources of pollution. Chemicals, therefore, represent both a material risk for businesses and opportunities for the green transition, including new markets, innovation, and product or service development.

Pollution featured among the short term (two-year) and long term (ten-year) risks identified for businesses in the World Economic Forum's 2024 and 2025 annual reports.⁽¹⁰⁾

Pollution-related business risks



(10) In these reports, pollution is defined as "the introduction of harmful substances into air, water and soil resulting from human activity, leading to consequences for human health, financial losses and/or damage to ecosystems".

(11) Merkl (A.) and Charles (D.), "The Price of Plastic Pollution: Social Costs and Corporate Liabilities", Minderoo Foundation, 2022.

How can a balance be struck between environmental, health and economic issues? Do businesses integrate pollution reduction, biodiversity protection and the fight against climate change, and if so, how?

Since 2022, the Health and Environment Commission of the French association Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EPE) has been working with member companies to identify the drivers of action in response to pollution related challenges. This publication summarises four years of work and best practices, some of which have already been published.⁽¹²⁾

It highlights two main areas:

1. improving knowledge of pollutants and their impacts;
2. reducing emissions at source and across the life cycle of products and services.

Businesses are broadening their understanding of pollutants by simultaneously integrating the increasingly strategic and material goals of **decarbonisation** and **biodiversity** preservation.

Which cross-cutting approaches?



One Health concept

Initiated in the early 2000s, this concept is based on the principle that protecting human health requires protecting animal health and interactions with the environment. According to the definition adopted in 2021 by WHO,⁽¹³⁾ WOAH,⁽¹⁴⁾ FAO,⁽¹⁵⁾ and UNEP,⁽¹⁶⁾ the approach is interdisciplinary, mobilising many stakeholders to protect health and ecosystems, meet essential needs (water, air, energy, food, etc.), and combat climate change.



Nexus approach

Published in late 2024 by the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), two reports focus on the links, or **nexus**, between health, climate, biodiversity, water and food.⁽¹⁷⁾ They show that addressing an environmental issue in isolation undermines the other issues. In contrast, strategies that combine sustainable production and consumption, ecosystem conservation and restoration, pollution reduction, and climate change mitigation and adaptation yield the best outcomes.

(12) See EPE, 'Combating plastic pollution: a collective effort', January 2025; EPE, 'Improving indoor air quality', April 2024; EPE, 'What role do businesses play in improving outdoor air quality?', September 2025.

(13) The World Health Organisation.

(14) The World Organisation for Animal Health.

(15) The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

(16) The United Nations Environment Programme.

(17) IPBES Nexus Assessment: www.ipbes.net/nexus/media-release and IPBES Transformative Change Assessment: www.ipbes.net/transformative-change/media-release

SECTION 2

LEVERAGING CORPORATE EXPERTISE FOR RISK AWARENESS AND ASSESSMENT

The responses needed to reduce population, animal and environmental exposure to pollution depend on our level of understanding of the subject (sources, spread, and environmental and health impacts of pollution). In this respect, businesses play two key roles: providing information about their products and offering their expertise.

Enhancing understanding and transparency of the environmental and health impacts of products

Businesses have the most direct knowledge of the composition of the products they place on the market and of the substances they use. They are therefore well placed to improve our understanding of their impacts. In this regard, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) encourages greater awareness and transparency regarding the flows and uses of chemicals. However, due to industrial secrecy or, in some cases, the absence of a regulatory obligation to disclose such information, businesses are not always fully informed about the composition of the products or materials supplied by **their subcontractors**. For example, safety data sheets (SDS) do not currently require the declaration of chemical substances in the PFAS family⁽¹⁸⁾.

In accordance with various regulations, most businesses conduct studies on the products they design and manufacture before bringing them to market to assess their potential impact on health and the environment.

In addition, some of them carry out, either independently or with the support of other organisations, **further studies of their products after they have been released on the market** to confirm, refute or refine the results of the pre-market assessments in light of changes in use, scientific and technological knowledge, or the discovery of new pollutants. The lack of transparency regarding the composition of products or materials supplied by subcontractors is a significant obstacle to conducting this type of study. Such studies are therefore all the more valuable when businesses share the results publicly or with their partners.

These initiatives are essential, as comprehensive information on environmental and health toxicity is lacking for the vast majority of existing chemicals. In 2020, the European Environment Agency (EEA) estimated that, of the 100,000 chemicals on the European market, the hazards and exposure of living organisms to these substances were known

(18) A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) contains information relating to the product and its identified hazards, its components, measures to be taken in the event of accidental release, its physical and chemical properties, toxicological and ecological information, as well as information relating to its disposal.



in sufficient detail for only 500 of them (Figure 2).⁽¹⁹⁾ Of the 13,000 chemicals found in plastics, only 7,000 have been assessed for their harmful effects on human health.⁽²⁰⁾ Furthermore, the health and environmental impacts of chemical mixtures (so called cocktail effects) remain largely unknown.

Enhancing knowledge and giving **greater weight to scientific expertise** are therefore essential.

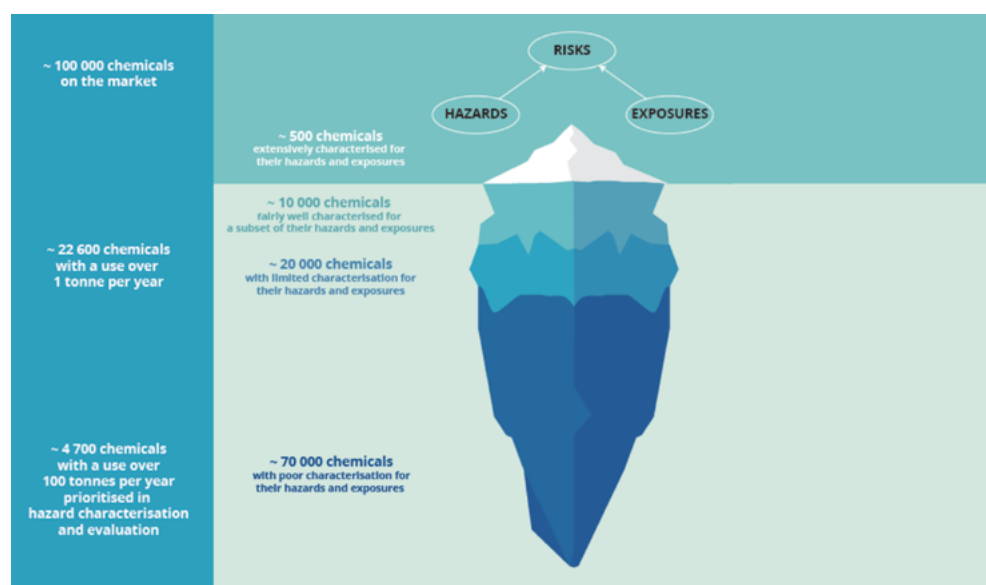
OVERVIEW OF THE LINKS BETWEEN HAZARD, RISK AND EXPOSURE

Hazard is the inherent capacity of a chemical substance to cause harm (an adverse effect on an organism) upon exposure.

Risk is the combination of a hazard and an organism's exposure to that hazard.

Exposure to a chemical substance becomes hazardous when the quantities to which the organism is exposed exceed a certain threshold (dose-response relationships). These thresholds vary from one molecule to another and depend on the type of organism studied. These thresholds can therefore be difficult to set, making the health impacts of a product or activity difficult to assess.

Figure 2. EEA's chemical risk iceberg



Vital expertise for local public authorities to better understand and manage their risks

Businesses possess cutting-edge knowledge and expertise in their specific fields. This know-how is sought after by, and sometimes vital for, public authorities and stakeholders

to understand and reduce exposure to pollution affecting natural environments and populations.

(19) EEA, "The European environment – state and outlook 2020. Knowledge for transition to a sustainable Europe", 2019, p. 239. It should be noted that the numbers shown in this figure do not include transformation products or impurities contained in substances brought to market.

(20) UNEP, "Chemicals in Plastics – infographics", 2023, p. 3.

MEMBERS' BEST PRACTICES

TRANSPARENCY AND ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH IMPACTS OF PRODUCTS PLACED ON THE MARKET



BIC Briquets has investigated the behaviour of its lighters in the natural environment (essentially at sea, like most plastic waste) – abiotic degradation and biological colonisation – and their environmental toxicity through its BIC SEA project. These studies, conducted with numerous expert partners, scientists and NGOs, such as Tara Océan, Plastic at Sea and the IRDI Laboratory, have demonstrated that after 40 to 50 years the plastic part of BIC lighters almost completely decomposes into CO₂ and water under the effect of UV radiation; that BIC lighters do not act as supports for pathogenic elements and do not undergo biodegradation at sea; and that the plastic used for BIC lighters has low toxicity, although this toxicity is exacerbated by certain dyes, surface treatments and, above all, metal parts.

sanofi

Environmental risk assessment (ERA) is required for all new applications for marketing authorisation of pharmaceutical products in many countries. Nevertheless, **Sanofi** has implemented a voluntary programme to assess products marketed before the introduction of ERA requirements, thereby improving understanding of their environmental effects. In 2023, Sanofi launched an ecopharmacovigilance programme to identify and monitor environmental risks associated with patients' use of medicines worldwide.



Michelin participates in studies conducted by the Tire Industry Project (TIP) on the emissions, potential impacts, environmental dispersal, and long-term degradation of tire wear particles.⁽²¹⁾ Recognised experts conduct and freely share studies, providing businesses with essential input to reduce pollution from tire wear particles.



Saint-Gobain has committed to a Health Product Transparency initiative to disclose the list of chemicals present in a product, as well as the hazards associated with those substances. This information is provided through Health Product Declarations (HPDs) for its products, available on the group's website and on the American HPD Collaborative (HPDC) website.⁽²²⁾ The declarations are intended for all construction stakeholders (architects, engineering consultancies, green building certification bodies) as well as individual consumers. There are approximately 130 Health Product Declarations for Saint-Gobain products, each of which may cover a single product code or an entire range of product codes with similar compositions (e.g. any range of moisture resistant plasterboards, regardless of their dimensions).

(21) An initiative led by the CEOs of ten global tire industry leaders, representing more than 60% of the global market and operated under the aegis of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

(22) www.hpd-collaborative.org/hpd-public-repository-3

WATER RELATED EXPERTISE



As part of its plastics strategy, the Grand Est Region issued an invitation to tender to assess microplastic pollution in its waterways, and the contract was awarded to the **CARSO Group**. A pilot site was established at the Steinsau dam for 18 months. The CARSO Group deployed a pumping system with cascade filtration, along with a Manta net towed by boat, to collect additional surface samples. The group also developed a method for qualitative and quantitative analysis based on Raman spectroscopy, as well as a database of aged microplastics, to adapt to the experimental conditions and thereby improve the accuracy of identifying the targeted polymers – initially eleven, subsequently expanded during the course of the study.⁽²³⁾ A complementary approach using FTIR spectrometry has also helped confirm particle identification and strengthen the system's analytical robustness. ITGA, a subsidiary of the CARSO Group, carried out this component of the analysis. The ultimate goal is to identify the sources of these microplastic emissions and implement appropriate prevention and reduction measures.



At the request of the Rhône Sud Drinking Water Syndicate (SMEP), **SUEZ** has upgraded the treatment process at the Ternay drinking water production plant, located in the heart of France's "Chemical Valley", to remove PFAS by integrating, for the first time in France, a new piece of technology: a Carbazur® Simplex continuous-renewal reactor. This technology allows the frequency of activated carbon renewal to be adjusted according to the quality of the incoming water, whose pollution levels may vary over time. It enables the company to adapt to potential future regulatory developments.⁽²⁴⁾ This technology allows the frequency of activated carbon renewal to be adjusted according to the quality of the incoming water, whose pollution levels may vary over time. It enables the company to adapt to potential future regulatory developments.

(23) Polymers recommended by AFNOR regulation XP 90 968 1:2023 and by the European Directive relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption.

(24) www.suez.com/en/references/pfas-treatment-ternay-france

PARTIE 3

REDUCING POLLUTION ACROSS PRODUCT AND SERVICE LIFE CYCLES

OR HOW TO BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Products: eco-designing products to reduce their impacts

Taking action right from the design stage of products and services is a key strategy, promoted by numerous European regulations, such as REACH and CLP, as well as in other parts of the world. These regulations require businesses to adopt approaches that seek continuous improvement in the composition of the products they place on the market (e.g. through frequent reviews of lists of regulated substances and/or concentration thresholds).

However, acting at source can be a difficult exercise at times, because pollution reduction is not the only factor businesses must take into account (cost, technical feasibility, customer or market needs, investment, and regulations are some of the other factors), nor is it the only environmental criterion (e. g. decarbonisation, energy, biodiversity, critical resources, and water).

Notwithstanding these constraints, businesses are constantly innovating, either independently or in collaboration (within their sector, along the value chain, with research institutions or NGOs, etc.), to reduce pollution at source, either by reducing or eliminating the intrinsic hazard of chemical compounds or by reducing or eliminating exposure of living organisms to those compounds.

Eco-design relies on a three-pronged approach:

- **eliminating** certain materials or chemical substances
- **substituting**
- **reducing** the product's overall impact

These solutions address a number of issues, from decarbonisation and optimising resource use to reducing pressures on biodiversity and mitigating health impacts.

Elimination and substitution in particular are lengthy, complex and uncertain, necessitating a product-by-product approach based on intended use (see *opposite page*).

An approach of this type requires communicating with upstream and downstream stakeholders in the product value chain, and even involving them directly in the project to best meet their needs and expectations.



(25) This is the case, for example, for certain products sold in France on the Chinese platforms Temu and Shein: www.quechoisir.org/enquete-temu-shein-petits-prix-maxi-risques-n172256

MEMBERS' BEST PRACTICES

ELIMINATING OR SUBSTITUTING CERTAIN SUBSTANCES OR MATERIALS



Following the findings of the BIC SEA project (see p. 12), **BIC Briquets** has removed the most toxic dyes from its lighter compositions and has begun exploring alternative metal surface treatments and replacing metal parts.



Packaging is an integral part of the **CMA CGM** group's logistics operations. At CEVA Logistics, its impact is minimised from new packaging to disposal. Rolled out in 2022, REcycle offers solutions to replace single-use plastic packaging in freight transport with reusable alternatives, including air-freight pallet covers, pallet eco-wraps, insulated container kits, and reusable delivery crates for retail outlets. Since then, 111 tonnes of materials have been saved, including 97 tonnes of cardboard, 12 tonnes of plastic, and 3 tonnes of insulated kits.



Kering has taken measures to reduce chemical use and minimise microfibre release during garment production. Furthermore, the group requires that the chemical substances used meet strict standards, among others set by the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals initiative, of which Kering is a member.



Packaging is crucial to ensuring the quality and integrity of medicines and vaccines across the distribution and storage chain and during use. It is one of the criteria examined in applications for marketing authorisation and, as such, is highly regulated.

Since 2020, **Sanofi** has been committed to the eco-design of its products and packaging. This involves a systematic and comprehensive analysis of size, weight, and materials, all of which affect logistics and related CO₂ emissions. The group has followed this up with a commitment to eliminate, where possible, the use of PVC in secondary and tertiary packaging for 100% of vaccines by 2030. Since late 2025, 55% of vaccines have been blister free.



SNCF Réseau turned the page on 150 years of industrial history at its wooden railway sleeper production site at Bretenoux (France), by discontinuing the use of creosote, a biocide classified as carcinogenic, genotoxic, and reprotoxic, as a wood preservative. The company uses two types of sleepers on the French rail network, wooden or concrete, depending on the line's specifications. Wood, a bio resource sourced from sustainably harvested French oak forests, is a strong and flexible material for railway infrastructure. It requires preventive treatment to combat insect and fungal infestations, withstand climatic conditions, and achieve long-term performance.

Since 2026, following extensive trials of alternative solutions in collaboration with the French timber industry, SNCF Réseau has used copper-based oils to treat its wooden sleepers instead of creosote. As the product change required adapting the sleeper treatment facilities, major

work is under way to modernise the production site at a cost of 6.2 million euros.

The site is expected to produce more than 400,000 wooden sleepers per year.

GETTING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT ELIMINATION AND SUBSTITUTION



In 2023, 50 institutional investors and their representatives, managing or advising more than 10,000 billion US dollars in assets, launched the Investor Initiative on Hazardous Chemicals (IIHC).⁽²⁶⁾ The scheme aims to address the health and environmental challenges associated with the use of hazar-

dous substances and to encourage manufacturers to increase transparency and to cease production of so called "forever pollutants".⁽²⁷⁾ **Amundi, BNP Paribas Asset Management** and the **Caisse des Dépôts group** have all joined this initiative.

REDUCING THE OVERALL IMPACT OF PRODUCTS



Life cycle analysis of **Michelin** products shows that during tire use, emissions of tire and road-wear particles are among the group's most significant environmental challenges. Aware of this challenge, Michelin has been conducting research for more than 20 years to understand these emissions, their potential impacts, and how to reduce them. Research and development focused on material efficiency has made the group a market leader in abrasion performance. According to an independent ADAC study conducted in May 2025 on 160 tires, Michelin tires emit, on average, 27% fewer particles than those of the tested competitors.⁽²⁸⁾ Furthermore, Michelin strongly supports the introduction of regulations on tire wear, based on a reliable method that

is representative of actual conditions of use, with a view to reducing wear particle emissions at source.



With regard to air quality, **Renault Group** is committed to ensuring that all its vehicles comply with the lowest regulatory limits for volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions in force worldwide and/or fall below World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations. To this end, the Group has implemented a number of measures, including setting emission limits for certain volatile organic compounds by material and component, to ensure that in vehicle emissions meet this commitment.

(26) <https://chemsec.org/knowledge/iihc>

(27) ChemSafe, "Investors launch initiative to tackle chemical pollution crisis", 14 February 2023.

(28) ADAC e.V., "Tire abrasion in the environment: Results from the ADAC tire test and future legislation", Munich, 2025.

Production and transport: reducing exposure to the pollutants they emit

Companies can reduce the environmental and health impacts of emissions from their production sites or from the transport of their products. These initiatives are particularly relevant because businesses do not operate solely in France or in EU countries, which benefit from stringent health and environmental protection regulations and policies. Accordingly, they can apply **standards that are at least as stringent as local legislation**.

Companies are adopting a range of measures to monitor and reduce emissions of pollutants (both traditional and emerging) from their sites or transport operations. Many manufacturers are already **going beyond regulatory requirements** to manage their emissions, thereby avoiding legal and reputational risks and meeting their CSR commitments (see below: *EDF, Michelin and Séché Environnement*).

These measures are nevertheless **costly, sometimes energy intensive, and complex**, as they must account for multiple factors.

In the case of water, for example, the effectiveness of the most commonly used PFAS treatment technologies – activated carbon, ion-exchange resins, and reverse osmosis – can be affected by the presence of other pollutants. This, therefore, requires deploying additional upstream technologies or treatment stages to ensure effectiveness, thereby increasing costs and logistical challenges. Furthermore, some treatments break down pollutants into transformation products or metabolites that may have impacts on health and the environment that are, if not worse, at least equivalent (e.g. certain pesticide metabolites).

Additional complexities arise regarding the required level of treatment. New or emerging pollutants do not always have established toxicological reference values (TRVs),⁽²⁹⁾ forcing companies **to set their own target values based on the available scientific literature, until new regulations are in place**.



@fr.freepik.com

(29) Established to protect the entire population, including sensitive populations (e.g. children, elderly persons, pregnant women), from the harmful effects caused by a chemical agent.

MEMBERS' BEST PRACTICES

MEASURING AND CHARACTERISING POLLUTANTS EMITTED BY SITES



ADP Group participates in the European OLGA project. Launched in 2021 and coordinated by Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport, the project brings together around forty partners, including three airports (Zagreb in Croatia, Milan-Malpensa in Italy and Cluj in Romania). As one of the thirty or so innovations being trialled, it aims to develop a platform to assess air quality in real time and to identify the contributions of various sources in a complex environment: road traffic, city-side and airside activities, take-offs and landings, etc. This project will enable ADP Group to accelerate its environmental transition by developing a detailed understanding of regulated and unregulated pollutants and their sources in an airport context.



Engie uses biosurveillance on and around its sites to monitor overall air quality – including NO_x, SO_x, metals, PAHs and pesticides – as well as the state of biodiversity in the vicinity. The bioindication method using lichens involves observing how pollution affects the presence or absence of specific lichen types and identifying the species present in the environment. This method enables the mapping of pollutants on and around the sites.



Kering has partnered with Earth Action to voluntarily calculate its plastic footprint to better understand where plastic is released into the environment. Based on the types of polymers and their uses, waste management ratios – and consequently leakage into the environment – are defined.

REDUCING POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORT SITES



CMA CGM voluntarily loads containers of plastic pellets in protected areas of the ship to limit risks in the event of an incident. This requires additional logistics and, therefore, incurs extra costs borne by the customer. The group also supports the

International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) position on labelling containers of plastic pellets to make them easier to identify. It communicates regularly with shipowners' associations and the competent authorities to collectively reduce the risk of containers being lost at sea.

REDUCING POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORT SITES

(CONTINUED)



EDF PEI (Island Power Generation) is responsible for electricity production in areas that are not interconnected. It has decided to gradually convert its traditionally fuel oil-powered generating stations to liquid biomass, a plant based fuel derived from rapeseed oil. The conversion of the Port Est power plant in Réunion in late 2023 is a good case in point.

One year on, the results are significant: 770,000 tonnes of CO₂ avoided in 2025, a threefold reduction in scope 1 CO₂ emissions, the complete elimination of sulphur emissions, and a 95% reduction in dust emissions are all contributing to improved local air quality. In addition to climate and health benefits, this renewable fuel offers advantages in industrial safety, as it is classified neither as carcinogenic, mutagenic, or reprotoxic (CMR) nor as persistent. Moreover, it is biodegradable, which allows the power company to be removed from the SEVESO classification. EDF PEI is building two new bioenergy power plants in French Guyana and Corsica that will run on liquid biomass and is pursuing its ambition to convert its entire fleet of power stations on the islands.



Michelin is committed to reducing pesticide use by 70% by 2030, compared with 2019, across the rubber plantations of its subsidiaries and joint ventures.⁽³⁰⁾ Accordingly, the group has banned the use of pesticides classified as "FSC Prohibited and Highly Restricted", and has committed to limiting the use of other pesticides in its direct operations and joint ventures to what is strictly necessary.

Furthermore, Michelin is encouraging a reduction in the use of chemical inputs among the various stakeholders in its natural rubber supply chain by sharing best practices and providing agro-ecological training to village farmers. By 2025, this reduction had reached 69% (across its own operations and joint ventures).



In 2023, **Séché Environnement** rolled out a specific programme to monitor and control methane at its non hazardous waste storage facilities, helping to limit the formation of tropospheric ozone, a local pollutant harmful to human health and the environment, and to reduce the group's greenhouse gas emissions. The group increased the methane capture rate at its six French facilities from 86% to 94% between 2022 and 2023, compared with an average methane leakage capture rate of 51% in 2022 for this type of storage facility in France. This is a new driver of decarbonisation for the waste sector.

(30) <https://act4nature.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/MICHELIN-VA.pdf>



To improve air quality in its underground railway tunnels, **SNCF** Group is adopting a comprehensive approach across the entire railway system. It is implementing measures to reduce emissions at source from braking, wheel-rail contact, and pantograph-catenary interaction on both rolling stock and infrastructure. These measures include, in particular, optimising braking systems (lower-emission brake pads and shoes, increased use of electric braking), developing particle-capture devices at the source, and promoting lower-emission driving practices. In addition, SNCF is addressing pollutant concentrations at stations by optimising ventilation and testing cleaning operations (high-pressure washing, hydro-cleaning using railway trucks). Lastly, with the support of the Île-de-France Region and Île-de-France Mobilités (IdFM), trials are being conducted to assess innovative air-treatment technologies on platforms.



TotalEnergies has gone beyond compliance with applicable regulations to limit the quantities released into various environments. For sulphur dioxide (SO_2), the company has set a target to reduce emissions by 75% between 2015 and 2030. By 2025, TotalEnergies had reduced its emissions to 19 kt of SO_2 , down 68% on 2015. In January 2022, for hydrocarbon discharges into water, TotalEnergies set a target for the quality of water discharged from its onshore sites by 2030. Compared with the previous target, this reduces the maximum expected hydrocarbon content in these discharges by a factor of 15. To date, 82% of onshore sites comply with the stricter target of 1 mg/l. Studies have been launched to improve discharges from facilities that have not yet met the new target. For offshore sites, the average hydrocarbon content of water discharges stands at 9.9 mg/l, well below the target of keeping it under 30 mg/l.



Veolia has developed BeyondPFAS, an integrated approach to PFAS management that covers everything from contaminant detection to final treatment.⁽³¹⁾ This approach encompasses a portfolio of solutions tailored to the specific needs of local authorities and industrial customers at every stage: assessment (sampling and analysis), design and engineering, and operational management of water and waste treatment processes.

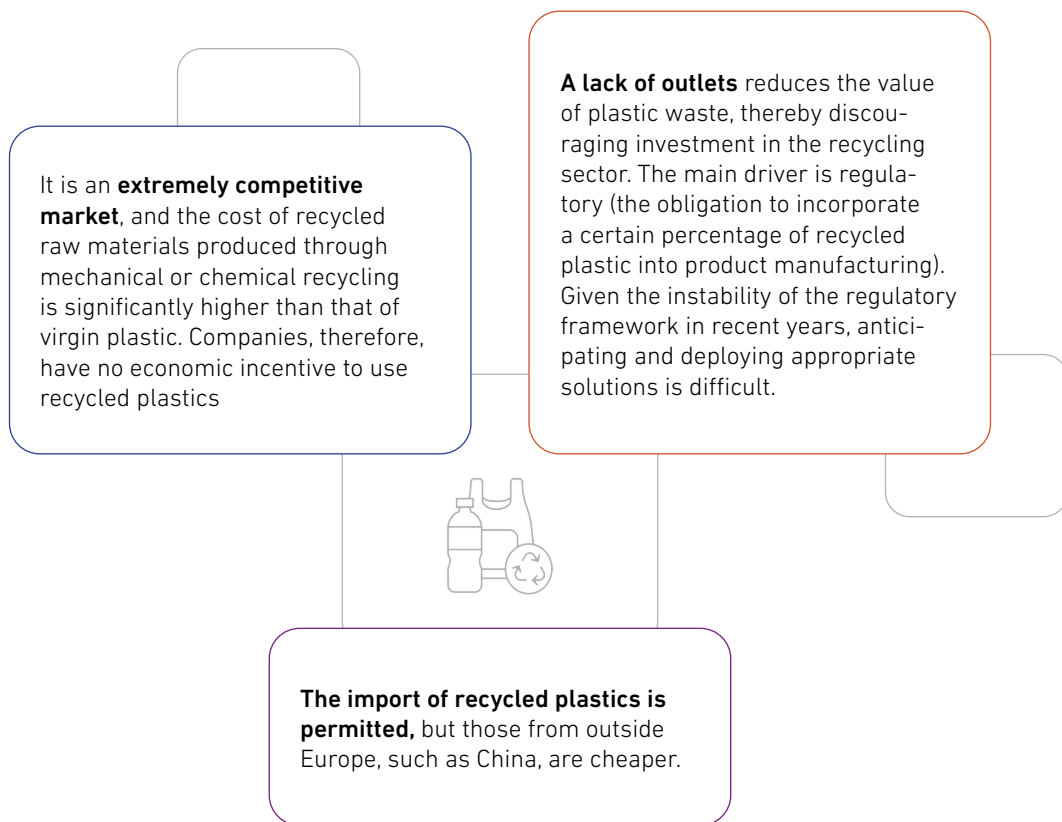
(31) www.veolia.com/en/solutions/beyondpfas-veolias-new-end-end-pfas-offer

End-of-life products: optimising for greater circularity

For companies, optimising end-of-life product management involves considering product recyclability and biodegradability at an early stage, rolling out the necessary systems and technologies to collect and recycle waste, and preventing its export to third countries that lack the technical and organisational capacity to manage it.

However, developing this type of supply chain is complex for several reasons. For example, plastic recycling faces numerous obstacles that explain its low global rate (9%): low economic attractiveness, collection difficulties, a lack of sorting infrastructure, limited availability and traceability of waste raw material streams, and technical constraints associated with recycling.

In Europe, the main challenge facing plastic recycling is economic



Public authorities therefore play a key role in fostering the emergence of economically viable sectors by providing financial support at the early stages of development or by implementing regulatory frameworks that promote the circular economy.

MEMBERS' BEST PRACTICES

EXTENDING THE LIFESPAN OF PRODUCTS AND IMPROVING THEIR RECYCLABILITY



Conventional wind turbine blades are predominantly made from reinforced thermoset resins, which are difficult to recycle and yield little value at recovery. However, composite waste streams from the wind energy industry could reach millions of tonnes by 2035. As part of the ZEBRA project, **Arkema** and numerous other players across the wind turbine sector's value chain, including **Engie** and **SUEZ**, have joined forces to rethink the design and production of this infrastructure to reduce its environmental footprint and facilitate recycling. After a year of development, the first thermoplastic blades have been produced and have successfully passed validation tests at LM Wind Power's test centre in Denmark. SUEZ has demonstrated the technical feasibility of recycling them. New applications are emerging based on these Elium® recyclable composite resins. In 2026, a partnership comprising Arkema, Beneteau Group, Veolia, Composite Recycling, Owens Corning and Chomarar was formed to design boats using recyclable materials in western France.



The **Iliad Group** relies on life-cycle analysis to target the areas with the greatest impact, i.e. the use phase, which accounts for 80% of a set-top box's emissions over six years. The group favours modular, low-energy, and scalable architectures that integrate recycled materials across its ecosystem. This strategy is based on complete in-house control of the value chain, from software

design to end-of-life product management, with 100% of equipment tested, repaired, repurposed, or recycled. The Iliad Group thus guarantees a second life for its equipment and a level of sustainability far exceeding market standards.



Packaging is typically designed for single use before disposal. It often comprises multiple layers of materials and additional components for marketing purposes, such as colourants, inks and adhesives. However, the addition of these components makes them very difficult to recycle. Of all plastic packaging placed on the market, only 35% is recyclable. Its design is therefore a key driver for improving recycling rates, particularly in the cosmetics and luxury goods industries.

In 2023, **Paprec** – a French company specialising in the collection and recycling of industrial and household waste – launched Circle Lab. This service helps businesses design packaging to improve its recyclability. Several leading players in the cosmetics and luxury sectors have benefited from these services through a tailored training and testing programme (including site visits, assessments of collection, sorting, and recycling performance, and the creation of specific supply chains) delivered via Paprec's industrial facilities.



To maintain a high-quality offering and level of service at a time when the renewal of its fleet with the future TGV INOUI is delayed, and existing trains must gradually be taken out of service as they reach the end of their operational life, SNCF Voyageurs launched the "Deprogrammed Operation Obsolescence" (O2D) project in 2023. This unprecedented initiative aims to extend the service life of TGV rolling stock to 40, or even 50, years by delaying its natural decommissioning cycle.

It represents an investment of more than 600 million euros, funded by SNCF Voyageurs, and covers 104 trains selected on the basis of their condition and the renovations required. These trains were originally designed for an average service life of 34 years. The first production line for the O2D project began operations in September 2025 at the Châtillon Atlantic Maintenance Technicentre.

IMPROVING WASTE COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT



Séché Environnement has studied the capacity of thermal treatment to destroy PFAS and the temperatures required for their degradation. This process is complex due to technological, cost, and time constraints, and because there are, as yet, no emission limit values (ELVs) for PFAS. Initial results for solid and liquid waste show PFAS removal rates exceeding 99.9999%. Based on existing toxicological reference values, dispersion modelling of PFAS in the environment has enabled us to derive emission limit values that safeguard public health, in anticipation of future regulatory developments. In parallel, the group has launched research projects on soil treatment and collaborative water treatment programmes.



Social enterprises, NGOs and civil society organisations play a key role in generating social and environmental impact, but face significant financing challenges because subsidies and philanthropic funds are often allocated in small amounts and on an *ad hoc* basis.

To address this issue, **Société Générale** has structured a Corporate-Backed Impact Bond to support the development of Nigeria's recycling and plastic waste collection sectors. A partnership has been established between Unilever Nigeria and Bridges Outcomes Partnerships to help the social enterprise Wecyclers expand its plastic waste collection operations. Pre-financing provided by Bridges Outcomes Partnerships takes the form of a two-million-dollar impact bond, with repayment conditional on key performance indicators (KPIs) such as tonnes of plastic collected, the number of jobs created, and the payment of decent wages. Unilever acts as a funder, committing to repay investors based on performance against these KPIs.

SECTION 4

THE EMERGENCE OF HOLISTIC APPROACHES IN CORPORATE STRATEGIES AND BUSINESS MODELS

The **One Health** concept invites a rethink of all strategic drivers across health, the environment, land-use planning, food security, the fight against antimicrobial resistance, and the organisation of civil society.

Although these drivers are not part of a defined One Health strategy, all the corporate initiatives mentioned above are nonetheless **aligned** with this concept. Not only do these initiatives reduce exposure of humans, ecosystems and animals to pollution, but some of them also demonstrate a commitment to balancing **several objectives**:

- improving health,
- preventing ecosystem degradation,
- combating climate change.

The "**Nexus**" and "**Transformative Change**" reports published by IPBES at the end of 2024 have heightened economic stakeholder interest in adopting actions and strategies that integrate health, climate, biodiversity, water and food. IPBES estimates that transformative change for nature and biodiversity could generate more than \$10 trillion in

business opportunities and support 395 million jobs worldwide by 2030.

Therefore, companies are increasingly adopting these holistic approaches.

For some, the challenge already lies in gaining a better understanding of the links between health and the environment, as well as the measures that can be implemented.

Others have begun to take action aligned with these approaches by incorporating various environmental and health factors into the design of their projects and strategies.

Finally, some businesses – mainly in the health, agri-food, and related sectors – have begun to integrate the One Health concept directly into their strategic thinking.



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The effectiveness of the One Health approach depends on close collaboration among companies, local authorities, health agencies, veterinary services and environmental authorities.

The joint establishment of local biosurveillance units and data sharing and alert agreements is also a practice that needs to be developed to ensure effective coordination.

The complex integration of environmental and health issues into strategies and business models



MEMBERS' BEST PRACTICES

ROLE OF BUSINESS IN RESEARCH INITIATIVES ON THE LINKS BETWEEN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT



In the face of increasingly severe heatwaves, **EDF** must continue to fulfil its mission to ensure the continuity of energy production while protecting its teams and production facilities from the potential impacts of extreme heat. EDF has already introduced precautionary measures for its teams during hot weather. In 2024 and 2025, to better understand the effects of heat on human health, EDF, with assistance from the Human Adaptation Institute (HAI),⁽³²⁾ conducted an experimental study to assess the stresses, risks, and heat-adaptation issues faced by employees at two production facilities in France. This was the first study of this scale in an industrial context. Its purpose was to better identify and understand the physiological, cognitive and organisational effects of extreme heat, with the key goal of protecting employee health and ensuring the continuity of energy production – a matter of national importance.



Since 2026, **InVivo** has been supporting research by the University of Rennes Chair in Food and Eating Well, which focuses on transforming production methods. The Chair's work is carried out in partnership with several sponsors, including Bleu Blanc Cœur, Lactalis, Le Gouessant, Institut Olga Triballat, Sodiaal, Terrena and InVivo. It covers several areas of research at the inter-

section of food science, health, the environment, and the humanities and social sciences, with global health as the overarching theme. For example, as part of this Chair, the thesis paper "One Health: soft wheat on living soils" was prepared by the Pour une Agriculture du Vivant association.⁽³³⁾ This research aimed, on the one hand, to provide a field demonstration of the links between farming practices, soil quality, plant health and production performance, by situating them within the framework of the One Health concept; and, on the other hand, to improve the methods used for systems research in agronomy. Overall, the findings show that soils engaged in conservation agriculture (CA) support more effective nutrient cycling, exhibit higher microbial activity, offer greater resistance to erosion, and rely less on synthetic inputs.



In 2025, the **Veolia Institute** and **Wavestone** published the report 'Health and the environment: understanding, anticipating and taking action in the face of climate change'.⁽³⁴⁾ The report examines the health challenges posed by climate change and proposes concrete measures to anticipate, adapt and act. It places particular emphasis on the One Health approach, exploring strategies such as building resilient cities, rehabilitating ecosystems, and practicing ecotherapy.

(32) Research action institute whose objective is to better understand human capacities to adapt to new living conditions and situations, new territories and crises, as well as to climate change.

(33) <https://agricultureduvivant.org/agir-ensemble/la-these-qualite-nutritionnelle-du-ble-en-agroecologie>

(34) www.institut.veolia.org/en/publications/veolia-institute-review-facts-reports/health-and-environment-understanding

INTEGRATING THE LINKS BETWEEN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT INTO PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION

sanofi

Climate change is widely recognised as the greatest public-health threat of this century, exacerbating cardiovascular, chronic and infectious respiratory diseases, and diabetes, while placing heavy strain on already overburdened healthcare systems globally.

Sanofi has incorporated the environmental effects on health into its strategy through its pipeline and portfolio, and by undertaking innovative studies with experts on the impact of geographical, environmental, and social factors on the progression of respiratory diseases, for example, in patients with COPD and asthma. As well as leading international public private coalitions on the decarbonisation of healthcare systems, Sanofi is working to transform care pathways and reduce their environmental footprint, thereby enhancing healthcare system resilience. CO₂ emissions can be reduced by more than 50% compared with a standard care pathway. By drawing on scientific data, spearheading international coalitions and developing transformative treatments, Sanofi demonstrates a commitment to showing that protecting the planet and improving human health are not competing priorities.



Wastewater biosurveillance, already in place in several regions through programmes such as the Obépine project, is a key early-warning tool. This monitoring mechanism enables the early detection of pathogens (e.g. SARS-CoV-2, poliovirus) and indicators of substance use, giving authorities a valuable head start in anticipating and managing health crises. System sustainability, national standards and data interoperability need to be strengthened. The Obépine project involves multiple scientific partners (Sorbonne University, CNRS, Inserm, CEA, ANSES, Eau de Paris, Ifremer, INRAe, Institut Pasteur, **SUEZ**, **Veolia**, etc.). It covers all dimensions of the One Health approach by integrating human, animal and environmental health.



Veolia has launched a strategic R&D programme positioning wastewater treatment plants as key hubs for monitoring and tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The initiative aims to identify analytical approaches for detecting resistance genes, map the dynamics of AMR in urban and hospital wastewater, and assess the effectiveness of different treatment processes in limiting wastewater discharges into the environment. The programme is supported by key partnerships, in particular the European LIFE GENESYS project led by Cetaqua, which specifically targets hospital effluents.⁽³⁵⁾

(35) www.cetaqua.com/en/proyectos-destacados/life-genesys-2



BNP PARIBAS

BNP Paribas Real Estate is developing several projects that integrate approaches to health, biodiversity, air quality, heat island reduction, and renaturation. This includes refitting existing buildings, such as 85 rue du Dessous des Berges in Paris (France), designed to operate without air conditioning, and constructing buildings with timber frames and green roofs, such as INSPIRE at La Défense (France). The group has also successfully transformed former brownfield sites into oases of coolness and biodiversity, such as the Arboretum in Nanterre. More broadly, BNP Paribas Real Estate is stepping up low-carbon, resilient, and inclusive real estate initiatives that promote well-being for users and ecosystems, using a wide range of levers, including renaturation, the circular economy, heat island reduction, air quality, residents' health, and social inclusion.



nexity

In Morangis (France), since 2018, Paris-Sud Aménagement, **Nexity** and CDC Habitat (owned by the **Caisse des Dépôts Group**) have been working to balance the area's agricultural tradition with its urban development.⁽³⁶⁾ The programme involves developing a 1.3 hectare plot, with 7,700 m² set aside for agricultural land. Plans for the site include professional market gardening areas, greenhouses, chicken coops and beehives, as well as community gardens and a composting area. A greenhouse will be installed on the roofs of the collective building acquired by CDC Habitat,

and a retail space will be made available to the company to enable the direct sale of its produce. The programme also includes the construction of 59 dwellings: 28 for home ownership, and 31 social housing units acquired off plan by CDC Habitat. Such an initiative helps to preserve flora and fauna, maintain social cohesion, raise awareness of environmental and food issues, develop a more sustainable economy and contribute to urban regeneration.



Soil health determines the land's ability to store carbon and other greenhouse gases (soil is the largest terrestrial carbon sink). It also underpins the production of healthy food (95% of food depends on soil), the quantity and quality of available water, and 25% of biodiversity. Land take alters the soil's natural functions, reducing permeability, causing biodiversity loss, and releasing stored carbon. Aware of this challenge **VINCI Immobilier** aims to achieve no net land take by 2030. To this end, in the absence of standardised metrics, the company has developed its own indicators to measure the extent of soil sealing associated with land take. The goal is to measure a project's overall impact on the land and minimise it wherever possible. Accordingly, since 2022, VINCI Immobilier has not undertaken any projects that take more square metres from nature than they create in floor space. Furthermore, it aims to generate more than 50% of its turnover from urban regeneration (the reuse of urban land hosting obsolete activities).

(36) <https://groupe-cdc-habitat.com/actualites/un-projet-pour-conjuguer-developpement-urbain-et-tradition-agricole>

DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM NATURE TO REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH IMPACTS



In 2023, **AXA**, **Tikehau Capital** and Unilever launched a private equity strategy focused on investing in projects and businesses "working towards the transition to regenerative agriculture".⁽³⁷⁾ The strategy targets businesses across the agricultural value chain, from ingredient production to impact measurement, including animal feed production.



BNP PARIBAS

BNP Paribas has participated in a 16-million-euro funding round led by Mycophyto, alongside Innovacom and the Deep Tech 2030 fund managed by Bpifrance. This investment, made through BNP Paribas' impact investment fund, supports the startup in developing and marketing biostimulants based on soil specific fungi that naturally enhance plant productivity while reducing chemical inputs (up to 30% less fertiliser) and water use.⁽³⁸⁾ Their solutions strengthen soil-plant symbiosis and contribute to a more resilient and healthier agricultural system for farmers and consumers alike. As part of this investment strategy, other initiatives are helping to transform food systems, including Klim, which promotes the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices by offering financial incentives for carbon emission reductions, and Le Drive Tout Nu, a super-market chain offering local, zero waste food.



In late 2025, Soufflet Agriculture, a company within the **InVivo** Group, launched its Performances programme, which sets out a framework to support farmers in implementing regenerative agricultural practices.⁽³⁹⁾ The aim is to scale up this production model, ensuring the economic viability of farms and creating new opportunities for value creation through sector-specific contracts, in France and internationally. This form of agriculture is based on reduced tillage, diversified crop rotations and the maintenance of permanent soil cover. Such practices help preserve soil fertility and natural resources, enhance biodiversity, reduce the use of chemical inputs and lower the carbon footprint of agricultural production.



Phytoremediation, a natural ecological process, can complement conventional treatment at wastewater treatment plants. Drawing inspiration from the natural functioning of wetlands (water regulation, physical filtration, biodiversity, sedimentation, etc.), **SUEZ** (Dragonfly® wetland) has developed vegetated discharge zones comprising a series of compartments (basins) located downstream of wastewater treatment plants or stormwater systems, through which water flows.⁽⁴⁰⁾ Each basin is home to local plants and microorganisms selected for their ability to absorb specific pollutants. The diversity of

(37) www.tikehaucapital.com/~media/Files/T/Tikehau-Capital-V2/documents/news-and-views/fr/2025/understanding-regenerativeagriculture-FR.pdf

(38) Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF).

(39) www.invivo-group.com/fr/actualites/soufflet-agriculture-lance-son-programme-performances

environments, with variations in depth and flow velocity, optimises water treatment and significantly improves the chemical and bacteriological quality of the water. These zones also provide suitable habitats for wet-land fauna and flora.

Finally, they eliminate the need for additional physicochemical or mechanical treatments at wastewater treatment plants, which are often more energy- and resource-intensive and costly.

INCORPORATING THE ONE HEALTH CONCEPT INTO STRATEGY

LVMH

In 2025, Loro Piana, part of the **LVMH Group**,⁽⁴¹⁾ launched its five year programme 'Resilient Threads', which aims to support and improve herders' incomes in five districts of the highly vulnerable Mongolian province of Sukbaatar, strengthen supply chain resilience, and protect the biodiversity of the eastern Mongolian steppe, one of the world's last intact grassland ecosystems.

This project, developed in collaboration with the government, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and local partners such as the

SFA (Sustainable Fibre Alliance) and herders' cooperatives, adopts a One Health approach. A first mobile One Health centre was set up in 2025 to provide a range of services, including prevention and vaccination campaigns, training and health-awareness initiatives, in line with government programmes. In addition, a biodiversity centre will promote pasture health, notably by establishing a seed bank. This project forms part of the LVMH Group's LIFE 360 environmental strategy, which promotes responsible sourcing and ecosystem protection.

(40) www.suez.com/en/water/sustainable-practices/environment-protection/phytoremediation

(41) www.lvmh.com/en/news-lvmh/with-the-resilient-threads-program-loro-piana-strengthens-its-environmental-and-social-commitment-in-mongolia



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Cécile Denormandie

Managing Director, Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EPE)

Drafting and coordination: Marie Marchand-Pilard, Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EPE)

Layout: Sophie Chatenay

Cover image: ©freepick.com

Translation: Govind Bhinder, FEAT

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The French association Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EPE), founded in 1992, brings together 60 major French and international companies to share best practices and collaborate to better integrate environmental considerations into their strategies and operations. Its raison d'être - 'one planet and a prosperous world' - sums up the resolve of its members to lead their own green transition as well as that of society, and to ensure that economic development compatible with planetary boundaries is socially accepted, indeed desired. EPE is the French partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

EPE publications and works are available on: <https://epe-asso.org/en/publications/>

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