



Questionnaire

Sustainable consumption – *Easy*

What is a sustainability label?

- a. A round, usually green logo.
- b. A label for products that are manufactured in an environmentally friendly and/or socially responsible manner.
- c. A sustainability label shows consumers that a product is still unopened.

Solution: b

What should you look out for when buying new products?

- a. To ensure that a product has as many labels as possible.
- b. That a product is provided with credible sustainability labels.
- c. That the packaging of the product is green.

Solution: b

What is a certification?

- a. A certification provides information on the ingredients of a product.
- b. A certification provides information that products, processes or systems meet the requirements of a standard.
- c. A certification is awarded at the end of each school year.

Solution: b

What percentage of the garments sold in Germany are produced abroad? ¹

- a. 65 percent
- b. 80 percent
- c. More than 90 percent

Solution: c

Why are labels important for consumers?

- a. Labels upgrade the product packaging optically.
- b. Labels provide consumers with information about exchange and return rights.
- c. Labels help consumers to recognize products that are manufactured in an environmentally friendly and/or socially responsible manner.

Solution: c

¹ [Clothing: This is how it destroys our environment - quarks.de](https://www.quarks.de) (German only)

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be supported by all citizens (young and old) from home?

- a. SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation
- b. SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy
- c. SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production

Solution: c

What does SDG stand for?

- a. Social and Democratic Doal
- b. Safety, Dignity and Gender
- c. Sustainable Development Goal

Solution: c

What does the abbreviation ILO stand for?

- a. International Labor Organisation
- b. International Lobby of Ornithologists
- c. Index of Labor Occupation

Solution: a

What is a B2B label?

- a. A Business-to-Business Label – that is a label addressing companies, not consumers.
- b. A Bangalore-to-Bremen Label – that is a label indicating the business relations between a German and an Asian company.
- c. A Business-to-Border Label – that is a label required for import/export of products.

Solution: a

What does greenwashing mean?

- a. An effective method to promote environmental protection within a company.
- b. If companies claim their products/ services as more environmentally friendly than they are.
- c. A process to reduce energy consumption in production.

Solution: b

What is the Earth Overshoot Day and what significance does it have for the understanding of sustainable consumption?

- a. On this day, humanity has consumed the amount of natural resources that the earth can regenerate in one year. It emphasizes the urgency of saving resources.
- b. On this day, the ecological footprint of each nation is calculated, motivating countries to adjust their production depending on the results.
- c. On this day, global production exceeds its capacity. As a result, production must be stopped for the rest of the year.

Solution: a

○ Sustainable consumption – *Difficult*

What is a standard?

- a. A standard specifies content requirements for the product and also defines implementation processes and control mechanisms.
- b. A standard is a document that specifies the content requirements for the product or production process.
- c. A standard describes what the average processes and products look like.

Solution: a

What percentage of clothing in Germany is never or rarely worn? ²

- a. 40 percent
- b. 70 percent
- c. 20 percent

Solution: a

What is the annual per capita consumption of resources in Germany? ³

- a. 12 tons.
- b. 13.7 tons.
- c. 16 tons.

Solution: c

What is not a target of SDG 12 – sustainable consumption and production?

- a. Achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
- b. Incentivize companies to introduce sustainable production processes.
- c. Consumers should only be able to buy certified organic products.

Solution: c

What is meant by intergenerational justice and how does it relate to sustainable consumption?

- a. Labels should be informative and easily accessible for all consumers – young and old – so that they all can consume ecologically and socially.
- b. The social well-being should be shared fairly between different generations and today's consumption should not diminish the consumption opportunities of future generations.
- c. Today's generation may consume without restrictions, as long as they offset their own emissions with the help of compensation payments to future generations.

Solution: b

² [BMUV: Fashion and textiles](#)

³ [Federal Environment Agency publishes Resource Report 2022 | Federal Environment Agency](#)

What role does consumer education play in promoting sustainable consumption?

- a. It reduces the need for more environmentally friendly production methods, as consumers tend to avoid consumption.
- b. It informs consumers about the benefits of sustainable production measures and motivates them to buy ecologically and fairly produced products.
- c. Consumers now accept higher prices for more sustainable products, which increases companies' profit margins.

Solution: b

What is the average carbon footprint per capita in Germany (as of 2024) and how high would it have to be to achieve the climate target of 1.5 degrees? ⁴

- a. 10.3 tons CO₂e. Target: less than 1 ton CO₂e.
- b. 13.7 tons CO₂e. Goal: approx. 4 tons CO₂e.
- c. 12.5 tons CO₂e. Goal: less than 2 tons CO₂e.

Solution: a

What is the significance of circularity in the textile industry for sustainable consumption?

- a. All textiles are biodegradable and have no negative environmental impact.
- b. The reuse and recycling of materials leads to more sustainable consumption due to reduced waste and conserved resources.
- c. Circularity makes it possible to expand the product range using synthetic materials and thus increase consumption.

Solution: b

What does GNSDS stand for and what is the significance of GNSDS for sustainable consumption? ⁵

- a. German National Sustainable Development Strategy: This sets the national goals for achieving the SDGs. This also includes the promotion of sustainable consumption through resource conservation and environmental protection.
- b. German National Support for Diversity Service: An institution supporting other companies/ organizations in developing their diversity strategy.
- c. German Norms for Sustainable and Differentiating Standards: These include guidelines for different sustainable production processes and environmental management systems.

Solution: a

⁴ [BMUV: Kohlenstoffdioxid-Fußabdruck pro Kopf in Deutschland | Infografik](#)

⁵ [German Sustainability Strategy Further Development 2021 \(bundesregierung.de\)](#)

● Credibility – Easy

What increases the credibility of a label?

- a. A standard organization that is economically independent of the certified company.
- b. A standard that was developed as part of a public consultation.
- c. Both answers are correct.

Solution: c

Why shouldn't certificates be valid indefinitely?

- a. Since the conditions in the companies can change, it should be checked regularly whether requirements are still being met.
- b. Certified companies can close.
- c. To ensure that the financial security of the standard organization is guaranteed.

Solution: a

Credible, standard-setting organizations have...

- a. ... a procedure for violations of the standard requirements.
- b. ... marketing strategies to gloss over violations.
- c. ... no list of entities authorized to conduct audits.

Solution: a

What are "audits"?

- a. A gathering of all employees in the company's auditorium.
- b. Lectures on community activities.
- c. Systematic review of a company to be certified to ensure compliance with the standard requirements.

Solution: c

Is a uniform interpretation of the standard requirements important?

- a. Yes, for all products to meet the standard requirements equally.
- b. No, it is mainly important that the product is certified.
- c. Yes, so that older people also understand the standard.

Solution: a

What role do public consultations play in the standard-setting process?

- a. They reduce the quality of the standard.
- b. They speed up the decision-making process.
- c. They enable different stakeholders to contribute their opinions and concerns.

Solution: c

Should a standard-setting organization have an internal quality management system? If so, why?

- a. Yes, in order to increase the number of employees through the additional position.
- b. Yes, to ensure that all processes and standards are kept at a high level.
- c. No, such system is not relevant for standard-setting organizations.

Solution: b

Is it important that the standard-setting organization acts independently of the certificate holder?

- a. Yes, to avoid conflicts of interest.
- b. No, both tasks can also be taken over by an organization/company.
- c. Yes, but this only applies to textiles.

Solution: a

What is the difference between sustainability standard, quality mark, label and certification?

- a. None. The terms can all be used synonymously.
- b. Sustainability standards, quality marks and labels are statements in the form of a text or logo, while certifications are also based on a verification mechanism.
- c. In contrast to the other terms, quality marks only look at the durability / longevity of a product.

Solution: b

● Credibility – Difficult

Why is it important to involve different stakeholders in the development of standards?

- a. Different perspectives and opinions should be considered in the process to ensure that there is representation and transparency of all stakeholders.
- b. Various stakeholders should be heard in the process to ensure that all employees receive a fair wage.
- c. Different perspectives and opinions should be considered in the process, as this is required by the legislator.

Solution: a

What does a "traceability mechanism" enable?

- a. The tracing of a product back to its origin.
- b. A detailed presentation of the entire correspondence of a company.
- c. The tracking of all payments to and from a company.

Solution: a

Why is it important to regularly update a standard?

- a. To ensure that the latest developments and innovations are considered and that the requirements of the standard can be implemented in a practical way.
- b. Since an annual update is specified by the legislator.
- c. To ensure that costs incurred are kept as low as possible.

Solution: a

What are "labeling guidelines"?

- a. Labeling guidelines impose requirements on the use of symbols, logos, and statements about the product or service.
- b. Labeling guidelines are an abbreviation of a standard organization.
- c. Labeling guidelines specify the content of a product.

Solution: a

Ideally, standard documents should...

- a. ... only be available to licensees.
- b. ... be accessible to all interested parties publicly and free of charge.
- c. ... only be shared within the standard organization.

Solution: b

What are standard requirements?

- a. Minimum content requirements that a product/ production process must meet to receive a certain label.
- b. Guidelines on products/production processes that companies can use as a guide.
- c. Both answers apply.

Solution: c

Why is a monitoring and evaluation system important for the standard-setting organization?

- a. To measure effectiveness and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- b. To resolve internal conflicts, as feedback and data on the organization's performance are collected on a regular basis.
- c. To reduce costs, as inefficient processes and areas can be identified and optimized.

Solution: a

● Environmental friendliness – Easy

What danger can exist for employees in the natural stone sector and should therefore be addressed by standard organizations?

- a. Exposure to toxic pesticides.
- b. Exposure to toxic insect repellents (insecticides).
- c. Exposure to toxic silica and other mineral dusts.

Solution: c

Why is a standard more environmentally friendly if it requires a biodiversity management plan?

- a. This ensures that negative effects on flora and fauna are avoided and minimized.
- b. Such a plan promotes employee engagement and cohesion.
- c. This ensures that the keeping of animals complies with legal requirements.

Solution: a

What aspect is relevant for the environmental friendliness of a standard for technical products?

- a. The color of the logo.
- b. The image of the standard organization.
- c. The requirements for the longevity of the products.

Solution: c

In the manufacture of which products do toxic chemicals pose a relevant risk?

- a. Detergents
- b. Paper
- c. Leather
- d. Laptops
- e. All answers are correct.

Solution: e

Environmentally sound mining practices should be given special certificates when certifying which products?

- a. Laptops
- b. Leather
- c. Textiles

Solution: a

Why is the sustainable management of forests important for the paper industry?

- a. To protect biodiversity and ensure the long-term availability of resources.
- b. To meet the demand for exotic wood species.
- c. To maximize the number of trees in the plantations.

Solution: a

Why is it important to use environmentally friendly detergents?

- a. To clean the laundry faster.
- b. To protect the washing machine and thus make it more durable.
- c. To reduce the pollution of water bodies by harmful chemicals.

Solution: c

Which hazardous substances are often used in leather production?

- a. Synthetic fibers.
- b. No hazardous substances are used. Leather production is environmentally friendly from the ground up.
- c. Especially chromium IV and formaldehyde.

Solution: c

● Environmental friendliness – *Difficult*

What are ecosystem services?

- a. Ecosystem services are services that ecosystems provide and thus ensure the survival of flora and fauna.
- b. Ecosystem services are services or contributions that ecosystems provide for human well-being.
- c. Ecosystem services are costs that companies have to bear when they harm nature.

Solution: b

What is meant by the term "ecosystem" in standard documents?

- a. An ecosystem is a functional unit of organisms and environment that includes a spatially definable habitat (e.g. a river basin) and the community that inhabits it (e.g. plants, animals).
- b. An ecosystem is a unit of all animals living in an area.
- c. An ecosystem is a systematized representation of all ecological niches that can be found within a spatially limited area.

Solution: a

Why can criteria for standardizing chargers increase the environmental friendliness of a sustainability standard?

- a. Electro waste can be reduced.
- b. The number of suppliers in the charging cable supply chain can be reduced.
- c. Greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced in the production of uniform chargers.

Solution: a

What do the so-called H-phrases refer to and how are they used by standard organizations?

- a. H-phrases are so-called hindrance sentences that describe the procedure of standard organizations when disregarding criteria.
- b. H-phrases describe the so-called help statements. These are used by standard organizations to support small businesses in implementing a standard.
- c. H-phrases are so-called hazard statements and describe hazards posed by chemical substances/mixtures. These can be used by standard organizations to classify substances of concern and restrict their use.

Solution: c

Should the use of chlorine be avoided? Why? ⁶

- a. Yes, but with low priority. Even though chlorine has a harmful effect on the environment, it only persists for a short time and then dissolves again.
- b. Yes, because chlorine is toxic to both humans and animals. Once in the environment, perchlorates are formed, which spread there and can no longer be degraded.
- c. No, chlorine can have a minor negative environmental impact, but only chlorine can bleach textiles well. Therefore, its use continues to be very relevant.

Solution: b

Why is it important that the use of lead in production processes is addressed and restricted/prohibited by standards?

- a. Lead can endanger human health – lead is particularly dangerous for children and infants.
- b. The mining of lead is particularly harmful to the environment compared to other metals.
- c. Lead is radioactive and can lead to genetic changes.

Solution: a

What percentage of microplastics in our oceans can be traced back to synthetic textile fibers? ⁷

- a. 8 percent.
- b. 35 percent.
- c. 47 percent.

Solution: b

Should the leather production abandon chromium IV for environmental matters?

- a. No, chromium has no negative impact on the environment.
- b. Yes, tanning with chromium can lead to water and soil contamination.
- c. No, this makes the leather more durable and thus protects the environment.

Solution: b

What are the specific environmental impacts associated with the production of synthetic textile fibers?

- a. The production of synthetic fibers requires less water than natural fibers.
- b. Synthetic fibers have a lower environmental impact than natural fibers.
- c. The production of synthetic fibers leads to high CO2 emissions.

Solution: c

Which measure contributes most to reducing water consumption in paper production?

- a. The use of efficient water treatment technologies.
- b. The renunciation of the use of pulp.
- c. The use of recycled paper.

Solution: a

How many liters of water are needed for a single t-shirt made of conventional cotton?⁸

- a. Around 800 liters.
- b. Around 1,600 liters.
- c. Around 2,700 liters.

Solution: c

⁶ [The Worst Pollutants in Clothing & How to Avoid Them \(utopia.de\)](https://www.utopia.de)

⁷ [Microplastics from textiles \(bund.net\)](https://www.bund.net)

⁸ [klassewasser.de Virtual water in clothing - young people](https://www.klassewasser.de)

● Social compatibility – Easy

What kind of wages should standards ideally require?

- a. Living wages: Wages that meet basic needs to maintain a secure, adequate standard of living in the community.
- b. Minimum wages: Wages that ensure and cover the food supply.
- c. Temporary wages: Wages that are based on the production volume.

Solution: a

What is child labor?

- a. Labor that robs children of their childhood, potential and dignity and is harmful to physical and mental development.
- b. Labor that children do in their free time to support their families.
- c. Labor that only children can do.

Solution: a

What is not part of the core labor standards of the International Labor Organization (ILO)?

- a. Elimination of forced labor.
- b. Occupational health and safety.
- c. Elimination of child labor.
- d. Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.
- e. Prohibition of discrimination in employment and occupation.
- f. Minimum entitlement to paid vacation days.

Solution: f

What do standard documents refer to when "trade unions" are mentioned?

- a. Trade unions are permanent, independent associations by and for employees based on voluntary membership.
- b. Trade unions are organizations in which participation is compulsory for all employees.
- c. Trade unions are associations of students who campaign for longer holidays.

Solution: a

What is the role of the International Labor Organization (ILO)?

- a. The ILO was founded with the aim of combating global poverty and unemployment, contributing to social equality and social justice, and supporting the improvement of living and working conditions.
- b. The ILO aims to collect statistical data on unemployment and salaries.
- c. The ILO aims to unite trade unions worldwide and thus strengthen the bargaining power of workers.

Solution: a

How can consumers influence social sustainability along the supply chain?

- a. By buying products without respecting the production conditions.
- b. By completely renouncing the purchase of products.
- c. Through conscious shopping and the preference for products with credible and socially responsible labels.

Solution: c

What does not count as social due diligence?

- a. Protecting workers' health and safety.
- b. Ensuring fair working conditions and wages.
- c. Regular events for the workers.

Solution: c

What responsibility does a company have regarding working conditions along the supply chain?

- a. The company should ensure the protection of the health, safety and fair wages of workers.
- b. The company should only take care of its internal working conditions.
- c. The responsibility lies exclusively with the suppliers.

Solution: a

Which measure is an example of social due diligence in leather production?

- a. The use of chemical tanning agents.
- b. Increase in production volume.
- c. Controlled working conditions in the tanneries.

Solution: c

Why is compliance with the core labor standards of the International Labor Organization important?

- a. To ensure that all employees receive equal opportunities for advancement and salaries.
- b. To ensure that basic labor rights, such as the prohibition of child and forced labor, are respected.
- c. To ensure that all workers are adequately trained and educated.

Solution: b

● Social compatibility – *Difficult*

What minimum age should socially acceptable sustainability standards for employees require?

- a. 14 years
- b. 15 years
- c. 16 years

Solution: b

What is the legal monthly minimum wage of an unskilled seamstress in Bangladesh?

- a. Below 400 Euros.
- b. Above 600 Euros.
- c. Below 200 Euros.

Solution: c

What does CSR strategy stand for and what should standard organizations demand from companies as part of such a CSR strategy?

- a. A corporate social responsibility strategy: Companies should establish procedures and policies that are necessary to implement the corporate responsibility goals.
- b. A corporate social representative strategy: Companies should present a sustainable marketing strategy.
- c. A corporate safety strategy: Companies should submit proposals for an expansion of the infrastructure.

Solution: a

What do "social due diligence obligations" include?

- a. Social due diligence includes the process of auditing, as well as monitoring compliance with core labor standards by the International Labor Organization (ILO).
- b. Social due diligence encompasses the process of analyzing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended positive and negative social consequences of planned interventions and the social change processes triggered by these interventions.
- c. Social due diligence includes an assessment of existing social risks.

Solution: b

How many core labor standards of the International Labor Organization (ILO) are there?

- a. 5
- b. 8
- c. 10

Solution: c

What role does an effective complaint mechanism in production play for social compatibility?

- a. Employees can safely report concerns and grievances and thus contribute to improving working conditions.
- b. This ensures that all products meet the same quality standards and thus increases consumer satisfaction.
- c. The exchange between management and employees is improved, which increases productivity.

Solution: a

Why does a company need to get approval from the local community before starting new projects?

- a. To ensure that the company can reduce its production costs through local support.
- b. To ensure that the needs and interests of the local community are considered, and conflicts are avoided.
- c. To ensure that the company has access to local resources and cheap labor.

Solution: b

What social effects can the neglect of labor rights in electronics production have?

- a. It can lead to exploitation, poor working conditions, uncontrolled child labor and negative health effects.
- b. It can lead to a reduction in innovation capacity and technological development.
- c. The quality of the final products could suffer, so consumers do not receive high-quality products.

Solution: a

What obligations does the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) entail for companies? ⁹

- a. Companies only have to ensure that employees have access to medical care throughout production.
- b. Companies are only allowed to advertise products that have been produced under fair working conditions.
- c. Companies must review their production and action processes for potential risks to the environment and human rights and introduce measures to prevent unfair working conditions in their supply chains.

Solution: c

What is a core principle of the UNGPs (United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights)? ¹⁰

- a. The obligation of companies and states to promote international trade and its economic viability.
- b. The obligation of companies and states to always uphold human rights and avoid negative impacts.
- c. The obligation of companies and states to improve negative environmental impacts and strive for climate neutrality.

Solution: b

Why is it important to monitor working conditions in the country of production to comply with the Supply Chain Due Diligence Act?

- a. To check whether the requirements and guidelines on human rights and fair working conditions are being complied with.
- b. A company is exclusively responsible for the national supply chain. Further responsibilities are not prescribed in the Supply Chain Due Diligence Act.
- c. To promote competitiveness not only nationally, but also internationally.

Solution: a

"Rana Plaza textile factory collapsed in Bangladesh". When did the biggest accident in the international textile industry occur to date? ¹¹

- a. April 24, 2013
- b. July 13, 2016
- c. December 1, 2017

Solution: a

⁹ [Corporate sustainability due diligence - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/infographic/Pages/infographic-2023-04-11-1.aspx)

¹⁰ [Corporate sustainability due diligence - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/infographic/Pages/infographic-2023-04-11-1.aspx)

¹¹ [Ten years of the Rana Plaza disaster | A reminder for better working conditions in Bangladesh | 21.04.2023 \(amnesty.de\)](https://www.amnesty.de/en/news/ten-years-of-the-rana-plaza-disaster-a-reminder-for-better-working-conditions-in-bangladesh-21-04-2023)