

TMF'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORK

based on Agenda 2030



TMF

– The Swedish Federation of Wood and Furniture Industry

TMF is the industry and employer organisation for the entire wood-processing and furniture industry in Sweden. TMF represents companies within industries related to wooden houses, furniture, special fittings, kitchen fittings, bathroom fittings, wooden components, windows, doors, joinery, wooden stairs and wooden floors.

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TMF – The Swedish Federation of Wood and Furniture Industry

Storgatan 19, Box 55525, 102 04 Stockholm
+46 8 762 72 50 • info@tmf.se • tmf.se

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PROFITABLE BUSINESS MODEL SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A company's sustainability work must be grounded in its business models and its ability to make money through various means and by creating, capturing and distributing value to its customers. A prerequisite for the success of a company's sustainability work is to combine responsibility with business benefits and create value that customers are willing to pay for. Business activities that support sustainable development is a cornerstone of TMF's sustainability work and is based on a belief that long-term sustainable responsibility is not only a competitive advantage but a necessity to ensure survival and economic growth in the future.

Environmental challenges and sustainable development

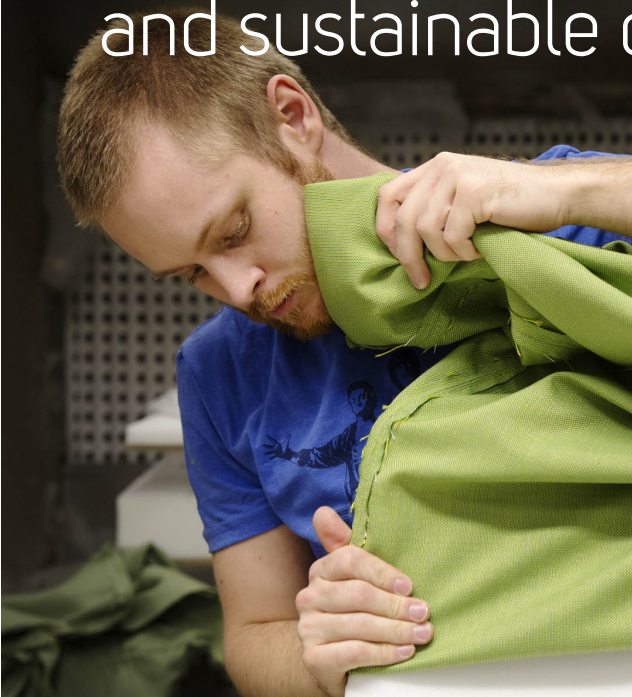


PHOTO: JOHANSON DESIGN / OLA TORKELISSON

The industries represented by TMF have a relatively good starting point when it comes to ecological footprint and environmental impacts compared to many others. Nevertheless, there are a number of areas in which TMF's member companies should engage and work to promote sustainable development. TMF has identified a number of key areas where the wood and furniture industry can contribute to solutions:



"CHEMICAL-COCKTAIL"

Globally, over 400 million tonnes of chemicals are being produced in over 140,000 substances. Although the wood and furniture industry has over time reduced the use of chemicals, further reductions should be made, and non-toxic products sought. This also applies to preparing for a circular economy in the future.

DEFORESTATION

Globally, 'land use change' or deforestation causes up to 15% of greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, Sweden conducts responsible forestry with a large net growth of forests. The wood and furniture industry must ensure that the wood products used are derived from responsible and sustainable forestry.



PHOTO: EDSBA VERKEV

“PEAK RAW MATERIALS”

Since the oil crisis in the 1970s, there has been an awareness that crude oil is a limited resource. “Peak oil” is the term used to describe when the maximum crude oil production is reached, after which it will decrease until the available crude oil has in effect run out. Researchers believe that in addition to crude oil, a large number of raw materials run the risk of “peaking” and running out. This concept concerns raw materials such as chromium, copper, gold, indium, lead, nickel, phosphorus, platinum, silver, tantalum, tin, uranium, zinc, rare earth metals and helium. As important raw materials risk becoming more limited, their prices may raise. Together with other manufacturing industries, the timber and furniture industry must contribute to increasing the use of recycling of components and raw materials. This will be an important driver for the circular economy in the future.

WASTE

By 2025, it is estimated that around 6 million tonnes of waste will be generated globally each day. Most waste is either dumped, burned or ends up in the sea. Besides the severe effects both locally and globally on ecosystems, this entails a huge waste of resources. The wood and furniture industry should increase recycling and re-manufacturing through circular business models to help reduce waste generation.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

TMF is working to create the conditions for sustainable competition on equal terms where the industry’s customers are urged to place relevant social requirements when purchasing and procuring products. It is important to ensure safe working environments for production employees, to offer good working conditions and to respect local regulations regarding the environment – but ensuring all this is cost-driven. Those operators and companies that are not prepared to assume this responsibility will compete on unfair terms as their products become cheaper. Placing social requirements and taking responsibility for the impact of production on people is important from a sustainability perspective.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

CLIMATE & GLOBAL WARMING

There are serious issues related to greenhouse gas emissions and the increase in the earth’s average temperature. The wood and furniture industry contributes to combatting greenhouse gas emissions through the right choice of raw materials, energy efficiency improvements, the introduction of circular business models, choosing climate-smart transport solutions and promoting sustainable forestry.

TMF's sustainability work and Agenda 2030

TMF's goals and strategies for the industry's sustainability work are based on Agenda 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). TMF has identified 11 SDGs that are essential or of significant importance for the wood and furniture industry where the industry can contribute to fulfilling the SDGs.

3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- TMF conducts strategic and operational work for good working environments through collaboration with authorities, researchers and trade unions.
- Together with trade unions, TMF promotes the development and implementation of the Machine Driving License for increased competence and safety, among other things.



4. QUALITY EDUCATION

- TMF actively influences efforts to promote the preservation and establishment of vocational education and the future supply of skills to the wood and furniture industry.
- The wood and furniture industry has good experience in employing immigrants and sees an important role in contributing to integration while facilitating access to skills.



5. GENDER EQUALITY

- As an employer organisation, TMF influences employment conditions and safeguards equal opportunities and salaries.
- TMF works to ensure that no one is discriminated against because of gender, sexual identity or expression, ethnic affiliation, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age.



6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

- TMF provides tools to place demands on subcontractors whose production is water intensive, e.g. the production of textiles.
- TMF offers guides for self-monitoring of compliance with environmental requirements.





8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- TMF provides tools for placing requirements for social responsibility in companies' supply chains in accordance with the UN Code of Conduct Global Compact. This occurs for example within the Swedish Möbelfakta standards.
- TMF works to promote better working environments and competitive collective agreements.



9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- TMF actively participates in R&D projects and acts as a link between academia and industry.
- TMF promotes the need for and works actively with automation and digitalisation adapted for the wood and furniture industry.



11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

- TMF actively drives policy for more new construction and building as well as for varied and sustainable cities.
- TMF works to promote 'The Sustainable Garden City' which offers inclusive and mixed housing types for different target groups – 'houses that people really want to live in'.



12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

- TMF works actively with the wood and furniture industry's potential to develop circular business models.
- TMF works to promote the industrial production of wooden housing.
- TMF builds up and shares knowledge about the need to ensure sustainable consumption and production in accordance with the intentions of 10YFP.



13. CLIMATE ACTION

- TMF urges the use of suitable and sustainable materials, such as wood, in each specific case with particular consideration for climate impacts.
- TMF works to increase re-manufacturing and recycling on an industrial scale.
- TMF works actively on energy efficiency issues in both the production phase and the use phase.



15. LIFE ON LAND

- TMF encourages the industry to procure wood raw material sourced from sustainable and responsible forestry.
- TMF works toward the reduction of the use of hazardous chemicals.



17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- TMF creates platforms where actors are engaged and brought together to promote sustainable innovation and industrial development.

TMF's goals 2018–2030

- TMF will continuously formulate, communicate and implement goals and strategies based on Agenda 2030 for the industry's long-term work with sustainability.
- As an employer organisation, TMF shall work for equal opportunities and salaries and work to ensure that no one is discriminated against on the grounds of gender, sexual identity or expression, ethnic affiliation, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age.
- TMF shall, through advocacy and the development of standards for social responsibility, increase awareness and willingness to place relevant social requirements throughout the supply chain.
- TMF shall promote industrial production of houses.
- TMF will build and share knowledge about the circular economy aimed at facilitating and creating opportunities for member companies to develop and implement circular business models.
- Through external monitoring and influencing work, TMF shall contribute to the phasing out of classified chemicals in the raw materials used by the industry and thereby make it possible to manufacture and deliver non-toxic products.
- Through external monitoring and influencing, TMF shall work to ensure that the wood products used in the wood and furniture industry are sourced from sustainable forestry and to develop information and tools that facilitate member companies to procure responsibly.
- Through monitoring and influencing, TMF shall utilise and promote paradigm shift through digitalisation.

Swedish Wood and Furniture Industry goals 2030

The Swedish Wood and Furniture Industry shall:

- » Be a pioneer in the circular economy and the development/implementation of circular business models with increased customer benefit.
- » Only use wood products derived from sustainable forestry.
- » Be characterised by industrial processes with closed-loop material flows and the elimination of waste.
- » Have fossil-free production units.
- » Phase out classified chemical substances and deliver non-toxic products.
- » Use at least 70% fossil-free transport.
- » Implement a systematic approach to ensure social responsibility at all stages of production.

By the year 2045, Sweden will have no net greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere in order to achieve negative emissions. This is a very ambitious goal and requires major changes in both consumption and production patterns in society. As a result, TMF has formulated the industry's vision for 2045.

THE INDUSTRY'S VISION FOR 2045

- 100% circular, recyclable, separable products.
- 100% non-toxic products².
- 100% renewable energy (in raw material extraction, production and transport).



PHOTO: HJÄLTEVADSHUS

²Non-toxic products as defined by the Swedish Parliament: The presence of substances in the environment that have been created in or recovered by society should not threaten human health or biodiversity. The levels of unnatural substances should be close to zero and their impact on human health and ecosystems should be negligible.