

Natural Resources Policy

Circular Resource Use

Raw material consumption increased fourfold worldwide since 1970. A significant portion of this increase is due to our resource-intensive lifestyle, which disregards planetary boundaries.

Rockström et al.'s planetary boundaries model outlines nine crucial earth system processes, such as climate change and biodiversity loss, with defined limits. Our vision is to transform Eppendorf into a company that enables humankind to operate safely within these boundaries by adopting circular principles.

The Eppendorf SE, Eppendorf Group SE & Co. KG, and its partner brands - hereafter referred to as Eppendorf - are committed to a circular economy, minimizing resource consumption, and reducing waste across our value chains. Through the SMARTER Packaging Plan and SMARTER Consumables Plan, we aim to set new standards in sustainability and innovation in our industry.

Environmental Impacts

Our purpose of improving human living conditions is being reflected in our efforts to conduct our business activities in line with the planetary boundaries. Our double materiality analysis, in which the environmental impact is assessed together with the business risks and opportunities, forms the basis of our Natural Resources Strategy.

Environmental impacts resulting from our business activities lie within our supply chains, our own operations, the use phase, and end of life. Still, the major share of materials used in Eppendorf products is virgin, with only little recycled content. Although we reuse more and more scrap materials from manufacturing processes, our operations largely follow a linear model, resulting in significant material loss not used in final products.

Laboratory employees occasionally express concerns about the large quantities of fossil plastic consumables and packaging, which are typically disposed of after a single use, generating substantial plastic waste globally. Laboratory consumables often cannot be reused or recycled due to contamination risks, leading to their incineration for energy recovery. Customers also face challenges with disposing of excessive packaging materials, raising questions about the fate of these valuable resources.

Business Risks & Opportunities

Regulations and customer requirements often hinder the reuse and recycling of laboratory consumables, especially those in direct sample contact, resulting in significant waste generation in labs worldwide. This extends to product packaging, contributing to daily visible waste, which can negatively impact customer perception. Implementing a Natural Resource Strategy for consumables and packaging helps mitigate these business risks. Additionally, new regulations can devalue conventionally produced goods. This poses risks of fines, exclusion, and reputational damage due to non-compliance and greenwashing.

Conversely, our consumables business presents substantial growth opportunities. Innovative products made from sustainable materials, like our biobased laboratory consumables, generate significant interest and competitive advantages. Adopting a circular economy approach with clear measures and KPIs enhances our brand value and positions us as industry leaders. In our strategic partnership with NESTE, a leading producer of renewable fuels and feedstock solutions for manufacturing polymers and chemicals, we believe to further advance the development of lab

products made with renewable raw materials. Finally, an eco-friendly packaging design will continuously reduce resource use and costs while reinforcing the premium nature of Eppendorf products.

Management Decision

Responsible management of valuable natural resources is a material topic for Eppendorf and a central component of our business strategy. The CEO of Eppendorf has taken personal accountability for this initiative.

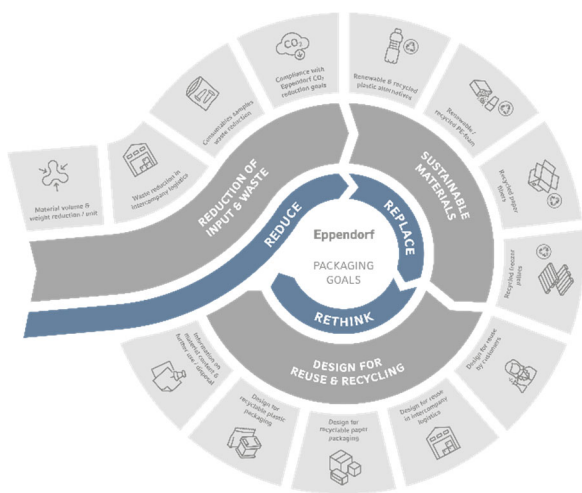
“We thrive for a Circular Economy by minimizing resource consumption and waste along our complete up- and downstream value chains, focusing on more sustainable solutions for packaging and consumables. Our ambition is to set new standards and become one of the leading players in our industry” (CEO of Eppendorf).

Key Objectives

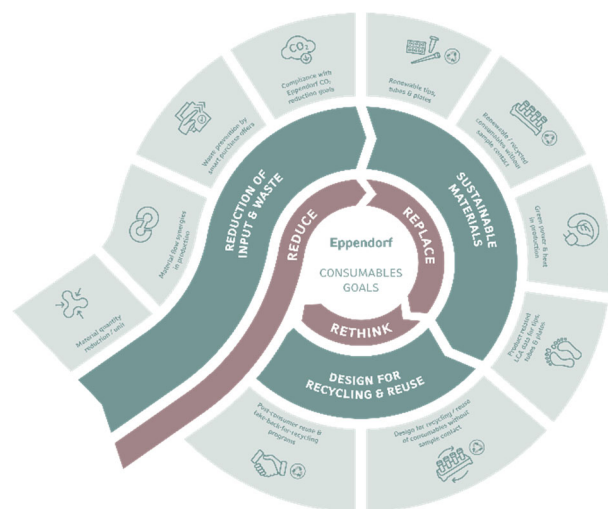
In this respect, innovations related to product packaging and laboratory consumables that we at Eppendorf strive for and drive forward must be in line with and support the three objectives of our Natural Resources strategy along the entire life cycle of our products – REDUCE, REPLACE, RETHINK.

While the first objective aims to reduce the use of resources and waste along the entire value chain, the second objective targets the gradual replacement of fossil-based primary materials with renewable and recycled materials. For Eppendorf, rethinking means researching and applying designs and programs that significantly improve reuse and recycling opportunities.

Reflecting the principles of the circular economy, our Natural Resources strategy is expressed in our SMARTER Packaging Plan and SMARTER Consumables Plan.



SMARTER Packaging Plan



SMARTER Consumables Plan

Stakeholder Management

Each of our business divisions operates an independent R&D unit that pursues its own innovation strategies. The Sustainability & HSE unit supports our business divisions and other functions such as procurement, global supply chain, global marketing, and corporate product design in promoting sustainability progress.

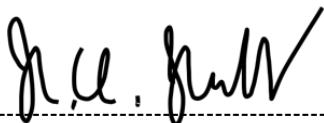
The development of the SMARTER Packaging Plan and SMARTER Consumables Plan was coordinated and harmonized in an iterative process in cooperation with stakeholders from these functions. Regular consultations ensured that targets are achievable and widely accepted. For each target, accountable persons from the above-mentioned functions have been defined to implement specific measures, that derived from the Eppendorf Natural Resources strategy.

As a result, within our R&D processes, all relevant stakeholders are committed to continuously improving and integrating sustainability and circular economy criteria, to assess the sustainability performance of our products and portfolio, enabling us to create more sustainable products for our customers and society.

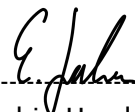
Process for Monitoring & Transparency

All targets, measures and progress are documented in our monitoring system accessible to interested internal stakeholders. Progress is reviewed annually, and corrective measures are planned as needed. In addition, an internal packaging guide and intranet presence ensure transparency and accessibility to all employees.

Hamburg, Aug 28th, 2024



Chief Financial Officer - Hans-Christian Stuff



Enrico Jakobi - Head of Global HSE & Sustainability