



EDRA/GHIN contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are a blueprint to achieve a better more sustainable future for all. They seek to address the global challenges we face, including poverty, climate change, environmental degradation and peace and justice.

Within the Home Improvement sector, we are ideally placed to work within and towards these goals in helping to promote sustainability in both how we run and organise our own businesses, as well as how we work within our local communities.

We understand we are not equipped to respond to all of the challenges faced within the goals, but by working with our suppliers and providers, we believe we can make a difference in a number of key areas, including life on land, sustainable communities and climate action.

In the following document we have drawn a few examples from publicly reported information across the EDRA/GHIN membership. Whilst not exhaustive, these examples provide a variety of illustrations into how we may be able to help reduce our own carbon footprint and preserve our environment, as well as providing products, guidance and assistance to support our customers move towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

We know sustainability is a journey not a destination, and we will continue to update our paper as we progress. In the meantime, we encourage our businesses as they continue to innovate, develop new business models and embrace the opportunities and challenges contained within the goals.



EDRA/GHIN is the voice for the home improvement industry.

Our mission is to improve the quality of home improvement retailing globally through our network.

Today EDRA/GHIN represents 215 home improvement companies operating over 33,000 stores in 74 countries.



Supporting Communities

With a global reach our members recognise the important role they play in local communities. Many have initiated a number of practices to support the local communities in which they operate, as well as the communities further along their supply chains.

Communities are the lifeblood of our business and our stores are located to reflect this. In turn, many of our customers see their local home improvement store as an integral part of their own community.

Our Members work with their....

Local Communities



Supporting Communities

Our members contribute to local communities in numerous ways:



In 2020, raised €415,567 for local causes such as ISPC Childline, Down Syndrome, Autism Assistance Dogs & Cystic Fibrosis.



Volunteering over 315,000 hours in 2019 to serve and support local communities.



Supporting low-income senior citizens grow 21 tonnes of fruits and vegetables to be shared with the community, helping more than 10,000 people.



Opening a children's summer day care facility in conjunction with the international organisation the Center for Child Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility (CCR CSR); giving Children the opportunity to spend the summer with their parents.



Collaborating with a local charity in helping reconstruct and maintain a variety of youth centres using recycled materials. Emphasis in these youth centres is placed on offering diverse and interesting leisure activities for children and teenagers, including running a leisure club for young disabled people.



Handicraft classes set up in super home improvement stores. Many participants to these classes are families with small children. The number of participants in all classes has reached 30,000 a year.

Team and associates assisting communities by participating and supporting more than 72,000 community activities and contributing \$42.9 million.



Establishing a non-profit disaster response centre in 2005 for the provision of materials in the event of a natural disaster. This is in collaboration with local governments and associations.



Donating gardening tools to a non-profit organization working with children and members of the community from underprivileged families in rural locations.



Initiating a "Building Dreams of Home" project which completed 83 local infrastructure projects in 2019 alone. These projects involved 1,404 volunteers and benefited 40,190 people, a further 120 internal projects benefited 84 employees by improving their homes and quality of life.



Equipping stores with private power generators and emergency water supply systems which can provide electricity, drinking water, toilet services and emergency shelter to local communities should a natural disaster occur.





Clean Energy

Energy is one of our key segments.

Not only in that we sell products that can help lower energy demand and produce green energy, but also in our stores and throughout our supply chains.

Our members have been initiating projects for many years in order to lower emissions and are positioned to be one of the key players on the road to reaching an ultimate goal of net zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions for energy production.

Our Members strive to....

Lower emissions



Clean Energy

A key segment of ours is energy, and we help customers on their journey by providing a wide variety of energy saving products, such as LED lights, insulation, a range of efficient heating products etc... Our members are also working towards clean energy through the following ways:



Improving the energy efficiency of buildings, generating green energy and sourcing 42% of purchased electricity from renewable sources.

Insulating customers' homes for as little as 1 €, saving up to 30% on heating bills.

New generation stores with eco-efficient design that take advantage of natural light and make extensive use of LED technology, and also include the use of non-conventional renewable energies (NCRE).

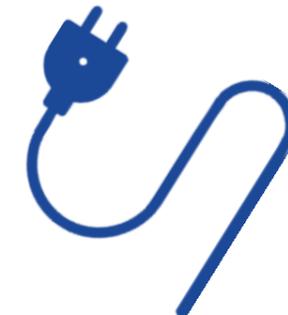
Collected 53,890 kg of batteries in 2019 to be recycled.

Co-signing with Greenpeace to commit to 100% renewable electricity by 2025.

Signed a Clean Production Agreement in 2016 to establish a management plan, ahead of implementation of the REP Law. In 2019, this resulted in the recovery of 152 tons of old batteries from its Car Center customers.

Helping customers reduce energy use by offering a wide product range with a variety of energy-saving items – from efficient lighting systems to standby killers, water saving devices and insulation upgrades, as well as new pellet and high-tech reverse cycle heating systems.

Between 2017 and 2020 the roofs of 46 stores were equipped with solar panels, generating up to 34% of the company's total electricity consumption. Once fully operational, these panels will generate approximately 46 GWh/year and avoid the annual emission of some 20,000 tons of CO₂.



Plans to cover the roofs of all of its stores with solar panels as well as offering Powerwall systems, which use lithium-ion batteries, enabling its users to participate in the electricity balancing market.



Deforestation

Wood is a key product in the home improvement market, and our members therefore play an essential role in the sale of wood and wooden products.

Our Members are on the journey towards sustainability - through ensuring a high percentage of wood sold is certified, through schemes like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Some of our members also helped establish and are members of the WWF's Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN), as well as partaking in sustainable forest management.

We understand our responsibility to ensure that communities in which we source timber derive direct and long-term benefit from well-managed forestry operations.

Our Members work to reduce their impact on....

Forests

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND



Deforestation

We recognise the critical role of forests in mitigating climate change, promoting biodiversity and providing livelihoods across the world.



The "Corporate Forest" project: collaborating with organisations and the local Government, working together to plant trees and cut underbrush over the next 10 years.



Aim to have more than 95% of the wood and wooden products certified in 2020.



Supporting the reforestation of Santiago's Cerros de Renca Metropolitan Park. The goal is to plant 30,000 native trees in the park, with an irrigation system installed for the hottest part of the year. Half of the trees were planted in 2019 and the other 15,000 were planted during the winter of 2020.



Ensuring that by the year 2025, 100% of the wood and paper products will be of sustainable origin, either FSC or PEFC certified or recycled material.



Used pallets are transferred in reverse flow to the service provider, which provides all users with this PEFC certified wood pallet. Damaged pallets are repaired and reused as many times as possible. Every week, 2,500 pallets are maintained, saving some 48,000 tonnes of wood waste by 2020.

Piloting recycled paper pallets in 2020, saving 1,800 trees.



Aspire to create more forests than it uses by delivering 100% responsibly sourced wood and paper in all products sold and by becoming 'forest positive' by 2025 through supporting reforestation projects from 2021, including a partnership with the Rainforest Alliance.



Electronic invoicing to reduce paper consumption, deforestation, printing costs and save energy.



Converted its range of charcoal products and now only sells FSC-certified charcoal and barbecue briquettes.



Planted as many as 1,587 trees in September 2020 alone, promoting the tradition of planting trees at the birth of a baby.



Working towards reforestation since 2007 by planting trees in a variety of regions and forests.



Our Members promote a....

Circular economy



Circular economy

We generally rely on the existence of a linear economy with readily available materials and energy. However, the strain on finite resources is increasing. We must therefore shift our efforts towards a more circular economic model.

Through redefining growth and focusing on positive society-wide benefits our members are striving to build economic, natural and social capital equally.

Schemes aimed to reuse, share, repair, refurbish, remanufacture and recycle products are assisting our members in creating closed-loop systems, in turn reducing their reliance on finite resources.



Circular economy

Circular economies are coming sharp into focus, and our members are innovating in numerous ways to make their businesses models more circular.



Customers can bring back their empty plastic pots for growers to refill. When the pots are no longer reusable, a partner turns them into new pots, trays and hanging baskets.

Initiated a project which has transformed 14,195 used textile items into 725 blankets and 1,476 pairs of trousers, which are donated to associations and given a second life. So far, through this scheme a total of 489 kg of clothing has been transformed into cleaning rags.

Eliminated polystyrene from the 140,000 bedding plants sold each year. This was replaced by recycled PET plastic that can be easily recycled again and again. Also swapped peat for more sustainable coir, a by-product from the coconut industry.

Waste is separated into different waste streams; plastic, wood, paper/cardboard and residual waste and measured. Through this monitoring the average amount of kg of waste per store decreased from 71,098 kg in 2017 to 58,406 kg in 2018, representing a reduction of 17.9%.

Working with suppliers to ensure that the packaging of 3,403 SKUs was redesigned and reduced. In the case of 1,600 SKUs the material of the packaging was modified so that it is recyclable.

Collected over 8,800 kilograms of batteries for recycling through 13 metropolitan stores and supporting a charity which enabled customers to drop off over 1.28 million kilograms of e-waste.



Water Supply

Clean, fresh water is a limited resource. Furthermore, with accelerated climate change comes an increasing likelihood of severe weather events, including floods and droughts.

These types of weather events have a direct and dramatic impact on water supply.

Our members have initiated many initiatives globally to save water across their chains.

Many also continue to inform and educate customers about the importance of saving water and offer a variety of products that promote and enable water saving.

Our Members work to....

Save Water



Water Supply

Water is a finite resource. Our members recognize this and work in numerous ways to reduce their reliance on fresh water:

To encourage more green spaces in gardens the 2019 “Tile out, plant in” promotion allowed customers to hand in a paving slab and receive a garden plant to take home. Information sessions were also organised by professional gardeners who would give customers advice on how to make their gardens more water friendly.



As early as 2007 refitting stores to give them the capacity to save 30,000 litres of rainwater at each site, to be used to irrigate outdoor nurseries and flush toilets.



Making water efficiency the standard in bathroom ranges. Almost all basin taps now have a maximum flow of 8 litres per minute. A big drop from up to 12 litres previously commonplace.

Rainwater collection gutters installed along the headquarters’ exterior, collecting runoff water from the parking lot. Rainwater recovery is channelled, among other uses, to the site's lavatories, resulting in annual water savings circa 1,000m³.



Implementing an online training program to address environmental issues, including water use. These programs include modules to raise awareness and on measures to save water that are applicable to the homes of employees and their families as well as the company’s workplaces.



Offering a range of toilets with in-built sinks that collected used water in the cistern, this greywater is then used to flush the toilet.



Advising and offering customers a huge variety of water saving products, for example: low flow high-efficiency faucet aerators and showerheads, dual flush toilets and converters, grey water diverters and rainwater collection tanks.