

LEADING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Talking CDP Triple «AAA» Rating with Neil ...



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Why is sustainability so important at Firmenich?

Sustainability is in our DNA and embedded in our growth strategy with ambitious, corporate-wide environmental goals. We rely on the Earth's resources for our natural ingredients and we need to preserve them. In 1991 – one year before the Rio summit made sustainability mainstream – we signed the first International Chamber of Commerce Business Charter for Sustainable Development and have committed to reducing our environmental impact ever since. We started disclosing to CDP more than ten years ago, committed to only sourcing renewable electricity for our manufacturing sites by 2020, and set science-based targets for our greenhouse gas emissions reductions for 2030 and 2050. Our ultimate goal is to become carbon neutral.

When did you start disclosing your environmental performance to CDP?

When some of our customers requested us to respond via CDP in 2009 and asked for more information on our environmental footprint, we took the same proactive voluntary approach to do what is right for the planet: we immediately disclosed data on our climate change initiatives and we set ourselves a target to do more than 'just' disclose. We aimed to continuously improve our performance and increase our transparency. We have always strived for excellence.



How important is it to set bold goals?

After COP21 we realized the urgency of the current climate situation and decided to take an even bolder approach by setting our most ambitious environmental targets. For instance, we committed to operate with 100% renewable electricity, to reduce our absolute scope 1 and 2 emissions by 20% by 2020, and to cut our scope 3 emission from raw materials by 20% by 2030.

How do you feel about your Triple «AAA» rating?

We are immensely proud of this achievement as it was earned through over a decade of hard work. We first publicly reported to CDP Climate change in 2009, adding our water impact in 2015 and finally joining the forests program in 2017. But we are absolutely not complacent and remain more committed than ever to lead real change in sustainable business, focusing not only on our operations, but also on supporting our suppliers on their sustainability journeys.

What other actions have you taken?

Beyond our operations and our supply chain, we also focus on product sustainability. Over ten years ago, we were the first in our industry to voluntarily self-impose that all new molecules introduced into our Perfumers' creation palette had to be biodegradable. We call this the 'GreenGate'. Today, we are the industry pioneers in renewable 'white biotech' ingredients.

What can companies do to drive change?

Firmenich's goal is ultimately to be carbon neutral. To reach this target, we set ambitious goals that will drive change in our operations, in our supply chain, and even in our industry. We encourage all companies to build stretch goals, to be bold, and use the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s recommendations to set science-based targets to limit climate change. We use every single opportunity to share our experience, with suppliers, customers, non-profits, governments, to create a momentum around environmental responsibility.