



On sustainability

More about nora's initiatives and actions

nora[®]
by **Interface**[®]

Long-term commitment to environmental protection

nora is part of the internationally operating floor covering manufacturer Interface and we strive to make our high-performance products in healthier and more responsible ways every day, from using our certified environmental management system to use less water and energy in our production facilities to rigorously evaluating every ingredient we use.

We spend most of our everyday lives in closed rooms, so choosing the right floor covering is important for our experience. nora floor coverings are made of materials that have been carefully selected for low emissions to indoor air. These materials include high-quality natural and industrial rubber, minerals from natural deposits and environmentally compatible colour pigments. nora introduced its environmental management system in 1996 and has been certified in accordance with ISO 14001 since 2008.

Environmental protection and healthy living have long been core components of our company philosophy. Becoming part of Interface in 2018 has enabled us to raise the bar even higher by joining their initiatives such as Climate Take Back and programmes with the goal of becoming a carbon negative company by 2040.

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"WE HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE DURING OUR
BRIEF VISIT TO THIS BEAUTIFUL BLUE AND GREEN
LIVING PLANET: **TO HURT IT OR TO HELP IT.**"

*Pioneer in health and environmental compatibility
Ray Anderson, Interface founder*

Interface sets Science Based Target to reduce absolute emissions 50 percent by 2030

In September 2021, Interface and nora as part of it became the first flooring company to have our ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). This important third-party validation acknowledges that our goals to reduce emissions by 2030 are at the right ambition level to address global climate change.

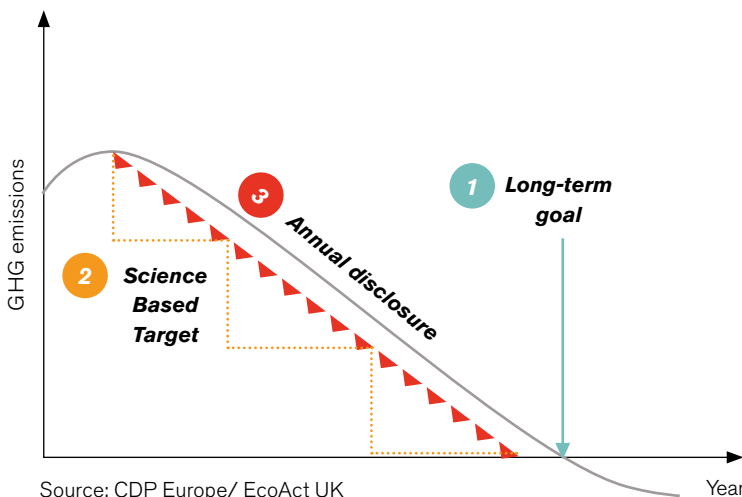


What is a Science Based Target?

A coalition of environmental organizations called the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) reviews company commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with scientific criteria to keep the planet at safe temperatures.

If a company's targets are ambitious enough, the SBTi validates the targets as science based. Over 2,900 companies globally have committed to set an SBT and around 2,600 targets have been approved. We joined this important group of leaders in October 2021.

WE'VE COMMITTED TO BECOME A **CARBON NEGATIVE COMPANY BY 2040.**



Source: CDP Europe/ EcoAct UK

- 1 Long-term goal:** A net-zero long-term goal provides certainty about the direction that the company will follow and serves as a north-star for long-term strategic decisions.
- 2 Science Based Target:** Science Based Targets ensures that the company is taking shorter-term action to reduce emissions at a pace that is consistent with keeping warming below 1.5°C / well-below 2°C.
- 3 Annual disclosure:** Climate disclosure provides transparency about the progress that the company is making to meet its long-term and medium-term goals.

About Science Based Targets

- Company is obliged to report all GHG emissions.
- Avoided emissions do not count toward science based targets.
- Target year for reduction between 5 and 15 years from base year.
- The target must include Scope 1 & 2 and Scope 3 if they exceed 40 % of the company's total carbon footprint.
- Target must be in line with what is required to maintain temperatures on earth at a safe level.

Why has Interface committed to a Science Based Target?

To hold off some of the worst climate impacts and avoid irreversible damage to our societies, economies, and the natural world, we must keep the planet's temperature increase to 1.5 degrees. This requires halving greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and hitting net-zero emissions by 2050. It will take governments and companies working together to accomplish this. By setting SBTs, Interface supports the global climate protection goal of the Paris climate agreement.

Setting an Science Based Target is a natural step for Interface. We are a recognized sustainability leader, and we have already pledged to reverse global warming through our Climate Take Back mission. Our Science Based Target – which we're working to achieve by 2030 – is an important step on the way to become a carbon negative enterprise by 2040.

Our Commitment

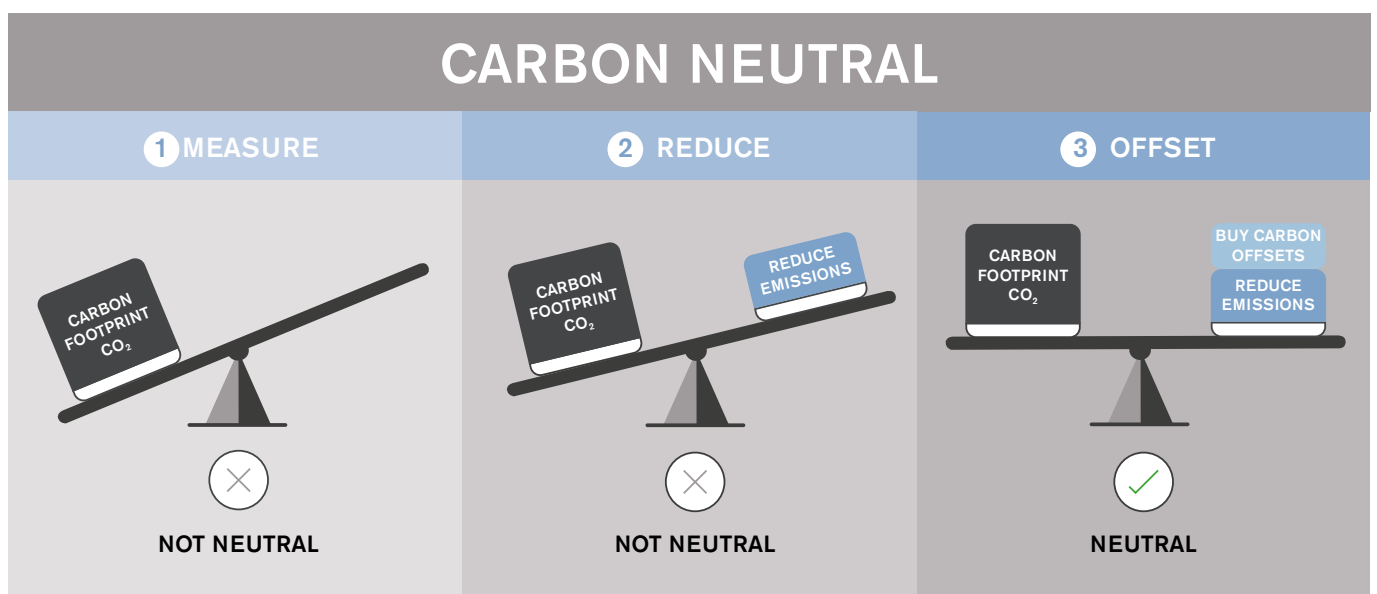
Interface has set a Science Based Target to halve our company CO₂ emissions by 2030. We also have set a target to halve the CO₂ emissions of the biggest part of our supply chain emissions by 2030. Our science-based target would be aggressive for any company, but Interface is adopting this on top of aggressively reducing the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from our business by more than 96 percent since 1996.

Through various initiatives, nora rubber floors contribute to attaining these ambitious goals and help to reduce GHG emissions. This supports the path towards a pioneering achievement: sustainable production of rubber flooring.

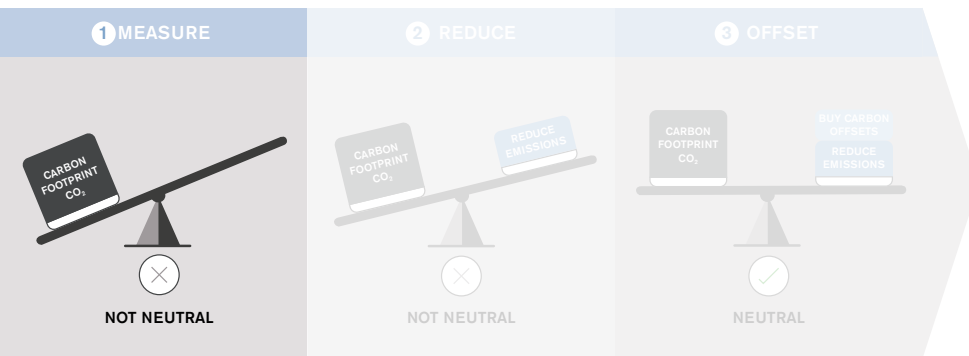
The path to carbon neutral flooring



© nora



1 Full measurement of greenhouse gas emissions



The carbon footprint of our rubber floor coverings in every phase of our products' life cycles is measured, evaluated and verified annually by an independent third-party certification company. The methodology is in line with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol, Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard in accordance with ISO 14064-1).

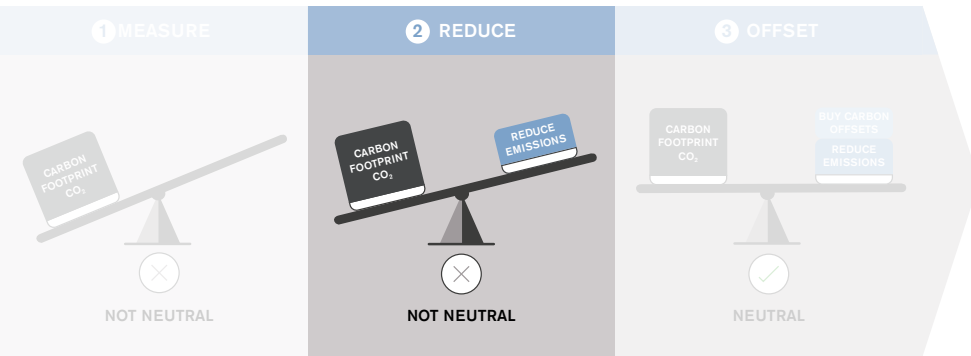
To measure greenhouse gas emissions, we look at the entire supply chain, from the sourcing of raw materials and production (including transport) to the products' use over 20 years and end of life.



Natural and synthetic rubber provides the basis for our products.

© Elmar Witt

2 Prevention and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions



We are continuously working to prevent and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at our global production site in Weinheim and in our supply chain. Some examples of the measures we have introduced follow below.

Material selection and use

We replace our raw materials with bio-based and recycled materials (one example for bio-based material is bio-attributed styrene-butadiene rubber, which makes up to 9% in selected products).

Cooperative sustainability workshops with suppliers.

The carbon footprint is evaluated as a key decision criterion for purchasing raw materials.

Energy and water

In 2018, we switched to 100% renewable electricity for our Weinheim site.

We transitioned our internal transportation fleet to electric vehicles.

The water consumption for the Weinheim site was reduced by 90% from a 1996 baseline.



Manufacturing process

We reviewed our manufacturing processes to reduce waste and increase material efficiency. For example, the optimization of our sanding process led to a reduction of 15% sanding residues for our main noraplan production line.

We increased the efficiency of nora's production with measures such as double use of release paper for roll materials and more precise blank production for tile materials.

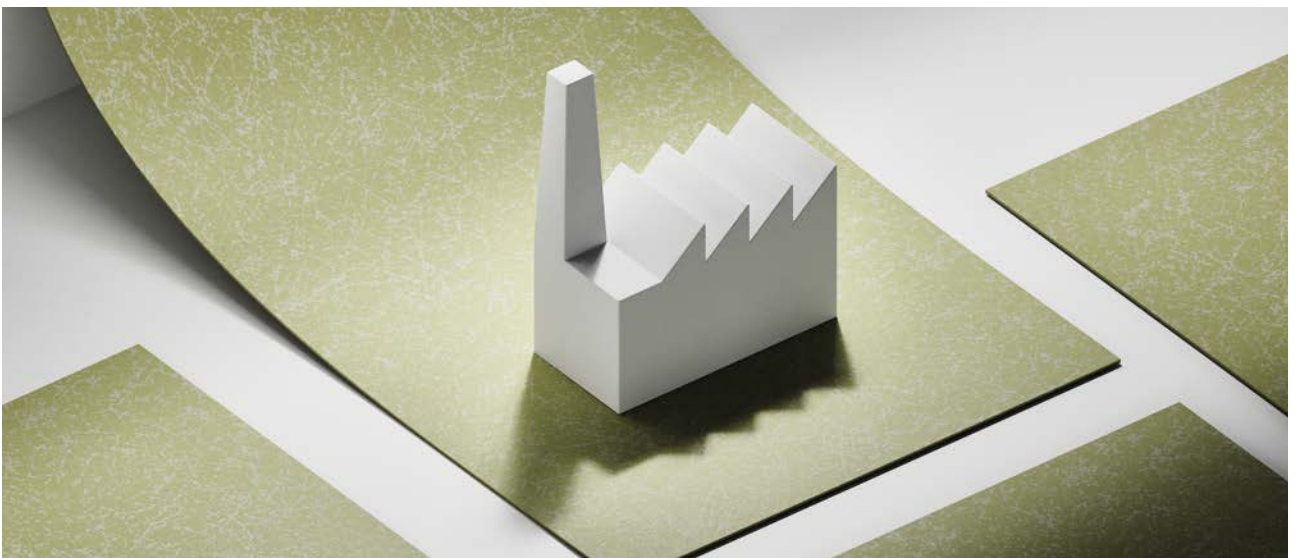
Innovation and new product development

We use post-production materials for backing dual-layer nora products (norament 992 and norament 975 LL) and for acoustic foam for noraplan acoustic.

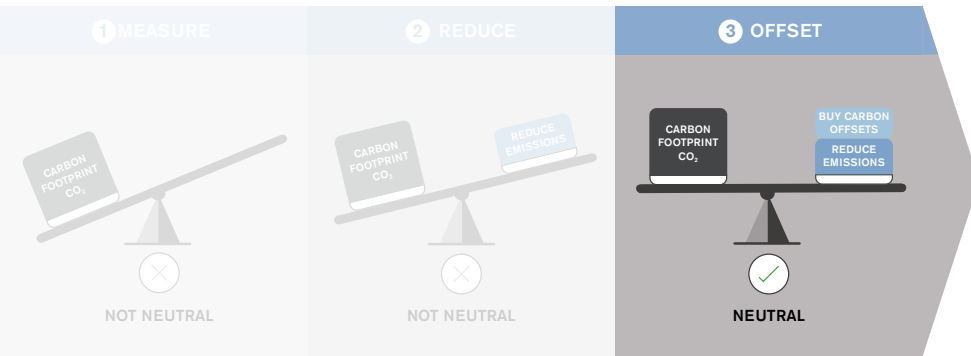
We have experimented with circular raw materials (e. g. sanding dust, offcuts and off-spec materials) for their possible inclusion in future rubber products.

With our innovative flooring, noracare, we have developed a fully recyclable product for the circular economy.

We include post-production waste in noracare flooring.



3 Compensation of the remaining greenhouse gas emissions



We offset unavoidable carbon emissions by purchasing carbon-reduction certificates from climate protection projects.

Types of projects we support with our carbon offsets are for example:

Asia-Pacific

Renewable energy projects from solar and wind power to reduce the amount of carbon emissions, as well as forest projects for reestablishments of native forest.

Africa

Forest protection from deforestation and degradation, alongside community fuel switching and water purification projects.

Americas

Reforestation projects to keep carbon stored and sequestered in the soil and plants.

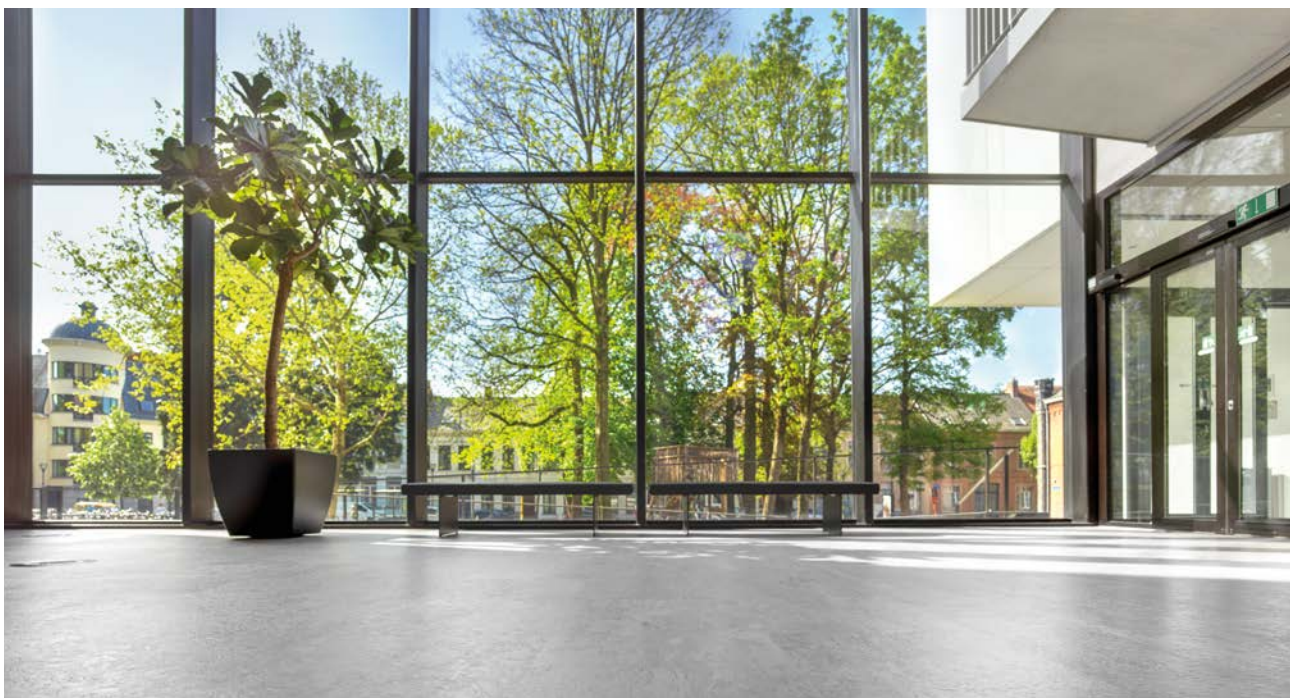


Carbon Neutral at Every Step. Interface® is now a third-party certified Carbon Neutral Enterprise.

Interface is the first flooring manufacturer to achieve carbon neutrality across all scopes of our entire enterprise. Our claim of Carbon Neutral Enterprise status has been third-party certified to meet the PAS 2060 standard, the leading international carbon neutrality standard created by the British Standards Institution (BSI). The Carbon Neutral Enterprise certification demonstrates our voluntary and ambitious commitment to climate action. With this achievement, we can confidently say that everything we do, every aspect of our business, is carbon neutral.

About PAS 2060

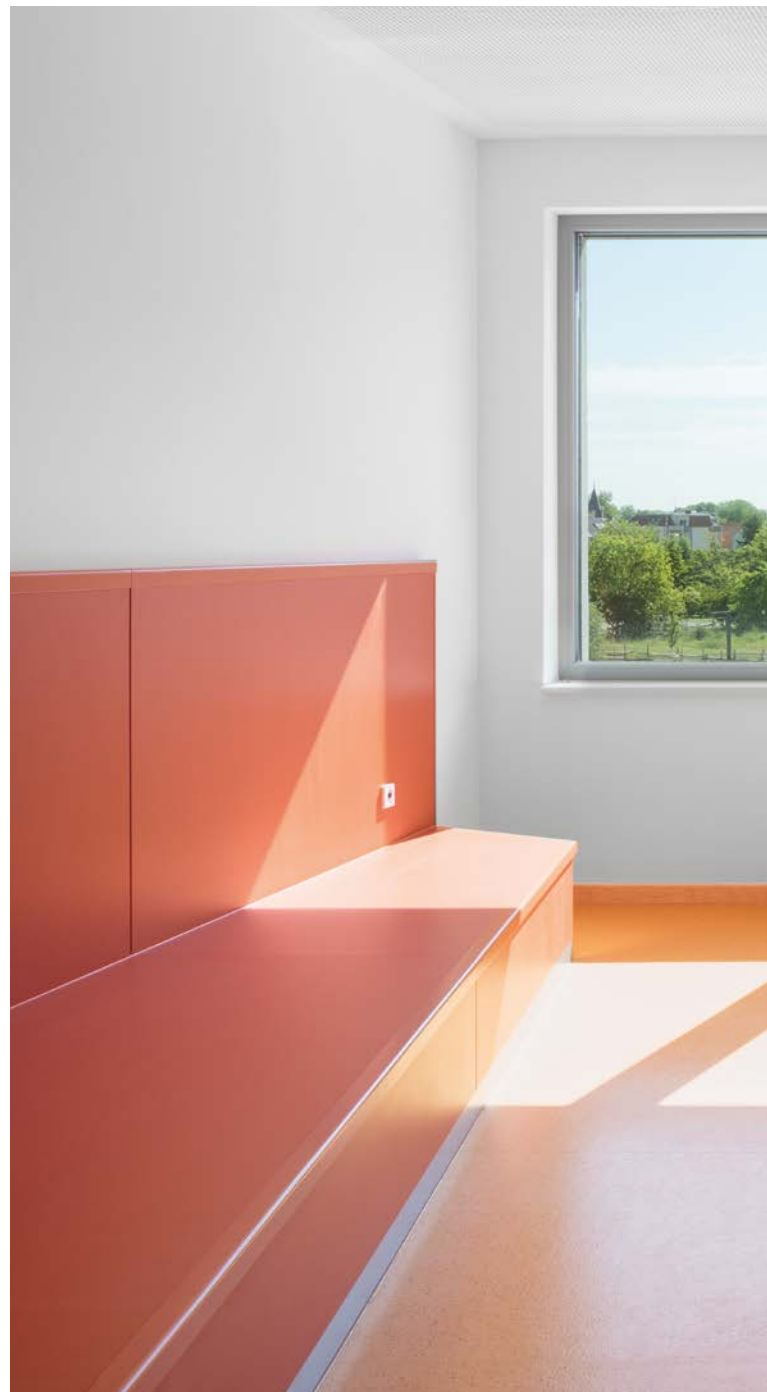
- The leading internationally recognized certification for organizational carbon neutrality.
- Annual review of progress on ambitious carbon reduction goals. Capturing 100% of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and all Scope 3 emissions.
- Development of a Carbon Reduction Strategy is mandatory and must include a timeframe, specific targets for reduction, and specific actions to achieve reduction.



Your contribution to climate protection with Carbon Neutral Floors™

With Carbon Neutral Floors™ we help you get one step closer to your sustainability goals by reducing the carbon footprint of your project. We certify the carbon neutrality of your purchase.

One successful example, the Geschwister-Scholl-Schule in Zossen, Germany, is presented here.



Interface®

Carbon Neutral Floors™

Carpet Tile | LVT | nora® Rubber

As part of Interface's Carbon Neutral Floors™

the Geschwister-Scholl-Schule in Zossen, Germany



has purchased
7.959 square metres
of carbon neutral flooring

This will result in the prevention of
163 metric tons of carbon dioxide


This is equivalent to emissions from a car travelling
650.958 kilometres*

By choosing our Carbon Neutral Floors you have ensured that there is less carbon in our atmosphere and we're a step closer to creating a climate fit for life.

*Based on US EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator - distance will vary

 Erin Meezan VP & Chief Sustainability Officer	Issued 8-April-2021	 APEX Interface's Carbon Neutral Floors program is verified by Apex.
	Certificate Number NO04082021- 1223	

+Positive spaces™ Better products. Happier people. Healthier planet.



nora Account Manager Max Kühne (right) presents Head Teacher Dirk Zobywalski (left) with the certificate.



Circular Economy

nora is constantly striving to reduce the life cycle impact of our products, which means looking at the bigger picture. We try to close the loop by recycling and reusing materials whenever possible to decrease the negative environmental and health impact of the product life cycle.

The Cradle to Cradle Certified® Product Standard evaluates the biological and technical regeneration cycle of a product. It is the world's most advanced, science-based standard for designing and making safe, circular, and equitable products. The philosophy interprets all materials as recyclable resources that are returned in complete form and without loss of quality after their product life to become new products. It foresees an optimized materials management system for the removal of any waste from the process.

Products are evaluated in the following categories:



Cradle to Cradle® Certified Silver has been awarded to:

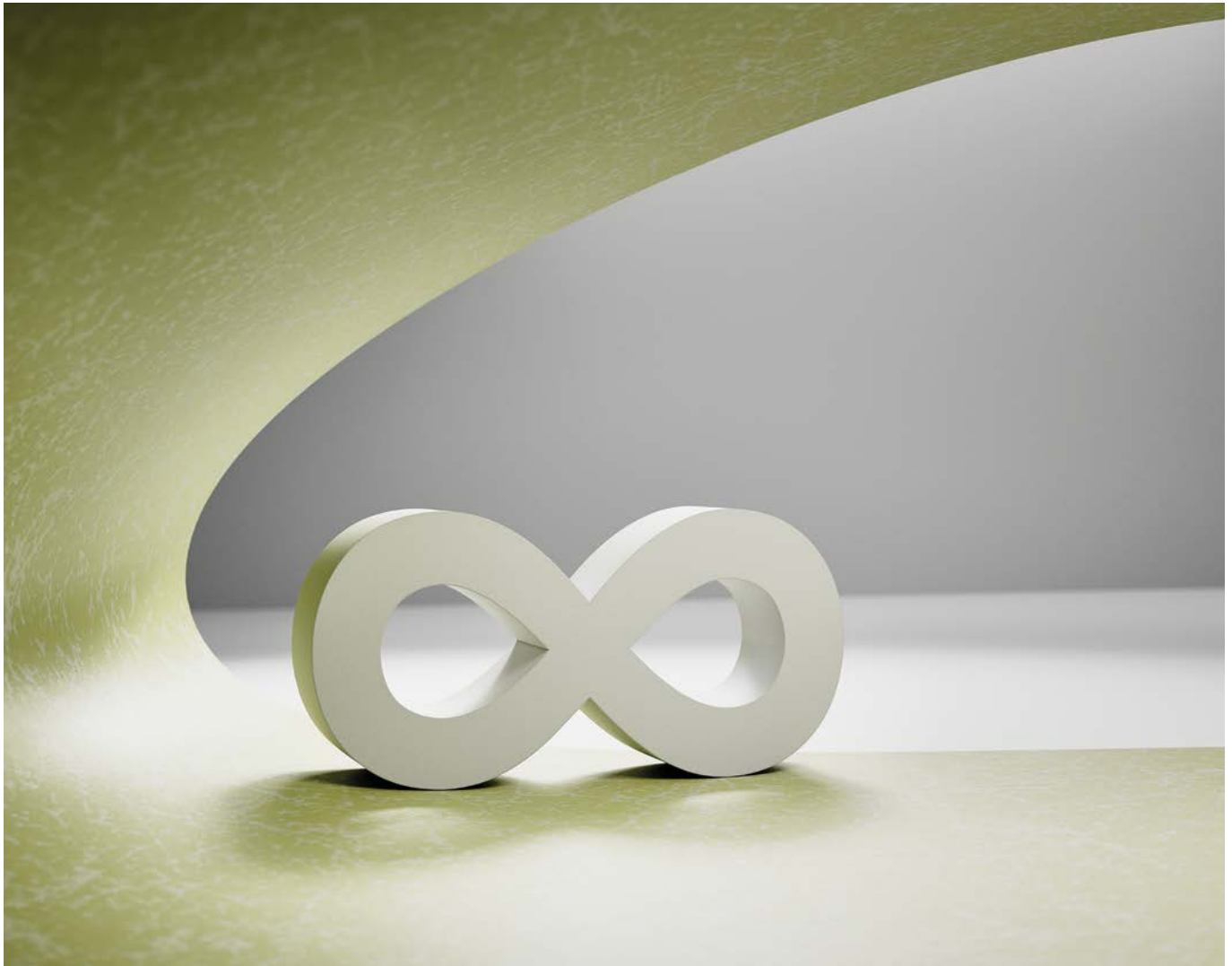
norament 926 standard: norament 926, norament 926 arago, norament 926 castello, norament 926 grano, norament 926 kivo, norament 926 pado, norament 926 satura

norament 926 stairtreads: norament 926 stairtreads, norament 926 arago stairtreads, norament 926 grano stairtreads, norament 926 satura stairtreads

noraplan standard (913): noraplan linee, noraplan lona, noraplan sentica, noraplan signa, noraplan stone, noraplan unita, noraplan valua, noraplan convia

noracare: noracare seneo, noracare uneo





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Best practice:

- **norament 975 LL** is a removable rubber floor covering that can be quickly installed using simply a suitable tackifier. Removing the flooring does not damage the subfloor, which minimizes preparation for subsequent installation. The flooring can be reused immediately and installed again, which creates value for the customer and helps to conserve resources.
- Our innovative **noracare** floor covering can be fully recycled in our production facilities. Waste materials and offcuts (including offcuts from installation) can be used for the production of new floor coverings. This helps to close the loop and create a circular economy.

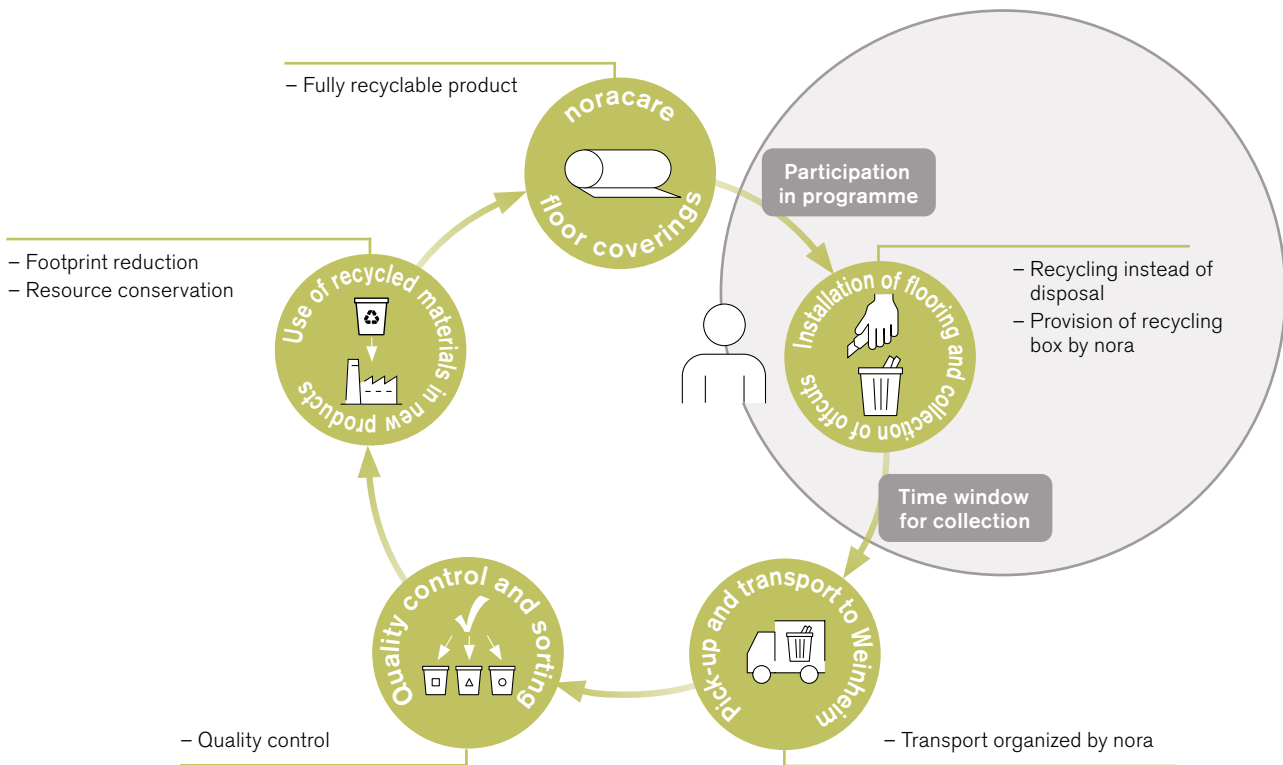
Use of noracare offcuts in our production


The advanced composition of noracare floor coverings means they are fully recyclable and makes it possible to produce new floor coverings from any production residue and offcuts.

By participating in our take-back programme, you make an important contribution to the circular economy. Your support allows us to conserve raw materials, energy and carbon.

We are already actively conserving resources by returning post-production residue to the production process. It is easy to join the take-back programme and by returning flooring to our production facilities, you play an essential role in the process of recycling floor coverings as new products.

Taking back offcuts from noracare installations



 **Three small steps for you; one giant leap towards the circular economy**

Advantages:

- Simple, efficient recycling of offcuts directly from installation site
- Organization and implementation by nora (no intermediaries)
- Resource conservation through use of recycled material
- Optimal use of recycled material for production of new noracare floor coverings
- Contribution to achievement of various sustainability standards (e. g. LEED, WELL, DGNB and BREEAM)
- You make a contribution to the circular economy

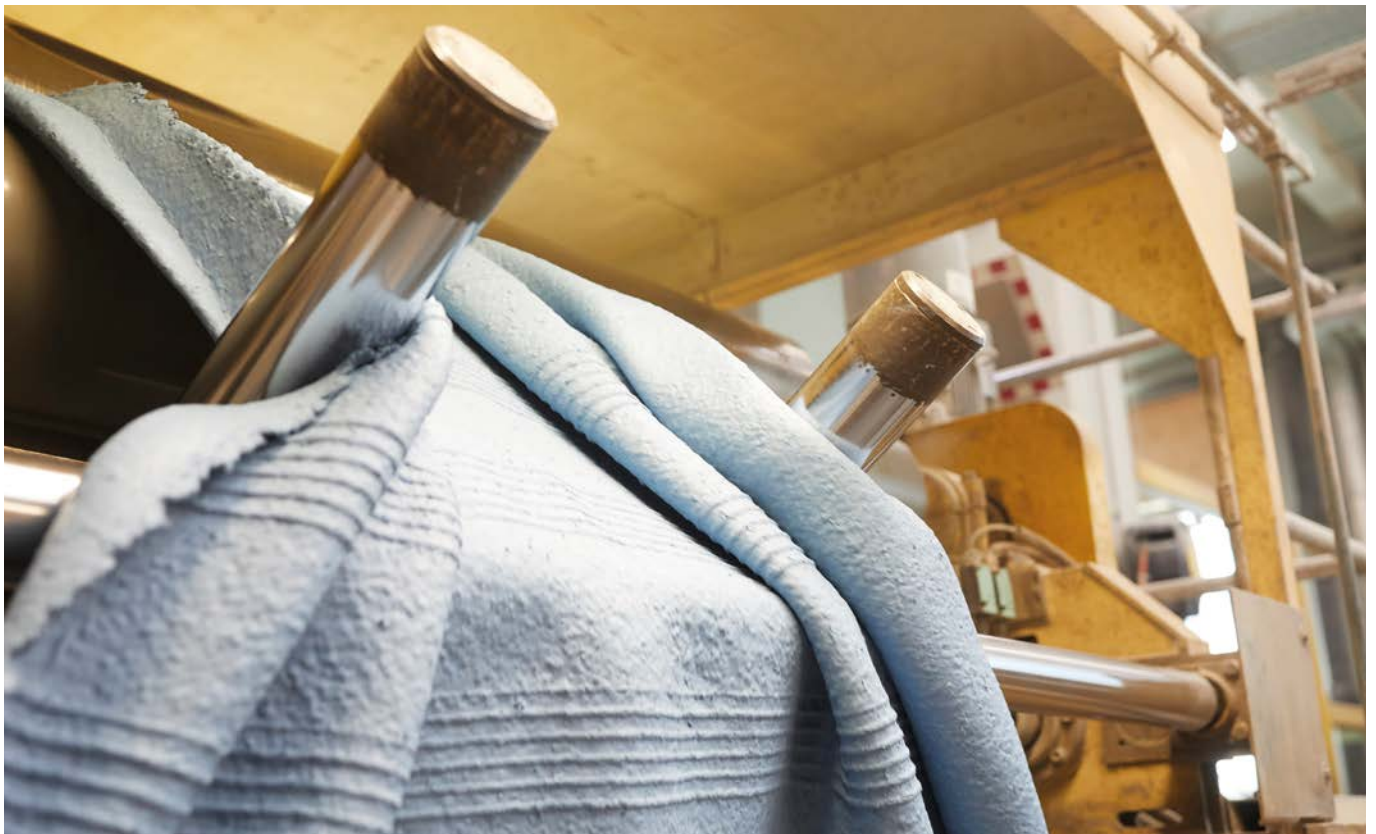


Use of recycled content

The overall goal of a circular economy is to close the loop on waste. This helps to reduce the carbon footprint of products by saving the vast amounts of energy and water required to extract and process virgin materials. This is another step towards a cradle-to-cradle supply chain.

nora is pursuing several projects for the use of recycled content in our products.

These projects are collaborations with other industries or our suppliers. Alternatively, we use waste materials from our own production facilities and include them in our new products.



Best practice:

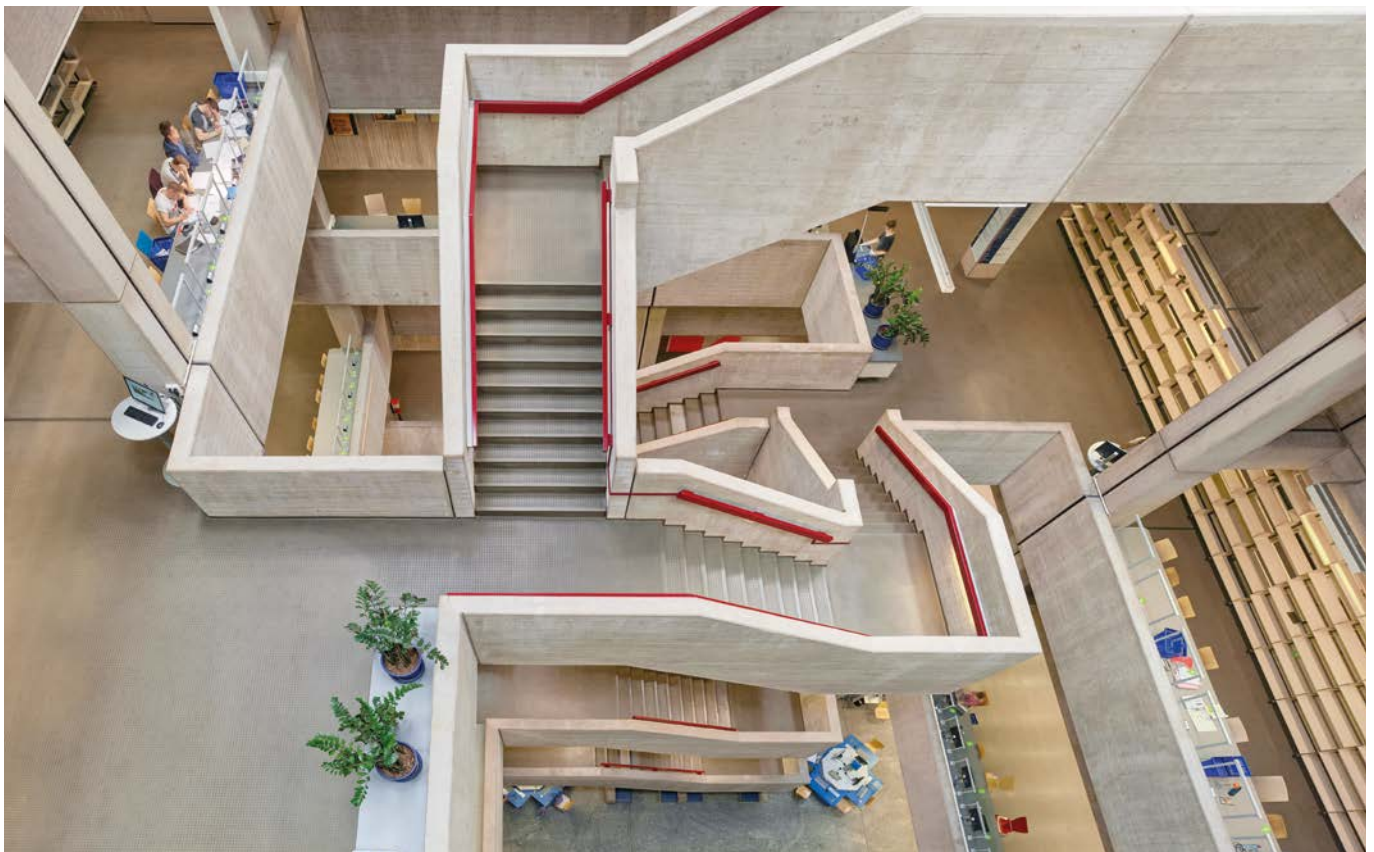
- With our innovative ***noracare*** product we have had a fully recyclable floor covering in our portfolio since 2020. It has a recycled content of at least 10 % post-production.
- In ***noraplan 913***, we use external recycled content (post-production) which is another first step within our recycling journey.
- ***noraplan acoustic*** is a special product that uses acoustic foam from recycled materials. The acoustic foam is made using 82% recycled content from the mattress industry and sanding dust from nora's production facilities. This results in a total recycled content of 29% for noraplan acoustic.
- ***norament 975 LL*** is a two-layered product that can be laid loose and is removable. This product uses post-production recycled content (sanding dust) from our nora production facilities and recycled minerals from our suppliers. The result is a recycled content of 8%.
- ***norament 992*** is a product whose second layer contains recycled content from our nora production facilities. We collect the sanding dust from our production processes, use leftover kneading residues and add chips from our production facilities. We also add recycled mineral fillers from our suppliers. This results in a recycled content of at least 11 % (depending on the availability of production residues at nora).
- The inclusion of recycled materials can also serve as a design element for floor coverings, as the example of ***norament 926 pado*** shows. Here, we use a range of coloured chips that are made using punching scraps from our production facilities.



Longevity

Product longevity is an important part of the circular economy discussion and contributes to global sustainable development. The ecological advantages are obvious: longer-lasting goods require later replacement and thus lower new purchase rates. As a result, less waste is produced and smaller amounts of raw materials and energy are used in the production of goods, resulting in less carbon emissions. nora floors have many advantages in this respect.

- Due to their extremely dense, closed surface, nora floor coverings are also not only extraordinarily robust and durable; they also do not require coating. This makes them particularly cost-effective to maintain over their entire life cycle.
- nora floor coverings also offer a long service life. norament flooring coverings have a life of at least 40 years, while noraplan and noracare floorings have a life of at least 30 years.



© Andreas Braun

Long-term references

The **library at Ruhr University Bochum** was built in 1973. The flooring that the architects chose for the atrium and staircase was the famous norament round pastille. This industrial flooring was deliberately selected for its indestructible nature and visual impact. This rubber flooring was a new product at the time, and its unusual design complemented the building concept perfectly. Today, 50 years later, the flooring still covers around 1,500 square metres of the library floor.



© Dirk Wilhelmy

United Monolithic Semiconductors GmbH in Ulm works 24/7 so the company cannot afford any production downtime. All the materials used in the production facilities had to be extremely durable, low-maintenance and long-lasting. When the factory was built in 1989, the responsible persons chose nora rubber floorings because they are extraordinarily wear-resistant and easy to clean. The nora plan ed flooring they selected also reliably retains its electrostatic conductivity for decades.

Rubber is the core of our DNA.



It makes our floorings so especially durable and resistant. Natural rubber is a core component in many of our products. Today and in the past, we already have been working closely together with our rubber supplier in South East Asia to make sure that the natural rubber is harvested without harming people or the forest. Now we go one step further.

We are the first rubber flooring manufacturer to be awarded with the PEFC (the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) certification.



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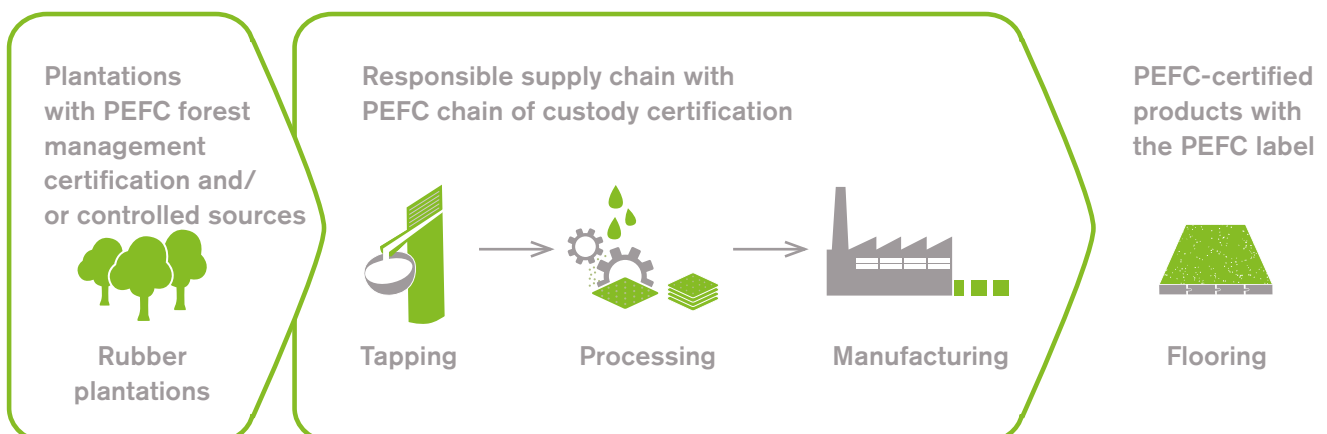
FIND OUR CERTIFICATION
 in the PEFC database
<https://pefc.org/find-certified>

Your benefits:

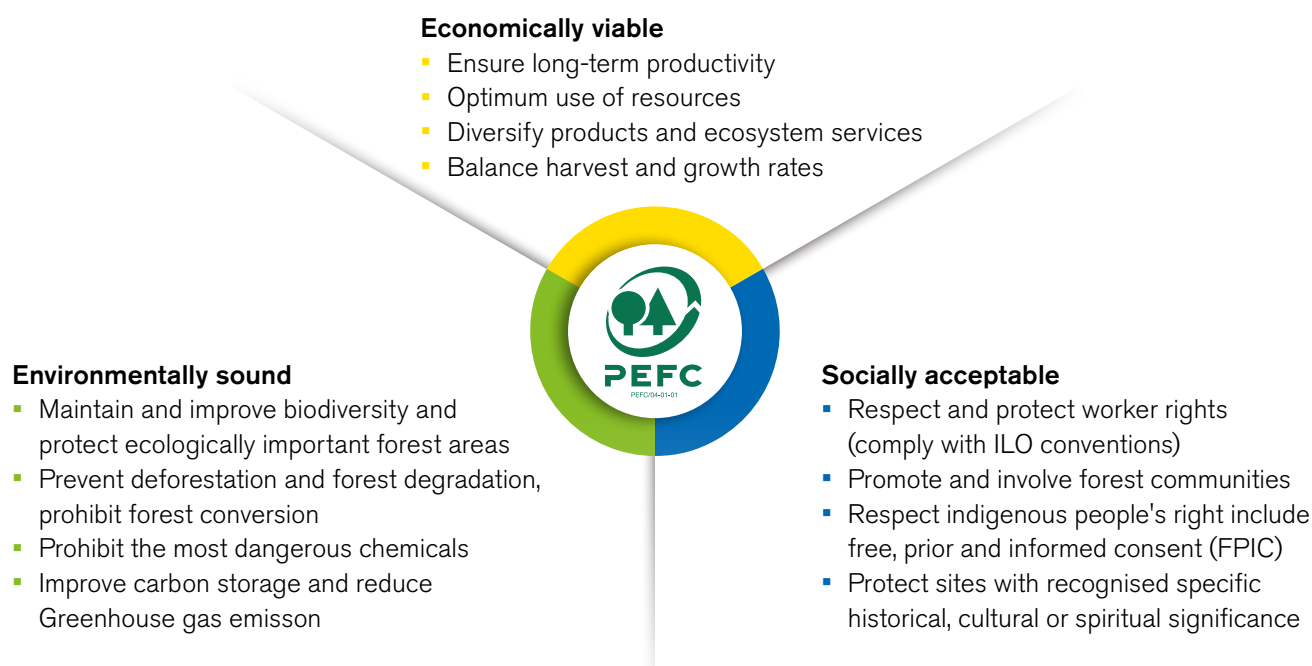
- Independently verified assurance that the natural rubber used in our products originates from sustainably managed forests
- Harvesting of natural rubber in an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable way
- PEFC standards matching your company-wide purchasing guidelines to ensure only sustainable products are sourced
- Use of purchasing power to support the sustainable management of the world's forests to fight climate change

What's in it for the planet/climate? Forests have a huge role to play in our fight to stop climate change. If sustainably managed, forests can help regulate the climate by locking in carbon, and their products provide environmentally friendly alternatives.

Making sure the entire supply chain is monitored



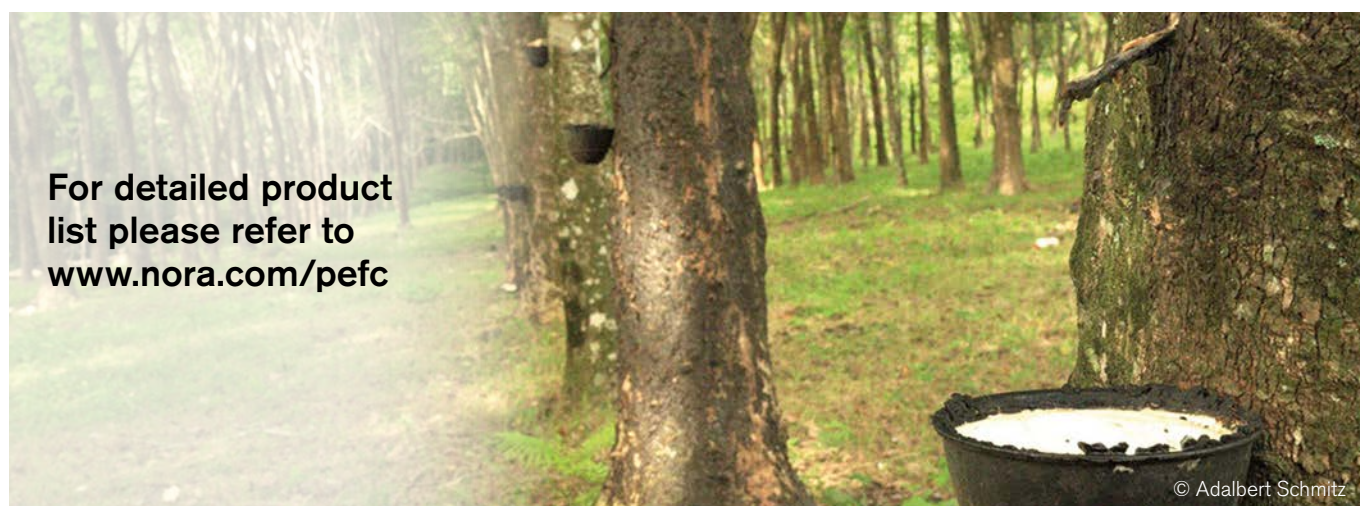
PEFC's Criteria in our standards



What is PEFC:

- Leading global forest certification system
- Over 300 million hectares of forests globally upholding PEFC's Sustainability Benchmarks
- Covering ecological, social and economical requirements
- More than 20,000 companies for wood-based products currently certified
- Chain of Custody Certification:
 - the entire supply chain – from the raw material till the final product – is certified
 - Annual checks through the certifier

For detailed product list please refer to www.nora.com/pefc



Cover picture: © Elmar Witt

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www.nora.com