



**CHEMIE<sup>3</sup>**

THE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE OF THE  
GERMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

**CHEMIE<sup>3</sup> –  
the Sustainability Initiative**

# WHO WE ARE

## WE ARE THE CHEMIE<sup>3</sup> SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

With the adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 and the German Federal Government's National Action Plan for the Economy and Human Rights (NAP) in 2016, sustainability continues to move up the political agenda.

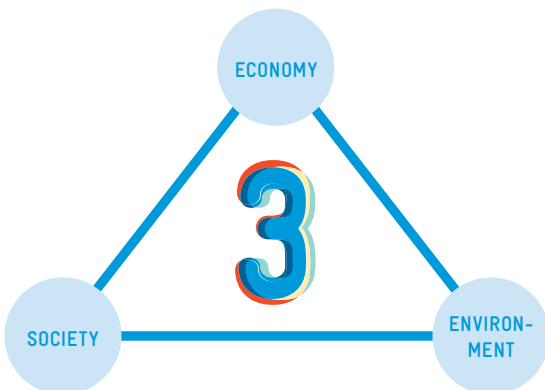
In 2013, the Chemical Industry Association VCI, the trade union IG BCE and the Employers' Federation for the Chemical Industry BAVC together founded the Chemie<sup>3</sup> sustainability initiative. We intend to anchor sustainability as a guiding principle in the sector.

## VIEWING BUSINESS, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY AS ONE WHOLE

Sustainability is the triad of

- » economic success based on innovation and competitive underlying conditions
- » protection for people and the environment through environmentally friendly products and processes, high safety standards and product stewardship, as well as
- » responsibility for community and society, based on the social market economy and social partnerships within the chemical industry.

We remain consistently committed to considering the economy, environment and society as one whole.



## SDGs AND GUIDELINES AS FRAMEWORK

### THE CHEMIE<sup>3</sup> GUIDELINES

At the core of Chemie<sup>3</sup> are the twelve Sustainability Guidelines for the Chemical Industry in Germany. These have been tailored to the sector's needs and offer orientation to companies and employees for the implementation of sustainability in daily operations.

- |   |  |    |  |
|---|--|----|--|
| 1 | Integrating sustainability into the corporate strategy | 7  | Managing demographic change and securing skills      |
| 2 | Achieving sustainable investments and value creation   | 8  | Protecting people, the environment and biodiversity  |
| 3 | Promoting economic stability and global cooperation    | 9  | Promoting resource efficiency and climate protection |
| 4 | Driving sustainability through innovation              | 10 | Engaging with communities as good citizens           |
| 5 | Implementing sustainability in operational processes   | 11 | Creating transparency and showing integrity          |
| 6 | Securing decent work and an active social partnership  | 12 | Fostering a dialogue and enhancing participation     |

Action framework for companies and employees. The detailed set of Guidelines are available at: [www.chemiehoch3.de](http://www.chemiehoch3.de).

### LINKED WITH SDGs AND NAP

Key requirements of the 2015 SDGs and the 2016 NAP are already incorporated in the Guidelines. For example, they include resource and climate protection, sustainable economic growth, social partnership, corporate environmental and social standards in global value chains, and measures against child and forced labour. Together, the SDGs and the Chemie<sup>3</sup> Guidelines provide a framework for sustainable business that is economically, environmentally, and socially responsible.



## WHAT WE DO FOR COMPANIES

We have developed practical tools and information guides to help companies and employees implement sustainability in business. These follow the Chemie<sup>3</sup> Guidelines and political frameworks such as SDGs, the NAP, and the German implementation of the EU Corporate Social Responsibility Directive. The resources are aimed primarily at small and medium-sized enterprises, as it is often more difficult for them to comprehensively address sustainability than it is for large companies.

### » **Sustainability in Business Practice webinar series**

Experts and practitioners explain examples of sustainable business in one-hour webinars.

### » **Sector events**

We explain the requirements of various aspects of sustainability and share practical experiences with companies during sector events.

### » **Guidelines**

Working with medium-sized companies, we have developed a Guideline on Sustainable Supply Chain Management. Another Guideline gives support for launching sustainability reporting.

### » **Chemie<sup>3</sup> Sustainability Check**

Companies wanting to approach sustainability in a systematic way can make use of our Sustainability Check. This allows businesses to review in which important fields of action they can improve.

All resources are available at [www.chemiehoch3.de](http://www.chemiehoch3.de). Some components are intended for members only.



## WE SEEK DIALOGUE

A sustainability initiative such as Chemie3 also relies on dialogue with its stakeholders. Without external inspiration and critical proposals, we cannot maintain and develop the initiative. At the same time, we want to provide comprehensible information about the sector's concerns to the outside world. We therefore seek continuous dialogue with representatives of government, business, science, and society, inviting them to participate in regular stakeholder events.



## WE CREATE TRANSPARENCY

A major concern for us and the Chemie3 stakeholders is ensuring the transparency and measurability of sustainability progress in the industry. We have therefore developed indicators in close cooperation with each other and with numerous experts. These indicators are based on the Chemie3 Guidelines and comprise economic, environmental, and social criteria. In 2018 we gathered data and published these indicators for the first time; the results are available in the Chemie3 Progress Report on the Chemie3 website, as well as in printed summary format.

## SPONSORS OF THE INITIATIVE

Chemie<sup>3</sup> is a joint sustainability initiative by the Chemical Industry Association (Verband der Chemischen Industrie, VCI), the Mining, Chemical and Energy Union (Industriegewerkschaft Bergbau, Chemie, Energie, IG BCE) and the Employers' Federation for the Chemical Industry (Bundesarbeitgeberverband Chemie, BAVC). The initiative promotes sustainable action in the chemical industry – from small businesses to large corporations. In particular it supports small and medium-sized enterprises with practical help and information. A short video about how Chemie<sup>3</sup> promotes sustainability is available at: <http://bit.ly/what-is-chemie3>.

## YOUR CONTACTS:

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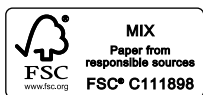
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