

GDF SUEZ

ENVIRONMENTAL
CHARTER

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Because the Environment is at the heart of its businesses, GDF SUEZ has chosen to include respect for the environment among its essential shared values, seeking to make a lasting contribution to the quality of life.

For the Group's employees, this means not merely offering customers the most efficient techniques and the best know-how, but also accepting our code of ethics and making a firm commitment to the environment and sustainable development.

The Environmental charter reminds us that respect for the environment is at the heart of our philosophy and our business strategy. I consider it essential that each of us draw inspiration from these principles in our everyday activity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Mestrallet', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Gérard MESTRALLET

CHAPTER 1

THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GDF SUEZ recognises its special commitment to the environment in its activities and takes full account of the objectives of sustainable development⁽¹⁾ from ecological, economic and social perspectives.

In each of its business areas, the Group applies current regulatory standards.

The Group undertakes the research necessary to meet these objectives. It uses the most appropriate and economically acceptable methods and techniques to reduce damage to the environment, to better protect the natural world and to promote sustainable development.

1. Sustainable development was defined in the Brundtland Report as "development that meets the needs of the present generation, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission), 1987.

COMMITMENT | **1.1** |

- ▶ Taking account of the environment and sustainable development
- ▶ Respect for environmental protection and public health laws
- ▶ Organisation and responsibilities
- ▶ Mobilising each employee

UNDERSTANDING | **2.1** |

- ▶ Environmental analysis
- ▶ Risk prevention
- ▶ Crisis management
- ▶ Willingness to listen

KNOW-HOW | **2.2** |

- ▶ Research and development
- ▶ Reducing adverse impacts and improving the environment
- ▶ Recycling and eco-efficiency

SHARING | **2.3** |

- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Partnership
- ▶ Awareness-raising, education and training
- ▶ Sponsorship

COMMITMENT | **1.1** |

GDF SUEZ' identity and values are rooted in respect for the environment and the human race, which shapes the environment and depends upon it. This respect is reflected in the high degree of professionalism and commitment shown daily by each Group employee.

The GDF SUEZ Board of Directors, its Ethics, Environment, and Sustainable Development Committee and the boards of directors and management committees of companies should monitor their activities to ensure they comply with this commitment. They set and communicate annual objectives to achieve this end.

► **Taking account of the environment and sustainable development**

At all levels of Group decision-making, general policy, projects, investments, actions and management should take account of the environment and the need for sustainable development.

Companies ensure that environmental requirements are addressed in the solutions they implement and when purchasing raw materials, products and services from suppliers and partners. These objectives are pursued with full regard for economic, political and social concerns.

Companies manage their worksites in such a way as to minimise any adverse environmental impact in the short and long term.

► **Respect for environmental protection and public health laws**

In all countries, companies respect environmental and public health legislation.

Companies strive to go beyond the statutory requirements, whenever technical and economic conditions enable them to do so, seeking to satisfy the needs of customers, the authorities or the community.

In countries that are currently drafting regulations, companies adopt or propose environmental protection measures consistent with international standards and based on the results of impact studies required by the authorities.

To protect public health in these countries, companies adopt guidelines based on their experience and know-how, taking account of the highest applicable standards.

When the owners of facilities and sites managed by companies are required to take action by law, companies do everything in their power to encourage them to take the necessary steps.

In drafting medium-term plans and future projects, companies endeavour to take account of the community's expectations.

► **Organisation and responsibilities**

GDF SUEZ and its main subsidiaries each appoint an Environmental Officer and put in place – at the appropriate levels – an organisational structure with the necessary resources to ensure good environmental management.

Companies concerned should draw up environmental action programmes consistent with GDF SUEZ' shared objectives. They should also define operating and inspection procedures, together with specific targets tied to performance indicators, in order to bring, step by step, the activities of these companies up to a level where environmental management systems can be certified.

► **Mobilising each employee**

In accordance with their individual roles, employees should receive training designed to increase their awareness of environmental requirements and the need to implement best practice in each area of activity. Companies should inform their employees of the consequences in both criminal and civil law of any failure to respect the regulations.

When employees act in a personal capacity to protect the environment, within the scope of their professional activity, their actions should be taken into account in performance reviews.

Through personal initiatives, each employee contributes to meeting the environmental action programme objectives, as well as detecting and preventing any anomalies that could compromise environmental protection, safety at work or users' health.

Accident prevention initiatives that could affect people and their environment are conducted on an ongoing basis.

CHAPTER 2

IMPLEMENTATION PRINCIPLES

UNDERSTANDING | **2.1** |

GDF SUEZ observes the environment to achieve a better understanding and to develop economic, high-performance processes serving to protect and improve it.

GDF SUEZ measures the environmental impact of its activities in order to manage them better and minimise risks, while striving to preserve resources and their natural balance.

► **Environmental analysis**

We identify and assess the emissions and environmental impact of our activities as required by law. We then define and implement appropriate corrective action and set targets for improvement.

We regularly evaluate the environmental performance of our activities and the relevance of measures taken to deal with emissions and pollution.

► Risk prevention

GDF SUEZ' health, safety and environmental initiatives are based on the principle of prevention.

We regularly evaluate risks and carry out inspections to prevent our activities causing accidents or incidents that might affect the quality of production, customer service or the environment.

When a clear risk of environmental damage is identified, the most appropriate measures – based on current data and the resources available – are taken immediately in order to minimise or eliminate the consequences.

▶ **Crisis management**

Companies should evaluate the crises most likely to affect them and draw up corresponding action plans in order to minimise the impact of malfunctions on human health and safety, the environment, the operation of installations and the quality of products and services.

Once in place, crisis management action plans should be regularly updated and tested through exercises.

▶ **Willingness to listen**

Companies listen to the needs of customers, neighbours, employees and the local community with respect to environmental protection.

They also engage in constructive dialogue with the regulatory authorities, and with environmental organisations and institutions.

KNOW-HOW | **2.2** |

GDF SUEZ businesses offer solutions tailored to each specific context, in order to promote environmental protection and sustainable development.

Companies conduct research programmes and encourage innovation to promote continuous improvement and develop new processes to meet the needs of the customers or society and to keep pace with changing legislation.

The Group is developing know-how to improve quality and safety, in the recovery and recycling of materials, and in limiting the use of natural resources and reducing pollution.

► **Research and development**

The Group conducts research, innovation and development programmes in order to better understand environmental phenomena, reduce the level of risk and environmental impact, and thus protect the environment.

► **Reducing adverse impacts and improving the environment**

The Group strives to limit any harm to people and the environment that might result from its activities.

It seeks continuously to improve the environment for the benefit of its customers, its employees and the community as a whole, while taking account of the necessary balance between ecological, economic and social requirements.

The Group also ensures that facilities and related maintenance operations fit in with their environment.

► **Recycling and eco-efficiency** ⁽²⁾

The Group develops, offers and applies methods which aim to promote recycling and the recovery of waste created through its own activities or those of its customers, while taking account of the technical and economic feasibility of such operations.

The Group researches, designs, develops and implements techniques and processes with high standards of environmental performance, and asks its partners and suppliers to do the same.

The Group promotes the production and use of renewable sources of energy.

It strives to optimise its consumption of energy, water and raw materials in all its activities, and encourages its customers to do the same.

2. Increasing the value of a product or service while reducing its environmental impact.

SHARING | **2.3** |

GDF SUEZ and its subsidiaries endeavour to make the objectives and results of their environmental initiatives known to their employees, customers, shareholders, partners, environmental protection authorities and the international community as a whole.

GDF SUEZ and its subsidiaries are working to maintain an open dialogue with the general public, developing advisory and publishing services, and conducting training and awareness-raising activities. Operating with a full regard for transparency and keen to listen, we see others as our partners in these ventures.

► **Communication**

By conducting an active communications policy, both inside and outside its companies, the Group aims to ensure a clear understanding of its environmental policy, research and initiatives as well as its results in terms of continuous improvement and innovation.

GDF SUEZ' employees are informed of its environmental action programmes so they can make a personal contribution to the environmental objectives set at their company level.

In each of the areas concerned, regular reports on the management of environmental issues are published at the appropriate level, describing progress made in health, safety and environmental matters and outlining objectives for improvement.

► **Partnership**

The Group seeks to foster relations based on co-operation and mutual respect with its partners. Dialogue plays an essential role in preventing conflict.

The Group carries out research and implements actions with external organisations with a view to promoting environmental protection and sustainable development. It also takes part in studies seeking to establish the appropriate level of environmental requirements.

► **Awareness raising, education and training**

In its relations with its customers and the community as a whole, the Group seeks to promote the rational use of energy, water and raw materials.

Working in partnership with the relevant organisations, the Group takes part in environmental awareness and educational programmes, to help everyday practices contribute to sustainable development.

► **Sponsorship**

GDF SUEZ and its subsidiaries pursue a sponsorship policy that encourages actions in favour of the environment and communities suffering from environmental damage.

The Environmental Charter was published by the Environment Department in collaboration with the Communications Department.

As translations of this document can be subject to interpretation, only the French and English versions are deemed authentic.

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