

Essem
Design

Sustainability Report

2022



Introduction

One of the greatest challenges of our age is taking care of our planet. At Essem Design we believe that the best way of caring for our environment is to create products that are designed and made to last. We believe in sustainability throughout the whole process, from design to delivery and warranty.

Design

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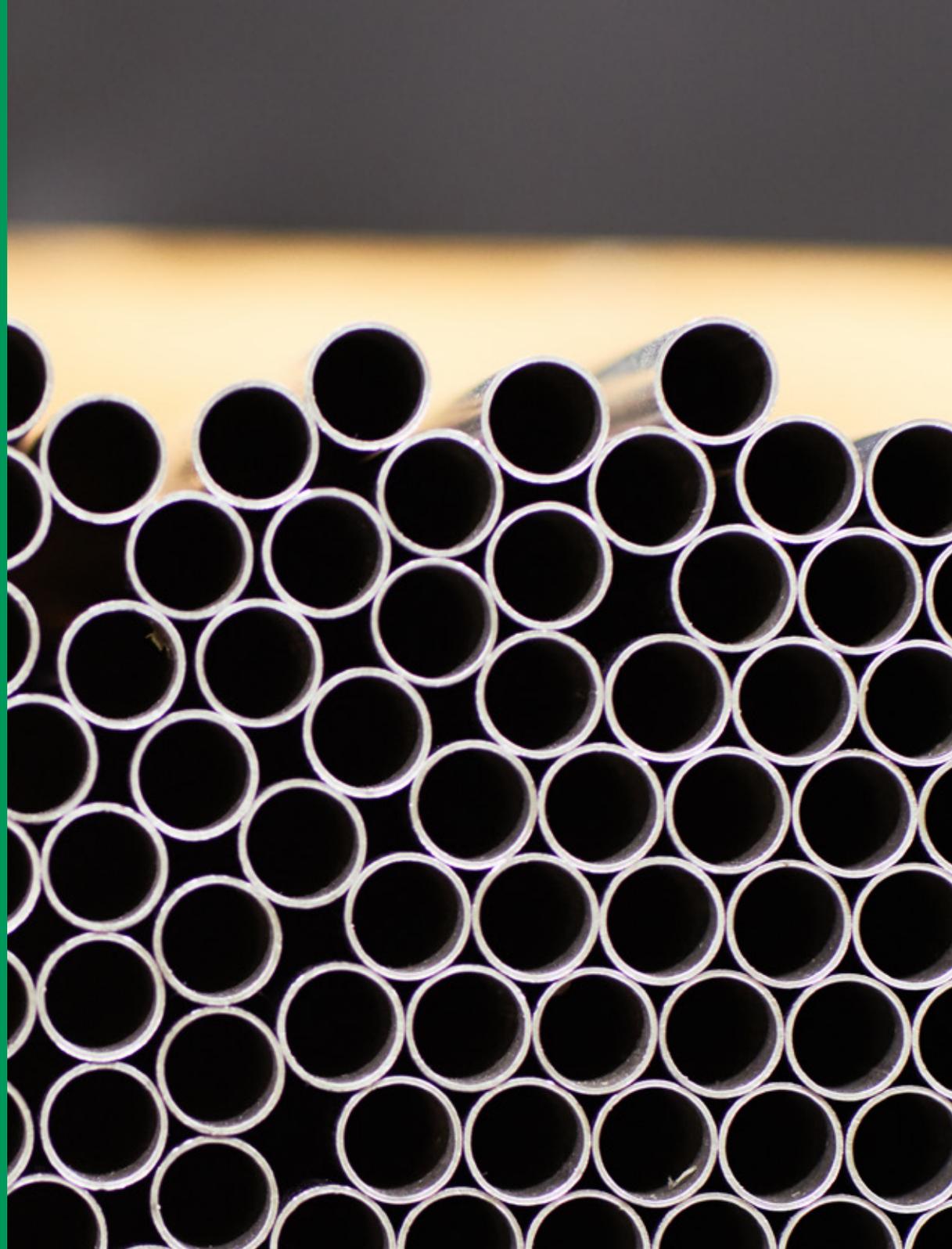


1. Design

Sustainability starts with design. Design defines the conditions of the functionality of the product, the choice of materials, production, packaging and transport. Our ambition is that all our products will be functional classics that lives on for generations. We aim to create products that we recognize from our own childhood and that our grandchildren will be proud of – just like the hat rack Nostalgi that was designed almost a century ago. Back then sustainability wasn't talked about, it was something you took for granted.

When developing new products, the choice of material is key. We always prioritise functional materials with as little impact as possible on the environment.

Material





2. Material

Our very first product, Nostalg, was designed back in the 1930s and has since start always been made of recycled aluminium. For us, aluminium is the obvious choice of material since it's possible to be reused eternally – without any loss of quality. Our ambition is to increase the numbers of recycled materials in our products.

In case of any leftover materials from the production, we try to use it for new products. Both our hook strip Gustav and our wall storage Ulrika are partly made using offcuts from other products.

For the material we don't produce ourselves we make sure to use local or Swedish suppliers. 72% is bought from Swedish suppliers and 55% of the total amount of material bought comes from a radius of 100 km. As part of our strategic sourcing we control the production of our suppliers in order to obtain the best quality possible and to minimize transports.

We have been members of the FTI, a nationwide recycling system for packaging, since it was founded. In that way we have been taking responsibility for the recycling of packaging way before it was a demand in Sweden. Additionally, we have also been responsible for the recycling of our packaging in Germany since 2020. The packaging are made from 70% recycled corrugated cardboard as well as designed in order to be easy to sort and recycle.

100%

of the aluminium is recyclable. It loses no quality during recycling and can be recycled endlessly.

5%

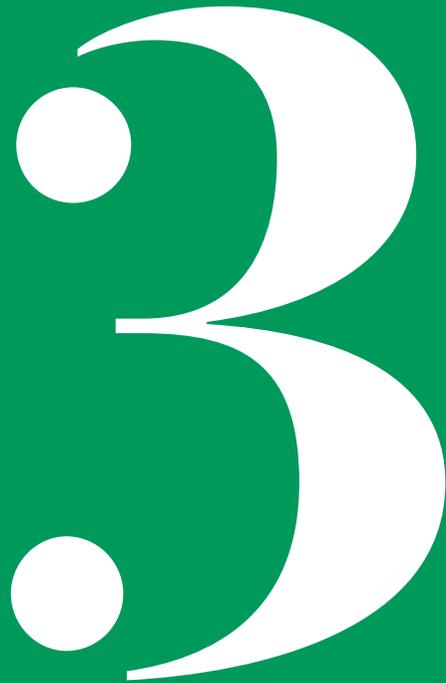
of the energy needed to make raw aluminium is required when recycling aluminium.

75%

of all aluminium produced is still in use today.

Source: The Aluminium Association

The Life Cycle of a Product





3. The Life Cycle of a Product

The life cycle of a product is of high importance. This means that it needs to be easy to replace parts of the product and to offer high quality products that last for generations. We offer a 10-year warranty but our ambition is that the products should last for another 20, 30, 100 years. We also provide spare parts on our e-commerce and our customer support answers all questions about restoring old products. We are members of Byggvarubedomning that works for a toxic free and sustainable production.

Transportation





4. Transportation

To minimize transports we make sure to work with each product's packaging efficiency and space. New products are designed to be able to be transported in flat packs. The ambition is to transport as little air as possible. The packaging should also be easy to recycle.

We keep track of and have few returns from customers. We work continuously to minimize the number of returns by giving the customers as much and relevant information as possible on our website. We want to meet, and hopefully exceed, the customers expectations to give them as good experience as possible before and after a purchase.

We work with well established logistics companies using a modern transportation fleet that follows Swedish laws and regulations as well as guarantee good working conditions for their employees.

We also minimize our transports by collecting drop-offs and deliver those to pickup points.

Energy and Production





5. Energy och production

A third of the energy we use is produced by our solar panels. The remaining comes from green energy. Our premises in Anderstorp are heated using geothermal heating and all lighting consists of energy efficient LED lighting. An increase in turnover demands bigger spaces for production. During 2021 a new storage space is being developed to store components that doesn't require heating. In this way we increase the storage space without increasing the energy consumption. We have kept our energy consumption on a steady level during the last two years despite having increased our turnover with 40%.

Furthermore, we drive hybrid cars that are charged using green energy. The environmental and quality requirements set in ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 are fulfilled.

Social Sustainability





6. Social Sustainability

We work for equality and inclusiveness. Additionally, we value inspiring working environments for our employees. In 2018, we moved to new premises and our ambition is to make the employees feel included in the making of their workplace. We have changed our supplier of work clothes. The new supplier focus on social as well as environmental responsibility.

Several of our employees has roots in athletic clubs. We want to encourage our employees to have an active lifestyle, for example with our generous wellness plan. During the month of September we cycled and walked together and for every kilometer we biked and walked we donate money to charity – last year to the foundation Suicide Zero.

By using Swedish and local suppliers we also make sure that the employees of our suppliers have good working conditions. Our strategy is to build long lasting relationships with our suppliers using mutual respect, collaboration and striving to improve both the sustainability and the quality of the products.

Of our eighteen employees:

are



and



