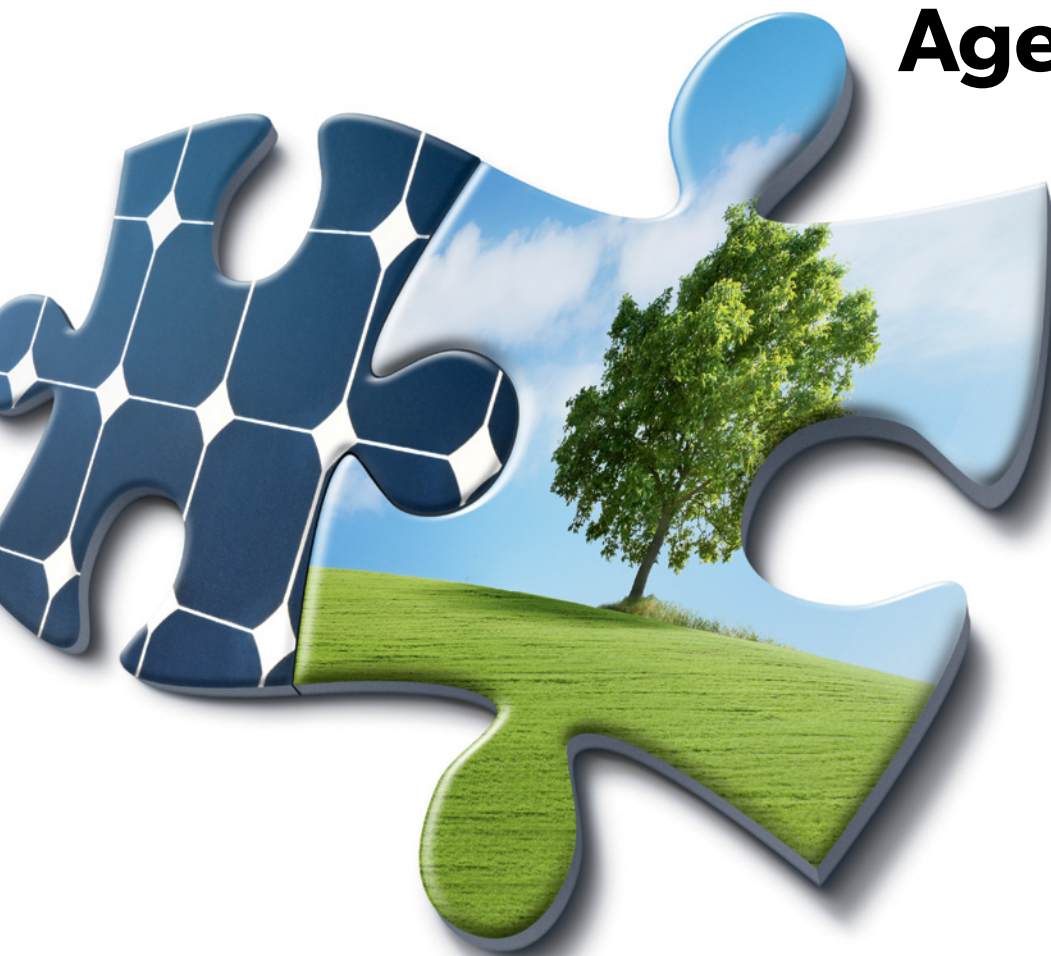




The FEICA
**Sustainable
Development
Agenda**



FEICA's vision for sustainable development is defined as follows:

"The adhesive and sealant industry is committed to enabling a growing population to live a better life and to use the planet's resources responsibly and efficiently."

With the global population expected to reach 9.2 billion by 2050, FEICA recognises that a viable and sustainable future will depend on the adhesive and sealant industry's ability to meet growing demand by more efficient use and reuse of resources.

FEICA is committed to delivering on the FEICA vision by encouraging its members to integrate sustainable development into both their strategy development and operations.

FEICA, the Association of the European Adhesive & Sealant Industry, is a multinational association representing the European adhesive and sealant industry.



With the support of its national associations and several direct and affiliated members, FEICA coordinates, represents and advocates the common interests of our industry throughout Europe. In this regard, FEICA aims to establish a constructive dialogue with legislators in order to act as a reliable partner to resolve issues affecting the European adhesive and sealant industry.

This document is intended to broaden and improve understanding of sustainability in the industry, promote best practice, and encourage industry to increasingly engage in the development of adhesives and sealants solutions that enable customers and industries to operate more sustainably.

Note: Where “Members” are mentioned in the report, we refer to both FEICA direct members and members of the National Associations

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Examples of how adhesives and sealants help improve sustainability

Adhesives and sealants typically constitute only a small percentage of the final product they are incorporated into. In the majority of applications, adhesives and sealants can play a significant role in enabling the sustainability benefits of the product, particularly in terms of the substrates they are required to bond, the efficiency of the manufacturing process they are used on, the end use of the bonded article, its durability, and the opportunity to recycle the materials used at the end of its useful life.

 The industry has a focus on creating products that foster sustainability

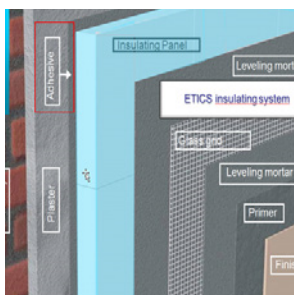


Adhesives that can replace or reduce the need for other fastening or strengthening systems. This can save energy during the manufacturing process; consume less metal and plastic; and lead for example to **lighter vehicles**, which use less fuel and produce less carbon dioxide.

The use of **insulating glass windows and facades** helps minimise energy losses. Modern sealants play an essential role in this process by sealing gaps between the glass units and walls, or walls and roof. In addition, these sealants are UV and weather-resistant, require less maintenance and are virtually invisible.



Buildings consume more than 40% of the energy generated in Europe



The multi-component external thermal insulation composite system (**ETICS**) requires a durable bond of the insulation panel to the plaster: adhesives are best suited to this task because they bear the stresses caused by the thermal deformation of the panel better than mechanical anchors. The improved durability resulting from the adhesives means less raw materials and energy are consumed for maintenance, less restoration is required and less waste is generated.

Filtration is an increasingly important process in the modern world. Innovative adhesives and sealants are making new types of filters possible and helping improve their ability to remove pollutants in industrial plants, filter oil and fuel in engines, and meet the growing demand for clean air and water around the world. For example, specialised hot melt adhesives moulded to form adhesive caps that stick to the filter medium can be used to replace the metal/plastic caps found in automotive Eco-filters. This development leads to a drastic reduction of weight, improving fuel efficiency, a considerable rationalisation of the filter production process, and to significant advantages in the recycling process.



Modern efficient **wind turbines** are made possible because innovative adhesives allow the manufacture, maintenance and repair of long blades, which improve the efficiency of this important renewable energy source.

Food spoilage is a major contributor to food waste. **Flexible plastic packaging** is one of the most resource-efficient solutions to combat food waste. It not only protects the food, but also keeps it fresher for longer and, being lighter, requires less energy for transportation. For example, Parmigiano cheese uses a sophisticated high-barrier film with seven layers of different plastics glued together with adhesives to help protect it against oxygen, and to keep moisture, aroma, taste and texture perfect.



It is intended that further examples of good practice in the use of adhesives and sealants will be made available by FEICA to highlight the industry's contribution to enhanced sustainability; FEICA will work closely with members and National Associations to obtain and share these examples.

Operating our own adhesives and sealants businesses more sustainably

FEICA and the National Associations promote excellence in how our members run their business processes to improve sustainable operations; for example, by reducing energy and water consumption, and reducing emissions to the air, water and soil.

FEICA and the National Associations are also aware of the EU initiative on "Green Public Procurement" and support the roll-out of the FEICA Model Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) system for Adhesives.

In addition, there is a proud history of innovation in Europe and many of our members are working on novel solutions to improve process sustainability and life cycle performance.

FEICA Future Sustainability Development Action Plan

The FEICA Sustainability Mandate agreed with the Executive Board is:

"FEICA will share good practices and promote leading SD principles for our members and the National Associations"

The FEICA Sustainable Development Committee has been established with representatives from members and National Associations. The Committee will monitor SD developments in Europe as well as globally to enable promotion of good practices for our adhesive and sealant members. An example of this will be to ensure members understand and, where possible, support the **Circular Economy** developments over the coming years.

- Promote a harmonised regulatory approach across the EU, in order to help minimise the burden of compliance
- Raise awareness of the adhesive and sealants industry's contribution to sustainable development through publications, events and case studies, etc.
- Provide guidance and assistance to members on how they can implement the principles of sustainable development.

FEICA will formally review the progress on sustainable development annually as one of the key strategic drivers for the Association.



Contact

This document was developed by FEICA's Sustainable Development Committee.

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