



Environmental policy



SE-351 89 Växjö, Sweden
Tel. Int.: +46 470 89000
Fax Int.: +46 470 89470
E-mail: info@sodra.com
Internet: www.sodra.com



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Södra's environmental efforts are characterised by the ecocyclical principle. This is that 'it should be possible to use, re-use, recycle or finally take care of what is extracted from nature on a sustainable basis with the least possible consumption of resources and without causing damage to nature'.

Forestry practices and the forest industry constitute a sustainable system within the natural cycle. The raw material is renewable and the products can be recycled. The sustained growing power of the forest constitutes the power house of the system. The products, which are based on the natural wood fibre, meet important human requirements and comply with strict demands on economy concerning raw materials, etc.

Over the years, Södra has made substantial investments in the environment which have resulted in a significant reduction in environmental impact. One of our most important tasks is gradually to lessen the effects of the remaining environmental shortcomings. In the future – as in the past – our efforts will be dictated by weighing together what is technically possible, economically reasonable and ecologically justified.

Consideration for the environment must permeate all our activities and characterise our day to day activities throughout Södra. The impact caused by our operation should be viewed in its entirety and embrace all stages – right through from the management of natural resources to purchasing, production, transportation, waste handling, etc. Environmental work should be regarded as a process of continuous improvement.

Our aims for our ongoing environmental work within the group are:

- All members of staff are to have requisite competence and awareness of the environmental area. Development of this awareness will be promoted throughout the operations.
- We shall strive to ensure that forestry practices are carried out using ecologically sustainable methods. Natural biodiversity must be preserved, the natural functions of the forest are to be maintained, and culture and outdoor life should always be taken into consideration.
- Discharges and disturbances from mills and plants and vehicles are to be limited as much as possible within what is reasonable with regard to technology and profitability. Current legislation is to be regarded as a minimum requirement.
- Raw materials and energy must be utilised as efficiently as possible. This applies particularly to the exploitation of non-renewable raw materials and energy sources.
- Environmental aspects are to be taken into account when selecting suppliers and contractors. Environmentally-friendly alternatives will take precedence, provided they correspond to the necessary requirements with regard to quality and profitability.
- The destruction and disposal of waste shall be effected only when re-use is inappropriate and in such a way as to minimise the impact on the environment.
- Environmental aspects are to be taken into account with regard to the development of new technology and new products, as well as large investments and acquisitions of plants. When selecting environmental protection technology, technology which counters the formation of environmentally harmful substances will take precedence over technology which removes substances that have already been produced.

- We shall actively support and participate in external environmental projects that are relevant to the Group. The results of new discoveries from research and development shall be taken into account concerning our own environmental work.
- We will disseminate our attitudes on the environmental issues in an objective way and strive to keep and open dialogue with those interested in the company.
- In order to realise this policy, we will maintain and develop our environmental management systems and regularly set up targets for our environmental work.
- Every company/division manager is responsible for ensuring that the intentions of this policy are fulfilled.

The policy was adopted by Södra's Board of Directors in March 1995. In September 2000, the Board adopted a revised policy.

