

# Introduction to ResponsibleSteel



ResponsibleSteel is the first global multi-stakeholder initiative for responsibly sourced and produced steel. Our vision is to maximise steel's contribution to a sustainable world.

Since our establishment in 2016, our mission has been to enhance the responsible sourcing, production, use, and recycling of steel by:

- Providing a multi-stakeholder forum to build trust and achieve consensus
- Developing standards, certification and related tools
- Driving positive change through the recognition and use of responsible steel

The steel sector is the largest materials industry in the global economy, with a turnover of \$1 trillion USD. It is 10 times larger than the aluminium industry and 7.5 times the size of the copper industry.

**Steel has shaped the world around us and will continue to shape our future, but there is an opportunity to do things differently; to control the impact we make by taking the right measures to source, produce and utilise steel responsibly.**

The steel supply chain is complex, encompassing activities ranging from mining raw materials through to steel production and beyond. More than 90% of metal produced annually is steel. In addition, 85% of all manganese and vanadium, 75% of chromium, 60% of nickel and zinc, and 20% of all tin and tungsten are used for steel coatings and alloys.

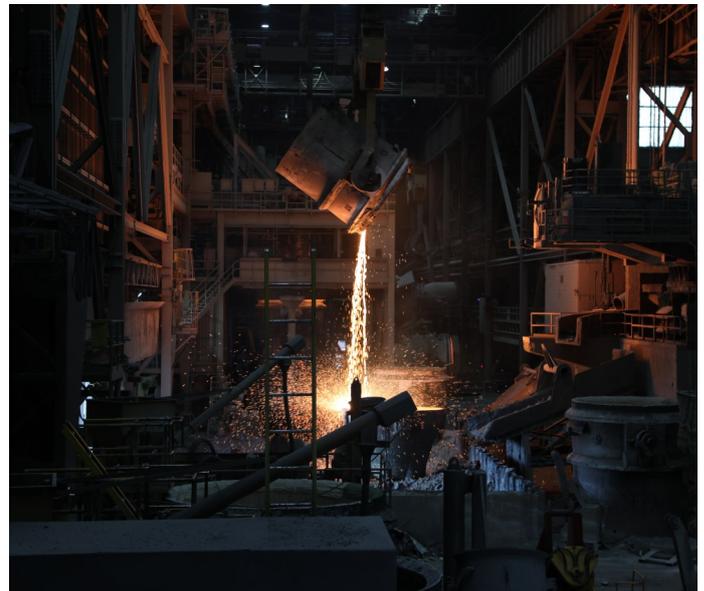
Steel is a critical element in energy generation and distribution and is essential for the construction of buildings and infrastructure. It is also the most recycled material on earth and a crucial component in the global transition to renewable energy. However, steelmaking currently comes with environmental and social impacts and despite the world's need for steel, there are no global, multi-stakeholder programmes to ensure that steel is responsibly sourced and produced.

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**Climate change is the most urgent issue we face today. The steel sector alone accounts for between 7% and 9% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

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Consumers increasingly expect companies they buy from to choose sustainably sourced raw materials for manufacturing. Therefore, in every sector now there is a growing need to purchase responsibly – a demand that is currently difficult for the steel industry to meet.



Although technology is available to decarbonise the production of steel, there are currently insufficient incentives for steel producers to implement change or the capacity to produce sufficient volumes to meet ever increasing demand. That's why we have also partnered with the Climate Group on SteelZero to demonstrate consumer appetite for responsibly produced steel.

As an independent global scheme, ResponsibleSteel's contribution will be to support the steel sector in making the necessary changes for success.

**Our mission is to achieve net zero carbon emissions for the steel sector by 2050, and to enhance the responsible sourcing and production of steel.**

ResponsibleSteel's credible Standard and robust auditing is helping to transform the steel industry by rewarding best practices at every stage of the supply chain. This recognition will not only benefit the producers and manufacturers already working to high standards but will also put pressure on others to raise their game.



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We currently have over 130 members including steelmakers, mining companies, standards and assurance bodies, civil society organisations, and buyers of steel from the automotive and construction industries. Our steelmakers collectively comprise over 12% of global steel production.

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**We know that sustainability is complex and challenging, requiring innovation, dynamism, vision, and technical know-how. That is why we have spent almost a decade developing the ResponsibleSteel International Standard V2.0.**

The first steelmaking sites to be evaluated against the Standard were certified in July 2021. We now have ResponsibleSteel certified sites across Europe, North America, South America, and Australia.

The recently updated Standard also includes additional requirements for GHG emissions and the sourcing of input materials. To this end, ResponsibleSteel will recognise materials that come from mine sites participating in existing credible initiatives to build a responsible mining sector. We plan to take a similar approach to scrap as an input material for steelmaking.

By working hand in hand with some of the most influential organisations in this industry and beyond, we will continue to drive positive change through the recognition of ResponsibleSteel, now and in the future.



Our International Standard V2.0 was launched in September 2022 and addresses key issues identified by stakeholders as being fundamental to the sector:

- Corporate Leadership
- ESG Management Systems
- Responsible Sourcing of Input Materials
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Labour Rights
- Human Rights
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Local Communities
- Climate Change and GHG Emissions
- Noise, Emissions, Effluents & Waste
- Water Stewardship
- Biodiversity
- Decommissioning and Closure



We have built a consensus on what sustainability looks like for steel. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the world.

Welcome to ResponsibleSteel.

To learn more, please visit: <https://www.responsiblesteel.org/>