ResponsibleSteel is the first multistakeholder standard and certification initiative for the steel industry. Our mission is to be a driving force in the socially and environmentally responsible production of net-zero steel, globally.

More than 90% of metal produced annually is steel. It is the largest materials industry in the global economy, with a turnover of $1 trillion USD.

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.

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. Climate change is the most urgent issue we face today. And the steel sector alone accounts for between 7% and 9% of global CO₂ emissions.

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.

ResponsibleSteel aims to maximise steel’s contribution to a sustainable world 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.

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.

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

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 around 14% of global steel production.

ResponsibleSteel’s International Standard and robust auditing is helping to transform the steel industry by rewarding best practices at every stage of the supply chain.
Sustainability in steelmaking is complex and challenging, requiring innovation, commitment, and investment across the industry. That’s why we developed the ResponsibleSteel International Standard Version 2.0.

The first steelmaking sites to be evaluated against our International Standard were certified in July 2021. We now have over 50 certified sites across Europe, Asia, North America, South America, and Australia covering over 100 million tonnes of steel.

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.

Launched in September 2022, the ResponsibleSteel International Standard Version 2.0 consists of 13 Principles containing over 500 criteria for the responsible sourcing and production of steel.

Building on the core ESG requirements of the original International Standard published in 2019, and following extensive consultation with ResponsibleSteel members and stakeholders, Version 2.0 includes some of the most challenging areas of sustainability for steelmakers, namely the responsible sourcing of input materials and greenhouse gas emissions (see illustration below).

We have built a consensus on what sustainability looks like for steel. 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 addresses key issues identified by stakeholders as being fundamental to the sector:

1. Corporate Leadership
2. ESG Management Systems
3. Responsible Sourcing of Input Materials
4. Occupational Health and Safety
5. Labour Rights
6. Human Rights
7. Stakeholder Engagement
8. Local Communities
9. Climate Change and GHG Emissions
10. Noise, Emissions, Effluents & Waste
11. Water Stewardship
12. Biodiversity
13. Decommissioning and Closure

Together, we can make a lasting impact on the world. Welcome to ResponsibleSteel.

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