

Indicators

G4-EN1

MATERIALS USED BY WEIGHT OR VOLUME

- a. Report the total weight or volume of materials that are used to produce and package the organization’s primary products and services during the reporting period, by:
- Non-renewable materials used
 - Renewable materials used

GUIDANCE

Relevance

This Indicator describes the organization’s contribution to the conservation of the global resource base and its efforts to reduce the material intensity and increase the efficiency of the economy. These are expressed goals of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Council and various national sustainability strategies. For internal managers and others interested in the financial state of the organization, material consumption relates directly to overall costs of operation. Tracking this consumption internally, either by product or product category, facilitates the monitoring of material efficiency and cost of material flows.

Compilation

Identify the organization’s primary products and services.

Identify total materials used. This includes, as a minimum:

- Raw materials (that is, natural resources used for conversion to products or services such as ores, minerals, wood)
- Associated process materials (that is, materials that are needed for the manufacturing process but are not part of the final product, such as lubricants for manufacturing machinery)
- Semi-manufactured goods or parts, including all forms of materials and components other than raw materials that are part of the final product

- Materials for packaging purposes, which include paper, cardboard and plastics

For each material type, identify whether it was purchased from external suppliers or sourced internally (such as by captive production and extraction activities).

For each material type identify whether it was derived from non-renewable or renewable sources.

State whether this data is estimated or sourced from direct measurements. If estimation is required, state the methods used. Usage data is not to be further manipulated and is to be presented ‘as is’ rather than by ‘dry substance/weight’.

Definitions

See Glossary in *Implementation Manual*, p. 244

- Non-renewable materials
- Renewable materials

Documentation sources

Potential sources of information include the organization’s billing and accounting systems, and the procurement or supply management department.