

MAKING AMAZING
HAPPEN FOR A
BETTER WORLD

BETTER WORLD PRODUCT GUIDELINES 2024



THESE GUIDELINES

In this pack we set out the Better World products framework in detail, including our full list of product claims, evidence and assessment criteria.

We share why we've developed Better World products and the value it delivers for our customers and suppliers, as well as how we developed and verified the model in partnership with sustainability consultants, Anthesis, to meet exacting product sustainability standards.

By transparently outlining our process, we hope to give all of our customers and wider stakeholders confidence that Better World products are better for their people, business and the planet.



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND VIEWPOINTS 3

Introduction from our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) 4

Better World product Q&A with Chief of Product and Supply Chain and Vice President of Social Responsibility and Sustainability 5-6

Meeting our customer's needs for more sustainable products 7-8

Collaborating with external experts to develop and verify our framework 9-10

BETTER WORLD PRODUCT METHODOLOGY 11

Overview of the claims-based framework 12

Inclusion and evidence criteria 13

Sustainability claims and criteria explained 14-16

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR OPERATIONS AND VALUE CHAIN 17

Packaging 18

Product deliveries 19

Distribution centres 20

Suppliers 21

Sustainability solutions 22

BETTER WORLD PRODUCTS

What are Better World products?

Whether our customers are looking for products that are made from more sustainable materials, or solutions to help save energy, reduce waste and water in their facilities, or products designed to stay in use for longer – our Better World product range can help meet their needs.

The range is diverse and extensive and covers all our key product categories and technologies including: electrical equipment such as lighting, PPE and workwear, renewable energy equipment, water and heat pumps, hygiene products including cloths and washroom equipment, automation and control and mechanical equipment such as inverter drives, contactors and MCBs.

The breadth and depth of our product offering will grow over time, as we continue to advocate with our suppliers to prioritise sustainability in their product development.

Each product in the range carries a Better World badge to make it easy for our customers to find more sustainable product alternatives.

The Better World badge identifies products that have:

- Been made more sustainably, provide a sustainable solution or support circularity
- At least one sustainability improvement, which is material to the product's life-cycle
- Clear sustainability claims, supported by robust evidence, aligned to global best practice standards. Evidence can include
 - » Product Environment Profiles (PEP),
 - » Lifecycle Assessments (LCA) and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs),
 - » or other relevant evidence to support the claim, or one of 40+ leading global sustainability certifications and energy labels that we have identified.

Our Motivation

We are committed to creating a world that's cleaner, greener and healthier and we know our customers are too.

Our research shows that our customers want to purchase more sustainable products to lower their environmental impacts and support their company's sustainability goals like saving energy and reducing their carbon footprint - but they find it hard.

There isn't enough choice in the market and claims aren't always clear or supported by evidence.

Our Better World product range makes it easier for all of our customers to find and purchase greener products they can trust.





Our industry leading Better World product framework is enabling customers to find trusted and verified sustainable products and support suppliers to accelerate their sustainable product development. We are proud to be the go-to market partner for our suppliers and the sustainability shop window to help our customers advance sustainability across our industry.”



Simon Pryce
CEO, RS Group

INTRODUCTION FROM OUR CEO

Better World products is an industry-leading sustainable product framework creating value for our customers and suppliers and advancing sustainability across the global industrial value chain.

RS Group is a leading product and service solutions provider sitting at the heart of the global industrial sector with 2,500+ product suppliers, 750,000 stocked and 3 million unstocked products and 1 million+ customers globally.

Committed to advancing sustainability

We are passionate about our purpose making amazing happen for a better world. This provides the foundation of our commitment to Advance Sustainability across the global industrial value chain – a key goal in our 2030 ESG Action Plan

Providing leadership in sustainability is core to RS, the right thing to do for our stakeholders and good business.

As the central link in the industry, we are ideally positioned to help our customers and suppliers pivot towards more sustainable product and service solutions that support the transition to a low carbon world. We are committed to offering our customers 100,000 sustainable product solutions.

Better World products – our flagship sustainable product framework for customers

Our customers increasingly tell us they need help to identify and purchase products that are better for the environment, improve their business operations and help them achieve their sustainability and net zero goals.

Recognising this critical need, we have partnered with sustainability consultants, Anthesis, to create Better World products - a clear, credible and verified sustainable product framework for our industry.

We've collaborated with our product suppliers - who are driving cutting-edge sustainability innovations and improvements in their product design and manufacture – to identify products which meet the strict criteria of the Better World framework. The result is an initial range of c.30,000 products with genuine and verified sustainability improvements for our customers.

Collaborating with suppliers to grow the range

We are continuing to advocate with our product suppliers to develop and certify more sustainable products to make it easier for our customers to make greener product choices they can trust. The Better World product framework provides a clear, consistent and robust criteria to accelerate their sustainable product improvements. We are proud to be the go-to market partner for our suppliers and the global sustainability shop window to highlight these advancements to our customers.

This is just the beginning and we look forward to collaborating with our suppliers and customers to grow the Better World product range and advance sustainability across our industry.

BETTER WORLD PRODUCTS Q&A

With Christian Horn, Chief of Product and Supply Chain and Andrea Barrett, VP of Social Responsibility and Sustainability.

Q: Why has RS Group created the Better World products range?

Christian: Our research shows that customers want to buy more sustainable products to reduce their impact on the environment and meet their sustainability goals, but they find it hard. They want more choice and clearer claims, supported by evidence they can trust.

Likewise, suppliers tell us they want a clear and standardised framework to focus their efforts and communicate their claims with confidence. Essentially, both want a partner like RS who is making it easy and clear to achieve their sustainable product objectives, while adding additional brand and commercial value to their partnership. That's exactly what we're focused on at RS. With no clear industry framework to date, we're ideally positioned to define and lead the agenda, given our commitment to advancing sustainability and our central position in the value chain.

Q: How did you develop the framework?

Andrea: It's important that we created a robust framework, aligned to the latest best-practice guidelines, with clear claims supported by strong evidence and transparently communicated. This enables our customers to make informed decisions with confidence, knowing our product claims are authentic.

We developed the framework in line with the ISO 14021 standard for sustainable products and the developing requirements of the new European Union (EU) Green Claims Directive. We've also collaborated with third-party sustainability consultants, Anthesis, to develop and verify the framework.

With the framework in place, we're working closely with our suppliers to understand their sustainability improvements and assess each product claim against our rigorous criteria and governance process.

Q: How is the Better World product framework structured?

Andrea: Our framework is structured into three types of claims: **made more sustainably**, **sustainable solution** and **supports circularity**. Each of these claim types has a set of relevant claims, linked to the specific stage of the product lifecycle. Additionally, each claim has a set of criteria which can vary depending on the product type. This structured approach offers a clear line of sight into the sustainability attributes being addressed and the benefits customers can expect from each product.



Claim type	Claim	Criteria
<p>Our range is split into three types of impact reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made more sustainably • Sustainable solution • Supports circularity 	<p>Each claim type has a list of claims that are material to the product lifecycle and its sustainability features or performance, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made more sustainably – contains recycled material • Sustainable solution - saves energy • Supports circularity - extends product life 	<p>Each claim has a set of criteria which defines the specific requirements for that claim and the minimum thresholds for the product type e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workwear manufactured from a minimum of 50% recycled content

Q: Where can I purchase Better World products?

Christian: We've made it easy to identify the range on our website through the [Better World products hub](#) and a Better World badge on each product. When customers select a product, they will see a new attribute which lists the Better World product claim statement(s) which apply. This is supplemented by a product factsheet and details on the specific sustainability benefit(s) of the product. Over time, more products will be added to the Better World range on our website, as our suppliers continue to make sustainability improvements and we assess and confirm these.

Q: What is RS Group doing beyond products to address things like packaging and carbon reduction of product shipments?

Andrea: We are working hard to make sustainability improvements throughout our own operations and value chain. We've set four science-based targets covering the most material areas of our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, including our operations, products, logistics and suppliers, which have been approved by the Science-Based Targets initiative. We're decarbonising our distribution centres by introducing energy conservation measures and by switching to renewable electricity and heat pumps. We're also reducing our packaging and switching to materials with higher recycled content and recyclability features. Finally, we're moving our product distribution to road and sea where possible and sourcing more products closer to our suppliers and customers.

These initiatives are creating positive change and helping to reduce the carbon footprint of our business, as well as our customers' and suppliers'.

DID YOU KNOW?

89%* of buyers said they would buy products certified to sustainability standards if it was easier

* Amazon industry study



MEETING OUR CUSTOMERS' NEEDS FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

We know from our close customer relationships and industry research that sustainability is a top business priority for our customers and is central to their business goals, from driving zero carbon operations to being at the forefront of their product procurement strategies. Many of our customers have set challenging net zero goals covering their direct operations and value chain and they need our help to deliver on these ambitions.

We have conducted extensive customer research to ensure we fully understand their needs and to develop Better World products to be a solution that meets their requirements. On the following page we have provided a summary of what they told us and how we've responded.

DID YOU KNOW?

In a recent CIPS survey 'sustainable and ethical procurement' and 'pressure to improve asset performance' were indicated as the top two business pressures for UK procurement professionals.

CUSTOMER NEED

“We want to buy greener products to support our sustainability goals – but they need to be easier to find and offer more choice.”

“I want to be sure that green claims are genuine, scientifically tested and backed by evidence. They need to be real and not just marketing or greenwashing.”

“We need greener products that help us save energy, reduce our carbon footprint and improve our operations, as well as those that are made from more sustainable materials, easier to recycle and generate less waste.”

“I want to be able to review the product information to make an informed decision about what I deem to be sustainable or not.”

HOW WE RESPOND

EASE AND VARIETY

There are 20,000+ products in the range from 40+ suppliers, across key product categories and technologies, from contactors to power supply units to workwear and soap and hand cleaners.

All the products carry a Better World badge on the product website pages and are identifiable via the search filters and the Better World website page.

Products are also categorised by the type of sustainability feature. The range is growing every day and our digital experience also continues to evolve to suit our customer's preferences.

Our ambition is to grow the range to 100,000 Better World products.

CREDIBILITY

Our selection criteria is built on a robust claims-based methodology, aligned with the existing ISO 14021 standard for product environmental labels and declarations, with a requirement for strong evidence.

This has been developed in partnership with sustainability consultants, Anthesis, to meet best practice guidance on what makes a more sustainable product as well and the exacting requirements of emerging regulatory standards such as the EU Green Claims Directive.

BREADTH

The range targets sustainability improvements in at least one stage of the product lifecycle, from manufacturing through to in-use benefits and product end of life.

The claims are clearly identified and categorised by the impact they have.

Example products include:

- **Made more sustainably** – recycled materials – PPE and workwear
- **Sustainable solution** – renewable energy – solar panels and electric vehicle equipment
- **Supports circulatory** – Repairable by the end user – contactors and relays

TRANSPARENCY

This document outlines our clear process and methodology for the Better World product framework.

Additional evidence is also provided on the product page of eligible products, showing you the specific sustainability benefit(s) of the product and additional data sheets and production information.

CUSTOMER VIEWPOINT

Customers choose RS Group not only for the wide range of brands, products, and service solutions we deliver every day, but because many of our products help them to improve their environmental, social and safety performance.

“RS supply us with essential commodity goods, which are crucial for the maintenance and repair of the nation’s utility network. Their products promise durability and in-use benefits which have helped us to reduce our emissions, prevent leakages and contribute to our long-term goals.”

RS Group’s commitment to sustainability aligns seamlessly with our own standards, making them a clear partner of choice. The Better World product framework is commendable, promising a wider range of evidence-based products with sustainability benefits. With partners like RS Group, we’re confident in a safer, greener future for our network.”

**Procurement Operations Manager
UK utilities network provider**

DID YOU KNOW?

In a recent CIPS survey, 71% of respondents consider ESG criteria as important or very important when selecting suppliers, products and services, so much so over 80% would pay a premium for sustainable products.

Our range is easy to identify on our website to help buyers seamlessly switch to making more sustainable purchasing decisions.



ANTHESIS VIEWPOINT

Our framework has been developed and assured by sustainability consultants.

To ensure authenticity and confidence in our Better World product approach, we worked with sustainability consultants, Anthesis, to shape our framework, assessment and governance process, ensuring it aligns to global industry standards.

“We partnered with RS Group to develop and verify the claims-based methodology that sits behind Better World products. We reviewed over 50 eco-labels and certifications to identify those that were sufficiently robust to be included in the programme. We also evaluated other types of claims to ensure they would comply with relevant green claims regulations and guidelines, meet minimum threshold criteria and be supported by clear evidence.”

We believe that the Better World product framework is a pioneering approach that will help customers to easily identify and choose more sustainable industrial and electronics products and help accelerate the transition to a net zero economy.”

Chris Stanley
Technical Director, Anthesis

BETTER WORLD PRODUCT METHODOLOGY

Our framework is built on globally recognised standards, ensuring that the Better World product claims are clear, credible and trusted.

A claims-based framework

We have segmented our Better World products into three distinct claim types that deliver sustainability benefits across the most material phases of the product lifecycle.

Our range highlights products with at least one material sustainability improvement in at least one of these lifecycle stages:

Claim type:	Product lifecycle phase targeted:
Made more sustainably Products that are produced using more sustainable materials or manufacturing processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw materials • Manufacturing
Sustainable solution Products that help customers run their business more sustainably – from reducing energy and emissions to protecting health and safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-use phase
Supports circularity Products with an increased lifespan, or can be reused, repaired or recycled to reduce waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product design • End-of-life

MADE MORE SUSTAINABLY



Recycled materials



Alternative materials



Responsibly sourced materials



Concentrated or compact solution



Low carbon manufacture



Designed to optimise safety

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION



Saves energy



Saves water



Reduces waste



Renewable energy solution



Improves air quality



Protects health and safety

SUPPORTS CIRCULARITY



Extended product life



Rechargeable innovation



Take back scheme



Designed for disassembly



Repairable by the end user

Here's an example of a specific sustainability claim related to "made more sustainably" and 'recycled materials':

Claim type: Made more sustainably	
Claim: Recycled materials	Description: A product that contains post-consumer recycled waste, as an alternative to virgin materials.

Finally, each claim has specific criteria that outlines the minimum requirements and thresholds that must be met for it to be considered a material sustainability improvement and included in the Better World product range. This differs according to product type.

Here's an example of how this works for our "recycled materials" claim:

Claim type	Claim	Criteria
Made more sustainably	Recycled materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raw materials phase must be a significant proportion of the product's lifecycle The product must contain a minimum percentage of recycled materials by total weight of the product As a guide, the recycled content will be a minimum 50% by weight. However, the percentage expectation may differ depending upon the type of product and the level of innovation. The environmental benefits will be proven by evidence, such as an LCA.

Evidence requirements for claims

We require environmental claims to be precise, transparent, and unambiguous through clear evidence and verification. Suppliers must provide sufficient evidence for the claims for their products to be assessed and included in the Better World product range.

Amongst others, we currently recognise the following evidence to verify claims:

- Third party approved sustainability certifications
- Verified Life Cycle Assessments (LCA's)
- Environmental Product Declaration (The International EPD system)
- Product Environmental Profile (PEPecopassport®)
- Third party approved sustainability certificates and energy labels

Where claims cannot be supported by a recognised sustainability certification, standard or third-party verification, we will consider evidence provided by the manufacturer, provided this is robust and material to the product.

Governance process

Supplier product claims and evidence will be reviewed by the RS Better World product team, which includes sustainability and product compliance specialists. Anthesis may also support in the review of new types of products, claims or evidence to verify our approach.

Inclusion criteria

Once a supplier has made a sustainability claim, it must meet our inclusion criteria before a product is accepted into the Better World range:

- The product must meet all RS Group policy requirements.
- The product or any of its raw materials must not be listed in our exclusion list.
- The product must have a material sustainability improvement, listed in our claims-based framework.
- The claim must meet the minimum criteria for the product type.
- The claim should be scientifically tested or verified by the supplier or a third party.
- The claim must be clear with robust supporting evidence, such as third-party verification, certification (visit our website to see full list), or from another trusted source e.g. product test reports.
- There must be supporting material to transparently communicate the claim to the customer through clear product labelling and product marketing.

Exclusion list

These products cannot be considered sustainable and are therefore excluded from the Better World product range:

- Products which are single use plastic *e.g. disposable gloves and clothing.*
- Products which burn fossil fuels *e.g. oil-powered.*
- Products which rely on high energy use *e.g. inefficient and outdoor heaters.*
- Products where the claim relates to the packaging only, unless material to the product.
- Where proven ethical trade issues have been identified within the product's supply chain.

Our exclusion list is regularly monitored with our external partners and suppliers and updated in line with industry developments and new compliance regulations.



OUR SUSTAINABILITY CLAIMS AND CRITERIA EXPLAINED

Case study

Want to recycle more?

Recycling more plastic not only helps to reduce our carbon footprint, but more importantly, it reduces the consumption of natural raw materials and the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

To help you to be more sustainable, we are continually increasing our range of products that contain recycled plastic. To back this up, our Better World range contains products with third party certifications for recycled content.

Our claims-based framework enables us to feature those products that manufacturers claim contain certified raw materials, but don't carry the certificate for the finished product. This is because we verify all claims stringently.

For example, [Traffi have a range of cut-resistant gloves](#) made from 52% recycled PET. We worked closely with the manufacturer to validate the claim before it was accepted as a Better World product.



MADE MORE SUSTAINABLY

Summary

Our 'made more sustainably' products have a lower environmental impact based on what they are made from or how they are made. Their environmental benefits are derived from the raw materials and manufacturing phases of the product-lifecycle through the selection of more sustainable materials or manufacturing processes.

Benefits

Products made from alternative, recycled, or responsibly sourced materials, or that use lower-carbon manufacturing methods can help to preserve precious natural resources and minimise environmental impacts when extracting virgin raw material. Our 'made more sustainably' claim type provides a range of environmental improvements for example, due to the use of more sustainable materials in production, or the use of less carbon intensive manufacturing processes.

Made more sustainably	
Claims	Description
Alternative materials	Alternative materials are natural raw materials that have a lower environmental impact than other materials such as man-made fibres. As these materials are naturally renewable, they contribute to the preservation of natural resources and reduce the need to use carbon intensive materials that are harmful to the environment.
Responsibly sourced materials	A product aligned to accredited schemes that addresses environmental and ethical issues linked to raw materials and manufacturing processes.
Recycled materials	A product that contains post-consumer recycled waste.
Concentrated or compact solution	A product designed to use significantly less material in its inner packaging, or which provides a concentrated solution.
Low carbon manufacture	A product made using lower carbon manufacturing processes, resulting in a significant reduction in product-level carbon emissions.
Designed to optimise safety	A product designed with safety considerations and reduces chemicals that may be harmful to human health or the environment.



SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

Summary

A sustainable solution that delivers in-use environmental benefits, such as reducing energy consumption and carbon footprint, or contributing to waste or water reduction within a customer's facilities.

Benefits

Sustainable solutions are designed to help our customers run their business more sustainably – reducing resources and cost and optimising efficiency and output. Our claims include products that save energy, water and waste, as well as those that improve air quality, utilise renewable energy or protect health and safety. These products may also have a secondary benefit in improving operational efficiency and helping reduce costs associated with resource usage.

Sustainable solutions	
Claims	Description
Saves energy	A product that reduces energy consumption and is more energy efficient than a standard equivalent product, consequently reducing carbon emissions.
Saves water	A product that supports reduced water usage, or that uses less water than a standard equivalent product.
Reduces waste	A product that reduces waste through innovative technology processes which helps extend the lifespan of products or supports the reuse or recycling of products.
Improves air quality	A product that reduces harmful substances from the air within buildings or the wider environment.
Renewable energy solutions	A product that generates renewable energy or enables use of renewable solutions to reduce carbon emissions.
Protects health and safety	A product that protects health and safety for the user and / or operations.

Case study

Renewable energy that won't cost the earth

Solar power has many benefits to help the environment including the reduction of greenhouse gases, less dependency on fossil fuels and the lowering of energy prices. So, it's no surprise that it's fast becoming one of the world's fastest growing energy technologies.

As a reliable power source, it's used globally in all types of applications, both domestic and industrial, from powering water pumps in Africa, to weather stations in Antarctica and satellites in space.

As a clean, sustainable power source, solar solutions can help reduce your carbon footprint, improve energy efficiency and reduce dependency on non-renewable sources – giving you greater energy independence.

To help you on your sustainable journey, our RS PRO rigid solar panels have been tested for the quality, reliability and performance that you've come to expect from us - all backed by industry standards.

Take a look at our range which includes monocrystalline and polycrystalline solar panels and renewable energy kits.

Case study

Circular choices, lasting impact

A circular economy is a system based on the avoidance of products and materials being discarded as waste, extending their life and keeping them in circulation for as long as possible. It focuses on minimising waste through activities such as recycling, reuse and repair, as well as remanufacturing in a sustainable or environmentally friendly way.

Better World products with a 'supports circularity' claim help you to reduce waste and support a circular economy.

By working together with our suppliers who want to help keep their products in use for longer, we are helping to drive the adoption of circular principles.

Our suppliers provide disassembly instructions, extended life information and other forms of product declarations to help you when purchasing products.

An example of this is shown with the ABB Emax 2 series of circuit breakers. The Product Environmental Profile gives a recyclability rate of 74% and in addition ABB also clearly illustrate how to disassemble the products, along with a breakdown of the materials and components. Why not take a look [here](#).



SUPPORTS CIRCULARITY

Summary

Our 'supports circularity' range features products that have been designed with an extended lifespan or other circularity features, which enable them to be repaired, reused or recycled and avoid landfill. Such features include products with a longer-life, offering applications for reuse or repair, promoting supplier take-back schemes and encouraging recycling of products at end of life where materials are accepted.

Benefits

Waste management can be an environmental burden and a significant expenditure for organisations and is ultimately a loss of resource. Our 'supports circularity' products help to save precious natural resources by keeping products and their components in use for longer.

Supports circularity	
Claims	Description
Extended product life	A product designed for durability and / or for a longer shelf-life than a standard equivalent product.
Repairable by end-user	A product which features components that can be replaced, repaired or upgraded by the user to give it an extended life.
Take back scheme	A product where the manufacturer has a clear take back scheme in place to reuse, refurbish, or recycle the product.
Designed for disassembly	A product with a modular design where component parts can easily be disassembled for repair, reuse or recycling.
Rechargeable innovation	A product incorporating a rechargeable innovation to extend product life or significantly reduce the energy required to recharge.



**ADVANCING
SUSTAINABILITY**

IN OUR OPERATIONS AND WIDER VALUE CHAIN

In addition to working with our suppliers to offer more sustainable products, we are developing a suite of sustainability service solutions to help our customers run their businesses more sustainably. Additionally, we're driving a broad range of initiatives across our direct operations and value chain including with our distribution centres, packaging, logistics and suppliers to reduce carbon and advance sustainability within our industry.

Sustainability service solutions

We have a growing portfolio of customer solutions to help improve operational efficiency, reduce energy, cut carbon emissions and accelerate sustainability. Our developing service range includes:

- **RS Industria®** - a data platform which connects and monitors factory operations to reduce costs and make energy and water savings
- **Lighting, energy and compressed air auditing surveys** - to help maintenance engineers to optimise their operations, reduce resources and costs and drive towards their net zero goals
- **Product recycling services** - initially for cables and selected PPE

Case study

Keeping an eye on water consumption is a time-consuming task, but a necessary and crucial one to maintain environmental compliance. For one customer in the food and beverage industry, RS Industria® helped design a plant monitoring system to help observe, detect and alert the customer on their water limit consumption, helping them save 100,000 litres of water per day.

PACKAGING

Packaging is one of the biggest sustainability concerns for our customers, who have a keen interest in the amount and type of packaging and its ability to be recycled or reused.

To address this, we have set 2030 goals to reduce our packaging intensity by 30% and for 100% of our packaging to be widely reusable or recyclable and made from at least 50% recycled content. We are well on our way to achieving these goals, driving a number of high-impact initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle our packaging.

These include:

- Advocating with our suppliers to reduce packaging and switching to more recycled / recyclable content.
- Introducing automated packing machines at three of our largest distribution centres to produce made-to-fit boxes that eliminate excess packaging and air within parcels.

At the end of 2022/23 we had reduced our packaging intensity by 32% since 2019/20, 94% of our packaging is recyclable and 42% of our total packaging is made from materials with at least 50% recycled content.



PRODUCT DELIVERIES

With 60,000 product deliveries daily, this is one of the most material areas of our carbon footprint. It's therefore critical that we find ways to optimise our supply chain to reduce our emissions. That's why we've set a science-based target to reduce the emissions intensity of our product deliveries by 25% by 2029/30, from 2019/20.

RS Group works with a global network of logistics suppliers to receive products into our distribution centres and ship these to our customers in the most efficient way possible. To drive reductions, we are:

- Sourcing, storing and shipping more products regionally and locally to suppliers and customers - enabled by our regional DC network across Americas, EMEA and APAC regions
- Switching to lower carbon modes of transport from air to sea or road
- Advocating with our carriers to invest in lower-carbon transport technologies, set SBTs and optimise their routes, as well encouraging customers to consolidate their deliveries



DISTRIBUTION CENTRES

Our goal is to be net zero in our direct operations with a science-based target (SBT) to reduce absolute emissions from our own operations by 75% from 2019/20. With 14 distribution centres and many more sites around the world, we are:

- Switching to renewable electricity – 94% of our electricity is from renewable sources
- Driving energy saving initiatives – we reduced our global energy consumption by 12% from 2021/22 to 2022/23
- Driving towards net zero at our biggest distribution centres by installing electric heat pumps, solar panels and EV charging infrastructure – our distribution centres in Germany, Spain, South Africa and Thailand all have solar on the roof. In the UK, 60% of business miles were in electric or hybrid vehicles in the first half of 2023/24

Through this activity we have reduced our Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 58% since 2019/20.



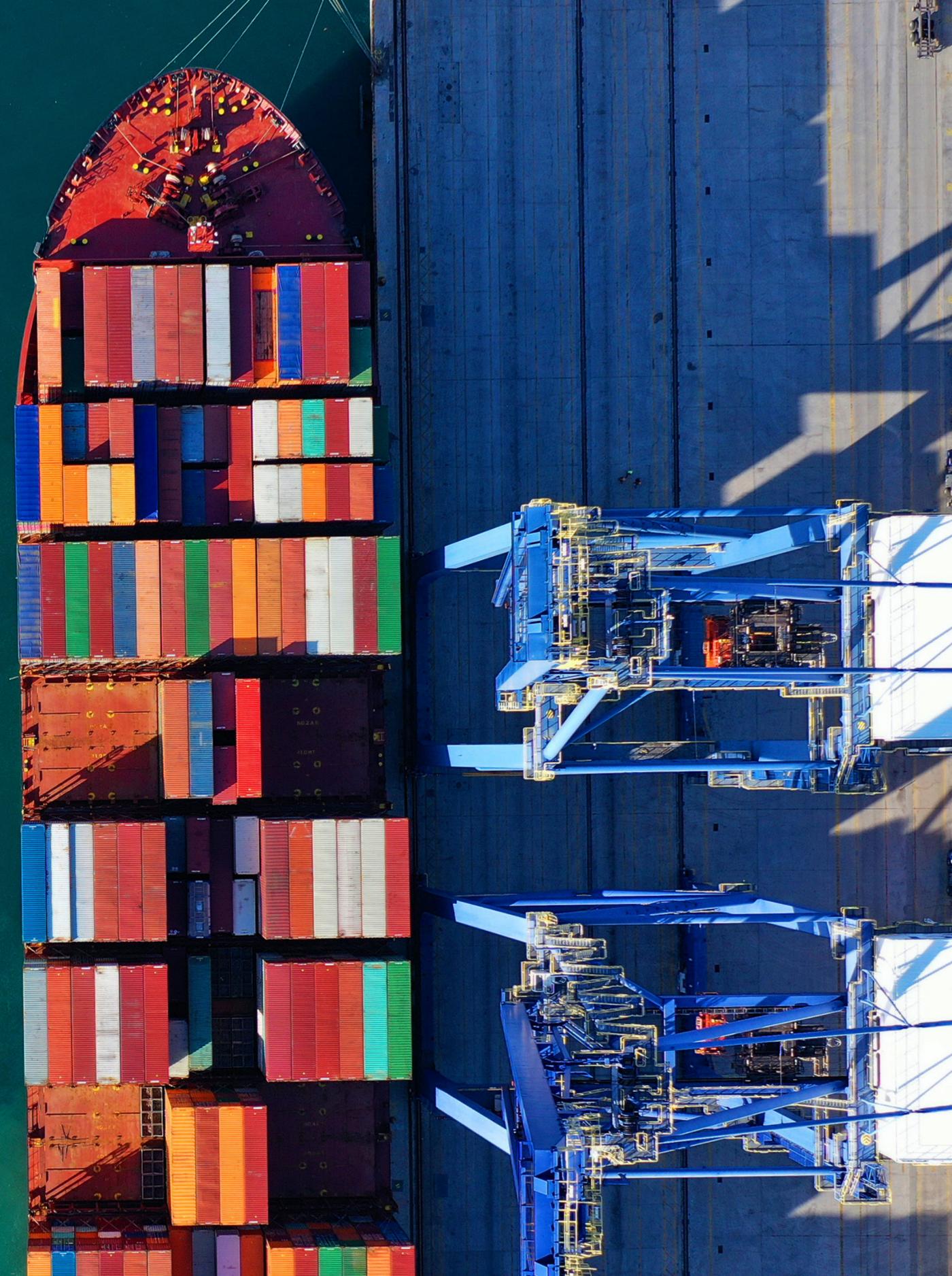
SUPPLIERS

As a distributor of over 750,000 products from over 2,500 product suppliers, our supply chain network is where we have the greatest opportunity to affect positive change. So it's essential we engage with our supplier partners to embed a strong ESG approach throughout our supply chain.

In 2023, we introduced our supplier ESG action plan with four priority areas including:

- Signing our Ethical Trading Policy
- Offering more sustainable products
- Setting science-based targets
- Assessing ESG performance and driving best practice via EcoVadis and Sedex platforms

Through these efforts we are helping to build a more ethical and sustainable industrial supply chain that is fit for our business and delivers greater value for our customers.



To read more about how we are driving improvements across all these areas, check out our latest ESG report at:
rsgroup.com/sustainability

