

RUBIX

COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY

...Sustainable Bearings

...Sustainable Manufacturing

...Sustainable Distribution



COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY

At a time when the world is looking to limit its energy usage and impact on the climate, pressure is mounting on industry world-wide to reduce its overall environmental impact. The products and services we produce need to be sustainable; they need to be produced through economically-sound processes that minimise negative environmental impacts while conserving energy and natural resources.

Individual bearings use relatively little energy, but as they are in such widespread use and are also one of the most frequently replaced components, the sustainability of the bearings you use matters.

But you can't apply sustainability to the product in isolation. It's important to take into account every aspect surrounding that product, from the sustainability of the raw materials, through to the manufacturing process, the manufacturer's business, logistics and product distribution.



Rubix and SKF are united in a common goal:



to build sustainability into every aspect of our businesses and to provide our customers with products and services that will contribute to their sustainability strategy.

It's not an easy task, we know, but it is a vitally important one.
Read on to discover how we are doing this and how our customers can benefit.

SKF: LEADING THE FIELD IN SUSTAINABILITY

The first international bearings manufacturer to receive global certification in 1998



SKF produced an incredible 118.24 million bearings in the financial year 2020/21. With such a large number of products being produced from locations around the world, SKF takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously, measuring and assessing its impact and implementing actions to reduce that impact whilst continuing to deliver the very best product and service to customers.

SKF leads the field in this sector. It was the first international bearings manufacturer to receive global certification according to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System in 1998. It has been building on these foundations ever since, basing its approach around the implementation and integration of environmental lifecycle management into core business processes. That's from the raw materials, through to how its suppliers and factories process and utilise those materials; from the amount and type of energy used to make its products to the way they are transported; from the energy used by SKF products in action, to product end of life and disposal.





**SKF BEARINGS:
SUSTAINABILITY
AT THEIR CORE**

Bearings that can enable customer machines to run cleaner, longer, efficiently and more safely are the goal



Product Development - Design for Environment

There are many sound reasons why environmental issues should be considered in the design and product development process but, most importantly, because they help to reduce the overall environmental impact of products across their lifecycle. For these reasons, SKF is working proactively towards the goal of integrating environmental considerations into product development at every level.

Supported by design guidelines and tools for environmental assessment, a development process from scoping through to validation and hand-over has been devised by SKF. Within this framework, key issues - including weight, recyclability, legislative requirements, biodegradability and much more - are considered. From this process, concepts can be defined and then chosen to reflect environmental targets before design optimisation work starts.

Ultimately, bearings that can enable customer machines to run cleaner, longer, efficiently and more safely are the goal.

Responsible Sourcing

As a major manufacturer, SKF also has responsibilities up the supply chain, to ensure a responsible sourcing and demand chain.

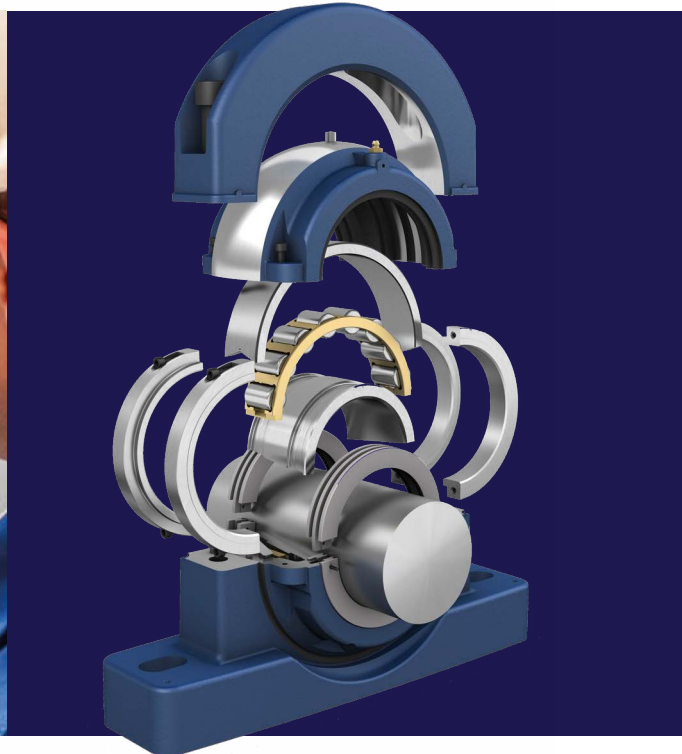
SKF addresses supplier impact on the environment, human rights, labour practices and society under the Responsible Sourcing programme. The programme covers all of SKF's suppliers but uses a risk-based approach focusing auditing on tier one and sometimes tier two suppliers.

SKF's Code of Conduct for Suppliers and Sub-contractors is part of SKF's general conditions of purchase as well as supplier requirements being defined in the SKF Quality Standard for Suppliers. Major suppliers have further expectations placed upon them, such as working to the ISO 14001 (Environment) international standard.

SKF has a number of tools and procedures to support the progress of responsibility among suppliers, such as a supplier Quality Audit system.

THE 3 Rs:

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



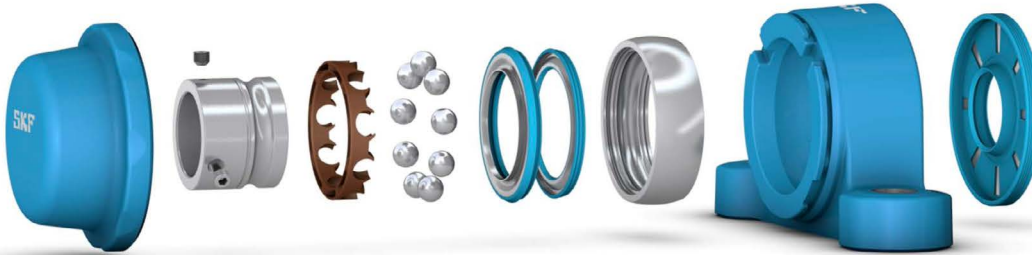
The 3 Rs concept is at the heart of SKF product.

Reduce

SKF aims to reduce the number of bearings used, along with their energy, water and lubrication usage. SKF bearings are of the highest quality and there's an incredibly wide range to choose from, many of which have been designed for specific applications and industries. By selecting a suitable SKF quality bearing, you can expect longer product life, which means you use less of them. Furthermore, choosing a quality bearing reduces the risk of the machinery breaking down or losing performance, which almost always results in wasted energy as most systems keep drawing power despite the drop or lack of output. Every second of wasted production equates to wasted energy and impacts on a days' production targets.

Poor bearings performance can directly affect energy usage. Although the amount of energy per bearing is relatively small, when you consider how many bearings are in use across the world, it mounts up. Choosing the right product – especially those that have lower operating temperatures and vibration levels - makes for a more energy efficient approach.

Ensuring product is correctly fitted also has a part to play. Misalignment can lead to friction and vibration which can significantly increase energy consumption, plus the risk of premature failures. SKF alignment tools are readily available which allow you to increase machine reliability through easy to use and accurate alignment. Other options include selecting products that don't require realignment, such as SKF Cooper Split Spherical Roller Bearings that do not require the drive coupling or the cantilevered drive to be

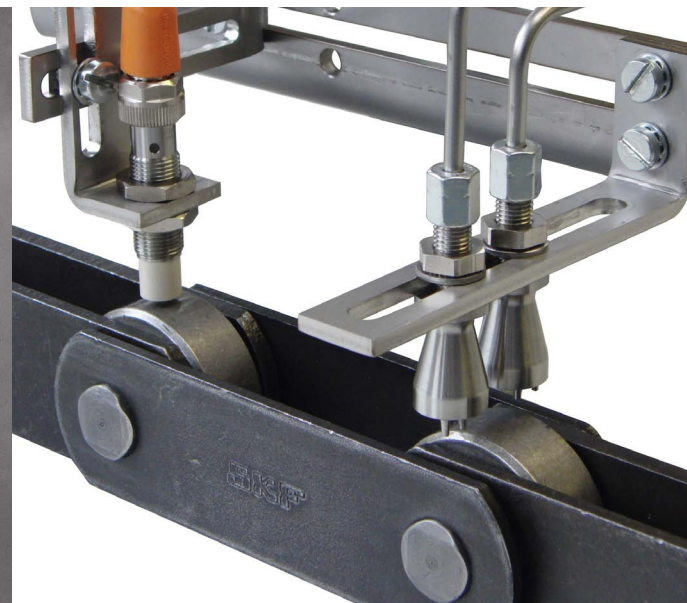


dismounted to replace the bearing; these bearing types are easily and safely replaced in situ.

Reducing water and detergent usage in washdowns – a particular issue for pharmaceutical, food and drink sectors - is a major issue. The waste water from this cleaning is often contaminated from excess bearing grease. This can be reduced by using sealed, re-lubrication free bearings such as SKF's Food Line ball bearing units – Blue Range, which require 33% less

heated water for cleaning when compared to open bearing units. Furthermore, there is no lubricant to contaminate the waste water, plus no cleaning rags and paper towels to dispose of.

Sealed bearing units are beneficial across all industries and help to reduce lubrication usage. Alternatively, automated lubrication systems can be installed to ensure the correct amount of lubrication is applied, reducing wastage.



Choosing the right product makes for a more energy efficient approach





Reuse

When it comes to Reuse, SKF offers a remanufacture service which can significantly prolong bearing service life, as well as reduce cost and lead times. A large variety of bearing types can be remanufactured, including backing bearings, caster bearings, large sized bearings, slewing bearings and housings. Bearing remanufacturing can significantly reduce carbon emissions, consuming around 10% of the energy of making a new one. By extending bearing service, remanufacturing avoids the scrapping of components and wasteful use of natural resources.

In addition to bearings remanufacture, SKF's RecondOil removes contaminants from used oils, and returns them to a cleaner, usable and high-grade state. The company has just been awarded a major grant from the EC for a new stand-alone processing plant for the regeneration of industrial oils using its innovative Double Separation Technology (DST). Compared to a traditional, linear use, regenerating the oils allows for a significant decrease of CO₂ emissions.



***Bearing remanufacturing
can significantly reduce
carbon emissions***





*Food Line Blue range
is 59% recyclable*



Recycle

Whilst the amount of steel per bearing is on the decline, due to better bearing design and more efficient manufacturing methods, that steel still has a value as scrap. Not all bearings are easy to recycle though. SKF has been working on improving this area and its latest Food Line Blue range is 59% recyclable, with 41% energy-recoverable.



BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY INTO THE BUSINESS

Reaching net zero ... and beyond

SKF has a proven track record when it comes to addressing climate issues and is working towards new climate goals:

- By 2030, all production facilities world-wide will have net zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- By 2050, SKF's full supply chain, from materials to the delivery of products and solutions, will be net zero.

Find more information about how SKF will achieve these objectives [here](#).

SKF has been putting in place strategies to go further than net zero through its BeyondZero™ concept, launched in 2005. It consists of two simultaneous goals:

- To reduce the negative environmental impact from its own operations
- To innovate and offer new technologies, products and services with enhanced environmental performance characteristics.

Manufacturing environmental performance



In order to achieve a constant improvement in its manufacturing environmental performance, above and beyond legal obligations, SKF deploys the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and the ISO 50001 Energy Management system across all of its manufacturing sites, technical and engineering centres, as well as logistics centres, regardless of geographical locations or social and economic conditions in the country.

In compliance with the requirement of ISO 14001, SKF continually demonstrates improvements in environmental performance. Targets aimed at reducing its environmental impact have been established and are reviewed annually. These targets are related to issues such as carbon dioxide emission, chemicals, natural resources consumption, and wastes.

By 2030,
*all production facilities
world-wide will have net zero
greenhouse gas emissions.*



50%

of SKF's energy now comes from renewable sources

Sustainable building design and construction

Irrespective of the location, SKF has made the commitment that all new facilities – be it manufacturing or warehousing - must be designed and constructed to world-class standards in terms of environmental performance. SKF has adopted the US Green Building Council's (USGBC®) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard for all major constructions.

Furthermore, within its facilities, SKF's strategy of Lean, Green and Digital has seen the use of rainwater harvesting, the adoption of an online energy monitoring system and power purchase through renewable sources such as solar energy. 50% of SKF's energy now comes from renewable sources, reducing specific CO₂ emission by 25,000 tonnes.



Logistics

From component deliveries from suppliers, through to finished goods delivered to customers, SKF strives for the most effective and efficient options. This is achieved through integrating information, transportation, material handling, inventory management, warehousing, packaging and security. In cooperation with its transport providers, SKF Logistics Services devises processes and solutions to reduce its carbon footprint, such as optimising the 'fillrate' of trucks to ensure they operate at full capacity and using rail transport whenever possible.



RUBIX'S APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

Rubix exists to keep the wheels of industry turning. We are committed to delivering sustainable long-term value for our customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders.

As Europe's leading distributor of industrial products and services, we have both the opportunity and the responsibility to reduce the environmental impact of European manufacturing. The products we distribute and the services we deliver include different ways that we can help our customers on their sustainability journeys, reducing cost and wastage and maximising energy efficiency. These include a wide range of condition monitoring and maintenance services that support our customers in their efforts, reducing the energy consumption of their manufacturing and processing plants. For example, air pressure leakage is causing 14% energy consumption waste across the manufacturing sector. We can help our customers to solve this problem through air leak surveys which also provide recommendations to remedy any leaks found.

As we strive to limit the impact we have on the environment, we have taken a number of steps to address our own carbon footprint, reducing energy consumption and waste. Here's a highlight of some of those.

Single Use Plastics Reduced



Plastic jiffy bags replaced with 100% paper/pulp jiffy bags



Bubble wrap and air bags replaced with craft paper



Picking bags replaced with 100% degradable sugar cane bags



2,200 plastic milk containers replaced with cardboard cartons in NDC canteen each year



Plastic tape replaced with 100% paper tape



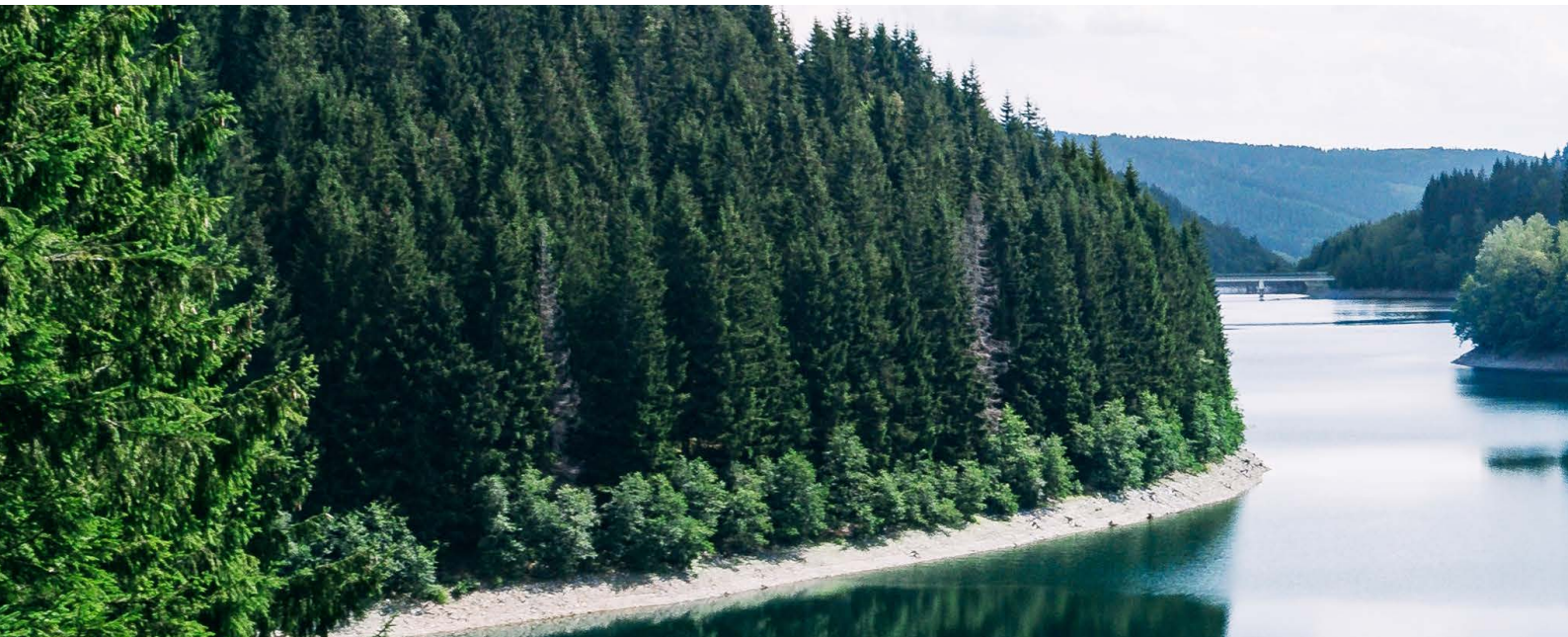
Plastic bottled soft drinks replaced with cans in vending machine



Plastic pallet wrap replaced with pre-stretched pallet wrap, reducing usage by 40%



Environmentally-friendly 'document enclosed' wallets used





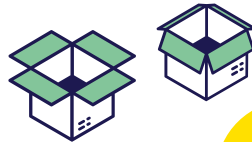
Commitment to Sustainability

- EcoVadis silver medal holder for business sustainability ratings. We are in the top 25% in our industry
- Signatory to UN Global Compact initiative
- CIPS Certification in Standard of Excellence in Procurement Policies and Procedures
- ISO 14001 (environmental) certification
- ISO 45001 (Health & Safety) certification

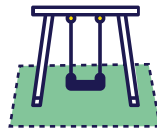
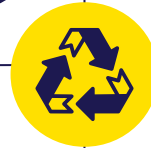
Clear commitments and a roadmap to increased disclosure and improved reporting.

Recycling & Waste

100% of cardboard is recycled



Damaged pallets and wood packaging are repaired or recycled into wood chippings for gardens



Out of date rubber is chipped and made into children's playground surfacing material



Spent cutting and grinding discs become the anti-slip additive in specialised paint coverings

Energy Efficiency at NDC



Energy saving lighting



New heating system 56% more efficient

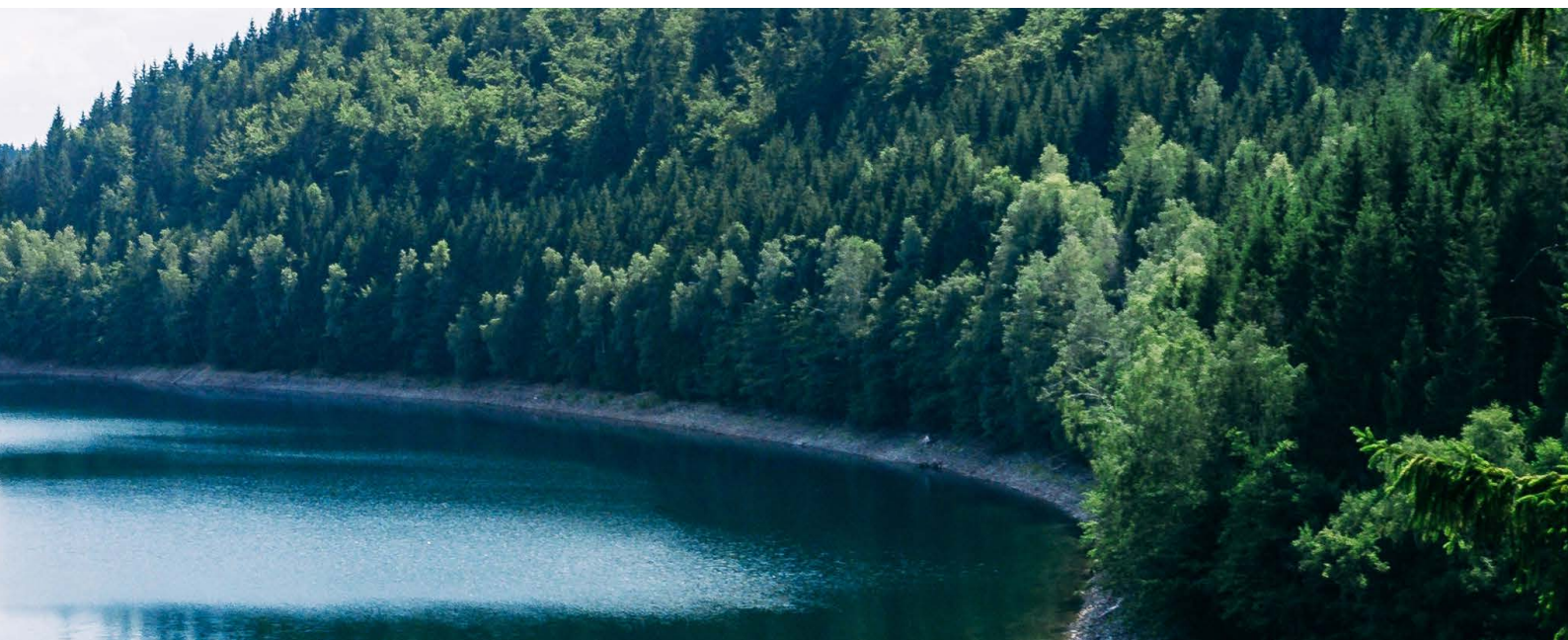


Fuel Usage



Overnight deliveries wherever possible

Improved route management



RUBIX



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Call 0870 240 2100
or visit uk.rubix.com



Image Source: SKF