

Position on Sustainable Products and Packaging

Background

The provision of healthcare services and products consumes significant natural resources and creates a substantial amount of waste,¹ from the manufacturing of single-use syringes to the discarding of decommissioned medical devices. As access to healthcare continues to increase globally,² the healthcare sector must become more sustainable to prevent additional harm to the health of the planet and people. By creating more sustainable healthcare products and packaging, healthcare companies can help minimize their impact on the environment while also continuing to provide benefits to patients.

Relevance

At Johnson & Johnson, we develop and manufacture products that people around the world rely on every day—everything from life-changing medicines to medical technologies and consumer health products that help patients live their best lives. When designing new products or optimizing existing products, we identify opportunities to integrate sustainability early in the process in order to avoid potential environmental impacts across the product lifecycle.

Guiding Principles

As a leader in the healthcare industry, Johnson & Johnson knows that human health is inextricably linked to the health of the planet—we can't have healthy people and communities without a healthy environment. To this end, we are committed to developing more sustainable products that use fewer and more sustainable resources to support the health of people and our planet. As stated in [Our Credo](#): “We believe our first responsibility is to the patients, doctors and nurses, to mothers and fathers and all others who use our products and services. In meeting their needs everything we do must be of high quality.” Additionally, “We are responsible to the communities in which we live and work and to the world community as well. ... We must maintain in good order the property we are privileged to use, protecting the environment and natural resources.”

Our Position

We are committed to delivering the highest-quality products for patients and healthcare practitioners while continually seeking to reduce our environmental footprint.

¹ <https://practicegreenhealth.org/topics/waste/waste-0>

² <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/uhc-index-of-service-coverage>

Our commitment to product sustainability includes:

- **Meeting environmental product compliance requirements:** We ensure that every product satisfies environmental regulatory compliance requirements as the foundation of our approach to sustainable products.
- **Integrating sustainability with product development processes:** We integrate product sustainability considerations with our standard product design and development processes to identify and incorporate potential environmental improvements. Additionally, we consider customer feedback regarding environmental priorities during the product development process.
- **Assessing product lifecycle environmental impacts:** We examine product environmental impacts across product categories and platforms. We also examine impacts across all stages of the product lifecycle, including design, development, procurement, manufacturing, distribution, use and end-of-life. We then focus on the product categories, platforms, and lifecycle areas with the greatest potential impact and prioritize improvements that can be implemented across multiple products to enable the most significant improvements. We take a care pathways approach (i.e., looking at the full environmental footprint of treating a disease, including the use of our products) to better understand both the social and environmental impacts of medical innovations and interventions, where appropriate.
- **Applying green chemistry and engineering principles in design and manufacturing:** We integrate the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry³ and Engineering⁴ into our Pharmaceutical product development practices. These practices help to develop better chemical synthesis routes and processes that increase resource efficiency, promote the use of more sustainable solvents and reagents, and reduce waste.
- **Developing more sustainable packaging:** We continuously explore opportunities to reduce the environmental impacts of our packaging and support a circular economy through actions such as purchasing responsibly sourced packaging materials, reducing material use, and designing for recyclability. Where possible, we utilize circular shipping systems like returnable, reusable cold chain shipping packaging. Additionally, we seek to raise customer awareness around recyclability opportunities for healthcare packaging.
- **Managing end-of-life impacts of products:** We seek to minimize the impacts of our products after their use phase and therefore design products, where feasible, for recovery, reprocessing, recycling and/or reuse. We also take efforts, whether as an individual company or as part of an industry group, to educate end-users on proper end-of-life management of products, packaging and medical technologies. Finally, for our Pharmaceutical products, we evaluate the potential impacts of products post-use to aquatic environments and employ risk mitigation measures as appropriate.
- **Collaborating within and across industries:** We collaborate with peers, suppliers and companies outside of our business segments in a compliant fashion to tackle common challenges to advancing product sustainability and barriers to innovation.

To learn more about the progress we are making, please see our [Global Environmental Sustainability page](#) and our annual [Health for Humanity Report](#).

For additional information on our environmental, social and governance (ESG) work and oversight, please see [ESG Policies & Positions](#), or go directly to: [Responsible Wood-Fiber Product Sourcing Policy](#);

³ <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/greenchemistry/principles/12-principles-of-green-chemistry.html>

⁴ <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/greenchemistry/principles/12-design-principles-of-green-engineering.html>

[Responsible Palm Oil Sourcing Policy](#); [Position on Conflict Minerals](#); [Responsibility Standards for Suppliers](#); [Position on Respecting Biodiversity](#); [Position on Impact of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in the Environment](#); [Position on Water and Waste Management](#); [Position on Antimicrobial Resistance](#); and [Position on Innovation](#).

Application

This Position is relevant for the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, as detailed in our [governance materials](#).

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