



Let's Build Beyond

Our Sustainability Strategy

Sustainability FAQs

Manufacturing process.....	2
Logistics and delivery	3
Products and raw materials	4
Community	5
About 'Let's Build Beyond'	6-7



Manufacturing process

What fuels do your kilns run on?

What fuels do you use in the manufacturing process?

Our main fuel sources are natural gas and renewable electricity (deep green tariff). We also use relatively small quantities of oils (kerosene, propane and diesel). Natural gas is consumed in our dryers, kilns and is used to heat our offices. Electricity powers factory production and office equipment. Oils are used at our roof tile sites, for curing roof tiles and for office heating. As part of Wienerberger's decarbonisation efforts, we are exploring opportunities for fuel-switching to non-fossil fuel-based energy sources.

Do you offset any of your carbon footprint?

We do not presently offset our company carbon footprint. Whilst offsetting can help abate carbon emissions already released to the atmosphere, it is essential to tackle emissions at their source: hence our sustainability strategy tackles the reduction of carbon emissions head-on through changes to our manufacturing processes and operations.

Do you recycle any products?

Recycling from construction / demolition sites

We do not presently offer a take-back scheme for our products; however we facilitate the responsible use of reclaimed brick via guidance published by the Brick Development Association.

Recycling within our factories

We aim for 100% best-quality product, so we focus on getting production 'right first time' and therefore only recycle materials when products do not meet our high-quality standards. We do recycle unfired clay within the production process, by capturing material and returning it to the clay stockpile at the beginning of the manufacturing process. We can also recycle fired ceramic and cured concrete products within the production process by adding small quantities of crushed material back into the raw material mix.

Industrial symbiosis

We seek opportunities to partner with other companies to reduce natural resource consumption. For example, our slate roof tile Brtilock constitutes 80% recycled material from UK slate mines, and our fired engineering brick waste from Kingsbury is supplied to a green roof manufacturer for use as roof substrate.

Do you harvest rainwater on site for use in the manufacturing process?

Some, but not all, of our UK factories use non-mains water sources (from rainwater harvesting or surface run-off captured in lagoons). Perhaps the best example is the water recycling system in place at our Warnham factory, which extracts water from a man-made lagoon for use in production. The lagoon water is used to wash brick moulds, then it is cleansed of silt and returned to the lagoon. This water recycling system reduces overall water consumption at Warnham.





Logistics and delivery

Do you deliver in electric/hybrid vehicles?

Wienerberger works with trusted haulier partners to deliver our products and does not operate its own HGV fleet. We specify a preference for Euro-6 compliant vehicles in our contract to reduce air pollution and would encourage our hauliers to use electric or hybrid HGVs when the technology becomes widely available.

What efforts do you make to reduce your vehicle movements?

By working with specialist hauliers instead of our own private fleet, our hauliers can optimise vehicle loads by combining deliveries to avoid empty miles on return journeys. Wienerberger offers our customers incentives to take full loads of products and aims to combine part-loads where possible.

Do bricks sourced from the EU have a higher carbon footprint?

If we compare the Global Warming Potential (GWP) figures for modules A-C in the 'Generic Brick' Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for Belgium and the UK, the UK Clay Brick's GWP is 2% lower. However, as these GWPs represent an average for each country, it is important to remember the carbon impact will vary by brick type and by factory.

How are your products packaged/wrapped?

Our standard packaging for bricks is plastic strapping and a plastic hood. For roof tiles, standard packaging is a wooden pallet or crate, plastic strapping and a plastic hood. We aim to adopt circular economy solutions for plastic and wood packaging materials by 2027.

Do you use recycled pallets for delivery to site?

Pallets are not used for brick deliveries, unless they are requested by customers. We currently use virgin pallets/crates to deliver roof tiles and special shaped bricks, however we do recycle used pallets in partnership with a pallet specialist. Where necessary, we will repair small quantities of pallets at factories site to reduce wastage.





Products and raw materials

What is the carbon footprint/embodied carbon of your products? Where can I find this information?

The embodied carbon can be extracted from the Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) available on our website. Generic EPDs are available for several product categories, but we do not yet have full coverage.

Why can't I use clay sourced at my development site? Doesn't this option have a reduced carbon footprint?

The carbon impact of clays varies by geographical location, according to the chemical composition. We test clay materials to ensure they are of appropriate quality for brick manufacturing, as not all clay will make good bricks. The proximity to Wienerberger's factories is also important, as transportation from your development to our factory is likely to have a higher impact than excavation from our quarries which are usually situated adjacent to our factories. If you are interested in using clay from your development for brickmaking, please contact us well in advance of breaking ground so that we can assess project viability.





Community

How do you support local communities?

We support local communities in a variety of ways. Communities can request donations of products, services, volunteers and/or training to enhance community assets and skills. We evaluate these requests by considering the scale of positive impact and proximity to our factory locations. More broadly, we support communities by developing our employees' knowledge and skills and by offering apprenticeship opportunities. We also purchase goods and services from local SME businesses where appropriate.





About 'Let's Build Beyond'

How was the Let's Build Beyond strategy developed?

Wienerberger UK & Ireland's Let's Build Beyond strategy is the result of a lot of research and stakeholder engagement, conducted across the business during 2020 and 2021. In order to set our strategy and targets, we reviewed our customers' sustainability strategies so we could align to their supply chain expectations, and our competitors' commitments where we decided to match, exceed or differentiate. We also reviewed UK & EU legislation and emerging policy, as well as research and insights from Wienerberger AG to help inform our strategy.

Why is sustainability a business imperative for Wienerberger UK & Ireland now?

Sustainability has always been important for Wienerberger, however we have increased our commitments in response to the global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and resource scarcity. The construction sector needs to adapt, and as a key supplier of building products and services, Wienerberger will play an important role in supporting the transition to a net-zero emission, nature-positive built environment.

What are the SDGs, and what was the process in selecting the ones that Wienerberger is focusing on?

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the world's blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They highlight and address our global challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

In 2018, our parent company Wienerberger AG conducted a detailed assessment, broken down by product category, on the ways we can, and already do, make targeted contributions to the SDGs.

This assessment was subsequently updated in the Sustainability Report 2020. They identified 10 goals out of the 17 where Wienerberger can make an impact. These are; good health and wellbeing; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation and infrastructure; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life on land; peace, justice and strong institutions.

Our sustainability strategy Let's Build Beyond contributes to the achievement of these SDGs in UK and Ireland, and we have integrated key SDG themes into our targets for 2023.

How does Let's Build Beyond relate to Wienerberger AG's sustainability strategy? Why does Wienerberger UK & Ireland have a separate one?

Wienerberger UK & Ireland's Let's Build Beyond sustainability strategy has been heavily informed by Wienerberger AG's global sustainability strategy and is complementary to it. We have created a local strategy for the UK & Ireland, providing detail on the sustainability programme in the UK & Ireland and it contains additional targets and milestones, as outlined in our Roadmap to 2030.





About 'Let's Build Beyond' (continued)

How will you measure progress against the targets that have been set?

For many of our near-term targets, progress can be measured using our existing datasets and monitoring processes (for example, health and safety, carbon emissions and employee diversity and training hours). For other targets, we need to improve our internal systems and will be doing this throughout 2022 (for example, biodiversity net gain and product lifecycle assessments).

How often will you report against the targets you've set? Will you be releasing a sustainability report each year?

Wienerberger AG publish a global sustainability report annually, which contains performance data from Wienerberger UK & Ireland, reported under the 'Wienerberger Building Solutions' business unit results. We will report progress against UK-specific targets on our website on an annual basis.

Who is responsible and accountable for governing the Let's Build Beyond?

Let's Build Beyond is governed by the UK & Ireland Board and Senior Leadership Team, who are supported by the sustainability team to implement the strategy and are ultimately accountable for progress. However, we need everyone at Wienerberger to play their part in delivering our strategy, and each department will be able to advance elements of the strategy relevant to their responsibilities.

