

Corporate Social Responsibility Policy

Objective

The objective of this policy is to establish the Global Carbon Standard's (GCS) commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), grounded in the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and the ISO 26000 standard. This policy reflects our dedication to sustainable practices that benefit society, the environment, and all stakeholders.

Scope

This policy applies to all partners, executive officers, staff members, consultants, service providers of the organization, and other stakeholders within the GCS value chain. It is publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability.

Responsibility

The application and enforcement of this policy are the joint responsibility of the GCS CEO and the Chairman of the Board of Directors, ensuring its integration across the organization and its stakeholders.

Sustainability Strategy

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is defined as “the practices of the corporation that explicitly seek to avoid damage and promote the well-being of stakeholders by complying with current rules and regulations as well as voluntarily going beyond those requirements.”

In the context of GCS, this refers to the comprehensive set of instruments (including policies, operational practices, management strategies, and programs) that guide our activities. These instruments are rooted in a commitment to ethics, environmental protection, community and human development, human rights, and transparency.

GCS is committed to societal well-being, and we require our entire value chain to adhere to this policy in all interactions and activities. Our CSR initiatives are designed to project a positive image of GCS, demonstrating our commitment to objectives that extend beyond financial sustainability to create positive social, environmental, and economic impacts.

Evaluation and Monitoring

GCS shall evaluate its CSR-related performance on an annual basis through an ad-hoc CSR evaluation committee, formed as outlined in the GCS Governance Overview. Key dimensions of this evaluation include:

- **Organizational Alignment:** Ensuring that all standards and procedures align with GCS's leadership-guided principles and values, consistent with those applicable to its professional activities and products.
- **Corporate Well-Being:** Promoting a friendly, safe, open, inclusive, equal-opportunity, and healthy work environment, where compensation is commensurate with the responsibility of each staff



member. We emphasize strong, open communication among staff members and human-oriented personnel management practices, maintaining a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, education, disability, sexual preferences, or personal choices, as well as for any kind of harassment, corruption, or violence.

- **Environment-Friendly Culture Fostering:** By promoting resources and materials' rational use, reuse, and recycling, and making environmentally-oriented decisions on purchases, travel, and work environment policies.
 - **Community Involvement:** By direct action or by promoting or participating in initiatives that improve life quality, health, inclusion, and opportunities for the less fortunate in GCS locations' areas of influence.
 - **Global Well-being Commitment:** By continuously adapting and revising its regulatory framework, procedures, products, and actions. This commitment involves implementing, maintaining, and assessing best practices according to GCS Protocols, ensuring the "no net harm" principle, and encouraging the active participation of all relevant stakeholders.
- Additionally, GCS ensures that all certified activities comply with the Global Compact Principles in human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption, which must be upheld by all participating projects and programs.
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Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

GCS is firmly committed to the UN SDGs, focusing our efforts on the following goals:

- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
 - Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
 - Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
 - Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
 - Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
 - Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
 - Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.
 - Goal 15: Protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss.
 - Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
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Alignment with UN Global Compact Principles

GCS's business practices are aligned with the ten principles of the UN Global Compact across four focus areas:

Focus Area 1: Human Rights

- Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.



- Principle 2: Businesses should make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Focus Area 2: Labor

- Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
- Principle 4: Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labor.
- Principle 5: Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labor.
- Principle 6: Businesses should uphold the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Focus Area 3: Environment

- Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.
- Principle 8: Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.
- Principle 9: Businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Focus Area 4: Anti-Corruption

- Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
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Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics establishes the norms and standards guiding the behavior of GCS. All GCS staff members and stakeholders are expected to adhere to this code in relation to the following subjects:

- Behavior According to Ethical Values: Staff members and suppliers/service providers shall act with the highest degree of good faith, honesty, and integrity when performing any activity on behalf of GCS.
 - Applicable Regulations, Laws, and Regulatory Framework Compliance: Staff members and stakeholders shall strictly observe all applicable regulations, laws, and provisions related to discrimination, harassment, bribery, corruption, money laundering, privacy, and security protection.
 - Equal Opportunity, Inclusion, and Diversity: GCS is an equal opportunity employer, promoting a safe, healthy, and friendly work environment free of discrimination by any means.
 - Professional Performance: Staff members shall demonstrate the highest degree of professional performance, maintaining friendly and professional relationships with other team members, stakeholders, and the general public.
 - Off-work Behavior: Illegal or inappropriate off-work behavior that negatively impacts GCS's business interests, reputation, or ability to perform their work is considered a breach of this Code and CSR policy.
 - Conflict of Interest Avoidance: Team members and service providers must avoid any activities or contact that may pose a conflict of interest with GCS.
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Document History

Version	Date	Comments or Changes
1.0	5/9/2024	Polished version

