



# ESG information for investors

In an effort to provide comprehensive and transparent information regarding environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters, Cascades now makes additional data available to the public concerning a number of indicators recommended by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB).

## About SASB

The Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) establishes accounting standards that publicly traded companies can use in disclosing important information related to sustainable development to investors and the public. SASB standards have been developed by industry type, which allows for companies to be compared and for their performances to be better understood.

To learn more about SASB, go to:  
[www.sasb.org](http://www.sasb.org)

For more information about Cascades' 2016–2020 Sustainable Development Plan and annual updates, please see our interactive report at:  
[cascades.metro.net](http://cascades.metro.net)

Reference: Sustainable Industry Classification System™ (SICS™)  
– Pulp and Paper Products

Scope of responses below: All Cascades mills in North America (excluding Reno de Medici S.p.A in Europe and Cascades converting plants in North America).



TABLE 1: Sustainable development disclosure topics and accounting metrics

TOPICS	RESULTS			CODE
<b>Greenhouse gas emissions</b>				
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	
Gross scope 1 emissions (metric tonnes [MT] of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	417,914 MT	419,620 MT	416,987 MT	RR-PP-110a.1
Gross scope 1 emission intensity (metric tonnes [MT] of CO <sub>2</sub> e/metric tonne [MT] of products)	0.211 MT	0.213 MT	0.211 MT	
Description of strategy or plan to manage scope 1 emissions, emission reduction targets and performance against those targets	Among the 10 priorities set out in Cascades' 2016–2020 Sustainable Development Plan, the company is aiming for a 7% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions intensity (scope 1) at its plants by 2020. The Energy team (Cascades CS+, Energy Division) and experts in the Environment Department are responsible for monitoring potential improvement opportunities, evaluating new technologies and alternative renewable energy solutions, and working to implement such projects. For more information and to track our progress, go to: <a href="http://cascades.metro.net">cascades.metro.net</a> .			RR-PP-110a.2
<b>Air quality</b>				
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	
Particulate matter	39 MT	74 MT	53 MT	RR-PP-120a.1
NOx (excluding N <sub>2</sub> O)	575 MT	600 MT	603 MT	
SOx	370 MT	460 MT	405 MT	
Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)	1,192 MT	1,514 MT	1,449 MT	
Hazardous air pollutants (HAPs)	Operations are considered low risk for hazardous air pollutants according to current regulations.			



## Energy management

	2017	2018	2019	
Total energy consumption (GJ)	18,573,167 GJ	18,848,982 GJ	18,813,678 GJ	
Percentage of total energy from the power grid	28%	28%	28%	
Percentage of total energy from biomass	7%	7%	7%	RR-PP-130a.1
Percentage of total energy from other renewable energy sources	32% of the electricity purchased by Cascades comes from hydroelectric sources, thanks to its important presence in Quebec, Canada. However, since Hydro-Québec does not sell the renewable energy certificates associated with the kWhs purchased, Cascades cannot declare this electricity as renewable.			



## Water management

	2017	2018	2019	
Total water consumption (m <sup>3</sup> of effluents)	20,184,459 m <sup>3</sup>	21,615,546 m <sup>3</sup>	18,396,742 m <sup>3</sup>	
Total water withdrawal	Data not currently tracked			RR-PP-140a.1
Percentage in areas with high or extremely high water stress <sup>1</sup>	The only Cascades mill that is located in an area with high water stress is the Clarion, Iowa moulded pulp mill. However, this mill manages its water through a 100% closed-loop process.			
Description of water management risks and explanation of mitigation strategies and practices	<p>Although it used 7.3 times less water than the Canadian paper industry average<sup>2</sup> to manufacture its products in 2019, Cascades is committed to reducing its effluent intensity by 10% as part of its 2016–2020 Sustainable Development Plan. For more information and to track our progress, go to: <a href="https://cascades.metrio.net">cascades.metrio.net</a>.</p> <p>Since none of the company's plants pose a high risk with respect to their water management, Cascades' water management strategies are currently focused on monitoring the situation (water availability, costs, regulations, etc.). The company takes this issue seriously and is well aware that due to climate change, water stress and risk levels are expected to increase in some parts of North America.</p>			RR-PP-140a.2



## Supply chain management

	2017	2018	2019	
Quantity of recycled fibre consumed (metric tonnes [MT] of recycled fibre)	1,934,321 MT	1,958,234 MT	1,915,278 MT	RR-PP-430a.2
Percentage of wood fibre from third-party certified forest land and percentages under each standard	<p>100% of the wood fibre purchased by Cascades meets the strict requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) standards: Forest Stewardship Council – Forest Management Standard, Forest Stewardship Council – Chain of Custody Standard, Forest Stewardship Council – Reclaimed Material Standard and Forest Stewardship Council – Controlled Wood Standard.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>The quantities for each FSC product group (FSC 100%, FSC Mix, FSC Recycled and FSC Controlled Wood) vary according to market conditions and pulp availability.</p>			RR-PP-430a.1
Percentage of wood fibre that meets other sourcing standards and percentages under each standard	Cascades gives priority to FSC-certified wood fibre, as it is recognized as the most stringent standard in our industry.			

TABLE 2: Activity data

## Production

	2017	2018	2020	
Production shipped (metric tonnes [MT] of products)	1,856,569 MT	2,071,619 MT	1,904,944 MT	RR-PP-000.B
Total fibre consumption (metric tonnes [MT]) (wood fibre and recycled fibre)	2,292,714 MT	2,313,567 MT	2,271,050 MT	RR-PP-000.C

<sup>1</sup> Source: *Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas*, World Resources Institute (WRI), 2020. See locations of Cascades plants here: <https://www.cascades.com/en/about-us/our-company/cascades-worldwide>

<sup>2</sup> Source: Forest Products Association of Canada, 2019

<sup>3</sup> License codes: FSC® C002973, FSC® C018029, FSC® C116440