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# Together for Sustainability & EcoVadis Impact Report 2021

Celebrating 10 Years of Collaborative Impact  
in the Chemical Industry



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## Foreword

We are pleased to celebrate 10 years of partnership between EcoVadis and Together for Sustainability (TfS) with this special Impact Report, summarizing some of the positive impacts that have resulted from our collaboration.

Industry initiatives on sustainability – where companies join together to define standards and processes for engaging their supply partners in improving environmental, social and ethical practices – were not new when we founded EcoVadis in 2007. But it was always part of our vision to eventually adapt and develop our technology and platform to help unleash the great potential of such initiatives and accelerate their impact.

The initial vision and mission of the TfS founders – Bayer, BASF, Evonik, Henkel, Lanxess and Solvay was closely aligned with that of EcoVadis. We all saw the crucial role procurement can play in promoting a global standard for sustainability across the chemical value chain, while using an integrated approach which combines audits and assessments to drive improvements.

This partnership has been an incredible journey for EcoVadis. TfS was an “early adopter” of our ratings and platform, and has been instrumental in pushing us to improve our solutions and develop the global platform, by now backed by 1,000 EcoVadis employees. We are grateful for TfS and its members’ feedback and enthusiasm as they were crucial when we began building the “sector initiative” features within the EcoVadis platform. These features have initially enabled and then amplified the benefits organizations like TfS gain from their collaboration on the platform.

But more importantly, we have been able to measure how TfS has delivered on its original mission. Plus, the benchmark it has set for industry collaboration keeps inspiring many companies to raise their ambitions.

We wish to thank the TfS leaders – both the founders and the initiative leaders – for their perseverance and commitment in working alongside us. We congratulate them – including the members who have joined and all

of their trading partners – on their efforts to maximize sustainability impact across the chemical supply chain.

By recognizing TfS’ significant impact thus far, we hope to encourage more chemical companies and their suppliers to join the TfS community. It may also serve to inspire companies in other industries to join with their peers to take similar collaborative action and accelerate positive change.

Looking back at the achievements of the past 10 years we trust that TfS has the resources and vision to continue to play a critical role in solving the immense sustainability challenges we need to resolve in the next decade.



**Pierre-Francois Thaler**  
Co-Founder  
& Co-CEO



**Frédéric Trinel**  
Co-Founder  
& Co-CEO



# Scaling the Impact of the TfS Network

This report follows the EcoVadis Impact Report, first published in December of 2020, which describes our “model for impact” for sustainable supply chains.

Increasing customer engagement on the EcoVadis platform is essential to scaling our network and accelerating sustainable action across the globe. Buying organizations can create positive impact with every unit of procurement spend they allocate to contracts with sustainable suppliers.

When companies join forces with industry peers, this impact is multiplied. TfS is a leading example of how companies can collaborate to identify sustainability issues in their collective supply chain, and embrace an integrated approach with common tools that includes ratings, audits and programs to drive improvements on a broader scale.

TfS members showed strong leadership by requiring all ‘buyer’ members to also obtain an EcoVadis Rating as a requirement for membership. Suppliers are also buyers, and by monitoring and improving the sustainability practices of their own suppliers, they further cascade responsible practices upstream in supply chains.

The numbers below illustrate the reach of the TfS subset of the EcoVadis network. We continue to grow these numbers to scale our positive impact.



# Buying Organizations of the TfS Network at a Glance

The TfS-EcoVadis collaboration is engaging

10,500

buyers/category managers

from 31 member companies, spanning  
10 countries in the chemical industry covering

€232 billion

of global spend  
in the chemical industry

Membership in the TfS has grown steadily since its inception, and it has attracted seven international members.

ADVANSIX

AkzoNobel

ARCHROMA  
LIFE ENHANCED

azelis

ARKEMA  
INNOVATIVE CHEMISTRY

BASF  
We create chemistry

BAYER

BOREALIS  
Keep Discovering

BRENTAG

CLARIANT

CORTEVA  
agriscience

covestro

CRODA

DSM

EASTMAN

EVONIK  
Leading Beyond Chemistry

Givaudan

Henkel

ICL

iff

KRATON

LANXESS

MERCK

SANOFI

SEMPERIT

SOLVAY

syngenta

UPM

WACKER

WANHUA

Sika



## Rated Companies of the TfS Subset of the EcoVadis Network at a Glance

Since the beginning of the collaboration between EcoVadis and TfS and its member companies,

15,000 companies have been rated,  
in 99 countries  
across 176 industries  
with an estimated 6,030,000 workers globally



Estimation of workers covered by EcoVadis ratings: The number of workers covered by EcoVadis ratings was estimated by assigning an average number of employees for each of the 65,000 companies rated by EcoVadis based on their size category:  
Large = 1,000 employees  
Medium = 500 employees  
Small = 60 employees  
Extra-small = 25 employees

## Growing transparency by accelerating network connections

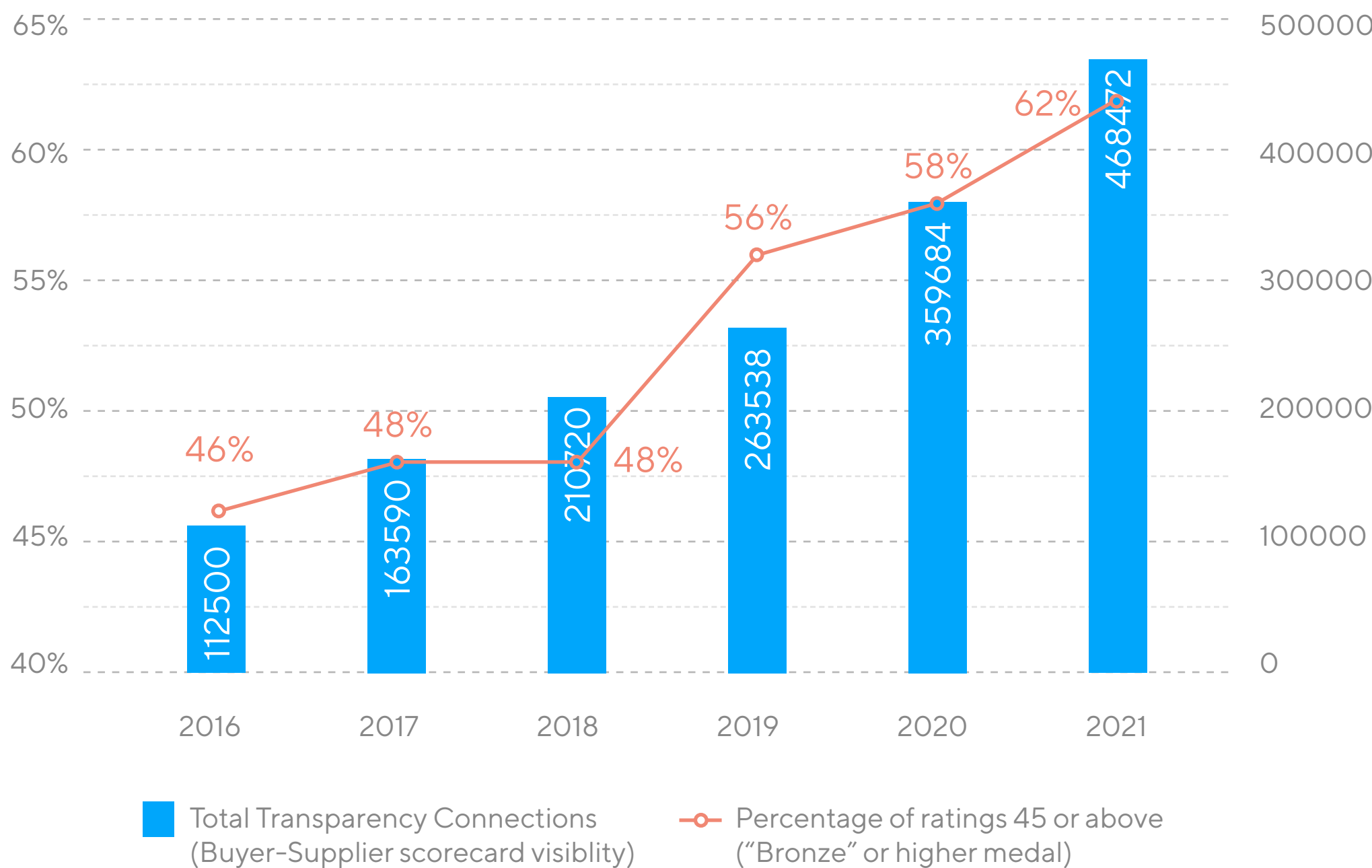
The TfS initiative’s strategy, combined with the EcoVadis platform, has influenced key principles for creating positive impact:

1. Accelerating transparency and value by rapidly expanding “network connections”. Transparency occurs when a supplier makes their sustainability performance (rating and scorecard) visible to their customers or trading partners. The “Share to one, share to all” principle embraced by TfS has created powerful growth in these “transparency connections”. For example, any TfS member can browse, search and view scorecards and performance of any supplier within the collective pool, to help with sourcing activity. This creates value for suppliers and transparency for the industry.
2. Driving improvements in sustainability performance. Aligning all of a supplier’s customers on EcoVadis’ centralized and collaborative platform incentivizes suppliers to improve and streamlines their efforts.

Learn more about the EcoVadis  
scoring scale and methodology here



The graph below shows strong growth in key performance indicators over our past few years of collaboration.

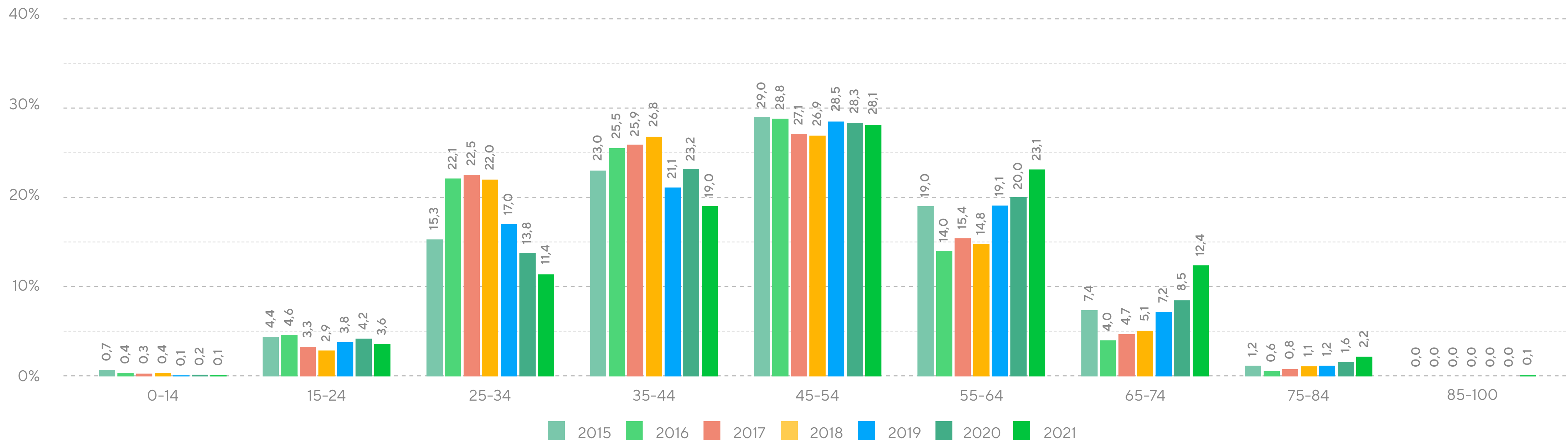


# Rating Performance Evolution

Overall, EcoVadis scores of rated companies in the TfS network have improved steadily in recent years. This graph depicts the shift in the distribution of scores across nine ranges. The shift pivots around a score of about 45 on the EcoVadis scoring scale, which is considered the threshold between “partial” (with a likely outcome of

“medium risk”) and “good” (with a likely outcome of “engaged”). From left to right, you can see the percentage of suppliers scoring less than 45 has generally declined over the years. It is also clear that the percentage of suppliers attaining “good”, “advanced” or “outstanding” performance has increased in recent years.

## Sustainability Performance Ranges and Benchmarks



\* All company sizes, unweighted data.



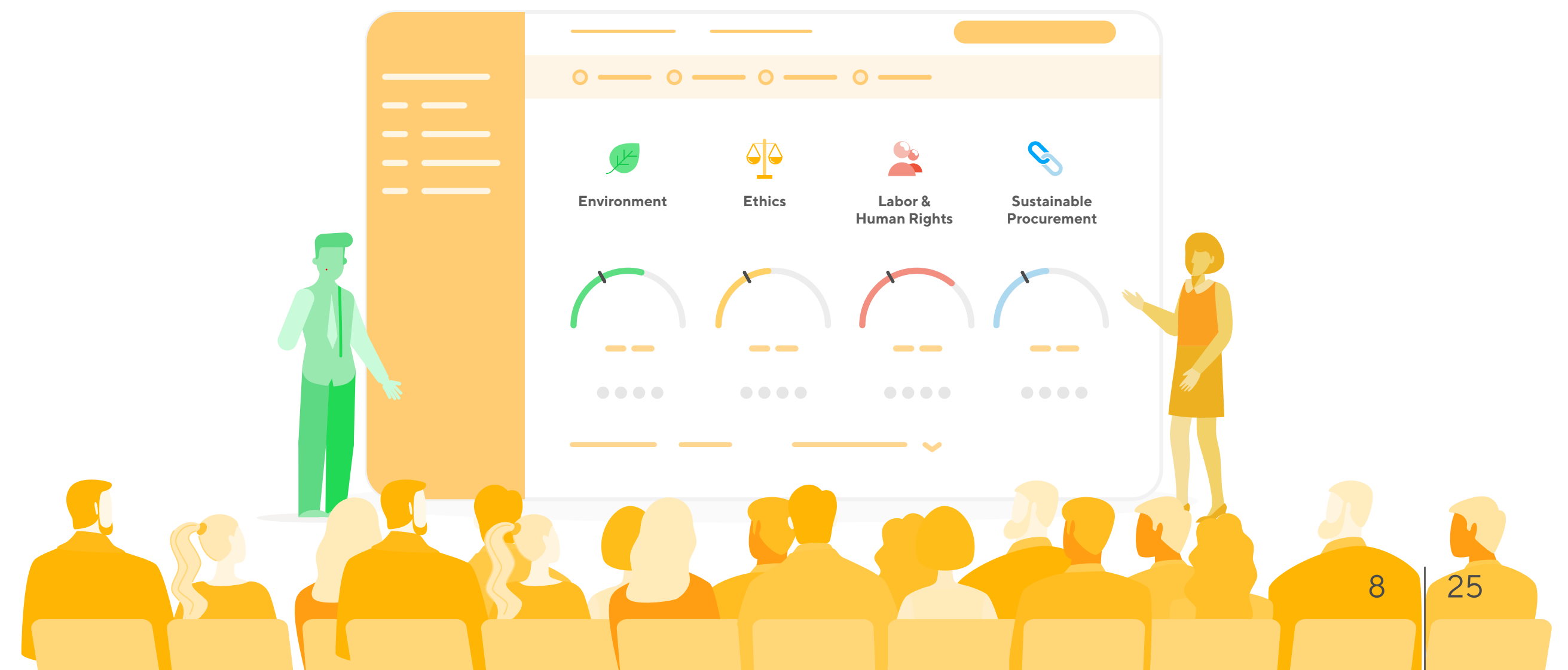
# Driving Improvement

Using the areas for improvement highlighted on EcoVadis Scorecards, companies typically improve their rating between their first and most recent assessment. On average, companies rated for TfS by EcoVadis between 2012 and 2021 improved their score by eight points between their first and last rating:

- ✓ Average improvement of 3.4 points on the Environment theme
- ✓ Average improvement of 8.9 points on the Labor & Human Rights theme
- ✓ Average improvement of 7.9 points on the Ethics theme
- ✓ Average improvement of 5.7 points on the Sustainable Procurement theme

Of the 8,469 companies that EcoVadis has rated several times for TfS, 73% improved their score between their first and most recent rating.

Rated companies can improve their EcoVadis score from one rating to the next by implementing additional sustainability best practices. We have highlighted a few of them below.







Out of the 6,926 companies rated by EcoVadis since 2016:

## Environmental Impacts



259

companies have started producing renewable energy (e.g. solar or wind energy) for their own use.



615

companies have started sourcing energy from renewable sources.



719

companies have started providing environmental protection training to their employees (covering topics like energy management, water and biodiversity).



85

companies have implemented actions to mitigate their impact on the local environment.



250

companies have programs to reuse or recycle materials.





## Social Impacts

Out of the 6,926 companies rated by EcoVadis since 2016:



665

companies have provided child care services (such as on-site care facilities).



547

companies have implemented wage equality programs (such as wage gap audits).



1,045

companies have implemented diversity training for their employees.



1,305

companies have implemented health and safety training for their employees.

However, companies still need to accelerate their adoption of sustainability best practices to address the pressing environmental and social challenges of our time. EcoVadis Ratings continue to provide companies with a detailed roadmap to increase their positive impact on society and the planet.



## About EcoVadis

EcoVadis is the world's most trusted provider of business sustainability ratings, intelligence and collaborative performance improvement tools for global supply chains. Backed by a powerful technology platform and a global team of domain experts, EcoVadis' easy-to-use and actionable sustainability scorecards provide detailed insight into environmental, social and ethical risks across 200 purchasing categories and 160 countries. Industry leaders such as Johnson & Johnson, Verizon, L'Oréal, Subway, Nestlé, Salesforce, Michelin and BASF are among the more than 75,000 businesses on the EcoVadis network, all working with a single methodology to evaluate, collaborate and improve sustainability performance in order to protect their brands, foster transparency and innovation, and accelerate growth. Learn more on [ecovadis.com](https://ecovadis.com), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

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## About Together for Sustainability

It is the TfS vision that Together we will foster sustainable and resilient supply chains with fair working conditions, climate change mitigation and environmental protection. The TfS beliefs are that together we can be more effective and less administratively burdened; the chemical sector can lead the way in accountability; and sustainable and accountable supply chains are imperative for the planet. It is the ambition of TfS and its members to grow into the global standard for environmental, social and governance performance of chemical supply chains.

