

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE AUSTRALIA

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: 29 August 2016 – 29 August 2018

Part 1. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive Officer

To our Stakeholders and Members,

I am pleased to reaffirm the commitment of Good Environmental Choice Australia's to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles with respect to Human Rights, Labour, Environmental and Anti-Corruption. This document contains our Communication on Engagement and we welcome feedback on our work to support these principles.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles. We commit to the transparency of this information and will share this with our stakeholders through our primary channels of communication, including our Annual Report.

Sincerely,



Kate Harris

Chief Executive Officer

Part 2. Description of Actions

Over the last two years, we have demonstrated our commitment to the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles through a range of activities. We have also worked to grow the number of signatories to the UN Global Compact.

At Good Environmental Choice Australia, our core offering has been the development and implementation of our ISO14024 Type 1 Ecolabel. Through our influence in supply chain management and procurement, we have begun raising the standards on human labour rights in our standards. These changes have supported the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, ensuring manufacturers and procurement teams take responsibility for the people in their supply chains.

In addition, we are integrating sustainable development goal into all of our standards in order to demonstrate future measurable impacts across all the SDGs. This gives consumers and specifiers clarity on how their purchasing decisions actively contribute to SDG targets.

We have included the option of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact as an option for meeting certain human and labour rights criteria. This publicly demonstrates our support for UN Global Compact and aligns with our vision for a sustainable future for all people and our planet.

Over the last two years, we have also developed a strategy to help transition organisations who are not yet achieving best practice to move towards this goal. We have developed offerings in addition to our Ecolabel to create a roadmap towards social and environmental sustainability. We recognise the importance of doing this to bring as many organisations as possible in line with the Ten Principles and to achieve a sustainable and regenerative future.

In addition to these service offerings, our Positive Procurement Pledge has allowed us to work specifically with organisations on their procurement. We have modelled the pledge on the ISO20400 standard and use our interface with these organisations to help grow the understanding of both this standard and the Ten Principles. The introduction of Modern Slavery Legislation in Australia has also presented a unique opportunity for us to engage with procurement and manufacturers with respect to the Ten Principles. We are able to conduct risk assessments and consult with business on their procurement practices, ensuring alignment to the Ten Principles and the future legislation in Australia. We can also use our existing Ecolabel to provide assurance in this area.

Over the last two years, we have seen awareness of supply chain and procurement practices grow significantly. At GECA we are proud of our work aligning the goals of organisations with environmental and social best practice through the Ten Principles and the growing landscape of positive procurement initiatives.

Part 3. Measurement of Outcomes

Since launching our positive procurement pledge, we have signed up 34 organisations of varying size and industries, including government, large property developers, small businesses, sole traders and other not for profits. This unprecedented variety of pledgers has allowed us to share our knowledge in new sectors we have not worked with previously, growing our impact and ability to further the Ten Principles and sustainable procurement.

We have also had the privilege of consulting with various organisations on their procurement policies, having a direct impact on the way organisations make purchasing decisions.

Beyond this, a number of our furniture licensees have signed up to UN Global Compact, are in the process of signing up or have committed to sign within 6 months. This is the first standard to include the option of becoming a signatory to demonstrate compliance to certain criteria. This product category also represents our largest number of licensees and, therefore, our largest impact category in terms of potential signatories. We are proud that our licensees have taken this step to further their engagement with the people in their supply chains.