

# Volkswagen publishes Responsible Raw Materials Report 2021



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The Responsible Raw Materials Report is a first for the automotive industry as it is specifically dedicated to address mitigation measures against human rights and environmental risks in particularly exposed supply chains. The report covers 16 high-risk raw materials, including battery materials such as lithium and cobalt. Often, the highest risks for human rights and the environment occur in the upstream supply chain, which is at a level where the car manufacturer itself does not have direct contractual relationships. This makes transparency and the implementation of standards particularly demanding.

In this new report, Volkswagen discloses for the first time the list of smelters in its tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold supply chains as well as the countries of origin. Furthermore, the carmaker used 2021 to prepare more binding sustainability requirements for its suppliers -targeting, among others, leather and natural rubber.

In 2021, Volkswagen Group joined the pledge for a moratorium on deep sea mining, which poses potentially severe environmental risks. Furthermore the company joined the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR) and supported the development of Reporting Requirements for companies in rubber supply chains.

A key priority for Volkswagen Group in 2022 is to engage with suppliers in the battery supply chain – from mine to cell – to promote responsible sourcing and mining through credible certification schemes. As a major step towards this goal, Volkswagen joined the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) in March 2022 and pledged to gradually implement the IRMA-standards in its own battery supply chains.

Volkswagen Group's Board Member for Purchasing, Murat Aksel, expressed confidence about the progress made since the introduction of the first Responsible Raw Material Report and thanked Volkswagen Group's suppliers for their cooperation: "On the one hand, we are setting a good example: In order to identify, assess and mitigate human rights risk and ensure responsible sourcing of raw materials we have implemented dedicated management systems. On the other hand, we have high expectations towards our business partners and suppliers in

terms of sustainability: The non-negotiable fundament of our business relations are – for example – our Code of Conduct for Business Partners, the Sustainability Rating as well as a grievance mechanism. We can only overcome global challenges and succeed in protecting the environment as well as human rights, if we work together with all relevant stakeholders and our business partners along the supply chain.”

*Press release distributed by Wire Association on behalf of Volkswagen, on May 30, 2022. For more information subscribe and [follow us](#).*

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