2024

Sustainability Report

ABL-TECHNIC

SUMMARY

As a specialist in paint removal, we contribute to the circular economy: all de-coated products can be used again and again. Any metal hook, rim or car body that comes to us for paint removal avoids becoming landfill waste or consuming newly extracted raw materials.

In this report, we outline our sustainability strategy, share key performance highlights and the actions we are taking to reduce our environmental footprint and invest in the wellbeing of our employees.

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LETTER FROM THE MANAGEMENT

Dear Readers,

With great satisfaction and proudness, ABL-TECHNIC is presenting its first sustainability report. By doing so, we are the first and only de-coating/cleaning company worldwide compiling such a report.

This report is the result of our "Grow to Green Strategy", which was launched in 2021. In this strategy – for the first time – ABL-TECHNIC set itself clear reduction targets around CO2 emissions, waste volume reduction, energy usage and freshwater consumption. We came close to an average annual CO2 footprint reduction of 10% over the past three years. We have moved more than 60% of our electricity demand to renewable energy sources and have installed PV panels on three of our facilities in Europe.

In addition, it laid out how to move our chemical processes onto "greener" and "less energy consuming" alternatives. Finally, ABL-TECHNIC also started the initiative – we call it "ABL Health & Safety Lifestyle" to significantly improve the safety within our plants and for our employees in which, as an example, we are certifying all our plants in Europe with ISO 45001.

This report of course is not the end of the process we have started in 2021. ABL-TECHNIC, as the only international player in our industry, remains committed to continue the path we have chosen. We remain focused on proving that leading sustainability efforts in our industry while growing profitability are two goals stimulating each other.
This commitment is also laid out in our company value RESPECT, which reflects on dimensions such as health, nature or the society.

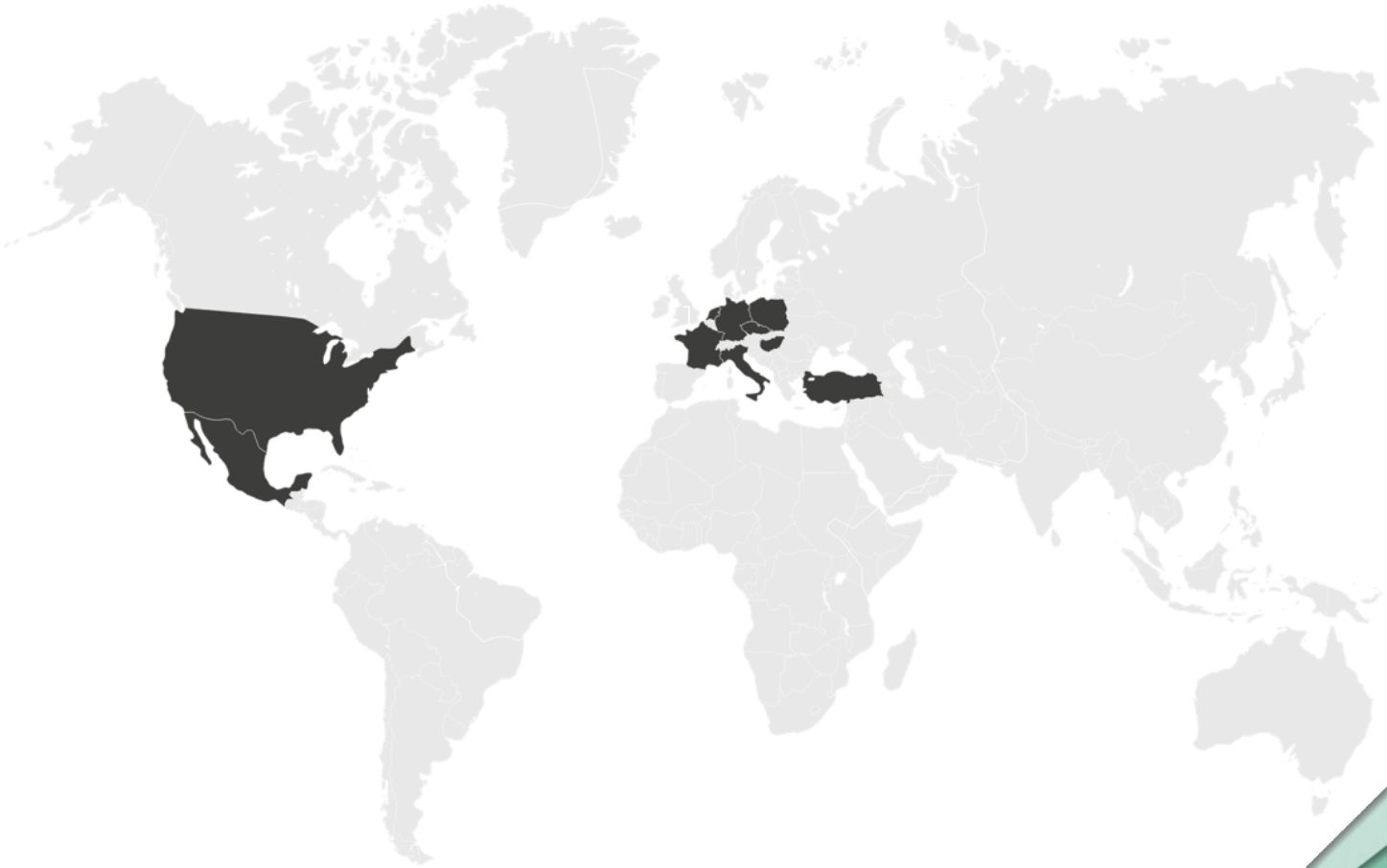
Thank you for your interest, trust and support you constantly give to ABL-TECHNIC. This is truly fueling our motivation to – step by step – transform our company.

Timo Benner	CSO
Anne Dierkopf	CFO
Michael Preinerstorfer	CEO
Massimo Terfani	COO

ABOUT THE COMPANY

The ABL-TECHNIC Group is the global market leader in paint stripping. At 25 locations in 10 countries, we offer high-quality paint stripping processes with a focus on environmental compatibility.

More than 500 employees worldwide have been working on this for over 50 years. Certified to DIN EN ISO 9001, 14001, 50001, 45001 and as a specialist waste management company, we offer chemical and thermal paint stripping for automotive and industrial customers. From screws to shell and tube heat exchangers up to 30 tonnes, we offer cleaning, repair, disposal and logistics.



24
LOCATIONS

10
COUNTRIES

~500
EMPLOYEES

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Through standardized processes, guidelines and values, the ABL-TECHNIC-Group guarantees consistently high quality at all locations worldwide. In doing so, we pay attention to our environment and the careful use of resources.

HIGH QUALITY

In everything we do, we strive for the highest quality, because the high expectations of our customers are exceeded by our own standards.

EFFICIENT

We give our all for our customers without compromise. We use the required resources carefully and always strive for maximum efficiency.

RESPECTFUL

All-round respect is our most important maxim. That's why we look at the big picture and always act respectfully, both internally and externally.

RELIABLE

You can rely on us. We treat customers, suppliers, partners and competitors alike with respect and stand by our word.

SUSTAINABLE

Our world is the only one we have. That is why we are committed to consistent environmental protection at all levels and are continuously striving for further improvements.

EXPERIENCED

We know what we are doing. We have been operating successfully on the market for almost half a century, are constantly evolving and are now active worldwide.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

WE MOVE YOU FORWARD

ABL-TECHNIC is the leading specialist for paint stripping in the painting and coating industry. With state-of-the-art technology, we offer unique solutions and optimum quality. Speed, adherence to deadlines and customer focus are our guiding principles. As an environmentally conscious company, we rely on sustainable technologies and are a global leader thanks to our creative employees.

OUR MISSION

SUSTAINABLE, HIGHLY INNOVATIVE AND EFFICIENT

ABL-TECHNIC stands for modern technologies, high quality, flexibility and availability. Our mission is to offer high-quality and sustainable solutions worldwide. We are environmentally conscious and focus on ecological concepts. As paint stripping experts, we create innovative solutions and guarantee a smooth process without time pressure or loss of quality for our customers thanks to certified quality standards.

THE VISION

PURSUING GOALS

Our vision is clear: we strive for sustainable success as a leading company in the paint stripping industry in Europe, Turkey and the NAFTA region. Our business model will be global and long-term, while ensuring consistently high quality at all locations. Respect for our employees is at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to creating a pleasant working atmosphere for everyone.

OUR SERVICES

MECHANICAL PROCESS

MAINTENANCE, SERVING AND CLEANING OF SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Our thermal paint stripping in pyrolysis ovens is particularly gentle and ideal for heavily coated parts. Our innovative processes enable efficient energy recovery. Our modern systems operate at up to 430°C; structural changes are avoided. Organic substances are converted into inorganic ash and gently removed from the surface. The result: metallically clean parts.

THERMAL PROCESS

SELF-DEVELOPED, MODERN, ADVANVED

Regular maintenance through servicing and cleaning of operational systems is essential for efficient management and sustainable action. A professional maintenance strategy is therefore a key business factor that can tap into unused savings potential and contribute to operational efficiency.

CHEMICAL PROCESS

IMMERSION AND SPRAYING PROCESSES

Our chemical paint stripping offers an effective solution for temperature-sensitive workpieces. We remove paint additives and defective coatings, clean the parts with high-pressure water and offer optional rust removal, passivation and preservation. Paint defects can be repainted. Our paint stripping media are continuously being improved in order to offer optimum solutions. Wastewater is treated in our own facilities, and recycled chemicals are reintegrated into the process.

RESPECTFUL.
INNOVATIVE.
EFFICIENT.

SPECIALIST AREAS

SPECIFIC SERVICES

PAINT STRIPPING
Components, painting aids, entire vehicles

RECYCLING
Plastics, metals, waste management company

FILTER MANAGEMENT/SALES
Cleanroom qualifications, maintenance & servicing, reporting & documentation, monotoring & analysis, warehousing & logistics

CLEANING
Rubber removal, degreasing, rust removal, plastic removal, cleaning of polymer-contaminated components (heat exchangers)

SURFACE PREPARATION
Blasting, roughening,...

OUR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION

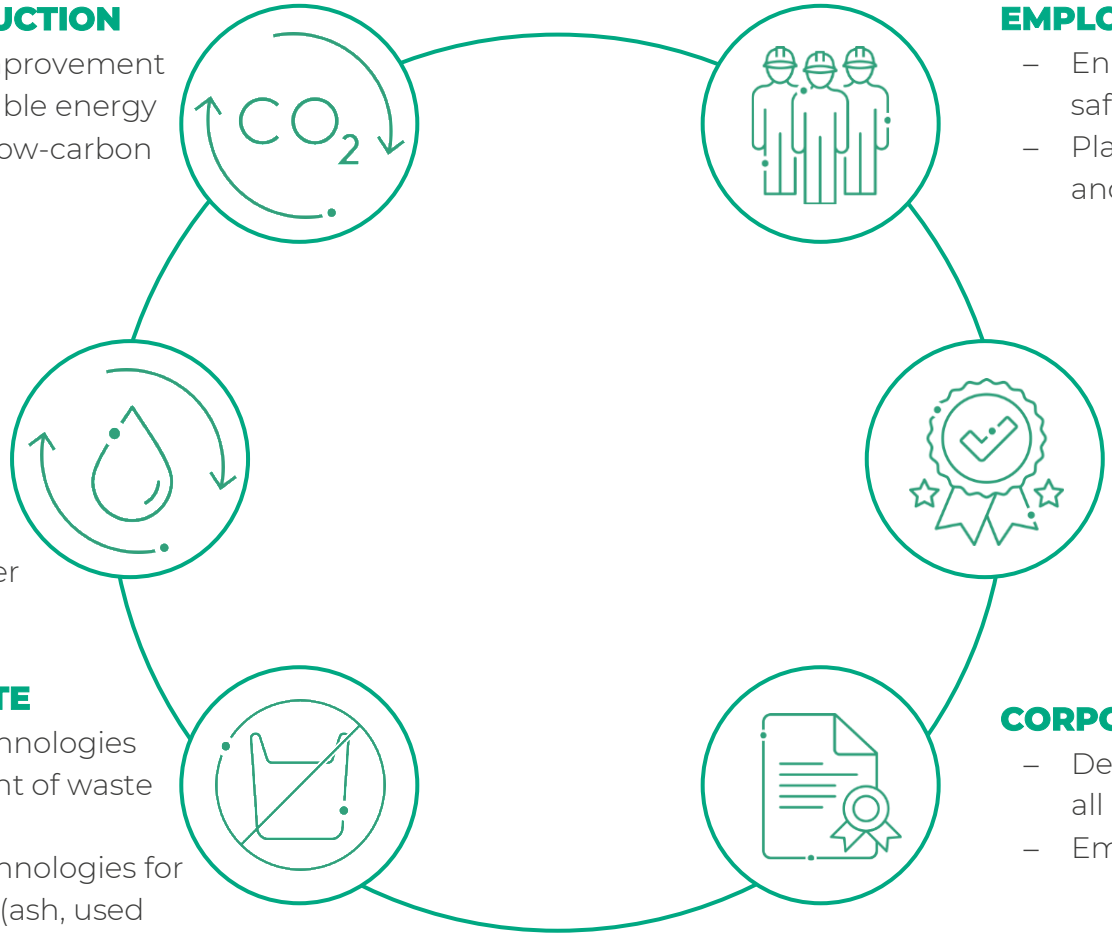
- Energy efficiency improvement
- Transition to renewable energy
- Implementation of low-carbon technologies
- Employee training

WATER CONSUMPTION REDUCTION

- Water efficiency improvement
- Evaporation-based water recovery methods
- Closed-loop process water systems

REDUCTION OF WASTE

- Development of technologies with minimal amount of waste generated
- Development of technologies for conversion of waste (ash, used sulphuric acid) into raw materials



EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Enhancing the frequency and quality of safety training
- Placing greater focus on identifying and elminating near misses

ISO 45001 CERTIFICATION

Preparing the ISO 45001 Certification in Occupational Health & Safety at sites that have not yet been certified.

CORPORATE CULTURE

- Development of corporate policies on all relevant sustainability-related topics
- Employee training

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The ABL-TECHNIC Group is committed to aligning our operations with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), integrating these global priorities into our business strategy and daily practices to promote long-term environmental, social and economic sustainability.

RESPONSIBLE CONUMPTION & PRODUCTION

In addition to returning all stripped parts back into use, we recover heat from our pyrolysis furnaces for our thermal systems and reclaim up to 60% of chemical solutions for reuse. We are transforming used sulphuric acid into chemo gypsum for further use in the construction industry and investigating new technologies of converting waste into usable resources.

DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH

Our goal ist o achieve strong financial performance while continuously reducing our environmental impact. Our employees, regardless of gender, age, nationality or position, receive equal pay for work of equal value. Due to the potential risks associated with paint stripping processes, workplace safety remains a key priority for us.

CLIMATE ACTION

Reducing emissions is at the top of our list due to volatile energy prices, the introduction of carbon taxes by countries where we operate and growing investor expectations. In response, we are focused on improving the energy efficiency of existing processes and implementing new technologies wherever possible to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Since 2021 we have increased the share pf renewable energy in our electricity consumption from 0% to more then 63%. The sources are wind and solar energy, including solar panels installed on our rooftops. In 2024, it helped us not release 5,247 tonnes CO_2 into the atmosphere (26% of all our annual emissions in scope 1 and 2).

CLEAN WATER & SANITATION

We are working to reduce the amount of water used in our post-treatment cleaning process by optimizing our operations and increasing the volume of water reused in the production. The responsible water management ist particulary essential in regions like Mexico and Turkey with water stress areas.

OUR GOALS AND STATUS 2024

	TOPIC	TARGETS AND AMBITIONS	BASELINE 2021	STATUS 2024	SHORT-TERM (2026)	LONG-TERM (2030)
ENVIRONMENT	Energy and greenhouse gas emissions	Reduction of scope 1 and 2 emissions	23,294 t CO_2	-25.69%	-50%	-70%
		Reduction of energy consumption	98.033 GWh	-10.75%	-20%	-30%
		Electricity from renewable energy sources	0%	63.68%	60%	80%
	Water	Reduction of freshwater consumption	62,430 m^3	-14.50%	-20%	-30%
		Reduction of wastewater	45,658 m^3	-23.38%	-30%	-40%
		Circulation of water	3,423.5 m^3	80.72%	120%	200%
	Waste	Reduction of waste	17,234 t	-32%	-30%	-50%
		Sulphuric acid disposal	10,738 t	-52.26%	-60%	-80%
SOCIAL	Health & Safety	ABL LTA (per 100.000 h)	1.47	1.48	1.2	0.8
		Annual Health & Safety Day	0	0	1 day per year	
		ISO 45001 Certification	0%	38%	50%	70%
GOVERNANCE	Ethics	Development of guidelines & training programmes on relevant sustainability-related topics	20%	82%	100%	

In this table, the targets for energy, emissions, water and waste as well as status 2024 refer tot he 19 plants that were operational 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Sustainability considerations are firmly embedded in our corporate strategy, particularly in the context of planned business growth. We are aware that such growth may lead to an increase in CO_2 emissions, energy and water demand, and the volume of waste generated.

Therefore, we are proactively advancing our decarbonization efforts with focus on reducing energy consumption, increasing the share of renewable energy in our energy mix and shifting to low-carbon technologies, which not only reduce emissions but also lower the use of hazardous chemicals. We are also actively investigating methods and technologies for converting waste into usable resources.

Through these efforts, we aim to build a more resilient, responsible and future-oriented business.

In 2021, we set environmental targets for our plants to reduce energy consumption and emissions, water used, and waste generated, as reflected in the table on the previous page. As the ABL-TECHNIC Group is constantly growing through the acquisition of new sites, only the performance of the plants that were operational in 2021 are considered in this table for the sake of comparability. One of these plants was closed after the first quarter of 2024 and the paint stripping operations were transferred to another site, which joined the Group in 2023 and is therefore not included in this comparison.

However, we continue the monitor progress across all plants within the Group, including those that joined after 2021. To assess the effectiveness of our practices, we track average values per plant, where applicable.

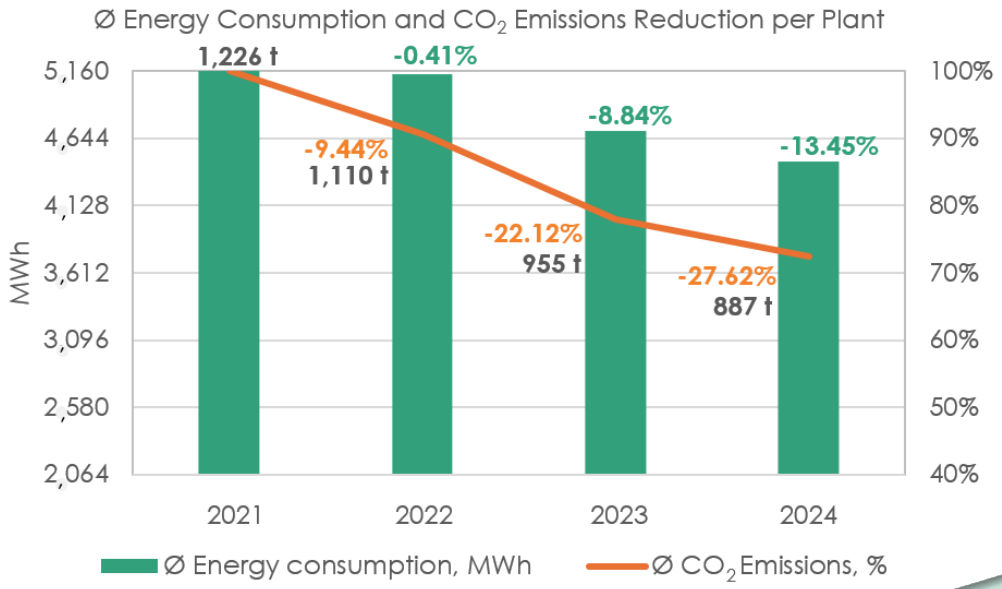
CO_2 EMISSIONS

To date, we calculated emissions under Scope 1 (stationary and mobile combustion) and Scope 2 (electricity and steam) across the Group. We are continuously improving our data collection system and plan to begin calculating Scope 3 emissions in 2025.

Emissions of the ABL-TECHNIC Group in 2024, in kg CO_2:

Scope 1 emissions	17,982,042
Scope 2 (market-based) emissions	2,205,725
Total emissions in Scope 1 and 2	20,187,767

The chart below illustrates the changes in average energy consumption and emissions per plant over time.



Since 2021, average energy consumption has dropped by 13.45%, and average emissions by 27.62%.

To address emissions and drive further reductions, we have implemented a range of measures, described below.

Energy efficiency improvements: This includes upgrading our sites with energy-efficient equipment and systems with a heat exchanger to use waste heat. Additionally, we are optimizing our paint removal processes and equipment operation to improve energy efficiency.

Low-carbon technologies: We are introducing advanced technologies like laser and cryogenic paint stripping, which reduce reliance and fuel combustion in thermal processes.

Transition to renewable energy: As part of our strategy, we are increasing the share of renewable energy in our energy mix. We purchase certified green electricity and install solar panels at some of our plants.

Employee training and awareness: We are launching a training programme aimed at raising employee awareness of climate change and promoting sustainable practices. This training will provide, among other things, practical advice on how to adopt energy saving habits both at work and at home

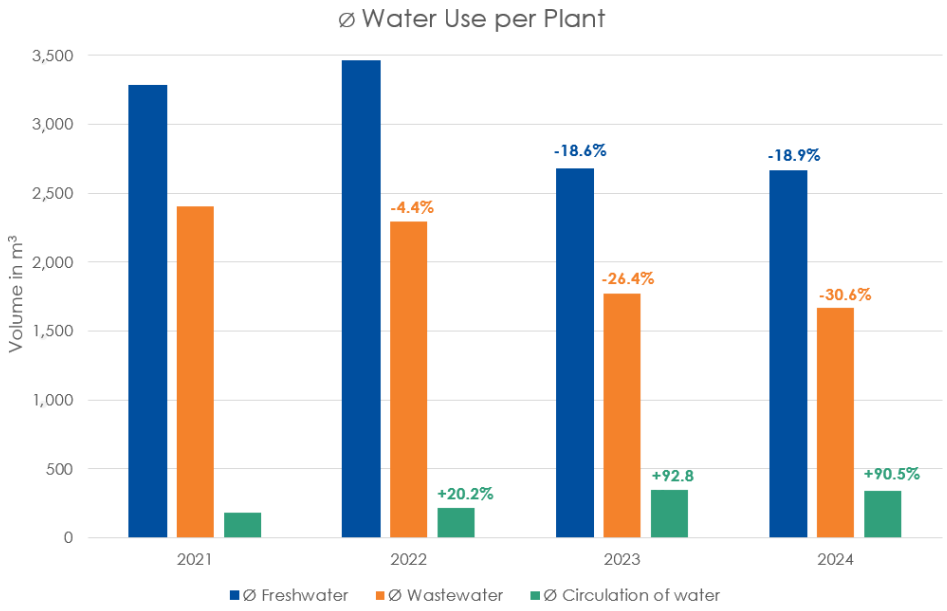
WATER

We use water in our post-treatment cleaning processes. The table below summarizes the water withdrawn, discharged and consumed in 2024 across the ABL-TECHNIC Group in m^3:

	All sites	Sites in areas with water stress (Mexico, Turkey)
Water withdrawal	60,599.04	2,205,725
Water consumption	22,671.16	20,187,767
Water discharge	37,927.88	2,950

In 2021, we set targets to reduce freshwater withdrawal and wastewater discharge, as well as to increase the volume of water reuse. The chart below presents the average values of these indicators per plant. As shown, the average freshwater value has decreased by approximately 19%, wastewater discharge has been reduced by 30.6%, and water circulation has increased by 90.5%.

To support our targets, we are streamlining our chemical paint removal processes by reducing the number of treatment steps from six to three, significantly decreasing water consumption. In addition, we have implemented wastewater pre-treatment systems and introduced evaporation-based water recovery methods. Where feasible, we are also introducing closed-loop process water systems to enhance water efficiency.

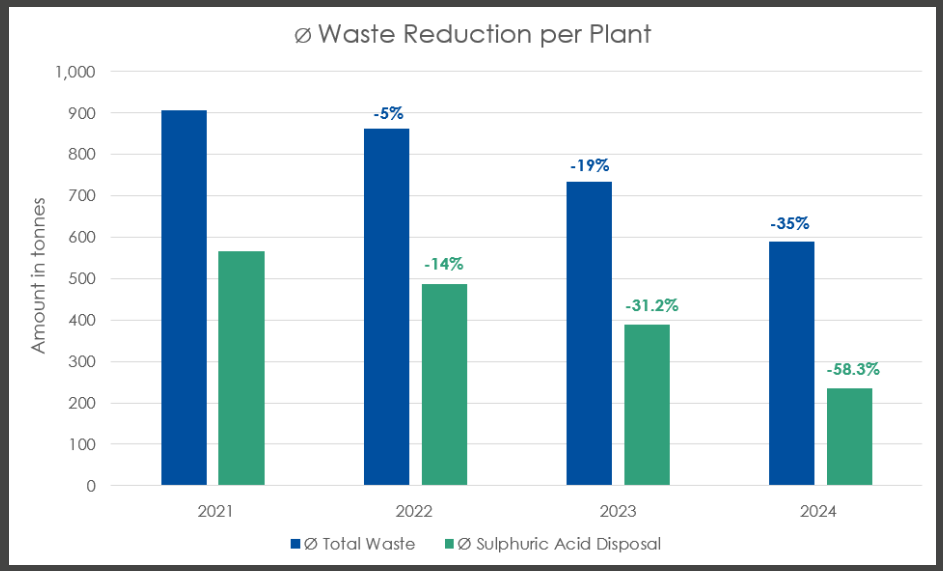


WASTE

We are committed to continuously improving our waste management and, wherever possible, directing waste toward reusing or recycling. The table below provides information on the Group´s waste data for 2024 in tonnes:

	Hazardous	Non-hazardous
Waste diverted to recycle or reuse	4,886.21	302.49
Waste diverted to disposal	6,803.17	1,154.28
Disposal type is unknown	178.10	77.35
Total	11,867.48	1,534.12

The chart below presents the average values per plant reflecting this progress:



Our waste-related targets include a general waste reduction of 30% and a 60% reduction in sulphuric acid disposal by the end of 2026, compared to 2021 levels. As shown in the table on page 11, we already achieved our short-term waste reduction target in 2024. However, it is important to note that we were unable to dispose of approximately 600 tonnes of used sulphuric acid in 2024 due to a fire at our disposal service provider's facility, which are not reflected in the table above, as the data is primarily collected based on invoices. This waste will be gradually disposed of in 2025.

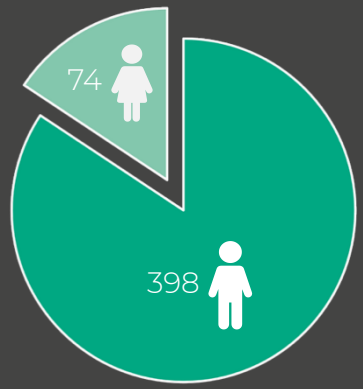
In line with our waste reduction goals, an important objective for us ist optimizing our processes and transitioning to new paint stripping technologies. These alternative methods, such as laser or crygenic paint removal, enable us to reduce hazatdous waste from chemical processes, as well as ash resulting from thermal treatment. Alongside the reduction of GHG emissions due to decreased fuel use in pyrolysis, it aligns with the circular economy principle of eliminating waste and pollution

SOCIAL

At ABL-TECHNIC, we are committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive and equitable workplace, where everyone feels respected and valued, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity/national origin, age, sexual orientation or identity, education, disability or religious belief.

We operate in 10 countries. The table below shows the number of employees in average full-time equivalents in each country in 2024:

Country	Number of employees in FTEs
Germany	220
The Netherlands	23
France	22
Italy	58
Poland	17
Czech Republic	20
Hungary	22
Turkey	26
USA	27
Mexico	39
Total employees	472



The gap in gender representation (presented in average FTEs) is explained by the fact that the majority of the workforce consists of employees at paint stripping facilities, where, due to the nature of the work, most positions are held by men.

The **female-to-male ratio at management level in 2024** was 0.24. The scope of the calculation included plant managers and business unit managers.

EQUAL PAY

All our employees receive wages that exceed the applicable minimum wage, determined by the national legislation in each country where we operate.

Accurately assessing the gender pay gap across the ABL-TECHNIC Group remains challenging due to structural and regional differences. In the Netherlands, France and Italy, wage levels are regulated by collective bargaining agreements, which establish standardized pay scales and minimize gender-based disparities.

In countries not covered by such agreements, comparison is often not possible due to the lack of equivalent male and female positions, for example, where a given role is held exclusively by one gender or only one person. Additionally, differences may arise across countries, even for similar roles, due to local market conditions.

Despite these complexities, we are committed to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value for all employees, regardless of gender, age or origin, and consider each employee's qualifications, performance, responsibility and contribution to the success of the company when determining compensation.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The ABL-TECHNIC Group has not recorded any human rights violations, such as child labour, forced labour, human trafficking or discrimination. Suppliers wishing to collaborate with us are required to acknowledge our Code of Conduct, which clearly outlines their obligation to uphold these standards. We periodically assess compliance through surveys, and to date, no violations have been identified.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Due to the hazardous nature of paint stripping processes, ensuring the health and safety of our employees remains our primary concern.

The table below represents the issues regarding health and safety of the employees across the ABL-TECHNIC Group in 2024:

Total number of hours worked in 2024 by all employees	1.016,138
Number of work-related accidents	15
Number of fatalities as a result of work-related injuries and work-related ill health	1
Number of days lost to work-related injuries and fatalities from work-related accidents, work-related ill health and fatalities from ill health	563
Rate of recordable work-related accident	1.48%

After two serious accidents involving pyrolysis furnaces in 2024, that we thoroughly investigated and analyzed, the following measures were taken:

- Coe probes were already installed in 82% of the furnaces worldwide,
- a furnace safety concept was developed,
- the furnace operating license was introduced.

We will endeavour to take all possible measures to ensure that the tragedy of 2024 never repeats.

The three key measures to reduce the number of lost time accidents (LTA) include enhancing the frequency and quality of safety training, improving the storage and handling of hazardous substances, and placing greater focus on identifying and eliminating near misses.

To raise awareness and reinforce the importance of compliance with safety procedures, we plan to organize an annual Health & Safety Day.

Currently, 38% of our paint stripping facilities hold ISO 45001 certification. We are working towards reaching 50% certification coverage by the end of 2026 and 70% by the end of 2030.

GOVERNANCE

One of our key governance-related impacts lies in how corporate culture, leadership style and internal structures influence the implementation of ESG priorities. Fragmented responsibilities, inconsistent communication or lack of shared values across sites can create barriers to effective sustainability management. These factors present risks such as misalignment between sustainability goals and operational practices, reduced transparency and delayed response to regulatory or stakeholder expectations.

To address these risks, the ABL-TECHNIC Group aims to achieve 100% development of policies on all relevant sustainability-related topics, along with corresponding employee training, by the end of 2026.

The highest decision-making authority in the ABL-TECHNIC Group is defined as Executive Members and consists of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Sales Officer. In 2024, there was no female representation at the C-level.

0%

In 2024, no convictions or fines were incurred for the violation of anti-corruption and antibribery laws.

82%

In 2024, we developed 82% of all relevant sustainability-related policies.

"We're taking every step to minimize every negative impact we make. We are still far from perfect but fully committed to lasting change.

ABL-TECHNIC

your sustainable solutions

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