Sustainability report

2014
A Natural Chemistry
INTRODUCTION

This sustainability report is now the third consecutive, since we started formalizing in 2012 our longstanding focus on sustainable actions throughout our enterprise.

Oleon’s shareholder, the Avril Group, has put sustainability in the core of its mission since it was founded 30 years ago by French farmers who wanted to create value for the oilseed and protein sector. Oleon, A Natural Chemistry, fully fits in this mission by adding value to renewable products grown by nature.

As the leading European company providing oleochemical solutions to customers, we are proud to announce that over 90% of the raw materials entering our formulations are of renewable sources! In order to further reduce the environmental footprint of our finished products – as is also required by our customers – we permanently focus on ways to reduce energy consumption, minimize waste, and improve recyclability. This effort starts already in our labs when our engineers design new molecules and continues with the process to industrialize them.

Of course Corporate Social Responsibility isn’t limited to products and processes. The highest priority is also put on the safety and well-being of our employees. An extensive safety program was put in place, aimed at reducing accident rates year after year, hence thriving for zero accident in the long term. The right tools and the involvement of all our employees have enabled us to progress and give us the confidence that we will continue on this improvement path.

Employee well-being is of key importance as there is no asset more important than the people who dedicate their energy every day towards reaching Oleon’s ambitious targets. Regular staff surveys allow for a quick feedback on areas where improvements can be made such as better communication or more training and continuous development programs. Our employees also want to make a contribution outside their workplace to the improvement of our planet. Many of them are involved in community projects aimed at helping people in need or preserving the environment.

This report will give examples of the various actions Oleon has taken towards sustainability in 2014 and will provide indicators to measure progress. We are proud of these achievements and we would like to thank our 900 employees for that. We also recognize that many more actions can be taken and will need to be tackled in the future to continue improving our impact on the environment, the well-being of our people and the financial stability of our company, that is to achieve overall Corporate Social Responsibility.

"OLEON, A NATURAL CHEMISTRY"

Moussa Naciri, CEO.
Oleon Sandefjord (Norway)
At the end of 2014, we discontinued our operations in Sandefjord.
We are very pleased with our Norwegian colleagues who – at all times – continued to perform their duties loyally, even though they knew that the activity was scheduled to be discontinued. Satisfactory arrangements were agreed for all parties concerned. A number of colleagues went on retirement, whilst others received assistance in their search for a new job.

UniOleon (Malaysia)
In November 2014, Oleon inaugurated a new, state-of-the-art food emulsifier factory in Malaysia: UniOleon. This plant, operated by Oleon and built on our company’s expertise and market knowledge, offers unique opportunities to produce traceable and fully RSPO segregated emulsifiers of high quality for all applications.

Oleon’s head office is located in Ertvelde, the area of the Port of Ghent in Belgium. We have two production sites in Belgium (Ertvelde and Oelegem), one in Germany (Emmerich), one in France (Compiègne) and two in Malaysia (both in Port Klang, named Oleon Port Klang and UniOleon). Our production site in Norway (Sandefjord) was closed end of 2014. We buy raw materials from all over the world and sell our finished products in more than 100 countries, through an extensive worldwide network of sales offices.

We will start to report about UniOleon in the next sustainability report.
In 2014, we achieved a turnover of 731 million euros and our production volume was 626 thousand tons.

Oleon concentrates on the sustainable growth of the company, which is reflected by its financial results and investment levels. Since 2009, roughly 2/3rd of the EBITDA was regularly reinvested into the company’s industrial assets.

REPORTING SCOPE

This report covers data for our head office in Ertvelde and all our production plants: Ertvelde (including the biodiesel tolling activities), Oelegem, Emmerich, Sandefjord, Compiègne and Port Klang. As Sandefjord was closed by the end of 2014, its data are fully recorded in this report. The data of UniOleon will be recorded in next year’s report.

Sales offices are not included in the reporting scope.

As a leading global provider of oleochemical solutions, it goes without saying, care for people and environment is a top priority.

We have made significant progress in our activities and initiatives to keep reducing our environmental impact and enlarging our efforts to empower our employees. You can find more about our efforts and results of 2014 in this report. The three sustainability pillars long-term viability, environmental preservation and social progress are translated under the chapters ‘Green Chemistry’, ‘Preserve the Planet’ and ‘Work Together’.

In 2015 and in the years to come we want to visibly incorporate sustainability into our day-to-day operations in a more structured manner. To achieve this, a detailed sustainability policy with clearly defined objectives is being developed. Besides the Avril Group objectives, we are committed to define objectives specific to Oleon’s activities. A complete set of SMART objectives will lead us further on to excellent Corporate Social Responsibility.

You will read more about our tailor-made sustainability policy in our next report.

Currently, our commitment supports the Avril Group sustainability objectives (CAP 2018) on which Oleon has an impact. These objectives with target year 2018 (base year 2012) are:

- REDUCE BY 10% THE AVRIL GROUP ENERGY CONSUMPTION;
- VALORIZE MORE THAN 2 MILLION TONS OF CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE OILS;
- REDUCE BY 70% THE OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS WITHIN THE AVRIL GROUP;
- EMPLOY MORE THAN 6% OF DISABLED WORKERS ON EACH SITE;
- DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF TRAINEES & STUDENTS IN THE AVRIL GROUP COMPANIES.

For more information please refer to the Avril Group sustainable development report 2014.

INTRODUCTION

Oleon starts from natural, renewable raw materials. Our key technology is the chemistry of molecules derived from vegetable oils and animal fats. They are extracted from renewable resources from all over the world: animal fat, rapeseed oil and sunflower oil from Europe, soybean oil from the Americas and palm oil, palm kernel oil and coconut oil from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Since the raw materials are natural products, nature herself ensures better biodegradability of Oleon’s natural chemicals.

Evidently, long-term viability for our business is inseparable from ‘Responsible Sourcing’ and ‘Innovative Solutions’.

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

In 2014, Oleon’s approach towards responsible sourcing was mainly focused on the sourcing of renewable raw materials.

The figure below gives an overview of sourced renewable raw materials as a share of our total primary raw materials.

We can report that 90.2% of our raw materials are of renewable origin which is well-aligned with the growing trend in natural based products.

Oleon is a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) since 2007. The RSPO is founded to promote the cultivation and use of sustainable palm oil. Three of our production plants are RSPO supply chain certified.

Furthermore, in line with the Avril Group policy on sustainable sourcing of raw materials, Oleon also implemented the purchase of Green Palm certificates. These certificates allow us to encourage sustainable palm oil even more. Oleon is committed to use 100% Green Palm certificates for palm oil and palm stearin by 2018.
INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Oleon’s innovation team consists of an international network of over 70 scientists, mainly located in Compiègne (France).

Our R&D organization enables Oleon to adapt to geographical differences in market requirements by focusing on developing partnerships with customers and scientific institutions, continuously improving our production processes, translating the market requirements into chemical molecules and creating chemical building blocks for the future. As a result, Oleon is globally present with a diverse product portfolio which meets the needs of our customers. An illustrative case study, in which a bio-based foam for car headrests was developed, is included in the next frame.

BIO-BASED FOAM CHOSEN FOR CAR HEADREST

Huntsman is a global manufacturer and marketer of differentiated chemicals for a variety of global industries, including plastics, automotive, aviation, etc.

In partnership with Oleon, Huntsman successfully developed a special polyurethane prepolymer based on rapeseed oil. More specific, Oleon contributed to the invention and finetuning of this polyol, developed specific methods of analysis and supported Huntsman in the promotion of their products.

This foam is now used by the Windsor Machine Group (WMG) in the production of headrests for a leading automotive manufacturer.

The collaboration between Oleon, Huntsman and WMG has resulted in a biobased foam of excellent quality, outperforming many alternatives. Crucially, the percentage of bio-based content it contains is significantly above average.
PARTNERSHIPS

Oleon takes part in different partnerships working on the development of sustainable products and clean technologies. Here are the most remarkable projects of 2014:

- Oleon became a member of the Bio-based Industries Consortium (http://bioconsortium.eu) in 2014 which leverages Europe’s advanced bio-based research and technology. Oleon is working on a proposal for a 5-year demonstration project on the use of biocatalysts to synthesize oleochemicals. With this new technology process, we aim to reduce energy costs and waste production.

- As a member of FISCH, Flanders Innovation Hub for Sustainable Chemistry (www.fi-sch.be), Oleon is the project leader of the Biovertol project. This project targets the sustainable synthesis of branched chemicals from bio-based raw materials. These branched chemicals have multiple applications. This 4-year project started in January 2014 and is funded by IWT, the Flemish government agency for Innovation by Science and Technology. Other consortium members of the Biovertol project are the Universities of Ghent and Leuven and several downstream users of the targeted products.

- In 2014, Oleon also became a member of the VISIONS project which aims to identify the main organic waste streams and by-products in Flanders with the ambition to use these products in a new value chain. Within this project, Oleon is offering its by-products as alternative feedstocks for bio-based processes.

- In April 2014, the University of Malaya (Malaysia) and Oleon Port Klang have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to jointly carry out research on a project for ester based bio-lubricants for specialized applications. This 2-year project will build on Oleon’s expertise in bio-lubricants and the research and testing capabilities of the NANO CAT Research Center in the University Malaya to formulate and validate the effectiveness of these esters. Our Director Asian Countries, James de Caluwé, affirms Oleon’s strong commitment in the South-Asian region, Malaysia in particular. Building on the knowledge of Oleon, the University Malaya and NANO CAT, we aim to provide our Asian customers with the best possible technical support and tailored sustainable solutions.

- The year 2013 marked the official launch of the P.I.V.E.R.T. Institute, the first European centre fully dedicated to bio-based research and innovation on oleochemistry. This public-private partnership, located in Compiègne (France) and co-founded by the Avril Group, is funded by both the European Union and industrial companies, such as Oleon. This institute enables more than 100 researchers, including PhD students, to collaborate on a wide range of non-competitive research projects.

BIOTECH

In 2014, Oleon continued to invest in biotechnology research. The BioTech team is developing innovative complex molecules obtained by fermentation. Whilst the standard chemical synthesis of these molecules would require many process steps with low yields, fermentation makes it possible to obtain these molecules in one single batch with high yields. Biotechnology allows Oleon to broaden its product portfolio with high-added value specialties which we could not obtain by classical chemical processes.

In 2014, Oleon continued to invest in biotechnology research. The BioTech team is developing innovative complex molecules obtained by fermentation. Whilst the standard chemical synthesis of these molecules would require many process steps with low yields, fermentation makes it possible to obtain these molecules in one single batch with high yields. Biotechnology allows Oleon to broaden its product portfolio with high-added value specialties which we could not obtain by classical chemical processes.
INTRODUCTION

Needless to say, the preservation of our planet is high up on the agenda of Oleon. Because we depend on nature for almost all our raw materials and we create natural chemicals with the lowest environmental impact possible, care for the environment comes naturally to us.

By following the Responsible Care Policy, a world-wide commitment by chemical industry to continually improve its Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) performance, we strive to make our impact as small as possible.

All Oleon production sites are ISO 14001® certified. The combination of an environmental management system with our Lean management improvement program4, launched in 2012, secures and positively encourages energy efficiency, reduction of air emissions, the optimal valorization of waste streams and control of both water consumption and effluent treatment.

In this chapter we give a concise overview of our 2014 performance regarding energy & climate, waste management, water consumption & treatment.

ENERGY & CLIMATE

Oleon continuously reduces its energy consumption per ton of produced product.

The figure below gives an overview of total energy consumption of the past 3 years, allocated to total annual production volume.

---

1 ISO14001: an environmental management standard developed by the International Organisation for Standardization.
2 Lean Management: a management philosophy meant to create maximum value for the customer with the least possible waste.

*The total energy consumption includes gas and electricity consumption.

The relative energy consumption has decreased by 5.3% compared to last year: from 1.26 MWh per ton in 2013 to 1.19 MWh per ton of finished product in 2014.

As Oleon’s CO₂ emissions are directly related to the energy consumption, our total CO₂ emissions, allocated to production volume, show a similar trend.

Our total CO₂ emissions have decreased by 8.6%, from 0.23 ton CO₂ per ton in 2013 to 0.21 ton CO₂ per ton of finished product in 2014. The unique, non-limitative examples in the following frame illustrate how we achieved significant energy reduction in 2014 and how we will achieve even further reductions in the future.
Non-limitative examples of energy reduction projects in 2014 and beyond.

ISO 50001

Our production site in Emmerich (Germany) already has been ISO 50001 certified since 2012. Additionally, we have implemented ISO 50001 at our two Belgian production sites in 2014, with targeted certification in 2015. Our plant in Compiègne (France) is also planning to get certified by 2015.

ENERGY POLICY STATEMENTS AT OLEON ERTVELDE AND OELEGEM

In order to achieve the ISO 50001 certification at the two Belgian sites, an Energy Policy Statement was implemented. In this statement energy objectives are formalized in line with those of the Avril Group. To achieve these objectives, Oleon will introduce yearly energy programs to:

- Reinforce energy management in maintenance and process-engineering;
- Intensify the energy monitoring where necessary;
- Continuously invest in energy projects;
- Detect and eliminate any unnecessary energy use;
- Analyze and improve the total carbon footprint of our products.

DISTILLATION OF GLYCERINE AT OLEON COMPIÈGNE AND ERTVELDE

The use of steam at our glycerine distillation plants at Compiègne (France) and Ertvelde (Belgium) is considerably reduced due to optimized heat recovery.

Most of the energy savings were realized by the installation of heat exchangers, the reduction of steam pressure in the steam jets of the vacuum system and more adequate monitoring by Short Interval Management.

The fact that both glycerine installations are running with reduced energy consumption is an excellent example of shared best practices.

20-25-35 ENERGY PROGRAM AT OLEON EMMERICH

At Oleon Emmerich, a highly structured energy management system was implemented in the autumn of 2011 and the plant was certified according to ISO 50001 in the summer of 2012. Since then, a lot of ideas, projects and quick wins have been realized. The Energy Program 20 – 25 – 35 was also launched encouraging Oleon Emmerich to save 25% of energy and emit 35% less CO2 by 2020. The projects mentioned here are just some examples of Oleon Emmerich’s very ambitious approach and its efforts to a most energy efficient future.

- **Refurbishment office building**
  Originally built in the 1960s, the office building had no insulation. Additionally, sun screens on the south side were partly out of order. Therefore, it has been decided to have a full energetic refurbishment resulting in an energy consumption as low as in a new office building (i.e., triple-glazed windows). A 50% energy saving has been achieved in heating this office building equating to savings of 800,000 kWh and 167 tons of CO2 per year!

- **Combined Heat and Power (CHP)**
  A CHP unit integrates the production of usable heat and power (electricity), in one single, highly efficient process. It generates electricity and at the same time captures usable heat that is produced in this process. This contrasts with conventional ways of generating electricity where vast amounts of heat are simply wasted. The CHP unit heats the boiler feed water (used for steam production) from 20°C up to 89°C while in the past this was done with fresh steam. It also generates 30% of the consumed energy of Oleon Emmerich. Moreover, art sound insulation was used with regard to the installation of the CHP unit resulting in a maximum of 45 dB(A) which is quieter than a car engine in idle mode.

- **Optimization parameters boiler house (steam production)**
  After being heated to 89°C by the CHP unit, the boiler feed water preheater heats the water further to over 100°C by means of fresh steam. Following a study carried out by the Energy team of Emmerich, the optimization of the boiler house control system saved up to 300,000 kWh! This project demonstrates that energy savings do not always require major investments.
WATER CONSUMPTION & TREATMENT

We take care to efficiently manage our water consumption and minimize the impact of our waste water on the environment.

Our production processes mainly use surface water and city water. Surface water is mostly used for cooling purposes. With the exception of some vapour losses, the net water extraction can be considered negligible.

For steam production, both surface water and city water can be used. At our plant in Ervelde, previously, city water was used for steam production. As it would be more sustainable to use surface water, a project has been implemented to switch away from city water to use this resource. You find more information about this project in the next frame.

The figure below gives an overview of our water consumption over the past 3 years, allocated to our total annual production volume. We improved our water consumption performance from 11.44 m³ per ton in 2013 to 10.58 m³ per ton of finished product in 2014, a reduction of 7.58%. This was due to our continuous global efforts for water saving.

Water used directly in our production processes is treated on-site or through a municipal wastewater treatment plant. The efficiency of our wastewater treatment plants is continuously monitored and optimized when necessary. An example of the upgrade of the waste water treatment at Oleon Port Klang is included in the frame.
REVERSED OSMOSIS WATER TREATMENT PROJECT AT OLEON ERTVELDE

Each year, Oleon Ertvelde consumes 750,000 m³ of city water. A large part of this is demineralized and is used to make steam. However, if we could use water from the canal instead of city water, this would be more sustainable. This change would contribute to protecting the aquifers in Flanders (no more need for sourcing deep groundwater), conserving water and chemicals, reducing the energy consumption (no more need to pump city water to the plant) and providing economic benefits.

Hence, a new water treatment system (capacity 900,000 m³) was designed to convert canal water into process water by Ultra-Filtration and Reversed Osmosis (UFRO). It started its operation in Ertvelde in 2014. By ultrafiltration, all particles larger than 0.1 micron are filtered out of the canal water. The filtered water then passes through the reverse osmosis unit where the water flows through a membrane with tiny pores which retains the minerals. This process results in very pure water which can even replace drinking water.

Moreover, in the subsequent treatment stage of the water, i.e. the demineralization unit, the consumption of chemicals decreases by more than 400 tons per year (or by more than 50%) when using process water instead of city water. Finally, the annual water consumption of the Ertvelde plant decreases by 70,000 m³ because the very pure process water used in the steam production needs less draining.

By combining environmental and economic advantages, this project reflects a major step forward on our path to higher Corporate Social Responsibility.

The implementation of this system will not affect the water consumption data of 2014.

UPGRADE OF THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT AT OLEON PORT KLANG

In order to accommodate the extension of our product portfolio produced in our Malaysian plant, the waste water treatment installation needed to be extended with a Moving Bed Bio Reactor (MBBR). This technology allows a better control of fluctuating organic waste water parameters. The implementation started at the end of 2014 and will be completed by the end of 2015.
WORK ACCIDENTS

The figure below gives an overview of our two accident frequency indicators of the past 3 years. FG 1 (Frequency grade 1) is the lost time accidents (LTA) related to 1,000,000 worked hours.

FG 2 (Frequency grade 2) is the lost time accidents (LTA) and accidents without lost time but with medical treatment, also related to 1,000,000 worked hours.

Our FG 1 is comparable to last year. Our FG 2 shows a slight decrease from 18.6 to 16.3. We achieved this reduction by our continuous efforts to promote and emphasize safety within the organization.

The highlights in 2014 were an update of Oleon’s safety policy (including a policy on management safety visits) - see frame - and the introduction of a risk analysis of our processes with regard to the safety, environmental impact and occupational health at the three development stages: R&D, pilot, industrialization.

“TODAY, IMPROVING HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCES IS CHALLENGED BY EACH OPERATIONAL UNIT. TOMORROW, IT WILL BE CHALLENGED BY OUR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY APPROACH.”

Jurgen De Wilde, Corporate Environmental, Health, Safety & Sustainability Manager.
SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT

As Oleon evolves, we develop new activities and new product lines but we also discontinue activities that are no longer aligned with our general business strategy. We are aware of the fact that these kind of developments have social consequences for the employees involved. Because we strongly believe in redeployment, we look for the most adequate solutions for every employee who is impacted by these decisions by exploring opportunities within Oleon or the Avril Group. In 2014 for example, we successfully redeployed 8 operators towards a new challenge after the discontinuation of some activities in our plant in Compiègne.

SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT

The motivation and involvement of our employees are of highest priority in our organization. To get a clear insight in the satisfaction level of our workers, the Avril Group launched an ‘involvement survey’ in 2014 for all employees. This survey allows respondents to anonymously express their opinion on a wide selection of topics, including personal satisfaction and working conditions, professional relationship with their immediate supervisor, department head or manager.

Over 70% of our Oleon employees participated to the involvement survey. The results show that employees appreciate the fact that Oleon is a company with high attention to safety and respect for environmental standards and they are pleased that they are well informed about the objectives and results of the company and their specific department. The number of employees who would like to recommend Oleon as a good employer is well above benchmark. On the other hand, Oleon needs to pay more attention in supporting direct managers in the coaching and rewarding of their teams.

As a consequence of the survey results, plant specific action plans are being implemented. These action plans address issues such as improvement of employee well-being, better internal communication and strengthening of management skills.

REDEPLOYMENT

As Oleon evolves, we develop new activities and new product lines but we also discontinue activities that are no longer aligned with our general business strategy.

In the tables and figures below, our workforce composition, age and seniority distribution for 2014 are displayed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>OLEON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEADCOUNT</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td># employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td># employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td># employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINEES</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td># trainees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISABLED EMPLOYEES</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td># employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE EMPLOYMENT</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>% employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINING</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>training h / # employees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUR EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

In the tables and figures below, our workforce composition, age and seniority distribution for 2014 are displayed.

Senior Distribution (2014)

Age Distribution (2014)
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As a socially engaged company, Oleon is involved in local communities. We illustrate this with the following, non-exhaustive examples of good practices.

MANGROVE PLANTING AT PULAU LANGKAWI (MALAYSIA)

The Forestry Department of Malaysia is actively involved in trying to replant forests in degraded areas. **Oleon supported a high impact project of the Forestry Department while at the same time trying to break the Malaysian record of the highest number of saplings planted in one day.** More than 20,000 seedlings were planted on the coastal area of Pulau Dayang Bunting in April 2014. The area was chosen because of the negative effect the local communities were experiencing due to the destruction of the former present mangrove.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR PEOPLE IN NEED (FRANCE)

A food bank is a non-profit organization that distributes food to those who have difficulties providing for their livelihood.

**Since 2012, the employees of Oleon in Compiègne can voluntarily participate to the yearly national collection for Food Banks, which takes place in November.** Every year our employees collect food for a few hours. This event is the result of a partnership signed in 2012 by the Avril Group with the Food Banks to support the fight against poverty and hunger.

In 2014, almost 20% of the employees participated to this charity in Compiègne and they collected more than 6,500 kg of food.

CHARITY AND VISIT TO AN OLD FOLKS HOME (MALAYSIA)

Each year, Oleon Asia-Pacific, Oleon’s sales office and Operational Head Quarters for the Asia-Pacific region, organises a charity event. In 2014, the selected charity was an old folks home in Klang, Selangor. The residents’ faces clearly lit up with joy when Oleon employees and their family members paid a visit to the home during the Chinese New Year, traditionally the period where families get together and pay respect to their elders. Daily necessities, food and monetary means were also donated to the home.

COLLABORATIVE PLATFORMS

We strive to be transparent to our stakeholders. Therefore, we are a member of the collaborative platforms **Ecovadis, Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and Sedex**. Customers who are also a member of these platforms can easily check our performance in terms of environment, fair business practices, labor practices, human rights and sustainable procurement. Our data are regularly updated on these platforms.
CONCLUSION AND LOOKING AHEAD

So far, our activities in the frame of sustainable development have guided us in the analysis of the impact of our activities on economic, environmental, social and societal level. It provides us with an accurate view of our today’s level of Corporate Social Responsibility. We are very proud of our efforts to progress with our natural chemistry, our people and the protection of the environment. However, we need to continue developing appropriate objectives covering further aspects of socially responsible entrepreneurship. This will enable Oleon to improve its current sustainability performances, achieve its general business strategy and meet its stakeholder’s expectations.

As we pointed out in the chapter ‘Green Chemistry’: sustainable chemistry is at the core of our business. We produce highly efficient and biodegradable products based on more than 90% renewable raw materials! To achieve this, we have the support of a global R&D organization and local state-of-the-art plants.

We dispose of strong assets to ‘Preserve the Planet’. In 2014, the eye catchers were an ambitious energy management system along with effective energy saving projects at the different production sites. They show that we continuously improve our energy consumption and CO2 emissions. The projects regarding water prove that sustainable advantages go hand in hand with cost savings (cfr. UFRO) and give a clear evidence of our flexibility to react in an effective way to changing process conditions (cfr. upgrading of waste water treatment system).

Because our employees are of utmost importance, we showed you how we all ‘Work Together’ on a rigorous safety culture and sustainable employment. Our participation in several community projects reflects our societal involvement.

As we aim to get on, we plan for 2015 and the years to come to visibly incorporate sustainability into our day-to-day operations in a fully structured manner. That is why a detailed sustainability policy with clearly defined SMART objectives is being developed. To meet these objectives, existing management systems and actions will be integrated (Lean, ISO 14001, ISO 5000, …) and, where appropriate, adjusted and/or expanded. Moreover, indicators are being defined for all our plants. This way, we will be able to easily monitor if we are on the right track, evaluate and adjust when needed. Obviously, our sustainability policy and indicators will, wherever possible, be aligned with the ambitions of our shareholder, the Avril Group.

Not only the impact of our activities, but also the impact of our products throughout the value chain is of great importance. Therefore, we started working on detailed life cycle analysis of our products. On the one hand, this will allow us to optimize our processes and consequently decrease the costs. Examples include the optimization of raw material choices, process techniques, transportation, reuse of waste streams, etc. On the other hand, it will enable us to communicate better with our customers and all other stakeholders about the impact we all have on the environment.

We clearly have progressed in the right direction on our path to Corporate Social Responsibility. It is a challenging journey, which is an important condition to realize our ambitions and long-term goals. We are actively engaged; however there is still much room to grow and we cannot do this alone… we need strong partnerships with all our stakeholders to improve together!

“GETTING AHEAD WITH OUR NATURAL CHEMISTRY, IS WORKING TOGETHER ON A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.”

Marjan Mates,
Corporate Sustainability Manager.
ANNEX 1
CERTIFICATIONS

- Quality
  - ISO 9001 quality management certification
- Food safety for human nutrition
  - ISO 22000 and FSSC 22000 certification for glycerine and food esters
- Food safety for animal nutrition and for animals
  - Good manufacturing practice (GMP+) certification for feed materials
- Environment
  - ISO 14001 environmental management system certification
- Energy
  - Certified against or adopting the principles of energy management system ISO 50001
- Safety
  - Adopting the principles of safety management systems such as ISRS and OHSAS 18001
- Sustainability
  - RSPO MB/SG certification for palm oil and 2BSvs certification for biodiesel and vegetable oils
- Kosher and Halal certifications
  - For specific products
- Ecocert, COSMOS, NPA certifications
  - Natural and organic certification for specific cosmetic products
- Conformity with European Pharmacopeia
  - Certification
    - Vegetable glycerine certified; compliance for specific products

COLLABORATIVE PLATFORMS

- Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)
- Ecovadis
- Sedex

COLOPHON

This report is written with the support of numerous employees at Oleon. Only because of their commitment and patience, we are able to produce this sustainability report.

Olein Sustainability department:
  - Marjan Maes
  - Jurgen De Wilde

Olein Communication department:
  - Liselot De Keyser

LAYOUT:
  - www.blauwepeer.be

Photos: Oleon
  - Pag 15 & 32 - www.shutterstock.be

A SUSTAINABLE CHOICE OF PAPER

This report is printed on FSC-labeled 100% recycled paper, certified to use vegetal inks and to produce prints carrying the FSC label.

[Image of FSC certification]

RSPO MB/SG certification for palm oil and 2BSvs certification for biodiesel and vegetable oils