

mater

Sustainability report

2022

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A continuous journey
to a more **sustainable**
furniture production

Welcome to Mater and our 2022 sustainability report

In this paper, you can read more about us and how we incorporate sustainability initiatives into a day-to-day business at Mater.

Founded in Copenhagen in 2006, Mater is a pioneering green-tech design brand renowned for its unwavering commitment to sustainability and circularity. At Mater, sustainability is an integral part of our identity and business operations. From our early days, we have embedded sustainability into our core values, guiding our decisions and actions. Our vision has always been to inspire and engage corporate leaders, design professionals, and consumers in sustainable action. Collaborating with established and emerging design talents, we aim to create timeless designs in a sustainable and responsible way.

This sustainability report encapsulates Mater's yearly Communication on Progress for the UN's Global Compact in 2022, reflecting our ongoing efforts to enhance and refine our sustainability initiatives. The purpose of the report is to serve as an annual update on progress, hence allowing us to improve our sustainability efforts. Furthermore, it is an opportunity for us to reflect on our environmental impact, products, social conditions, and workflows.

With this paper, we invite you to explore the multifaceted aspects of sustainability at Mater. For us, sustainability is more than just a word. Mater is founded on a sustainable ambition, being an underlying driving force in our everyday work.



A message from our CEO

Since our establishment in 2006, Mater has consistently aspired to inspire and engage individuals in sustainable thinking. Being a proud signatory of the UN Global Compact since 2007, sustainability is deeply rooted in our brand DNA.

Our focus is and has always been to design, develop, and produce products that truly make a difference and contribute significantly to minimising environmental impacts. As a company, we dedicate ourselves to tracking and measuring this data, recognizing that being a frontrunner means challenging existing processes, data paradigms, and status quo.

In 2023, our innovative Matek® products have achieved prestigious accolades, including recognition from the Marie Claire Sustainability Awards and Wallpaper Smart Space Awards. We hope to continue contributing positively to the furniture production landscape, with circular economy strategies gaining momentum as we eagerly anticipate exploring the full potential of our technology in the years ahead. In 2022, we removed 36 tons of waste materials. A number that makes us tremendously proud and hopeful for the future.

Sustainability, for us, is not just an ambition but an ongoing journey of continuous improvement. Sustainability and the use of fewer virgin materials are at the core of our creative processes. We firmly believe that we cannot compromise on design and quality to achieve our sustainability goals. Every material we use pays homage to our commitment to sustainable thinking. In a world where consumption is growing and only 7% of materials are globally recycled, we are directing our focus to increase the incorporation of additional non-virgin materials in our Matek® production.

Mater remains dedicated to leading the way, contributing to a more sustainable and responsible furniture industry.

Ketil Årdal, CEO

“In 2022, we removed 36 tons of waste materials.”

SUSTAINABLE / RECYCLE / RECYCLE / REUSE / GREEN-TECH / WASTE

A continuous journey to a more sustainable furniture production

mater

2006

Founded by Henrik Marstrand with an ambition to inspire the global design audience and engage people in sustainable thinking.

2006

The use of FSC-certified wood in our products has been a given right from the start and we are mainly using FSC® wood in our production. In an FSC-certified forest, no more trees than the forest can reproduce are felled.



2008

Launch of the Mater High Stool in recycled aluminum. 70% of the aluminum comes from recycled old pipes, tubing and other aluminum waste melted and mixed with new material to obtain the silvery expression.



2007

Mater High Stool is launched. Today it's one of our most sold products and is a centerpiece in many hotels, bars and restaurants around the world. It's regarded as a New Danish Classic.



2012

We introduce the Bowl Table made of mango wood. Mango wood is a byproduct of an already thriving industry. When the trees stop bearing fruits, it's cut down, and a new one is planted. Harvesting the wood that was previously burnt or left to break down is a source of sustainable material.

Matek™

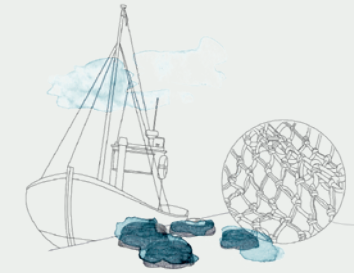
2020

In alliance with large corporations, Mater explores new technology that recycles industrial fibre and plastic waste. This results in five new unique patented materials under the name Matek®.



2021

The Ocean Collection is launched in a version of recycled beer kegs from Carlsberg. In line with the circular way of thinking, the OC2 Collection can be found in the outdoor area of Carlsberg's headquarters in Copenhagen.



2019

We start using ocean waste for our outdoor series and injection moulded chairs. Old fishing nets from the ocean are collected, washed, shredded and made into pellets, also known as green plastic.



2019

The Ocean collection by Nanna Ditzel is awarded with the Wallpaper* Magazines Design award.



2022

Introducing our Mater Take-back system. We offer to take all furniture made with Matek® back at the end of its life to recycle it into new furniture.



2023

We incorporated e-waste (end-of-life electronic appliances) in our Matek® production. E-waste is considered the fastest-growing waste stream in the world.

Status and targets

	2022	2025 target
Environment		
Total waste and surplus materials used	35.608 kg	100.000 kg
Creating the most of the least		
Percentage of products with a FSC® label (of which 93% are marked with a FSC® 100% label)	75%	100%
Percentage of sold pieces made of partly recycled materials	43%	60%
Products with Life Cycle Assesments	83%	100%
Ethical business		
Suppliers that have signed our Code of Conduct	20%	100%
Percentage of sold products produced in Europe	91%	95%

Buckler

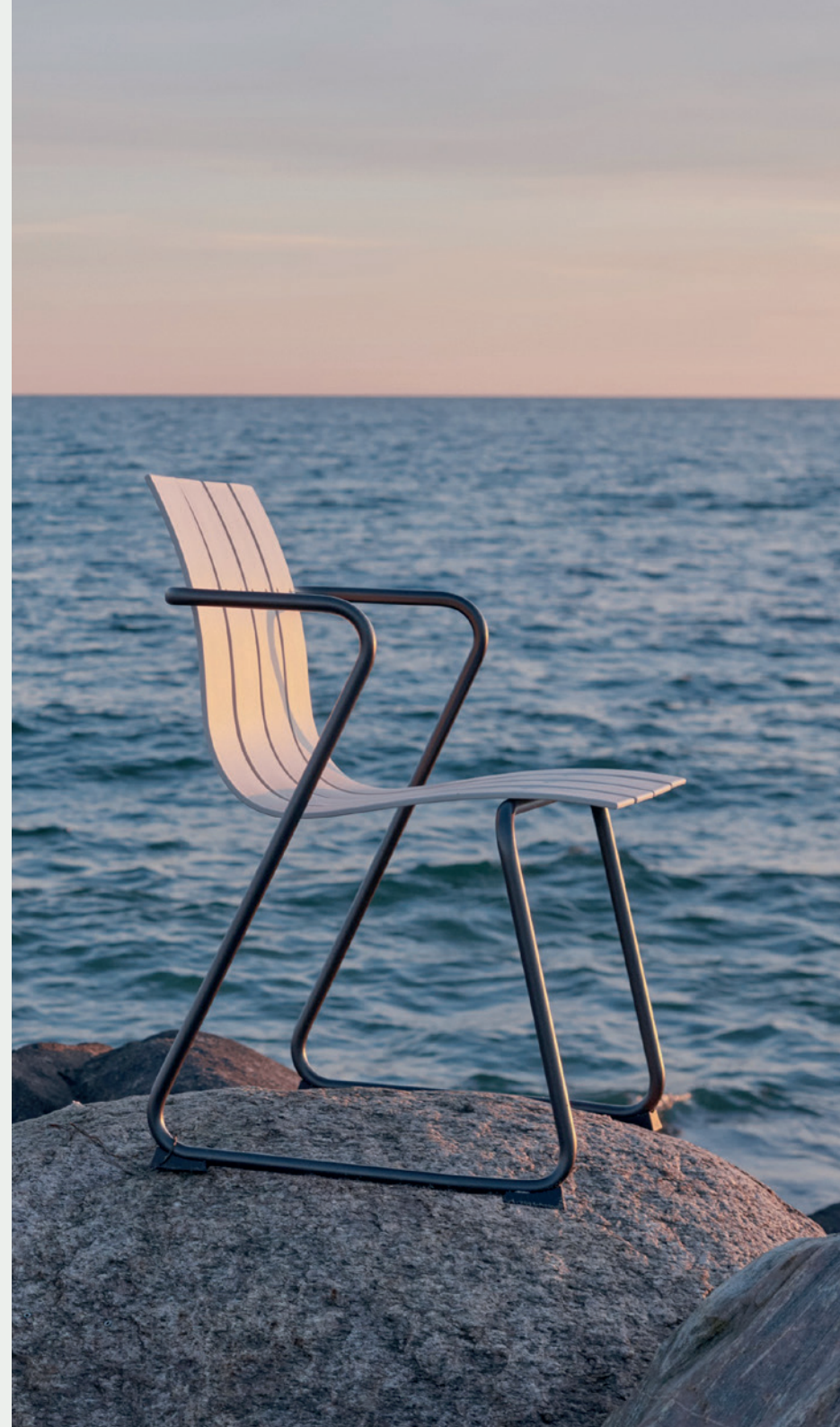
Sustainable Development Goals



Always committed to doing better

Since our establishment, Mater's core values have been sustainability and circularity. This aligns perfectly with the United Nations Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals established by the UN in 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals is a shared blueprint adopted by 193 nations that contains 17 sustainable development goals to improve our planet and living conditions by 2030. We have been part of the UN Global Compact since 2007. We are working towards all of them to the extent that it is possible for us. Currently, we support seven of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the UN Global Compact 10 principles are guiding us in this work. By being a member of the UN Global Compact, we are committed to implementing its fundamental principles into our strategy, culture, and day-to-day workflow.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

HOW WE SUPPORT

Through our Code of Conduct and FSC® certification, we ensure that we work to achieve better standards for safe working conditions, fair wages, fair prices, and adherence to local environmental standards.

STATUS

Our code of conduct is signed by our primary suppliers who stand for more than 85% of our production.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

HOW WE SUPPORT

We bring new innovative production techniques into the furniture business and recycle industrial waste, as evidenced by our revolutionary circular facility for largescale production of Matek®.

STATUS

In 2022 we have launched 5 unique Matek® blends using different waste streams.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

HOW WE SUPPORT

Today, the global economy consumes 100 billion tonnes of materials of this only 7,2% is recycled.

By using waste and surplus materials we minimise our use of virgin materials and our footprint by applying sustainable product development principles by focusing on non-virgin materials and a circular approach.

We have implemented Life Cycle Assessments per Product throughout the assortment.

STATUS

83% of our collection has an LCA calculation.

43% of the furniture sold in 2022 is made with partly recycled materials.

We have established a Take-back system for our Matek® products.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

HOW WE SUPPORT

The technology behind Matek® allows us to capture carbon in our furniture by recycling waste into timeless classics using resources already available to us, instead of virgin materials.

We help reduce carbon emissions by using circular and waste materials in our designs.

STATUS

In 2022, we removed 36 tonnes of waste materials from the planet.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

HOW WE SUPPORT

More than 10 million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in the oceans every year* and it is estimated that 20% of ocean plastics come from marine sources.**

The vast amounts of ocean plastic waste are one of the most compelling issues facing our planet. A new innovative business model motivates fishermen across the world to dispose of their discarded fishing nets at collection points instead of dumping them in the sea.

Our Ocean and Nova Sea Collections are both made of discarded fishing nets.

STATUS

In 2022 we used 5.180 kg of ocean waste for our furniture production.

15 LIFE ON LAND



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

HOW WE SUPPORT

The use of FSC-certified wood in our products has been a given right from the start.

We are mainly using FSC-certified wood in our production. This means the wood comes from responsibly managed forests, where harvesting trees is limited to what the forests can reproduce, avoiding the exploitation of nature.

FSC® certification also ensures fair pricing, fair wages and fair working conditions.

STATUS

75% of our products have a FSC® label (of which 93% are marked with a FSC® 100% label).

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

HOW WE SUPPORT

At Mater, we work with partners who share the same ambition as us – creating partnerships for change. Together we are committed to searching for new and better ways of responsibly making timeless designs.

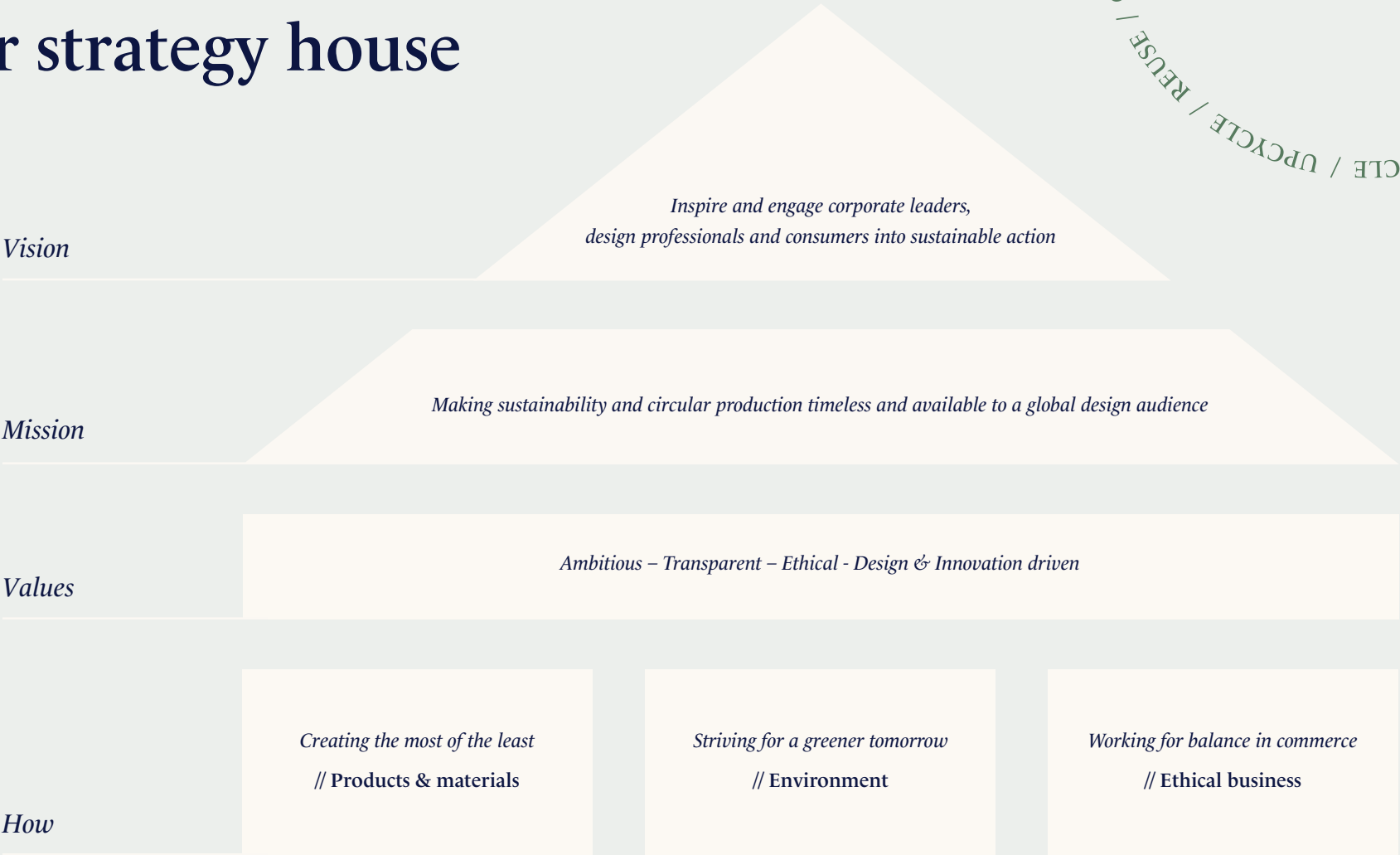
STATUS

We have been part of the UN Global Compact since 2007 and currently support seven of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, we collaborate with several partners and organisations that aim to promote either societal or sustainable activities.

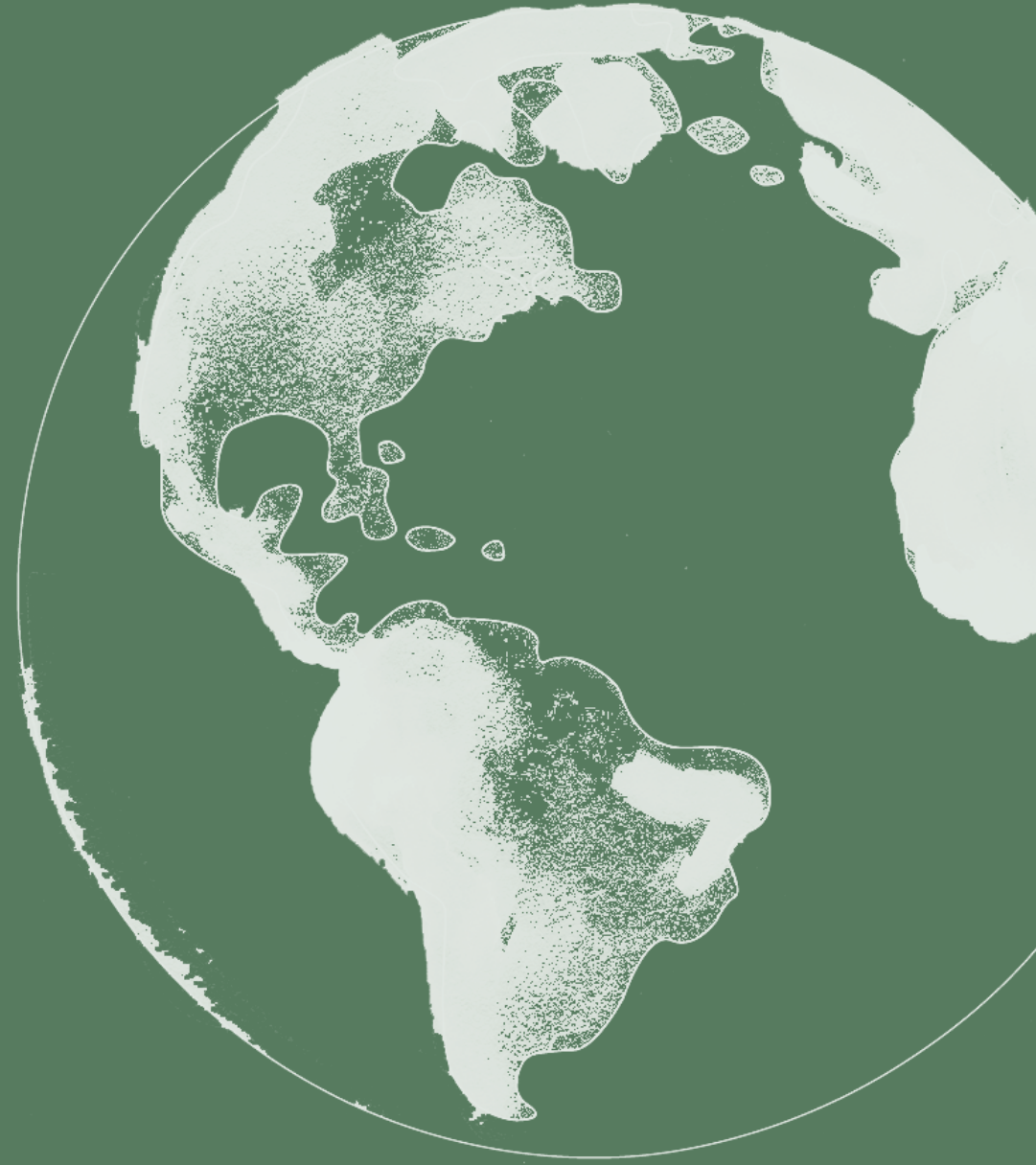
* <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/conserve-and-sustainably-use> ** (Plastic Pollution: a global overview of where it comes from and how to tackle it (ourworldindata.org))

Mater strategy house



Creating the most of the least

Products & materials



“The citizens of the EU throw out 10 million tonnes of furniture each year.”*



*<https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/circular-economy-in-the-furniture-industry.pdf>

Products & materials

How can we, as furniture manufacturers, work to reduce the climate impact of furniture consumption? Our approach to the problem is, in addition to creating furniture of good quality that can stand the test of time, to scrutinize the choice of materials. Can we challenge the common perceptions of what quality furniture is produced from and instead create aesthetically appealing furniture from recycled resources? We believe we have cracked that code by implementing our waste material Matek® in our furniture production.



Dogmas for the product development

- To create more from less
- To minimise the use of virgin materials, by using waste and surplus materials
- To design for longevity
- To explore the full potential of sustainable materials
- To design for circularity
- To keep pushing the boundaries for tomorrow's furniture production



Linking sustainability to each piece of furniture

Working with waste

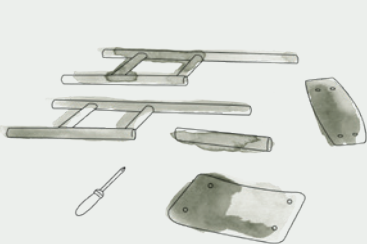
Using waste material, Mater combines green technology and circular production with timeless design.

We are on a constant journey to find new solutions that will make furniture production more sustainable. We have moved on from being a sustainable design brand to becoming a green-tech company with a focus on furniture design – always on the lookout for ways of doing things differently.

From working with traditional waste materials to finding methods and technology that allow us to develop innovative and circular materials - never before seen in furniture production.

Repair for longevity

Good products are made to be used. To give the products the longest possible life, we want to make it easy for you to repair them yourself. We therefore design products for disassembly and offer a broad range of spare parts.

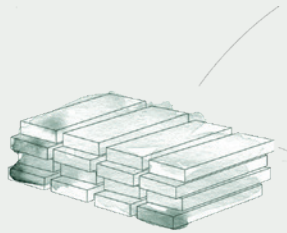


Matek®

Through years of research and testing, we invented our unique waste material Matek®.

Matek® enables us to make furniture of waste materials by combining fibre with a binder. Coffee bean shells, extracted during the roasting process, are an example of a fibre material. Sawdust from wood production is another. The binder material is made from plastic waste or a plastic-based alternative. The mix of materials results in a unique compound suitable for press moulding.

The technology behind Matek® allows us to capture carbon in our furniture by recycling waste into timeless classics using resources already available to us, instead of virgin materials.



FSC® wood

75% of our wooden products are FSC labeled (and 93% of this is marked with the FSC 100% label). In a FSC® certified forest, no more trees than the forest can reproduce are felled, so the exploitation of nature is avoided. At Mater, we only have three product collections that aren't made with FSC-certified wood. One of them is our bowl tables made of mango wood. Mango wood is a byproduct of an already thriving industry. When the trees stop bearing fruits, they are cut down, and a new one is planted. Harvesting the wood that was previously burnt or left to break down is a source of sustainable material.



Flat-packing

All tables in our collection are flat-packed, ensuring a more sustainable journey from manufacturer to end customer.

We do not flat-pack our chairs since they are made and tested to live up to the standards of the professional contract market. Flat-packed chairs are not durable enough and often more fragile to the test of time without a sturdy assemblage by a professional.

In-depth Life Cycles Assessment

We use a tool from the Danish company Målbar to conduct Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) on our products. These assessments provide valuable insights using a single metric called CO2e, which considers carbon dioxide and other gases like methane and nitrous oxide. CO2e simplifies things by combining all these gases into one number, aiming to measure their warming impact as if they were all equivalent to carbon dioxide. The tool uses standard ratios to convert different gases into equivalent amounts of CO2, helping us understand their total warming impact over a specific period. Other than being valuable information for the customer, the information provided in the LCAs also highlights the current environmental impact of our products, making it easier to identify areas for improvement. This could be in materials, techniques, and production location.

At present 83% of our products have a LCA declaration.

Decrease usage of harmful substances

We are in the process of removing environmentally harmful substances and glues from our furniture and manufacturing.

Today, all our Matek® products and most of our wooden products are protected with a water-based lacquer to make them resistant to wear and tear and prolong their life. When applying a water-based finish, a significantly lower amount of volatile organic compounds (VOC) is emitted into the air than Polyurethane (PU) lacquers.

For upholstery, we favour sustainable manufactured textiles and leather and are continuously looking into ways to improve our upholstery program.



Sustainable development was defined in the World Commission on Environment and Development's 1987 Brundtland.

“Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Brundtland, 1987

CULARITY / SUSTAINABILITY / TRANSFORMATION / RESPONS

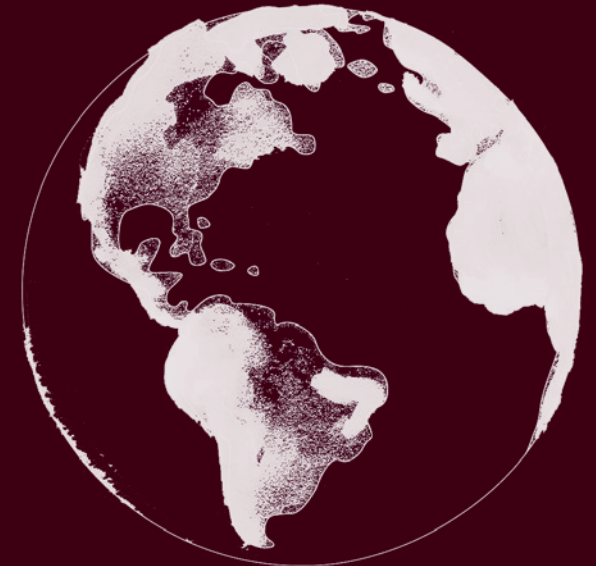
Striving for a greener tomorrow

Environment



“Today, the global economy consumes 100 billion tonnes of materials each year.

Of this only 7,2% is recycled.”



Environment

Mater means ‘mother’ in Latin. Our name serves as a daily reminder of our small but committed contribution to aiding the challenges Mother Earth faces. One of our primary focus areas is to minimize the consumption of virgin materials in our production. However, in all parts of our business, we strive to lessen the burden on our surrounding environment as much as possible.



Environment

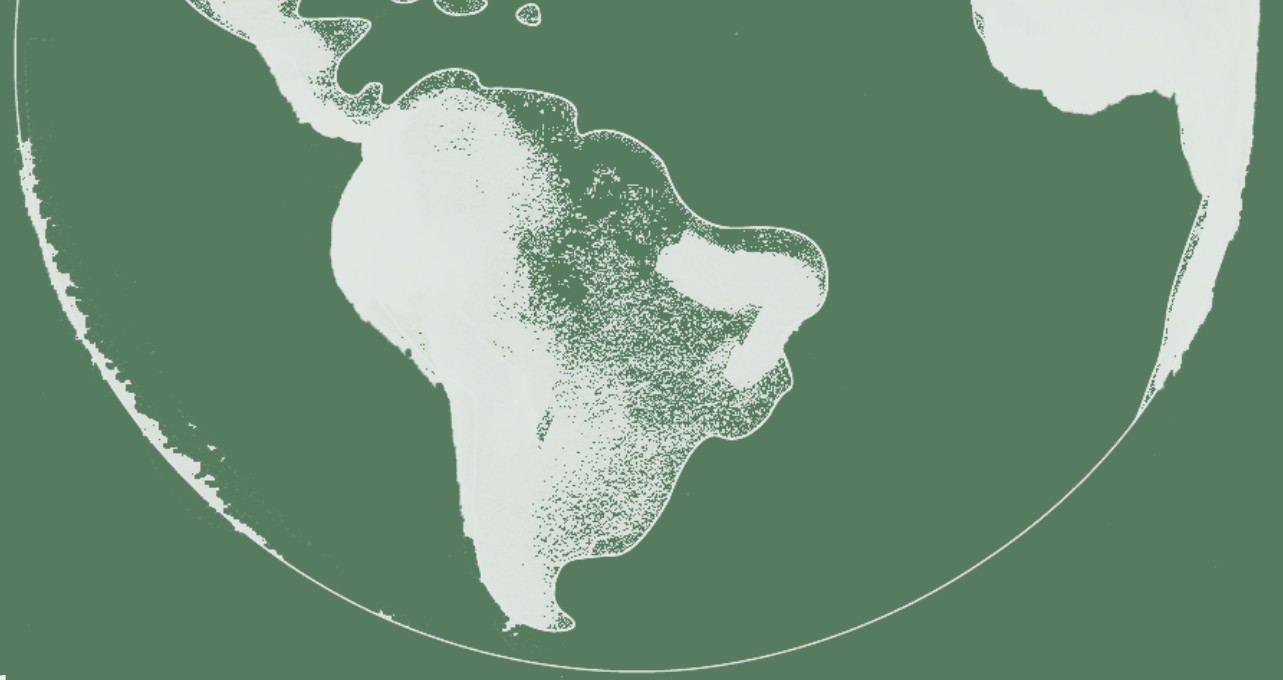
Over the last couple of years, we have specialised our business in turning waste materials into furniture. We have explored different waste streams and worked on how best to incorporate them into furniture production. With the development of the Matek® technology and material recipes, recycling existing materials and resources instead of virgin materials has really taken off. In 2022, we recycled 36 tonnes of waste materials.

All our Matek® product is produced in a production facility that is 100% powered by hydropower – a renewable energy resource.

	2022
Ocean waste	5.180 kg
Carlsberg beer keg waste	2.905 kg
E-waste	2.682 kg
Industrial plastic waste	7.211 kg
Mango wood waste	11.592 kg
Coffee waste	2.169 kg
Aluminium waste	3.869 kg

*A total of 36
tonnes of waste
removed*

LE / RECYCLE / UP-CYCLE / REUSE / GREEN-TECH / WASTE



Working for balance in commerce

Ethical business

Ethical business

At Mater, we approach sustainability as a multifaceted concept. For us, sustainability also encompasses the creation of a workplace that fosters joy and growth for our employees. Moreover, we extend this ethos to concern our relationships with both small and large business partners. We adhere to doing good in all parts of our business. No one is perfect, but we try to do a little bit better every day.



People & Culture

As an innovative design company motivated and passionate employees are our most valuable asset. We are prioritizing a healthy environment that enables our employees to thrive and perform optimally during working hours.

- We want to be a workplace that supports well-being and a healthy lifestyle.
- At Mater, all full-time employees have health insurance and a private pension scheme.
- Everyone receives full pay for the period of leave they are entitled to under the Danish Act on Entitlement to Leave and Benefits in the event of childbirth.
- We strive to be a diverse workplace, where gender and age distribution is one of several significant factors to focus on. The age distribution in the current workforce consists of employees from 25 to 55 years of age - 45% female and 55% male.
- Mater company cargo bike is available to employees for biking to meetings within the city or for short-distance transportation.
- We have a meal plan with daily fresh fruit and lunch for employees working in the office. Employees are encouraged to take home any excess food to avoid food waste.



Together we are committed

Code of conduct

The Code of Conduct is the foundation of a trustworthy partnership between our suppliers and us. To clarify our position, we have a Code of Conduct describing the social responsibility requirements of our suppliers. Mater adheres to these principles, and our suppliers are expected to do the same.

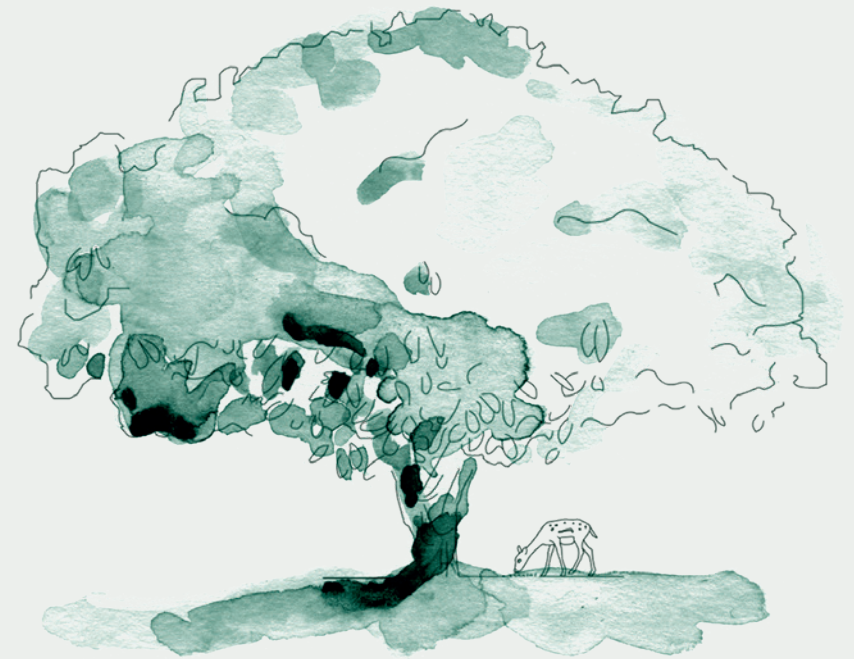
Our Code of Conduct is signed by our primary suppliers, who undertake 85% of our production.

Proximity in production

We believe in the benefit of having a close connection to our production facilities. From a sustainability point of view, it makes sense to have the production close to the main markets to reduce CO2 emissions connected to transport. But it also makes sense to secure compliance with our shared Code of Conduct.

Supply chain

In 2022, 91% of our suppliers were located in Europe. In the long term, Mater hopes to localise our production chain. We want to work towards having Matek® production facilities situated across various international locations using waste collected from its local vicinity. In this way we can lower CO2 emissions connected to transportation significantly.



Partnerships

To learn and improve our work with sustainability, we work with a range of partners with the same ambitions as Mater – to create partnerships for change. Together, we are committed to continuously searching for new and better ways of making timeless design in the most responsible way.



The Sustainable Development Goals were established by the UN in 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals is a shared blueprint adopted by 193 nations that contains 17 sustainable development goals to improve our planet and living conditions by 2030.

We have been part of the **UN Global Compact** since 2007 and currently support seven of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) is an international, non-governmental organisation. The organisation's mission is to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. Since its foundation in 1994, FSC® has grown to become the World's most respected and widespread forest certification system.

One of the requirements to being an FSC-certified forest is that no more trees than the forest can safely reproduce are felled to avoid exploitation of nature.



The company **MÅLBAR** has developed a complex Life Cycle Screening tool for furniture. The tools are widely used by the industry to create accessible and valuable insights and understandings about the climate emissions of the industry's products. Knowledge that can be used as a guideline on where to improve most efficiently, as well as promoting insights about new and promising materials.

Mater has been working with **MÅLBAR** since **MÅLBAR** started its operations in 2020.



The **Lifestyle & Design Cluster** circular network, supported by the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, is dedicated to fostering innovation and sustainable growth, with a focus on small and medium-sized companies in the interior, clothing, and creative industries.

Mater actively participates in their Circular Furniture Network which aims to establish a common platform for circular practices.

Organisations we support



'Pant for Pant'

- A nonprofit bottle deposit collection service

'Pant-for-Pant' is a non-profit used bottle collection service that provides socially disadvantaged people with work experience. Companies, institutions, organisations, and individuals contribute by letting their recyclable bottles be collected by the 'Pant for Pant' organisation and letting them receive the monetary deposit.

The organisation's primary objective is to create jobs for the homeless and socially disadvantaged. The profits go towards the training and salaries of their 'Pant-for-pant' employees and for the operation and administration of the project. Any surplus that 'Pant for Pant' generates goes to the organisation 'Hus Forbi'. All bottles from Mater are donated to the 'Pant-for-Pant' organization.



WWF VERDENSNATURFONDEN
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WWF Denmark

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. For 60 years, WWF has worked to help people and nature thrive.

As the world's leading conservation organization, WWF works in nearly 100 countries. At every level, the corporation collaborates with people around the world to develop and deliver innovative solutions that protect communities, wildlife, and the places in which they live. Mater has supported WWF Denmark with product donations for their office facilities.



Hans
Knudsen
Instituttet
Grundlagt 1872

The Hans Knudsen institute

The Hans Knudsen Institute was created to help people outside the labor market. Regardless of whether the barrier is physical, psychological, or social. Whether you are young, in mid-life, on sick leave, or in some other way, you find difficulty in supporting yourself.

Our collaboration with the Hans Knudsen Institute relies on them producing some of our marketing materials.

mater

materdesign.com