



Product Description

Petroleum-based fuels used in internal combustion engines. Includes, but is not limited to, gasoline and diesel. Does not include lubricants or antifreeze.

Mission

The mission of The Sustainability Consortium (TSC) is to improve the sustainability of products when they are made, purchased, and used, with a focus on manufacturers and the retail buyers who decide what products to carry in stores. The information in this document is drawn from our detailed research on known and potential social and environmental impacts across product life cycles. TSC acknowledges that other issues exist, but we have included here those that are most relevant to the decision making of retail buying teams and manufacturers. The topics are listed alphabetically for ease of reading; the order does not represent prioritization or other criteria.



Use of Resources

Climate and Energy

Burning fuels during refining operations can emit pollutants that contribute to climate change, smog, acid rain, and other problems. Manufacturers should measure and improve energy efficiency at refineries and reduce their emissions through best practices and technology. When automobiles burn fuel, they generate a similar set of pollutants, which can be abated by producing fuels with reduced content of pollution-causing substances.

Pollution

Gasoline production and storage can result in the release of pollutants that are harmful to humans and other life. These pollutants can take the form of vapors released to the air and liquids spilled or leaked into the environment. The oil refining process used to produce gasoline can also generate polluted wastewater. Manufacturers should implement best available practices and technology to abate the release of air and water pollutants, and procure ingredients from suppliers that do the same. Monitoring for the release of pollutants, installing equipment to control and contain these releases, and conducting regular inspections of equipment can all reduce the impacts of pollution.

Workers and Communities



Community Rights

Oil refining facilities can generate significant noise, which may be disruptive to surrounding communities. Manufacturers should procure oil from refineries that implement best available practices and technology to abate noise.

Workers

Workers at refineries that supply automotive fuel ingredients may be exposed to harmful chemicals and other industrial hazards. To help ensure worker health and safety, manufacturers should implement codes of conduct for their suppliers and audit their supply chains for safe working conditions.