

Sustainability report

2023/24

mater

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

Welcome to Mater and our 2023/24 sustainability report

In this report, we share how sustainability continues to be an integral part of Mater's operations and identity, shaping our day-to-day business decisions and long-term goals.

Founded in Copenhagen in 2006, Mater is a pioneering green-tech design brand driven by a profound commitment to sustainability and circularity. The vision of making a positive difference for the environment is the very foundation of why we exist. From our inception, sustainability has been embedded in our core values, inspiring our collaborations with both established and emerging design talents to create timeless, responsible designs.

This is our second year reporting on our journey towards becoming a more responsible and sustainable business. The report encompasses Mater's annual Communication on Progress for the UN's Global Compact in 2023 and includes an updated review of our impact across Environmental, Product & Materials, and Ethical Business dimensions. Quantitative data reflects the period from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, while initiatives described span the reporting period from September 2023 to October 2024.

By offering this report, we aim not only to document our progress but also to critically evaluate our environmental impact, product innovation, and ethical practices. Sustainability is not just a guiding principle for Mater—it is the driving force behind our existence and the foundation of our daily work.



A message from our CEO

Since 2006, Mater has championed sustainable thinking, embedding it in our brand DNA as a UN Global Compact signatory since 2007.

In 2023, our Matek products received accolades from the Marie Claire Sustainability Awards and the Wallpaper Smart Space Awards. These honors highlight the positive impact of our innovative approach and strengthen our resolve to continue pushing boundaries within furniture production. Alongside these achievements, we are proud to have removed 43 tons of waste materials from the production cycle in 2023, demonstrating the tangible results of our commitment to circular design.

In 2024, we reached a new milestone by advancing our Matek™ technology to include a biodegradable plastic binder. This biodegradable plastic is derived from sugarcane - a rapidly renewable resource with a low environmental footprint. Mixed with coffee shell or wood waste, this new variant of Matek™ can eventually dissolve back into nature. While this biodegradable Matek™ is not intended to replace our existing Matek™, using recycled plastics as the binder, it represents our commitment to exploring innovative materials and broadening the possibilities of sustainable production.

For Mater, sustainability is not merely an ambition but an ongoing journey of improvement. It lies at the heart of our creative processes, driving our commitment to reduce reliance on virgin materials. In a world where consumption is growing and only 7% of materials are globally recycled, we are intensifying efforts to incorporate more non-virgin and biodegradable materials into our Matek™ production.

Mater remains steadfast in leading the way toward a more sustainable and responsible furniture industry, driven by innovation, commitment, and a vision for a better future.



Ketil Årdal, CEO

“In 2023, we removed 43 tons of waste materials.”

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

A continuous journey to a more sustainable furniture production

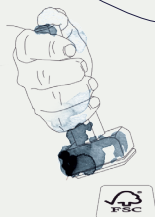
mater

2006

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

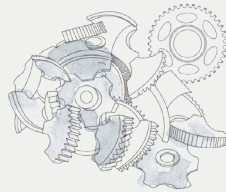
2006

From the outset, our ambition was to use FSC-certified wood in our production. This was almost fully implemented in 2014. In an FSC-certified forest, no more trees than the forest can reproduce are felled.



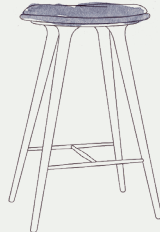
2008

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.



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.



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.



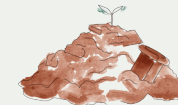
2020

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™.



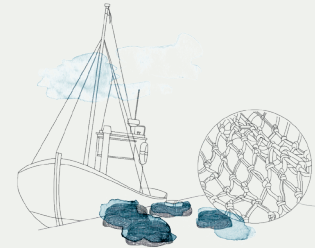
2022

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.



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.



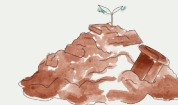
2023

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.



2024

Launch of our biodegradable Matek™ variant. Using biodegradable plastic with the Matek™ technology allows the Matek™ to be decomposable by living organisms in the same way as wood or any other natural material would.



Status and targets

	2022	2023	2025 target
Environment			
Total waste and surplus materials used	35.608 kg	42558 kg	100.000 kg
Creating the most of the least			
Percentage of products with a FSC® label	75%	75%	100%
Percentage of sold pieces made of partly recycled materials	43%	53%	60%
Products with Life Cycle Assessments	66%	68%	100%
Scope 1	n/a	1,2 tCO2-e	0,5 tCO2-e
Scope 2	n/a	3,5 tCO2-e	2 tCO2-e
Ethical business			
Suppliers that have signed our Code of Conduct	20%	86%	100%
Percentage of sold products produced in Europe	91%	94%	95%



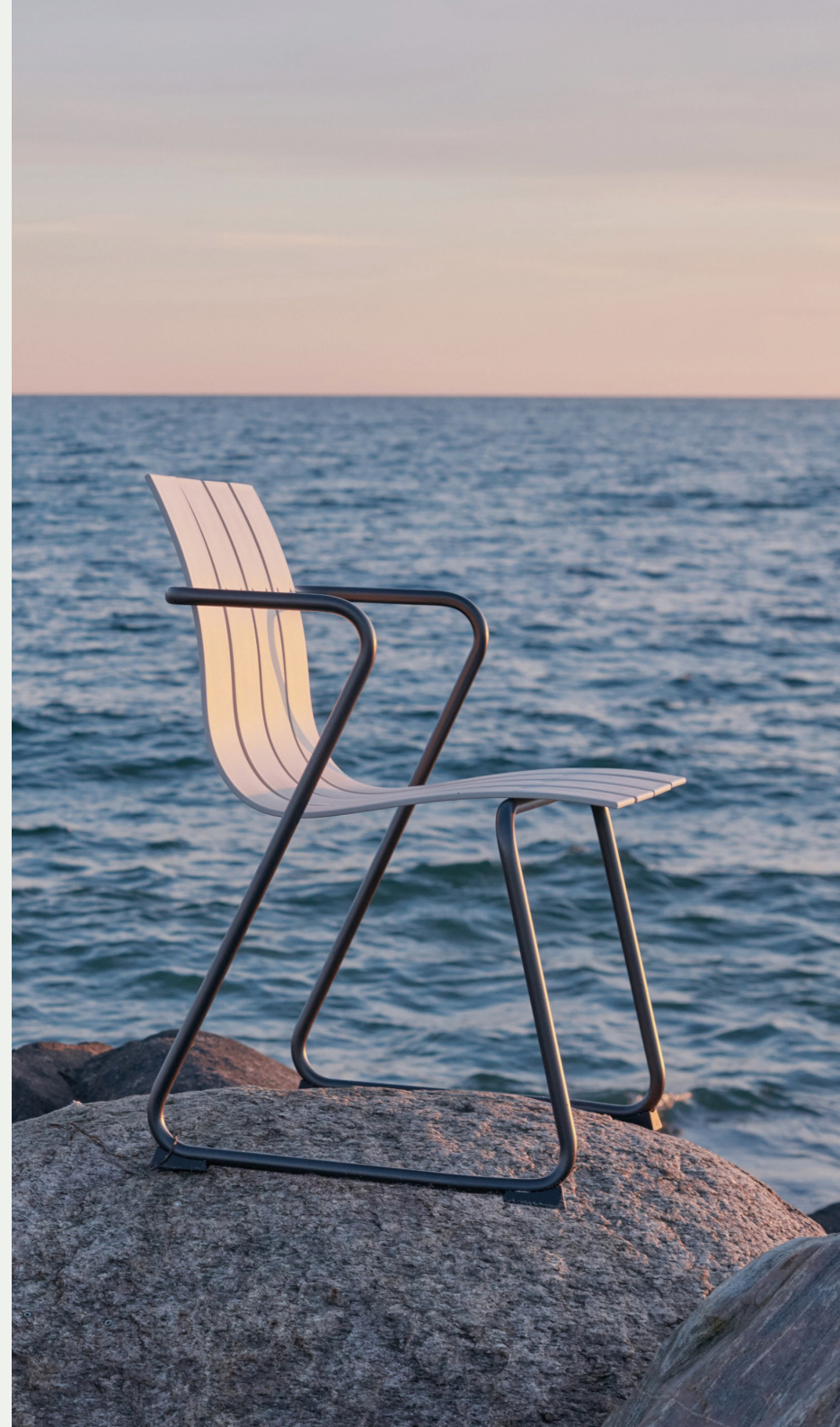
Sustainable Development Goals



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 86% of our production.

In 2024, we established an anonymous online whistleblower service. The purpose of this whistleblower policy and system is to promote transparency and enhance accountability for the behavior of Mater employees and collaborators worldwide.

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 2023 we have launched 5 unique Matek™ blends using different waste streams.

In 2024, we advanced the technology to include biodegradable plastic, introducing four new blends made entirely of natural materials.

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

63% of our collection has an LCA calculation.

53% of the furniture sold in 2023 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 2023, we removed 43 tonnes of waste materials from the planet.

We initiated a calculation of total greenhouse gas emissions per year covering Scope 1 and 2

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use 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 2023 we used 4.880 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.

r strategy house

*Inspire and engage corporate leaders,
design professionals and consumers into sustainable action*

Making sustainability and circular production timeless and available to a global design audience

Ambitious – Transparent – Ethical - Design & Innovation driven

*Creating the most of the least
// Products & materials*

*Striving for a greener tomorrow
// Environment*

*Working for balance in commerce
// Ethical business*

Vision

Mission

Values

How

Strategy

Circular

Design

Strategy

Circular

Design

Creating the most of the least

Products & materials



“E-waste is the fastest-growing waste stream in the world, on track to reach 82 million tonnes by 2030.”*



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.

In 2024 we have advanced the Matek™ technology to include a biodegradable plastic binder. This biodegradable plastic is derived from sugarcane—a rapidly renewable resource with a low environmental footprint. When combined with natural fiber waste such as coffee shell or wood waste, this new variant of Matek™ can eventually dissolve back into nature.

The new biodegradable Matek™ variant represents our commitment to exploring innovative materials and broadening the possibilities of sustainable 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

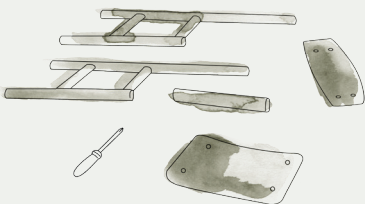
Using waste material, Mater combines green technology and circular production with timeless design.

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.

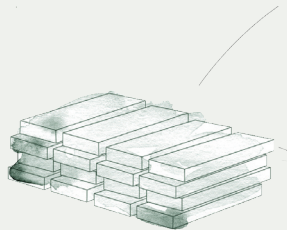


Matek™

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

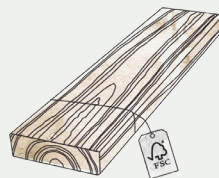
Matek™ enables us to make furniture of waste materials by combining fibre with a binder. Coffee bean shells, extracted during the roasting process, are an example of a fibre material. Sawdust from wood production is another. The binder material is made from plastic waste or a plastic-based alternative. 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 63% 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

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.

We have in this report for the first time calculated our greenhouse gas emissions covering scope 1 and 2. This is a work in progress and updates will be made regarding input data collection, reductions, targets and developments during the coming years.

Our carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in 2024 were 4,76 tons (scope 1 and 2).

SCOPE 1 – includes direct emissions from sources that are owned or controlled/leased by Mater. In our case this is our one leased company car.

SCOPE 2

Includes all purchased energy for electricity, heating, and cooling. In our case this is electricity and district heating at our premises in Copenhagen and London.



Environment

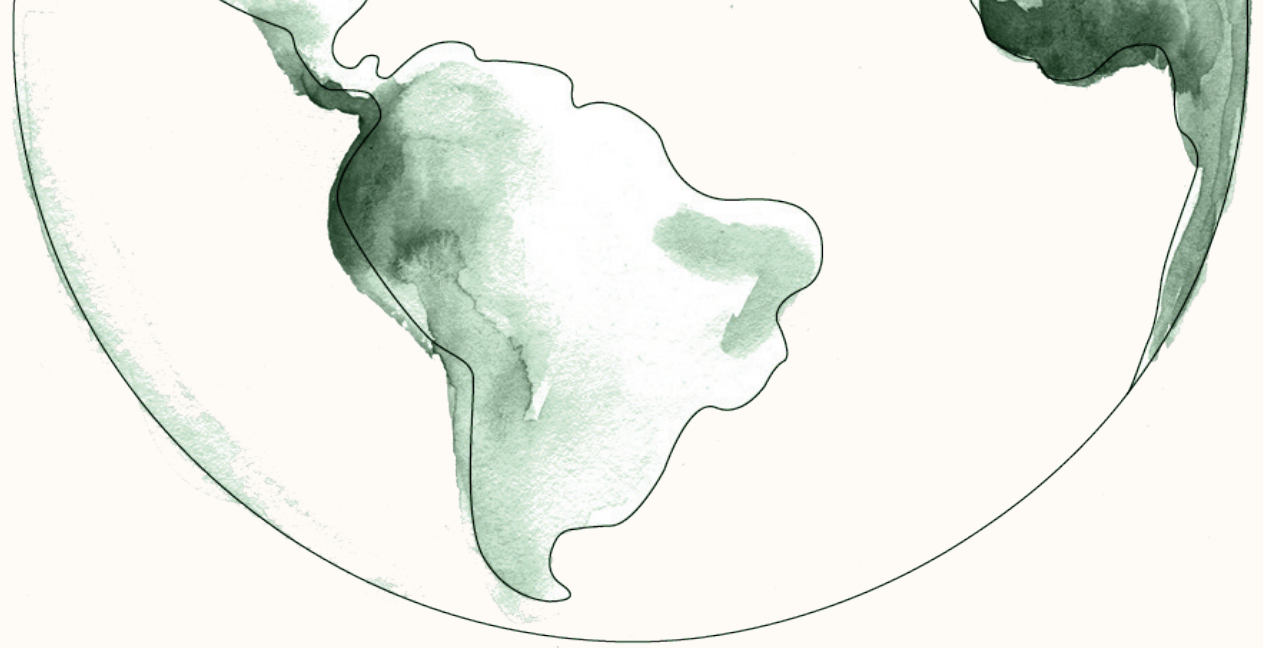
Over the last couple of years, we have specialised our business in turning waste materials into furniture. We have explored different waste streams and worked on how best to incorporate them into furniture production. With the development of the Matek™ technology and material recipes, recycling existing materials and resources instead of virgin materials has really taken off. In 2023, we recycled 43 tonnes of waste materials.

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

	2023
Recycled fishing nets	5.608 kg
Carlsberg beer keg waste	3.035 kg
E-waste	17.415 kg
Industrial plastic waste	92 kg
Mango wood waste	6.809 kg
Coffee waste	7197 kg
Aluminium waste	2.457 kg

*A total of 43
tonnes of waste
removed*

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



Working for balance in commerce

Ethical business

Ethical business

At Mater, sustainability is a multifaceted concept that extends beyond environmental initiatives. We are committed to conducting our business in line with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct. These guidelines provide a framework for companies to operate responsibly in areas such as human rights, labor rights, the environment, anti-corruption, and consumer interests.

We strive to integrate these principles into our daily operations, ensuring that our business decisions and practices reflect respect for the rights of individuals, the environment, and the communities in which we operate. We are dedicated to promoting sustainable and ethical business practices across all aspects of our business.

To enhance accountability and promote transparency, we have introduced a whistleblower service in 2024, empowering our employees and collaborators to voice concerns safely. While no one is perfect, we strive to improve every day, guided by our commitment to doing better in all parts of our business.



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 60 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.

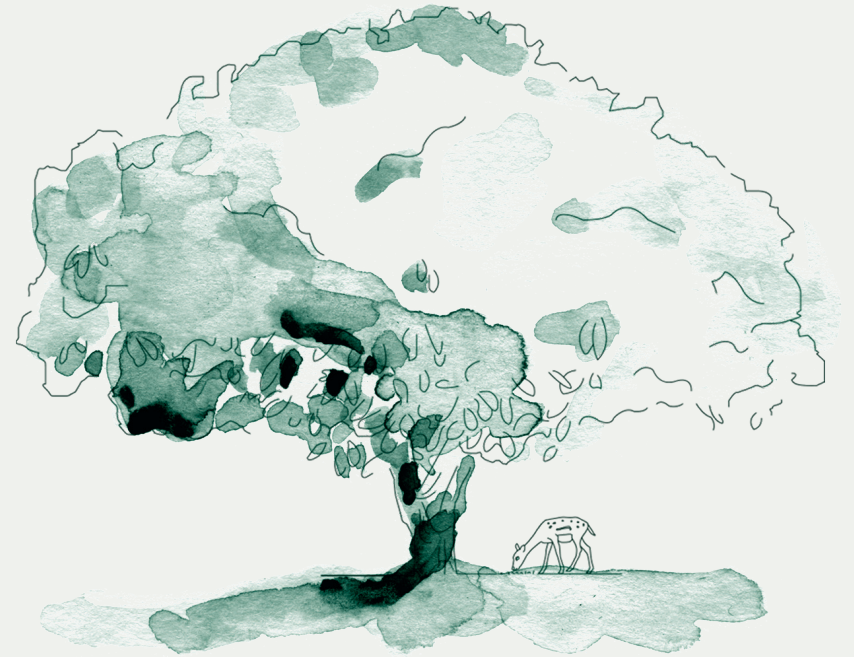
Our Code of Conduct is signed by our primary suppliers, who undertake 85% of our production.

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 2023, 94% 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.



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

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

CYCLE / UP CYCLE / REUSE / GREEN-TECH / WASTE / CIRCULAR



'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
NATURSPONSOR
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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