



Innovating to protect the environment and climate

Our environmental strategy includes pre-empting future ecological challenges. So we measure and evaluate the potential of our innovative technologies to protect the environment and climate and to conserve natural resources.

Environmental Innovation Performance leading indicator

A company's environmental performance is generally measured by the environmental impact of its operations and its response to that impact. However, to really make a mark in the sustainable growth space, a company must also pre-empt future eco-challenges and incorporate these into its environmental planning. This includes innovations targeted at environmental and climate protection. A forward-looking strategy is essential for many companies in order to maintain their competitive position as market dynamics change (in response to resource shortages for example).

As a technology player, we innovate to optimise our own processes and those of our customers. This adds economic value to our ecological achievements. Hence lagging indicators (such as the absolute number of patents registered in a fiscal year) do not really capture the big picture. So we have also introduced an Environmental Innovation Performance (EIP) leading indicator to benchmark our Engineering Division's innovative contribution to environmental and climate protection.

The Environmental Innovation Performance (EIP) indicator

The EIP indicator benchmarks our Engineering Division's strategic environmental performance. The first step in measuring environmental innovation performance involves documenting all current development projects. These are assigned to "eco classes" depending on their focus. Linde has defined six eco classes, including technologies based on renewable resources, carbon capture, storage and recycling and ways of reducing other emissions. This includes projects for treating wastewater emissions and reducing acid gases that combine with water to create acids.

The next step involves defining the current level of maturity according to our ranking system. This allows us to check whether the technology is in the incubation, accelerated development or final phase. Development projects are then mapped to a matrix where the ecological potential of a project is multiplied by a given maturity factor. Additional indicators allow us to plot changes in ecological potential over time. The EIP gives Linde the chance to evaluate its environmental innovation capability in quantitative and qualitative terms. It also makes it easier for us to transparently communicate our performance in this area.

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