

# Respect the environment by managing our production process

For many years, respect for and protection of the environment have been of core concern for Nexans. With full control of its production facilities, the Group is in a position to assess precisely the impact of its activities. It is committed to ongoing approaches to ensure energy savings, waste reduction and recycling.



100%

of the Nexans' plants monitored

103,000 metric tons

waste

(of which 10,900 metric tons of special waste)

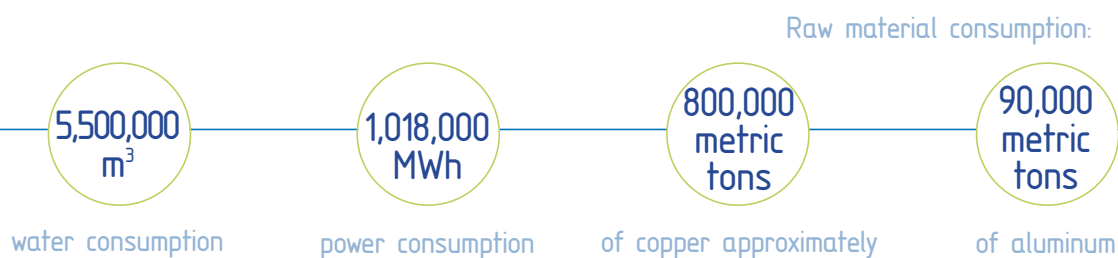
## A proactive approach

Nexans has defined its environmental and safety policy in a Risk Management Charter. Updated in 2001, when the Group was listed on the stock market, this charter was signed by the Chairman. It bears witness to Nexans' commitment in this field. For several years, Nexans has been using an internal environment management system. Continuous improvement techniques are applied: an annual environment questionnaire, sent to all Nexans' plants, is used to analyze the

situation of each site and to monitor the progress made. The aim of this system is to help each site to reduce its consumptions, recycle waste, and limit any pollution and atmospheric emissions. In addition, after carrying out a thorough environmental audit, an EHP (Environment Highly Protected) label is awarded in line with the ISO 14001 standard for sites that have progressed the most in the approach. In 2003, site audits will be carried out at the rate of 15 per year.

## The main environmental impact of activity and products

Aware that all activity has an environmental impact, Nexans is particularly active in recycling production waste. Through its subsidiary RIPS, more than 17,000 metric tons of cable waste were recycled in 2002. The Group also undertakes thorough sorting of its other waste (wood, paper, cardboard, ferrous material, oil, batteries, and special waste).



### Main impact of Nexans' activities

Activity	Resources used	Action by Nexans
Copper and aluminum metallurgy	Energy (natural gas) and water for steam and cooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ 95% of consumed water is recycled</li> <li>→ Efforts to reduce the amount of copper dust released into the atmosphere</li> </ul>
Copper power and telecom cables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conductor manufacture (drawing and stranding)</li> <li>- extrusion cable manufacture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electrical power and oily water</li> <li>Cooling water</li> <li>Low air emissions</li> <li>Low consumption of solvents compared with the volume of cables manufactured (&lt; 100 metric tons per year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Wastewater filtered, treated and recycled</li> <li>→ Recycled water</li> <li>→ Treated by filter vacuum cleaners</li> </ul>
Winding wires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy and solvents</li> <li>Enameling varnish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Specific and ongoing investment to reduce the release of solvent vapors into the air</li> <li>→ A single Nexans site classified Seveso 2 (low level), regularly monitored</li> </ul>

### A concern for the products' life cycle

In addition to identifying the environmental impact of its activities, Nexans also **analyzes its products' life cycle**. Developed in association with the FIEEC (*Fédération des Industries Electriques, Electroniques et Communication*), the EIME (Environmental IMPact Evaluation) program is used to study the characteristics of the various cables. With the Sycabel (*Syndicat Professionnel des Fabricants de Fils et Câbles Electriques*) and its European partners

in Europacable, Nexans has been able to design and issue a series of "environmental ecodeclaration sheets". Designed for Group customers, they describe the environmental impact of each product. In terms of **Research and Development**, Nexans focuses its work on materials that comply with environmental standards and that are more easily recycled: PVC free of heavy-metal-based additives, halogen-free compounds, cross-linked polyethylene, etc.

Under its development programs, Nexans has developed a cable with a return conductor (HVDC) to safeguard the marine environment. Similarly, to fight against the electromagnetic effect of overhead lines, the Group offers underground power cable solutions. Finally, to quote yet another example, Nexans has also developed cable laying methods that minimize impact on the ecosystem. **Product end-of-life** is also one of Nexans' concerns.

In advance of forthcoming European directives, the Group took part in a pilot scheme conducted in the Rhône-Alpes region (France) on the development of recycling processes for end-of-life electrical products. This same concern also led Nexans to sign an agreement with a French distributor to retrieve and recycle cables resulting from the dismantling of electrical installations.