

Environmental Management

Climate change and environmental degradation pose existential threats worldwide. In response to these challenges, BESIX remains committed to minimising its impact and, where possible, positively impacting the environment.

To uphold this commitment, the group policy mandates conducting activities in alignment with a third-party ISO14001-certified management system. In late 2023, Franki Foundations Belgium earned an ISO14001 certification, aligning with the commitment of other companies within the BESIX Construction Business Unit. Also in 2023, BESIX Watpac successfully renewed its ISO14001 certification.

In 2024 and 2025, following the findings of the Double Materiality Assessment conducted in 2023, BESIX will create specific environmental guidelines to enhance and reinforce the group's environmental dedication. These guidelines will establish the minimal requirements and provide direction to operational teams in carrying out their activities.

Additional details regarding BESIX's management of environmental aspects and impacts (such as air, water, soil, biodiversity, waste, etc.) and the actions undertaken in 2023 are available in the online Sustainability & ESG Appendix.



Actively contributing to the transition towards a low-carbon society

In 2023, BESIX successfully retained the highest level possible on the CO₂ Performance Ladder (level 5) it had been awarded the year before for its European Business Unit. At the same time, 12 BESIX companies were included in the certified CO₂ Performance Ladder Organisational Boundary¹.

Three ambitions

BESIX's Business Unit Europe and the other companies belonging to the CO₂ Performance Ladder Organisational Boundary commit to the following ambitions:

1. Become neutral for their own direct (Scope 1) and indirect (Scope 2) carbon emissions by no later than 2050. An intermediate reduction target of 40 % has been defined for Scope 1 & 2 emissions (related to turnover) by 2030 for the Organisational Boundary using the baseline year 2019. This ambition has been cascaded to every company of the Organisational Boundary by setting specific reduction targets per company.
2. Promote and be a leader in providing sustainable solutions to their partners and clients and, in doing so, help them achieve their own climate goals and targets.
3. Promote and incentivise the supply chain participants, particularly the building material producers with the greatest potential in this area, to reduce their carbon emissions (Scope 3 emissions) to become neutral by no later than 2050.

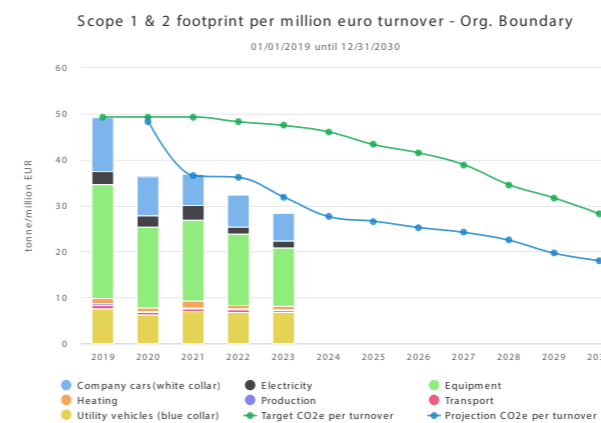
To achieve their goals, the companies belonging to the Organisational Boundary have defined an Energy & GHG Policy and implemented an Energy & GHG reduction programme.



CO₂ PERFORMANCE LADDER

Scope 1 & 2 – Focus on 3 axes

For the Organisational Boundary an overall Scope 1 and 2 intensity reduction target (per million euro turnover) of 40 % by the end of 2030 related to the baseline year 2019 has been set.



The Scope 1 and 2 reduction programme focuses on 3 axes:

1. Company fleet

The company aims to eliminate emissions from its fleet (including company-leased cars and utility vehicles) by 2032, with interim goals for the number of zero-emission vehicles by 2025 and 2028. To achieve these targets, BESIX reviewed its company leased car policy in 2021. Since mid-2023, all new company-leased cars have been fully electric. Additionally, a Sustainable Business Travel Policy was developed and came into effect in 2023. Last year, BESIX also acquired its first fully electric utility vehicle to assess feasibility under real-life on-site conditions.

2. Electricity

By the end of 2025, all electricity powering BESIX's offices, fixed production facilities, and projects where the group directly influences the energy contract will come from 100 % renewable sources. Framework agreements have been adjusted accordingly. Efforts to decrease energy consumption are also underway. BESIX Nederland's smart building office in Dordrecht has been certified as Paris-proof this year, and Socogetra, a BESIX subsidiary, has moved into their new BREEAM Excellent certified office building in Marche-en-Famenne, Belgium. In mid-2024, BESIX Infra and BESIX Unitec will relocate to their current office, which is undergoing renovations to become a low-energy building. Third-party energy audits were conducted at BESIX's Head Office in Brussels and at the recycling and ready-mix concrete batching plant of BESIX Infra in Bilzen, Belgium.

3. Plants and equipment

To cut down on emissions from construction sites and heavy equipment in the Netherlands, a basic sustainable construction site standard has been established and implemented. Additionally, BESIX is enhancing the eco-friendliness of its heavy-equipment fleet after acquiring its first all-electric 50-tonne telescopic crawler crane. Hydrogen-powered generators were tested in 2023 and two fully electric rotative telehandlers will be delivered in 2024.

BESIX and its joint venture partners initiated a pilot project focusing on electric equipment for the 'A16 De Groene Boog' project in Rotterdam (The Netherlands), supported financially by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Waterways. Over 20 pieces of heavy machinery were tested in this project. Additionally, over 7 million litres of hydrotreated vegetable oil, emitting 89 % less CO₂ compared to traditional fuels, were used on the same project, leading to a reduction of over 23,000 tonnes of CO₂.

Additional information regarding the progress and actions taken can be found in the online Sustainability & ESG Appendix. Biannual progress reports for the mentioned Organisational Boundary are available on the BESIX website:



Scope 3 initiatives

BESIX continues to take initiatives to reduce the environmental impact linked to the usage of ready-mix concrete, rebar, (structural) steel, and steel (sheet) piles. Design optimisation is applied whenever feasible, and the Engineering Department selects the most sustainable ready-mix concrete design for each project. Additionally, the first Supplier Sustainability Forum was held in September 2023, involving major suppliers of carbon-intensive construction materials such as steel or concrete.

BESIX is an active member of a workgroup initiated by the Belgian contractor association ADEB-VBA in September 2023, focusing on reducing emissions from ready-mix concrete and steel.

In partnership with clients, fellow construction companies, knowledge institutes, and universities, BESIX participates in innovative projects to reduce energy consumption and CO₂ emissions and promote circular practices both on its own construction sites and within the construction sector. Projects like 3D2BGreen, a two-year research project into 3D concrete printing, launched by BESIX with several partners among which Ghent University, and Smartincs, another research project on self-healing concrete, also in collaboration with Ghent University, exemplify this collaboration.

Additionally, as a member of the steering committee for the Belgian CO₂ Performance Ladder, BESIX is actively promoting sustainability in the Belgian construction industry.

¹ Organisational Boundary: BESIX BU Europe, BESIX Nederland, BESIX Environment, BESIX Infra, BESIX Infra Support, BESIX Unitec (including its subsidiaries BESIX Unitec Automation, BESIX Unitec Nederland, BESIX Connect and Appermont Gebroeders), and Franki Foundations (including its subsidiaries Franki Grondtechnieken BV and Atlas Foundations).