Environmental action is a core component of voestalpine's Sustainability Strategy. The following principles are enshrined in it:

Emissions in the Air, Soil, and Water—Minimize using the best available technologies

Process-related emissions cannot be entirely avoided due to the chemical and physical properties of existent production processes. We operate our production facilities based on the principle that the best available technologies must be applied in economically viable fashion. We also develop new approaches that aim to minimize environmentally relevant effects on the air, soil, and water as best as possible.

Circular Economy and Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs)

We support holistic, comprehensive, and integrated analyses and assessments of materials (LCAs) as well as of all process and value chains within the parameters of the circular economy, also known as "circularity."

Energy and Climate Policy—Commit to low-carbon production

We are meeting the challenge of decarbonizing the economic system over the long term especially through comprehensive research and development of new technologies, frequently via cross-sector cooperation agreements and projects. We also engage in an open and constructive dialogue with stakeholders such as political decision makers, advocacy and interest groups, civil society as well as the scientific community and environmental organizations.

13.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Worldwide, about 120 production companies and facilities are a part of voestalpine's environmental data management system. This includes all business segments that produce and process steel, meaning absolutely all energy and emissions intensive units that are relevant to the Group's carbon footprint.

The Group periodically compiles about 150 key figures, for instance, those related to air emissions; energy and materials efficiency; water, waste, and recycling management; as well as environmentally relevant investments and expenditures. These data are used for external reporting and fulfillment of reporting obligations as well as, in particular, for environmental assessments of processes, products, and materials. Moreover, the metrics compiled as part of environmental data management provide the basis for strategic planning and operational implementation of environmental activities.

The voestalpine Group has established environmental management systems (EMSs) across the board worldwide. Seventy-five percent of its production plants, which account for 83% of the Group's total production volume, use an EMS pursuant to ISO 14001 or the EU's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). Thirty percent of the entities are subject to certified energy management pursuant to ISO 50001.

In the business year 2021/22, furthermore, the Steel Division's production entities were certified as a sustainable steel production facility under the ResponsibleSteel Standard.