

Unilever

Unilever, a large consumer products company, is generally considered as the model of what all companies should be achieving in the social responsibility area. For the past eight years, they have been voted #1 in the Sustainability Leaders survey conducted by GlobeScan/SustainAbility. This is a survey of over 900 expert stakeholders representing business, government, NGOs and academia across 84 countries.

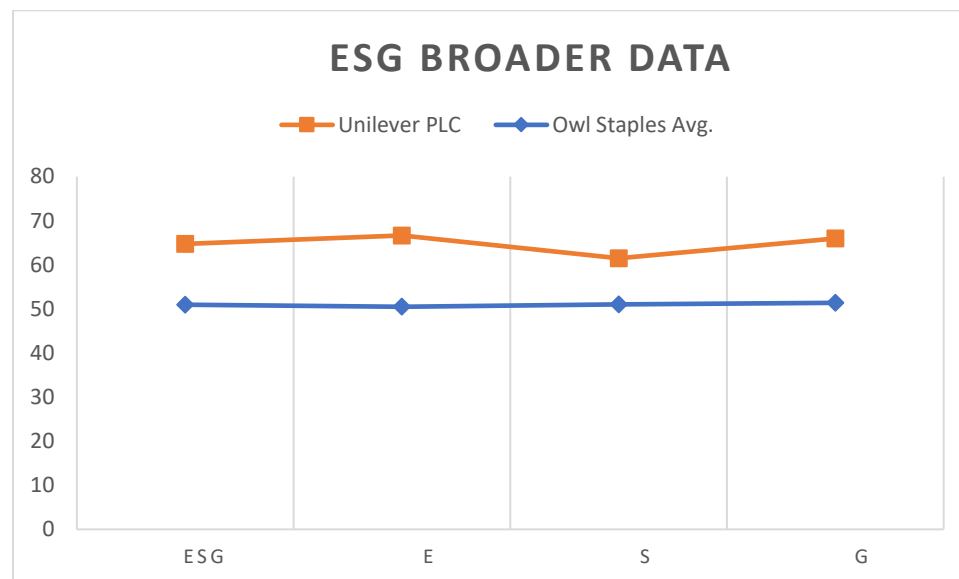
Believing that business could not continue to operate as usual given the immense challenges such as global warming and income inequality, Unilever created a Sustainable Living Plan in 2010 to transition them into a purpose-driven company. The company produces excellent material detailing this change.

For example, Unilever’s goal is not just to minimize its carbon emissions, it is to become carbon positive by 2030. It announced in September 2019 that it had achieved 100% renewable energy across 5 continents. By 2030 they expect to be producing more renewable energy than they consume. This will partly be due to the fact that they have done a great job at reducing their consumption of energy. In our last review, they reported that they had cut their carbon emissions by 43% per ton of production versus 2008 levels. In the last two years, they have improved this to a 64% reduction.

Unilever received an ‘A’ rating from the Carbon Disclosure Project for its leadership on climate issues, water issues, and for its work on preventing tropical deforestation. They have embedded sustainability throughout their supply chain. For example, 100% of their palm oil supplies come from sustainable sources. Oxfam has rated Unilever as the best food company in terms of its agricultural sourcing policies.

Unilever got the top ranking on the initial Global Access to Food Nutrition Index in 2017 which rated the world’s top 22 food companies on their efforts to tackle obesity and undernutrition issues. They fell to #2 in the most recent report.

Unilever states that they do not test their own products on animals “but occasionally some ingredients they use have been tested by others to meet government requirements.”



Source: OWL SHARES

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