



# RESPONSIBLE OPERATIONS

We believe protecting the planet and preserving its resources are part of being a responsible corporate citizen. Our dedication to operating sustainably is firmly embedded in our company culture, and we leverage the best practices in environmental management to safeguard the communities where we operate.



## Approach

We are committed to meeting or exceeding environmental compliance requirements by creating environmental awareness, proactively managing environmental risks, promoting more efficient use of resources, encouraging wildlife and habitat conservation, maintaining strong stakeholder relationships, and protecting the land where we operate.

In addition to reducing our emissions (see **Energy Efficiency and Emissions**) and water consumption (see **Water Stewardship**) and protecting biodiversity (see **Land Management & Biodiversity**), we seek to be good neighbors by:

- **Protecting Air Quality** – We annually track and publicly report on various air-quality information (NOx, SOx, CO, VOCs). In addition, we utilize ultra-low NOx burners at select sites and employ a myriad of dust control measures which include dust-collection systems, water application, good housekeeping practices, and many others. We have invested millions of dollars in projects focused on reducing dust exposure for our Team Members, neighbors, and the environment.

- **Improving Waste Management** – We promote waste management practices aimed at reducing the volume of waste we generate, as well as encouraging the responsible handling of such waste. Our typical mining and processing sites have a mineral waste disposal plan that is reviewed annually and updated as needed. We also have recycling programs and diversion initiatives at various sites and reduce mineral waste by using excess materials as backfill whenever viable during reclamation projects. Essentially all of our tailings waste is reprocessed as backfill. Through our reusable-packaging initiative, we partner with certain suppliers to receive their deliveries in reusable totes.
- **Reducing Noise Pollution, Vibration and Light** – We conduct noise monitoring to stay within occupational and environmental standards; restrict mining and/or blasting timing to reduce noise impacts; and install noise isolation and soundproofing technologies.

Additionally, all facilities take into consideration the potential impacts to neighbors and communities and take appropriate measures – including blast design and monitoring programs – to avoid or mitigate any vibration impacts, in compliance with MSHA requirements.

In conducting our activities, all facilities take appropriate measures to avoid or mitigate any light impacts by utilizing strategic site layouts and the construction of earthen site berms and tree lines as appropriate. Other potential impacts are considered and mitigated, in compliance with MSHA requirements, with appropriate measures such as proper placement of lights and use of light shades.

- **Limiting Road Congestion** – Our local communities' feedback is very important to us and has led us to create an open-door commitment with all neighbors to reduce the impact to our communities. We listen to our communities and apply site-specific policies to alleviate any road congestion, from limiting hours of truck traffic and creating a traffic flow plan to and from our operations to building side roads for our operations and eliminating truck traffic passing through residential neighborhoods.
- **Community Action Plans** – Annually, every Covia site is required to submit a Community Action Plan (CAP) that specifies areas of priority for managing environmental and community opportunities. These plans are evaluated on a site-by-site basis to have the greatest impact at a local level.
- **Protecting Indigenous Communities** – As part of our Duty to Consul process, Covia conducts pre-consultation when seeking provincial permits that may impact the rights and interests of Aboriginal peoples across our operations in Canada. We also actively review the available database prepared by the Secretary of Environmental and Natural Resources in Mexico to identify potential impacts to the local indigenous communities.

## 2030 GOALS THAT INSPIRE:

1. **Develop a robust Community Action Plan (CAP) at 100% of our sites to facilitate effective communication, identify areas for improvement, and best respond to community needs.**
2. **Implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) at every mining and processing site.**

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## SUPPORTING POLICIES:

- **Environmental Policy**
- **Community Action Plan Policy**
- **Code of Business Conduct & Ethics**

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## ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS

We incorporate environmental targets into our leadership compensation structure, as well as our company-wide performance review processes, to help us track progress and incentivize advancement of our environmental stewardship priorities.

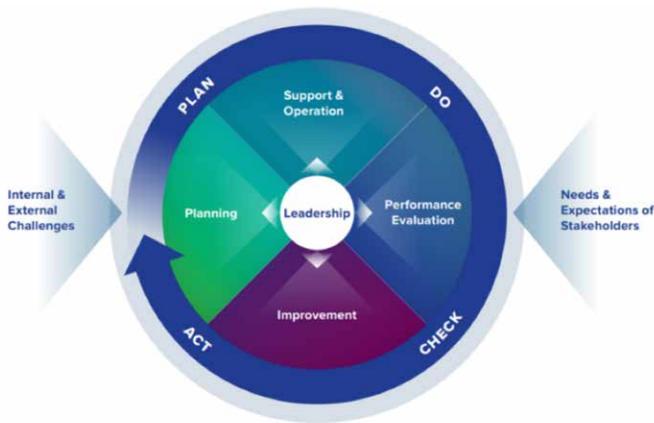
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## CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with our focus on environmental compliance and continuous improvement, many of our plants in Mexico maintain Mexico Clean Industry certifications. This is an independent, voluntary environmental-compliance assessment program that seeks to safeguard the country's ecological balance. These certifications align with our approach to conservation, and we carry this in careful consideration across all our operations.

Our **Environmental Policy** establishes a framework by which we set specific goals and objectives to improve our environmental performance, and we regularly evaluate performance to ensure we are operating in alignment with our environmental stewardship objectives through our comprehensive **Environmental Management System (EMS)**.

## EMS SYSTEM ELEMENTS



Our EMS is based on internationally accepted ISO 14001 standards, which enables improvements in overall environmental performance by providing

- 1) enhanced predictability, consistency, and efficiency in managing our environmental obligations;
- 2) effective targeting and allocation of our environmental management resources;
- 3) proven frameworks for high-impact activities, such as pollution prevention, land management, and water usage;
- and 4) standardized data collection and reporting mechanisms to effectively measure, monitor, and share progress with our stakeholders.

## RESPONSIBLE OPERATIONS OVERSIGHT

Covia’s environmental operations are managed and overseen by the following:

