



B Lab Statement on Danone DACH's B Corp Certification

B Lab's independent Standards Advisory Council has rendered the following decision and guidance regarding eligibility for B Corp Certification for bottled water companies:

"Bottled water companies are eligible for B Corp Certification with additional review by the Standards Advisory Council and, at minimum, incremental disclosure on their public B Corp profile regarding material sensitive issues in the industry."

Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG (part of Danone DACH) are required to disclose a summary of their practices in the areas of Sustainable Usage, Water Access, and Waste as part of their B Corp Certification. For more information on the review process, please refer to B Lab's statement on the bottled water industry and B Corp Certification [here](#).

Summary of Company

Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG are subsidiaries of Danone S.A, a leading global food company with the mission of bringing health through food to as many people as possible. Danone builds on health-focused and fast-growing categories in three businesses: Essential Dairy & Plant-based products, Waters and Specialised Nutrition.

Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG are wholesale business units, which means they market Danone's water brands, but the subsidiaries do not directly control the product manufacturing process.

Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG distribute two Danone water brands manufactured in France:

- evian® natural mineral water & evian Sparkling™ carbonated natural mineral water
- Volvic® natural mineral water

As subsidiaries of Danone, Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG embrace the [One Planet. One Health](#) vision that is based on the belief that the health of the people and the health of the planet are interconnected and therefore seeks to protect and nourish both. It is a call to action for all consumers and everyone who has a stake in food to join the food revolution: a movement aimed at nurturing the adoption of healthier, more sustainable eating and drinking habits.



Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG Practices

Water Access

Danone owns or leases the land in the immediate proximity of the water sources for each Danone water brand sold by Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG. The source of evian natural mineral water comes from the heart of the French Alps, a unique geological site in the world. Its catchment area is recognised as a wetland by RAMSAR convention and a protected site. Volvic natural mineral water comes from Auvergne, a region in France known for its volcanic geology with the Chaîne des Puys-Limagne Fault, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Natural Site. For these sources, the underground origins act as a natural filter for the natural waters, providing them with a unique mineral composition and natural purity.

Companies dedicated to the natural mineral & spring water activity in France are required by law to pay specific taxes based on the volume sold, in order to access the water resource. Pursuant to French regulations, the proceedings of these taxes go to French customs and to the local municipalities. All Danone natural mineral water sites in France fully comply with this requirement.

For evian Sparkling, CO₂ is added to the natural mineral water before bottling.

Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG have reported they are not engaged in any lobbying or policy advocacy for cheaper water prices nor easier water access. The company also reported that there are no stakeholder concerns regarding its water access that remain unresolved.

Sustainable Usage

In order to ensure the company's water extraction rates are environmentally sustainable, the company commissions hydrogeological studies, which are used to inform the regulatory body which sets the permitted extraction rates and amounts. Water extraction for use by Danone does not impair the sustainability of the water resource over time. Extraction rates are monitored and adjusted by hydrological experts and according to the French regulatory framework, to ensure that water levels are not permitted to go below minimum thresholds to ensure sustainability over time. evian water is sourced 57% from naturally flowing springs and the rest from boreholes

Danone water brands use Danone's proprietary SPRING (Sustainable Protection and Resource ManagING) evaluation method, which is designed to optimally manage the water resource. On their most recent SPRING rankings, Volvic's facilities scored 97% and evian's facilities scored 95%, earning them both the "Excellent" topmost ranking.



In addition to managing the sustainability of the water extraction practices, Danone also has a number of community-based efforts focused on promoting the long-term quality and viability of the Danone water sources and the biodiversity and overall environmental health of the surrounding areas. In each region, there are public-private partnerships promoting sustainable development. For example, in the Volvic catchment area, the company collaborates with organizations that support local farmers with technical assistance for sustainable agricultural practices. To help preserve evian's source and promote sustainable agricultural practices in the Évian-les-Bains area, Danone co-founded the Association for the Protection of the evian natural mineral Water Impluvium (APIEME) with 13 other municipalities over 30 years ago. Since then, it has been working hand-in-hand with the local community to make sure evian's source has a healthy sustainable future. Working with APIEME stakeholders, Danone developed the Terragr'eau methanizer, which converts organic farm waste into natural biogas for the community and generates an average of 500MWh of clean energy per year.

Waste Management

Product packaging for evian and Volvic is comprised of a combination of virgin plastic and recycled plastic (rPET) across the various bottle formats.

Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG are committed to continually improving the sustainability performance of its packaging. Through the company's environmental management system, Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG have set targets to continue increasing the amount of recycled plastic in its products.

In 2018, evian committed to make all of its plastic bottles from 100% rPET by 2025, a move to accelerate the brand's 'circular approach' to its plastic usage, where plastic is kept within the economy and out of nature.

At the time of its commitment in 2018, evian bottles distributed by Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG averaged 28% rPET. In 2024, the average amount of rPET for evian water products distributed in Germany and Switzerland was 100% (except cap and label), showing consistent progress. The evian brand is working very closely with local partners who help with recycling and production to ensure we can continue the circular economy journey.

In addition to evian's 100% rPET by 2025 commitment, Danone Deutschland GmbH and Danone Schweiz AG have demonstrated its pledge to circularity through innovative partnerships. For example, since 2020, Volvic Germany uses 100% rPET in all its bottles, except cap and label.



B Lab's Public Complaints Process

Any party may submit a complaint about a current B Corp through [B Lab's Public Complaint Process](#). Grounds for complaint include:

1. Intentional misrepresentation of practices, policies, and/or claimed outcomes during the [certification process](#), or
2. Breach of the core values articulated in our [Declaration of Interdependence](#) within the B Corp Community.