



B Lab Statement on Danone Waters 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."

Nutricia Middle East DMCC is required to disclose a summary of its practices in the areas of Sustainable Usage, Water Access, and Waste as a part of its 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

Nutricia Middle East DMCC has an EVI business which is a subsidiary of Group Danone, a multinational company with the mission of bringing health through food to as many people as possible.

Nutricia Middle East DMCC is a wholesale business unit of Group Danone, which means it markets Danone's bottled water brands in its area of operations, but the subsidiary does not directly control the product manufacturing process. Nutricia Middle East is also the technical intermediary legal entity used to hire employees locally for the global water bottled business of Danone. However, zero annual revenue arises from this global water bottled business as 100% of the related annual revenue is consolidated under another Danone group legal entity (i.e. SAEME, already B-corp certified).

Nutricia Middle East DMCC's EVI business sells two brands of bottled water products:

- Volvic®
- evian®

EVI Middle East Practices

Water Access

Danone owns or leases the land in the immediate proximity of the water sources for each brand sold by Nutricia Middle East DMCC. Danone has owned the land surrounding the Volvic and evian water sources for extended periods of time. Volvic natural mineral water comes from Auvergne, a region of France known for its volcanic geology, and the source of evian's natural



mineral water is in the heart of the French Alps - both landscapes act as a natural filter for the natural mineral water.

Companies dedicated to the natural mineral 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. Danone's French water sites are also paying a fee to the local towns where they have their sources with the objective of preserving them for the future.

Danone is part of the Natural Mineral Water French federation (MEMN = Maison des Eaux Minérales Naturelles) and Non-alcoholic beverages federation (BRF = Boissons Rafraichissantes de France).

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 Waters 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.

Nutricia Middle East DMCC's brands utilize Danone's proprietary SPRING (Sustainable Protection and Resource ManagING) tool, which is designed to optimally manage the water resource. On their most recent rankings, Volvic's facilities are classified as "Standard" performance and evian's facilities earned 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 brands' 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. Another example is that, to protect the evian® watershed, the company joined forces with a group of farmers and local authorities, developing a biogas facility called Terragr'eau, which uses farm waste to produce a fertilizer and an average of 500MWh of biogas 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.

Nutricia Middle East DMCC is committed to continually improving the sustainability performance of its packaging. Through the company's environmental management system, Nutricia Middle East DMCC has 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 Nutricia Middle East DMCC averaged 28% rPET. 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 toward 100% recyclable packaging and 100% rPET packaging.

Other Management Comments

Access to safe drinking water

There are two major initiatives through which Volvic® provides access to safe drinking water to people in need in developing countries.

1) "1 Liter for 1 Liter" via Danone Communities

Danone Communities is a Venture Capital fund investing in Social Businesses, empowering innovative social entrepreneurs to achieve sustainable social impact, by investing in social businesses, providing capital, technical and managerial expertise, as well as networking. Since 2020, Volvic®, through Danone Communities, has supported the provision of clean drinking water to people in countries such as Cambodia, India, Haiti, Mexico, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Senegal. That equates to 1.2 billion liters of clean drinking water benefiting 9M people in need, which means that every liter of Volvic® bought helps provide one liter of safe drinking water to another person.

2) UNICEF

Volvic® supports water access through the UNICEF WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) program in Madagascar since 2019. There, every second child has no access to clean water and there is no basic sanitation for 83% of the population. With Volvic®'s support, UNICEF's program helps children and their families to gain access to safe water and clean hygiene practices. Children in particular benefit from this aid because they grow up healthier and have more time to play and go to school.