



B Lab Statement on Société Anonyme des Eaux Minérales d'Evian's and Société des Eaux de Volvic®'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."

Société Anonyme des Eaux Minérales d'Evian (SAEME) and Société des Eaux de Volvic® (SEV) are required to disclose a summary of their practices in the areas of Sustainable Usage, Water Access, and Waste as a 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

SAEME and SEV are subsidiaries of Danone, a 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 Specialized Nutrition.

SAEME is headquartered in Evian-les-Bains, France and manufactures three brands:

- evian® natural mineral water
- Badoit® sparkling natural mineral water
- La Salvetat® sparkling natural mineral water

SAEME operates 3 bottling sites in France:

- One in Publier for evian® natural mineral water
- One in Saint-Galmier for Badoit® sparkling natural mineral water
- One in La Salvetat-sur-Agout for La Salvetat® sparkling natural mineral water

SEV is headquartered in Volvic, France and manufactures Volvic® natural mineral water, which comes from Auvergne, a region in France at the heart of the Chaîne des Puys-Limagne Fault.

As subsidiaries of Danone, SAEME and SEV 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.

SAEME's and SEV's Industry Practices

Water Access

SAEME and SEV own or lease the land in the immediate proximity of the water sources for each Danone water brand sold by them:

- 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 recognized as a wetland by the [RAMSAR](#) convention and a protected site since 2008,



- Badoit® sparkling natural mineral water emerges naturally sparkling at its source, near Saint-Galmier, a French commune located in the French department of Loire in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region in France,
- La Salvetat® sparkling natural mineral water emerges naturally sparkling at its source, near the town of La Salvetat-sur-Agout, a small town located in the Occitanie Region of France,
- Volvic® natural mineral water comes from Auvergne, a region in France known for its volcanic geology with the [Chaîne de Puys - Limagne Fault](#) that is recorded in the 2018 [UNESCO World Heritage Natural list](#).

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, and sparkle for Badoit® and La Salvetat®.

Companies working in 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 the local municipalities and to French customs. evian®, Badoit®, La Salevat®, and Volvic® natural mineral water's bottling sites fully comply with this requirement.

The following agencies regulate access to water and the companies' water extraction practices: Direction Départementale des Territoires (DDT), reporting to the Prefect of the department.

SAEME and SEV have reported they are not engaged in any lobbying or policy advocacy for cheaper water prices nor weaken regulations regarding access to water. The subsidiaries follow [Danone Policy on Advocacy](#). The company also reported there are no stakeholder concerns regarding its water access that still need to be addressed.

Sustainable Usage

In order to ensure the company's water extraction rates are environmentally sustainable, the company commissions hydrogeological studies for each water source, which are used to inform the regulatory body which sets the permitted extraction rates and amounts. Extraction rates are monitored and adjusted by hydrological experts and according to the French regulatory framework. evian® natural mineral water is sourced 51,5% from naturally occurring springs and the rest from boreholes. 100% of Volvic® natural mineral water volume comes from the same aquifer.

The companies' activities are subject to authorizations granted by the public authorities, which determine the maximum quantities of water they can abstract, based on an analysis of the reserves available in the aquifer. The companies shared that the water extraction data is shared transparently with government departments through monitoring committees, and regularly checked by the latter, particularly on an unannounced basis. Water police officers have free access to their facilities to check compliance with the prefectural authorizations governing our activity.

SAEME's and SEV's brands use Danone's proprietary SPRING (Sustainable Protection and Resource ManagING) evaluation method, built with the collaboration of RAMSAR, which is designed to manage the water resources. On the most recent SPRING rankings, evian®'s facilities scored 95% and Volvic®'s facilities scored 97%, both earning the "Excellent" topmost ranking.

Danone also has a number of community-based efforts focused on promoting the long-term quality and viability of the water sources, the biodiversity, and the overall environmental health of the surrounding areas. In each region, public-private partnerships are promoting the sustainable development of natural resources and nature.

For example, to help preserve evian®'s source and promote sustainable agricultural practices in the evian® catchment 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 a local methanizer, which converts organic farm waste into natural biogas for the community and generates clean energy. As another example, La Salevat® works with the villages of the watershed area to protect water resources with the [Association PEPS'S](#). Also, [La Bulle Verte](#) for Badoit® deployed a regenerative agriculture program with local farmers. In the Volvic® catchment area, the company collaborates with organizations that support local farmers with technical assistance for sustainable agricultural practices through the [Environmental Committee for the Protection of the Impluvium of Volvic®](#) (CEPIV).

Regarding SEV's efforts to responsibly manage water use during droughts, the company shared that it implemented the Rational Water Use Plan (in French, Plan d'Utilisation Rationnelle de l'Eau PURE), which includes a specific reduction in average monthly withdrawals in the event of drought alert and reduction of annual abstraction allowance (the company signed this Plan in 2021, 2023 and in 2024). Also, since 2022, in the event of drought in the region, Volvic has undertaken to reduce water consumption:

- by 5% in the event of a drought alert
- by 10% in the event of a heightened drought alert
- by 12,5% in the event of crisis alert
- In April 2024, Volvic announced a new interconnection from a Volvic borehole to tap water distribution in case of risk of lack of tap water to assure water access to local communities (this initiative includes 31 cities / 60000 people)

The company reported that it is investing in the modernization of production lines to make them more water-efficient as well as testing a pilot project, called ReUse, to treat and reuse wastewater for our industrial processes (e.g. wastewater from cleaning processes).

Waste Management

Product packaging of these brands is a combination of virgin plastic and recycled plastic (rPET) across the various bottle formats. By using PET and/or rPET, they preserve the qualities of the natural mineral water from source to consumer and meet stringent food safety and quality requirements.

SAEME and SEV are committed to continually improving the sustainability performance of their packaging. Through the company's environmental management system, SAEME and SEV have set targets to continue increasing the amount of recycled plastic in their products and reduce the weight of bottles, while exploring reuse models and alternative packaging materials.



Volvic® and evian® brands committed to make all of their plastic bottles from 100% rPET in 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.

In 2022, the average amount of recycled input material aggregated across all four brands' water products in France is 22% (36% for evian®, and 24% for Volvic®, while Badoit® and La Salvetat® currently do not have recycled content in their packaging). From 2021, Volvic® also moved to 100% recycled material bottles for all small formats of plain water in France.

Danone is working very closely with the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#) to pursue its circular economy journey and support innovation and recycling of materials. SAEME and SEV are also part of the company [CITEO](#) which supports recycling actions and coordinates collection, sorting and recycling systems in France.

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 company's [certification process](#)
2. Breaches of the B Corp Community's core values as expressed in our [Declaration of Interdependence](#)