

### ECO REQUIREMENTS AND TARGETS FOR THE EUROPEAN **SMEs**







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# WHY SMES MATTER IN THE EU'S GREEN TRANSITION

- SMEs represent 99% of all EU businesses
- Major economic and environmental footprint
- Essential actors in reducing emissions and promoting green innovation
- The European Green Deal identifies SMEs as key drivers of change



### WHAT ARE "ECO REQUIREMENTS"?

Eco requirements are environmental criteria that businesses must meet to reduce their environmental footprint.

#### They apply across:

- Energy consumption
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Resource use and waste generation
- Use of environmentally friendly materials

**They cover all business areas:** production, supply chains, logistics, waste



## KEY EU REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

- European Green Deal aims for climate neutrality by
   2050EU
- Taxonomy Regulation defines what is an environmentally sustainable activity
- Fit for 55 reduces emissions by at least 55% by 2030 (vs. 1990 levels)
- Circular Economy Action Plan promotes reuse, repair,
   and recycling over waste



### MAIN EU TARGETS FOR SMEs

**To align** with **EU environmental policy**, **SMEs** are expected to:

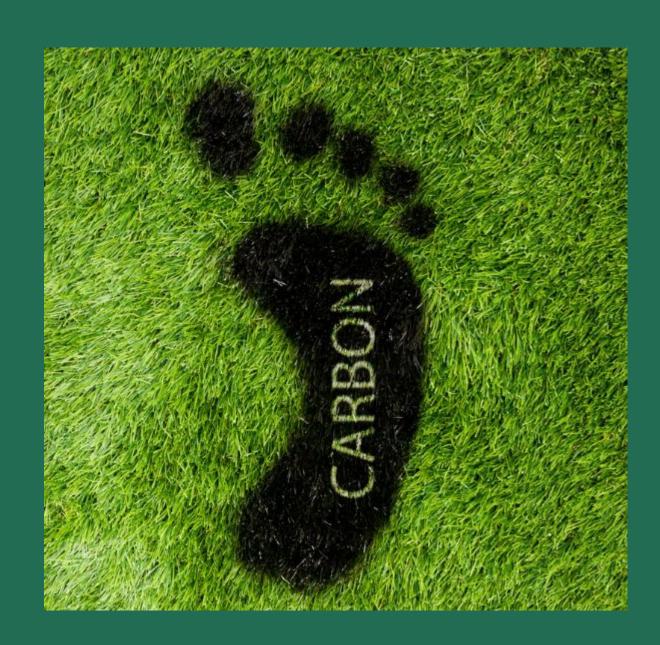
- Improve energy and resource efficiency
- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across operations
- Shift to renewable and clean energy sources
- Adopt circular economy practices
- Preserve biodiversity and manage land/water sustainably





# HOW REQUIREMENTS APPEAR IN PRACTICE

- Use of certified sustainable materials (e.g. FSC, recycled content)
- Eco-labelling and environmental product declarations
- CO<sub>2</sub> footprint reporting and environmental audits
- Integration of **circular business models** (repair, reuse, recycling)
- Adherence to procurement criteria (Green Public Procurement)



### CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#### Main **challenges** SMEs face:

- Limited financial and human resources
- Difficulty keeping up with regulations
- Technical capacity gaps

#### **Opportunities:**

- Access to green funding and incentives
- Competitive advantage in sustainable markets
- Stronger customer loyalty and brand reputation



### HOW CAN SMEs ADAPT?

#### Steps to become compliant and competitive:

- Stay informed about EU and national legislation
- **Invest** in green technologies and innovation
- **Apply** for environmental certifications
- **Engage** employees and suppliers in sustainability goals
- Seek technical support and EU/national funding







#### THANK YOU

**Partners** 









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