# OWENS CORNING SUSTAINABILITY MATERIALITY



Photo submitted by: **Olivia Kasle | Toledo, Ohio, U.S.** Icelandic rainbow overlooking Thorsmork ridge

- DECISION-MAKING ON SCOPE AND SCALE OF THE ASSESSMENT
- SELECTED TAKEAWAYS FROM ENGAGING OWENS CORNING EMPLOYEES ON MATERIALITY
- BREAKING DOWN THE PROCESS
- CONCLUDING REMARKS
- ASSURANCE STATEMENT





# INTRODUCTION

Owens Corning is a global leader in insulation, roofing, and fiberglass composite materials. We provide innovative products and solutions that deliver a material difference to our customers. Our insulation products conserve energy and improve acoustics, fire resistance, and air quality in the spaces where people live, work, and play. Our roofing products and systems enhance curb appeal as they protect homes and commercial buildings. Our fiberglass composites make thousands of products lighter, stronger, and more durable. With operations in 33 countries, Owens Corning is global in scope. At the same time, we are human in scale, with 19,000 employees cultivating local and long-standing relationships with customers. Based in Toledo, Ohio, U.S., the company posted 2019 sales of \$7.2 billion. Founded in 1938, we have been a Fortune 500<sup>®</sup> company for 65 consecutive years.

At a time when organizations everywhere are expected to increase the sustainability of their operations, Owens Corning is committed to understanding our impacts and contextualizing what sustainability means for our company. Only then can we effectively set goals around sustainability and have confidence that these goals are aligned with what the world needs and with what our stakeholders expect from Owens Corning.

As part of our sustainability efforts, this year Owens Corning completed an updated Materiality Assessment. Through this assessment, we identified our sustainability priorities at the global and regional levels, allowing us to set goals aligned with impact, prioritize the investments we are making in our future sustainability efforts, connect our organizational strategy with the stakeholder voice, and facilitate informed decision-making as we develop new ways to meet and exceed our goals for sustainability. As we look to 2030 and beyond, Owens Corning will use this assessment to ask: What kind of company does the world need us to be? It is important to consider this question in all that we do, and this assessment will provide an updated foundation for a continuous, nuanced, and informed approach to sustainability for our company.

Photos: Owens Corning Insulation, Roofing, and Composites.

# Our Materiality efforts align with the following UN SDGs:



# OVERVIEW OF MATERIALITY

A company uses a materiality assessment to determine and prioritize the specific topics that define its unique relationship with and approach to sustainability. The goal of any materiality assessment is to understand, through stakeholder engagement and company analysis, which sustainability areas are relevant to the company. This final relationship between a company and the specific areas of sustainability which are important ("material") to the company is usually represented visually in a grid.

There are many ways to approach a materiality assessment, but for Owens Corning's materiality assessment, the approach was structured around the following actions:

**Assess** previous Material Topics from past assessments and update them through research and stakeholder engagement to create the 2019 Material Topics.

**Identify** internal and external stakeholders to engage regarding the 2019 Material Topics, and design inclusive and flexible engagement strategies.

**Engage** with identified internal, external, indirect, and direct stakeholders through interviews, surveys, and research-based approaches.

**Build** a model. Using data and stakeholder input on the 2019 Material Topics, create Materiality Matrices for the company's global operations, as well as regionally specific Materiality Matrices.





Photo: Owens Corning warehouse Mexico City, Mexico.

We are committed to continuously identifying Owens Corning's Material Issues and understanding the aspects of sustainability that are relevant across our value chain, so we can remain well positioned to drive a relevant and impactful sustainability strategy for the company. We conducted this Materiality Assessment in accordance with GRI principles for Materiality and Stakeholder Inclusiveness, as well as the AA1000 AccountAbility Principles 2018 for Materiality, which was externally verified through an auditor.

For more detail on what this entails, see the Assurance Statement from SCS Global Services in Appendix F.



# SUMMARY OF RESULTS

# Owens Corning's 2019 Material Topics

After reviewing the company's prior work on sustainability and materiality, researching best practices, examining peer companies within our industry, and interviewing subject matter experts, the following Material Topics and their defined scopes were determined to represent Owens Corning's 2019 Material Topics for Sustainability:







Photo submitted by: Julie Childers | Granville, Ohio, U.S. Gulf Shore State Park, Alabama (Top) Sanjay Rao | Mumbai, India Bird Sanctuary in Northern India (Second to top) Owens Corning Chambery employees (Third left) Owens Corning Gives Back (Third right & Bottom)

## **Air Quality Management**

As a manufacturer, we have the opportunity to improve our processes and, in doing so, reduce our impact on air quality in the areas where we operate.

## Biodiversity

Biodiversity describes the variety of life that keeps nature's ecosystems in balance. Owens Corning is committed to preserving and enhancing biodiversity and the natural habitats that surround our operations around the world. We seek to understand and manage the biodiversity impact of all our own operations, as well as gain insights into the impacts of our supply chain on biodiversity.

## **Circular Economy**

A circular economy is one in which virgin raw materials, waste, energy, and emissions are minimized through intelligent design, renewable and recycled inputs, energyefficient production, and enabling the recyclability of products at the end of their lifecy cles. We are committed to supporting the global transformation to a circular economy.

## **Combating Climate Change**

Owens Corning understands the importance of climate action, and we take our role in the fight against climate change seriously. We have embraced a Science-Based Target for greenhouse gas emissions in line with the most stringent standard, designed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. We also have a target to reduce our Scope 3 emissions, representing emissions from our supply chain.

## **Community Engagement**

Owens Corning strives to contribute to thriving communities where we work, where we live, and where we have the potential to make a positive impact.

#### **Employee Experience**

We believe our employees should grow as people and as professionals while working at Owens Corning. We seek to attract the best people and provide every employee with the opportunity to develop and reach their full potential, in a work environment full of both challenge and optimism.

## Energy Efficiency & Sourcing Renewable Energy

We are determined to continue decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels, both by improving efficiency in our operations and by meeting more of our energy demands through renewable sources.

#### Health & Wellness

We promote a healthy and tobacco-free lifestyle for all our employees and their families. We are committed to ending lifestyle-induced disease in our employees, as well as promoting mental, physical, and financial well-being.

#### **Human Rights**

Owens Corning has the privilege of working with people all over the world. We believe that this privilege comes with the responsibility to treat all people with

dignity and respect and to protect their fundamental rights. We are committed to being a leader in setting and upholding the highest standards for safeguarding human rights.

#### **Inclusion & Diversity**

We aim to foster an environment which represents people with various racial, ethnic, gender, religious, language, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds and various lifestyles, experience, and interests, engaged and working together to create a fair, healthy, and high-performing organization. Inclusion enables employees to feel valued, understood, and inspired to bring their whole selves to work.

#### Living Safely

As a company, we are committed to promoting safety for all. We believe that all accidents are preventable, at work and at home.

#### **Product Innovation & Stewardship**

We utilize innovation and the principles of product stewardship to ensure that our products are fundamentally

safe and sustainable in their design, creation, use, and eventual disposal. We also seek to drive continual improvement in the sustainability of the products we offer, both in their creation, and in their ability to help the world meet its sustainability needs.

#### **Responsible Water Sourcing & Consumption**

We are committed to using water in an intelligent, sustainable way across the company. We operate in a number of different regions across the world, some of which are in areas of higher water stress than others. Through reuse, recycling, and efficiency, we strive to consume less water in our operations. We also must understand where our water use is most impactful, to set informed targets for water reduction.

#### Supply Chain Sustainability

We strive to hold our suppliers to the same high standards we hold ourselves. We see our suppliers as a key contributor to our overall sustainability vision, and seek to ensure all our suppliers fully comply with all applicable legislation, regulations, and legal requirements on human rights, labor, the environment, anticorruption, and trade and customs.

#### Sustainable Growth

When we do well, we want to help the world do well. We achieve sustainable growth through serving our customers, fulfilling their need for quality, products.

We are working to support the global transition to a sustainable economy by being a financially successful company with sustainability at its core.

#### Waste Management

Our ambition is to mitigate the waste that we produce by redesigning the process to avoid its creation, and repurposing it whenever possible. We are committed to redefining waste, continuously looking for beneficial uses for our byproducts and other waste materials.

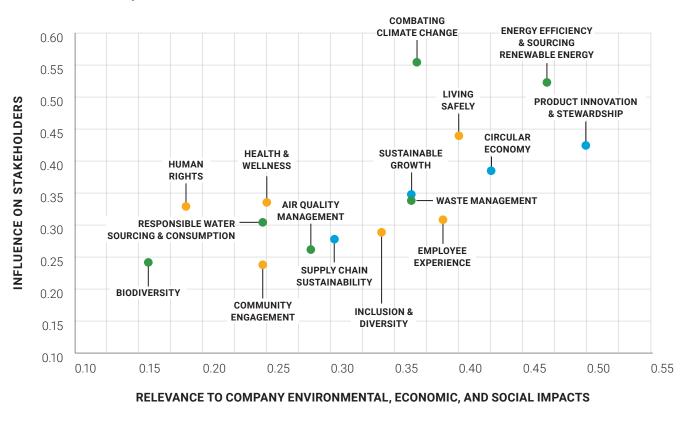
These material topics, which represent the priorities of Owens Corning's stakeholders with consideration to the company's impacts, are informed by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. The content of this report is organized by these topics to show the alignment between our efforts, our goals, and our stakeholders' priorities.



# **Owens Corning's 2019 Materiality Grids**

The foundational assumption when structuring engagement for this Materiality Assessment was the need for the final visual products, the Materiality Matrices, to adhere to GRI standards. That means our Materiality Assessment considers the significance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) impacts to the company, and the influence a Material Topic has on stakeholders in their assessments and decision-making.

This type of matrix, where stakeholder influence and Environmental, Social, and Governance impact are the determinants to the axes, was selected because traditional matrices, which contrast internal and external stakeholders on the two axes, can oversimplify the result. In addition, such matrices are not as effective at communicating impact or influence, since both terms are present in both axes. Owens Corning elected to use the GRI Impact/Influence axes, as they allow us to check for alignment between the impact a Material Topic has for our company, and the priority our internal and external stakeholders place on that Material Topic in their organizational decision-making and personal expectations.



# **Global Materiality**

Product Sustainability
Environmental Sustainability
Social Sustainability

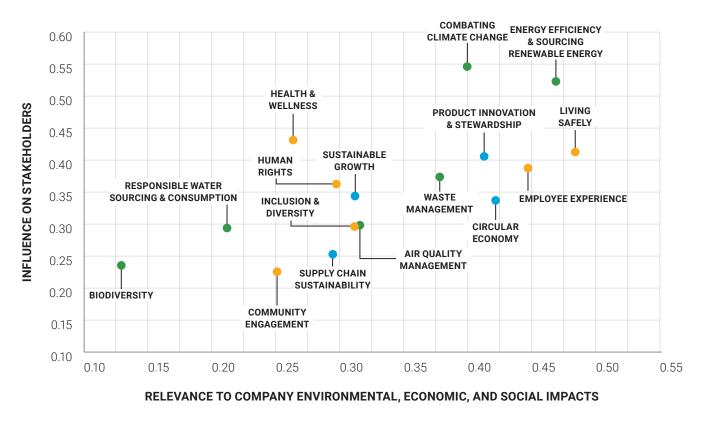
# DECISION-MAKING ON SCOPE AND SCALE OF THE ASSESSMENT

# **Defining a Regional Approach**

In defining the size of this assessment, the decision was made that with the acquisition of new locations in Europe and Asia Pacific since the last full materiality assessment was completed, this assessment should look to develop regional materiality assessments and accompanying matrix grids, in addition to an overall globally relevant materiality assessment for the company. This decision needed to be one of the first ones considered in undertaking this assessment, as the regions needed to be considered in the resultant designs and techniques implemented.

The completed assessments represent the following regions:

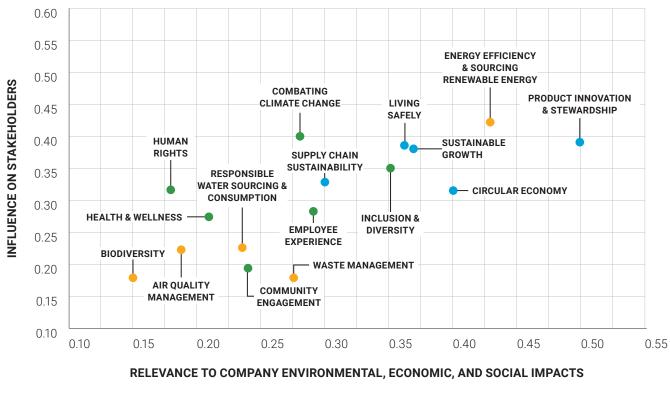
- Americas
- Asia Pacific
- Europe
- An Overall Global-Scope Assessment



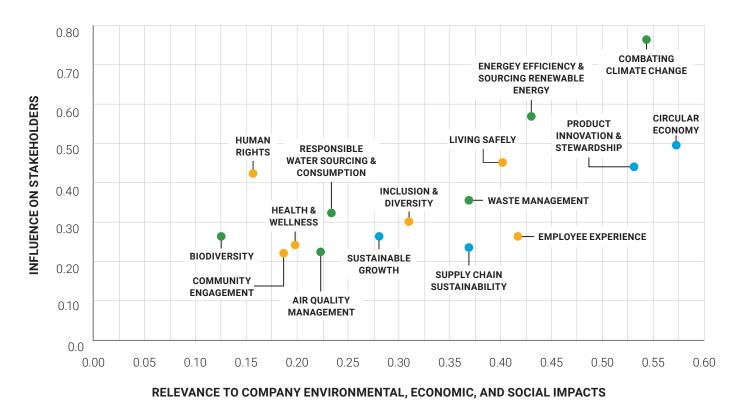
# **Regional Assessment Results | Americas Materiality**

🗧 Product Sustainability 🛛 🌒 Environmental Sustainability 💦 😑 Social Sustainability

# **Regional Assessment Results | Asia Pacific Materiality**



# Regional Assessment Results | Europe Materiality



2019 OWENS CORNING SUSTAINABILITY REPORT | MATERIALITY



# SELECTED TAKEAWAYS FROM ENGAGING OWENS CORNING EMPLOYEES ON MATERIALITY

Beyond generating and confirming the final visual result of Materiality Matrices by region, the assessment also revealed many interesting insights, especially for our global workforce. One of the most interesting results of engaging stakeholders on Material Topics was the ability to gain tailored insights for our employee base.

For example, we were able to see how our employees rated their priorities as individuals, and contrast that with their perception of which topics Owens Corning should prioritize. These differences in priorities provide valuable insight into our employees' perceptions of the company, as well as their own values. In many cases, the observed differences fit with what one might expect between an individual and a company. For example, our employees saw Sustainable Growth as an area the company should be more focused on than they as individuals would be in their private lives. Similarly, while employees expect the company to prioritize innovative and sustainable products, this topic was not as directly relevant in the context of personal priorities.

Because we were also able to analyze data by segment, we were able to derive insights about the sustainability priorities of different groups within our workforce. For example, it is notable that leadership's broader view of the company's operations affords them a potentially more holistic view of the company's impact, reflected in priorities that differ somewhat from those of the general employee base. Photo submitted by: Elena Bodrova | Russia GFOR Global Volunteer Day in Russia

# **Topic and Scope Determination**

Over the course of the 2019 Materiality Assessment, Owens Corning identified 16 Material Topics for the company's ESG and sustainability impacts. The 16 Material Topics for this assessment differ from the 15 topics previously considered, with different scopes (descriptions that provide more context of how the company engages with the Material Topic), names, and sometimes entirely new topics. A summary of the changes can be seen in the table below.

2018 REPORT'S MATERIAL TOPICS	2019 MATERIAL TOPICS	SUMMARY OF CHANGE
Community Impact	Community Engagement	Scope change
Safety and Wellness	Living Safely Health & Wellness	New scope, now distinct Topic New scope, now distinct Topic
Employee Experience	Employee Experience Inclusion & Diversity	New scope, now distinct Topic New scope, now distinct Topic
Human Rights	Human Rights	Consistent
Energy Efficiency	Energy Efficiency & Sourcing Renewable Energy	Scope change
Greenhouse Gases and Toxic Air Emissions	Air Quality Management Combating Climate Change	New scope, now distinct Topic New scope, now distinct Topic
Waste Management	Waste Management	Consistent
Water	Responsible Water Sourcing & Consumption	Scope change
Supply Chain Sustainability	Supply Chain Sustainability	Consistent
Building Science		Represented as component of Product Innovation & Stewardship
Product Innovation	Product Innovation & Stewardship	Scope change
Recycled Material Product Sustainability	Circular Economy	New area, combining previous topics with designing for reuse & efficient use of resources
Growth Strategy & Prosperity	Sustainable Growth	Scope change
Customer Experience		Represented as component of Sustainable Growth
	Biodiversity	New Material Topic

Some noteworthy changes include the creation of new Material Topics for Inclusion & Diversity and Circular Economy, and discrete topics dedicated to Combating Climate Change, Health & Wellness, and Living Safely. Each of the new topics more accurately reflects the areas which define Owens Corning's priority areas as they relate to sustainability, and they were decided upon as the result of research and internal stakeholder engagement. At this stage, we also developed scopes for the topics, so that we could ensure alignment across our stakeholders regarding the specific relationship and approach Owens Corning has with each Material Topic.

# **Identifying and Grouping Stakeholders**

Using the 2019 Material Topics as our basis for engagement, the company identified internal and external stakeholders, seeking their input.

After researching our previous assessment's external stakeholder types, the company identified seven types of external stakeholder. The company engaged 42 external stakeholders across these seven types, with consideration of balance of stakeholders in varying global regions:

EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	# OF STAKEHOLDERS	SPECIFIC DESIGNATIONS
Customers	14	Builders Business-to-Business
Suppliers	11	Chemicals Minerals Services Direct Materials Transportation
Science & Academia	3	Universities Research Groups
Community Groups	6	Nonprofits - global scale Nonprofits - local groups
Industry Associations	3	Insulation Industry Roofing Industry Composites Industry
Sustainability NGOs	2	ESG Reporting and Data Groups ESG Tools and Guideline Groups
ESG and Sustainability Investor Groups	3	ESG Ratings Agencies ESG Investment Groups

For this Materiality Assessment, we took a wide and inclusive approach to involving internal stakeholders, allowing employees in all roles to provide input to the process if they so desired. Any employee with access to the engagement survey was able to participate. Over 360 Owens Corning employees from around the world responded, including a significant portion of leadership (identified as vice president and above). Combined with the external stakeholders engaged, this assessment incorporated the input of over 400 individuals and organizations.

# LOCATIONS

- 1. Site
- 2. Region (Global, Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe)

## DEPARTMENT

Sustainability, Environmental, Health, and Safety Finance Human Resources Information Services Legal Manufacturing Marketing Sales Science & Technology (aka R&D) Sourcing & Supply Chain Other



Photo submitted by: Joe Blair | Newark, Ohio, U.S. Bella Vineyard in Sonoma, California, U.S.

# **Designing Survey-Based Engagement**

To fit the GRI Materiality axes, survey questions were designed and approved by our sustainability team, as well as by Datamaran in their capacity as materiality subject matter experts. Surveys were planned to be administered online, to encourage replicable data and quick response times, which in turn would encourage a higher level of responses compared to an intensive type of outreach that would have the potential to push stakeholders away. Three types of survey were designed, based on the type of stakeholder the survey was reaching.

For each question in each survey, the stipulation was that, of the 16 Materiality Topics to choose from, a stakeholder could select up to five. This allowed stakeholders to identify multiple areas they thought were accurate in responding to the question, but also forced stakeholders to prioritize. If a stakeholder could select everything that mattered to them, it would be difficult for us to assess the relative importance of the topics, and many stakeholders would select all 16, or a large proportion. Additionally, choosing up to five allowed for stakeholders who thought only one or two Topics were relevant to their answer to make that decision on their own, rather than choosing additional Topics that they did not feel fit their answer to meet the quota for Topic selection.

# **Building the Final Models for Materiality Matrices**

As a global company, we wanted to understand how our stakeholders in different regions characterized their priorities and their expectations of Owens Corning. The results of our engagements with stakeholders were then categorized and organized to yield data in four contexts: data for our Overall (Global) operations, data for the Americas region, data for Asia Pacific, and data for Europe. These regional views were developed to allow for regional matrices.

The survey and interview data were then merged with data from Datamaran, an online materiality analysis tool that allows for effective consideration of indirect stakeholder data, such as news media, social media, regulations, and peer companies. This data was collected for the four regions of our analysis as well, and combined with relevant regional data from the survey.

The combined data was then applied to a grid that conforms to the recommended GRI axes for materiality grids: horizontal being "Significance of economic, environmental, & social impacts," vertical being "Influence on stakeholder assessments & decisions"<sup>1</sup> (see Summary of Results above). As a final step, an analysis of company impacts as they relate to the new Material Topics was carried out, to ensure alignment between current and potential future company impacts and the model.

<sup>1</sup><u>https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/media/1036/gri-101-foundation-2016.pdf#page=%2010</u>

# CONCLUDING Remarks

# Relating to the 2030 Sustainability Goals

In assessing the needs of the company as they related to this new assessment, the development of the 2030 Sustainability goals presented an opportunity to ensure alignment between the goals and Material Topics. In doing so, we can demonstrate that the company's Material Topics are correctly assessing the impact of a topic in line with stakeholder influence and expectations, allowing the company's goals to be assessed and ensuring that they are informed by the topics identified in the Materiality Assessment.

The 2019 Materiality Assessment also more accurately reflects focus areas that we had not previously considered as stand-alone Material Topics, such as Inclusion & Diversity and the Circular Economy. While these areas have historically been important to Owens Corning, in this assessment both areas became distinct Material Topics. Both also have significant presence in the 2030 goals, which were finalized after the internal materiality results were communicated.

This kind of alignment allows the goals to focus our efforts in proven impact areas. As we develop more Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and specific targets around our 2030 goals, the lessons provided in the Materiality Assessment (e.g., regional variances, comparative relevance, priorities by stakeholder type) can serve as an input to those processes as well.



Photo submitted by: Suzanne Harnett | Toledo, Ohio, U.S. Butterfly at the Merrill Creek Reservoir in Washington, New Jersey, U.S.

# GOING Forward

# Steps to take to keep this assessment in lockstep with the changing world and our growing business

Looking beyond the initial release and communication of our results, we must also consider the steps needed to keep this assessment aligned with our company and our stakeholders. Certain aspects of this Materiality Assessment were designed to be easily updated, which will help keep the assessment relevant. Additionally, the relevance and identified company impacts for Topics and their scopes will be periodically reviewed by our Sustainability team and subject matter experts to ensure that the scopes and terms still accurately reflect the company's Material Topics for Sustainability.

Another step toward keeping this assessment relevant, informed by AA1000 AccountAbility Stakeholder Engagement Standard (2015), is to identify internal and external stakeholders to whom we can communicate the results of this assessment, and seek feedback on Material Topics, as a cyclical stakeholder re-engagement model. To stay aligned and on track in the longer term, we are committed to conducting a completely new Materiality Assessment at least every five years.

# Open Call for Feedback: If You Want to be Heard, We Want to Hear You

If you have any questions about the process or want to share your insights on our Material Topics or the Materiality Grids, we encourage your feedback. **Please contact us at <u>sustainability@owenscorning.com</u>**.



# Independent Assurance Statement Owens Corning's 2019 Materiality Assessment

# Scope:

SCS Global Services (SCS) has conducted an independent assurance of Owens Corning's materiality assessment process to evaluate the methodology used in identifying and prioritizing the most material sustainability topics. The methodology and implementation of the materiality assessment were evaluated in accordance to AA1000 AccountAbility Principles Standard and the GRI 101 Standard. Owens Corning conducted materiality assessments for global and regional operations which included the Americas, Asia Pacific and European regions.

## **Objective and Criteria:**

To carry out a moderate level of assurance on Owens Corning's adherence to the AA1000 AccountAbility Principles and GRI 101 Standards for Owens Corning's 2019 materiality assessment process as detailed in their Materiality Whitepaper. The material topics selected by Owens Corning were assessed against the relevant criteria for meeting the Materiality Principle.

## Methodology;

SCS' assurance included a review of Owens Corning's Materiality Whitepaper which included the written processes, methodology, and calculations used in Owens Corning's 2019 materiality assessment along with supporting documentation and secondary sources of information. The Whitepaper articulates how data from various sources was brought together to inform the material topic selections. Sources of data reviewed included benchmarking to industry peers and best in class, news articles, regulatory and legal information, trending social media topics and other online data aggregated and analyzed by Datamaran, Stakeholder survey data, and Owens Corning's internal risk assessments and registers. Interviews with Owens Corning and Datamaran employees were held to better understand and corroborate the approach used in selecting the material topics. SCS further conducted its own materiality study through targeted internet searches, data pulled from Datamaran, social media postings, and internet news sources to cross-check identified stakeholders and material issues.

## **Opinion and Findings:**

SCS Global Services (SCS) has performed the assurance activities to evaluate the process used in identifying and prioritizing the most relevant sustainability topics, with focus on the effect each topic has on Owens Corning and its stakeholders. Based on the evidence presented, the audit team agrees that the material issues adopted by Owens Corning were appropriate and Owens Corning has met the criteria for effectively identifying and prioritizing material issues by effectively utilizing big data and stakeholder feedback. An opportunity of improvement exists for the organization to further refine current and future impacts of identified material topics. This would include supplementing social, regulatory, internal and external stakeholder inputs with additional quantitative data and analysis. All findings raised during this assessment were closed prior to issuing this assurance statement.

## **Statement of Independence**

SCS provides this moderate assurance in accordance with the requirements of the AA1000 AccountAbility Principles 2018 and GRI 101 Standards. SCS has complied with the commercial independence and other ethical requirements per our internationally accredited quality system, which is founded on fundamental principles of impartiality, competence, objective decision making, openness, and confidentiality.

Assurance Date: March 25, 2020

**Néil T. Mendenhall** Associate Sustainability Assurance Practitioner







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Photo submitted by: **Michelle Mazza | Texas, U.S.** Multnomah Falls, Columbia River Gorge, OR