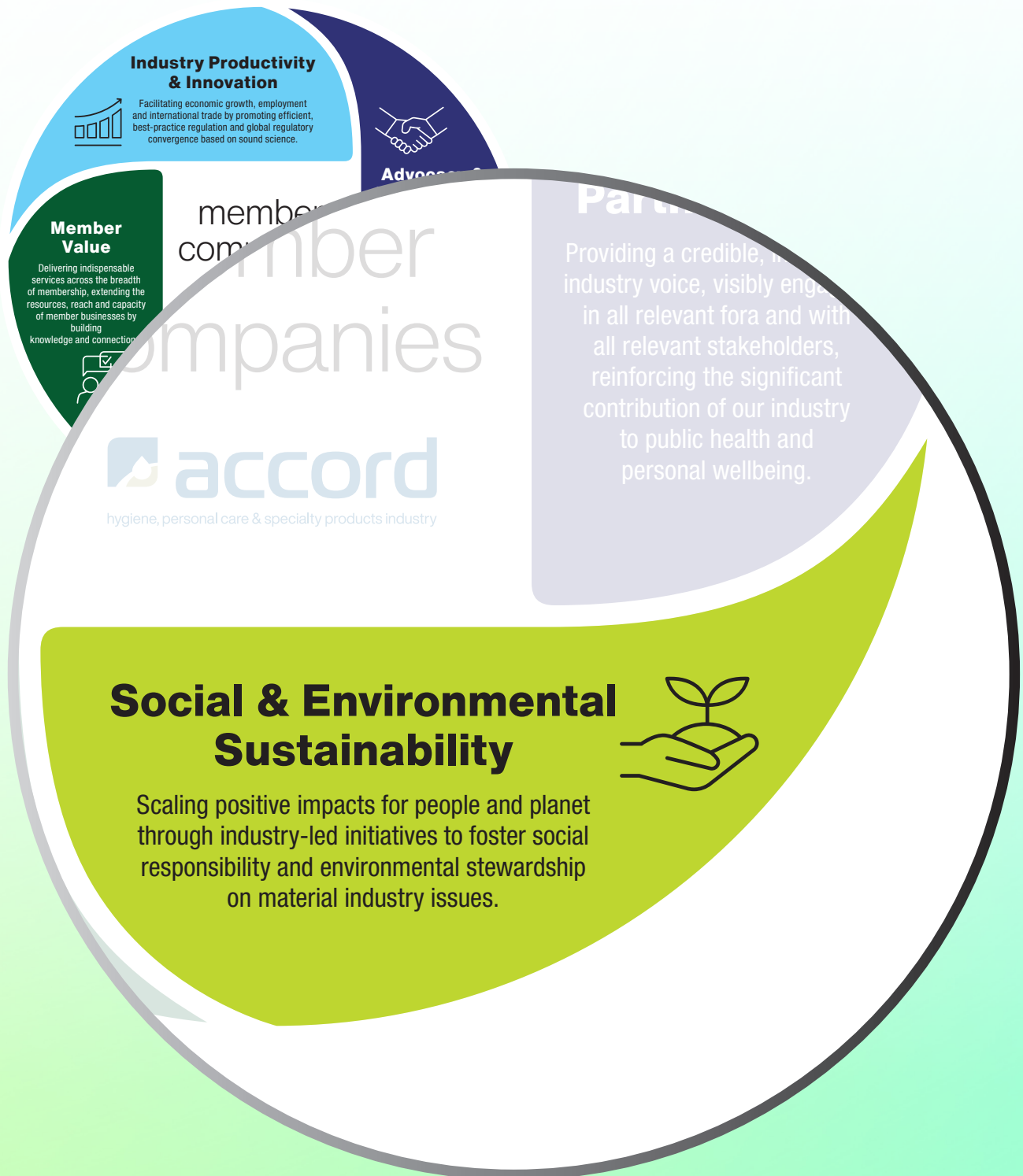


Social & Environmental Sustainability

Positive impacts for people and planet



Social & Environmental Sustainability

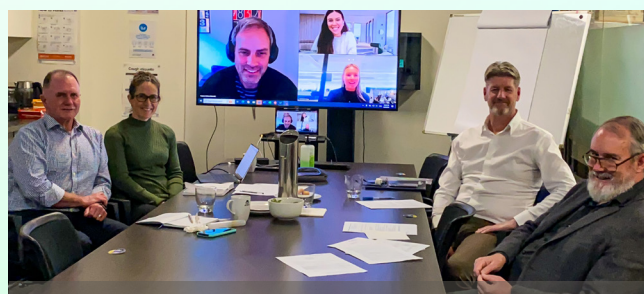
Positive impacts for people and planet

Packaging waste, plastic pollution and climate change headlined our sustainability work in 2022-23.

A look back on our Social & Environmental Sustainability achievements for 2022-2023

- We published our latest information paper, Climate Change: Information paper & the case for action. The paper provides a brief background on the issue of climate change, an overview of local policy, identifies risks and opportunities relating to climate change and makes a case for action on climate change from both an association and a business perspective.
- Building upon this information paper, we surveyed all our Member companies on their climate change attitudes, actions to date on the issue and barriers to change. The findings of this survey will shape Accord's ongoing strategy on this important issue, allowing us to prioritise actions to assist our industry sectors.
- We continued our engagement as an early supporter of ClimateWise Associations, an initiative aimed at assisting associations in planning for the impacts of climate change and to better support their members. ClimateWise has promoted Accord's efforts on sustainability, in general, as well as our early actions on climate change, specifically.
- Our important strategic work in sustainability and specifically plastics and waste management continued, with our dialogue and engagement with a range of key stakeholders increasing throughout the period, including relevant government policy officials, the new APCO management team and sister industry associations.
- We monitored policy developments relating to packaging waste, locally and globally through our expanding networks, to inform priorities across Accord's sectors. This also included outreach on specific New Zealand initiatives.
- We continued to engage as a contributing member of the International Associations Collaboration Working Group for the UN Plastics Treaty, including ongoing work on definitions for this Treaty.
- Our collaborative and active dialogue with Close the Loop on their government grant-funded cosmetics stewardship project continued with their research and recommendations being shared with Members.
- We held a Cosmetic CEO Roundtable in February 2023, to discuss priorities and objectives for cosmetic product packaging waste in the short, medium and longer term.
- As a result of the CEO Roundtable discussions, we established the Accord Small-format Cosmetics Working Group, to develop an industry-led response to the recommendations of the Close the Loop Stewardship Report and identify solutions for small-format cosmetics packaging waste.

- We continued our engagement with the State Governments of New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria on plans for mandating microbead bans, promoting the success of Accord's BeadRecede campaign.
- We hosted two successful sustainability-themed face to face events featuring key issues for our commercial, consumer and personal care Member companies: the Packaging Challenge Workshop in September 2022 and our Sustainability Seminar in March 2023 – read more about these events on page 21 and 22.
- Members also frequently sought guidance from Accord on best practice sustainability approaches across a range of areas
- During the reporting period, our Recognised® ecolabel scheme passed an independent probity audit – read more about this on page 9.
- We launched our new-look WipeSmart website, with a new 'Wipes Flushability Checklist' and information on the new Flushable Products Standard.



Members of the Small-format Cosmetics Working Group



Cosmetic CEO Roundtable, February 2023

Social & Environmental Sustainability

Positive impacts for people and planet

Accord's Recognised® ecolabel passes probity audit with flying colours

During the reporting period, Accord's **Recognised®** ecolabel passed its latest probity audit with flying colours. Independent auditor RSM Australia concluded that:

'...based on the audit procedures conducted, the application and assessment processes were robust and independent, and free from any potential influence by Accord, throughout the period September 2018 to July 2022.'

Why does this matter?

As the ACCC's current focus on greenwashing highlights, all environmental claims must stand up under scrutiny and this includes the **Recognised®** ecolabel. From the standard criteria that products must meet, to the independent third-party assessment, to Accord's management and oversight.

The **Recognised®** ecolabel was developed over 10 years ago to provide a meaningful accreditation of environmentally preferable commercial cleaning and hygiene products. It is voluntary, multiple-criteria-based and third-party assessed.

Motivated by the perceived lack of robust, science-based standards for the sector at that time, industry experts from Accord Member companies came together to devise science-based criteria to assess the material impacts of commercial cleaning and hygiene products. Truly a remarkable achievement, as these were competitor companies pulling together for the good of the industry.

An independent panel of experts in environmental and human health toxicology affirmed these criteria as 'sound and robust... science-based, targeted and pragmatic'. And the third-party scientific accreditation process as 'sound and transparent'.

Accord places the highest value on the integrity of the **Recognised®** scheme. While the findings of the audit are not surprising to us, we are pleased to again have the integrity of the processes underpinning **Recognised®** verified externally!

