

EuroPH CONNECT

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THE BUSINESS DIGEST
OF THE EUROPEAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Volume XLII • Issue 2
Issue on Sustainability

Empowering Sustainability Through Innovation at Atlas Copco Philippines



Energy Saving Cycle

Phase 01

ANALYZE

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Phase 02

OPTIMIZE

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These efforts can cut energy use by up to 30% and reduce your carbon footprint.

Phase 03

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Utilize the SMARTLINK remote monitoring tool to oversee system performance in real time, from anywhere and receive immediate alerts from for any issues. Supporting ISO 50001 energy management standard.

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Branch offices:
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Atlas Copco Philippines - Davao branch
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Table of Contents

6	Empowering Sustainability Through Innovation at Atlas Copco Philippines
11	Euro biz groups bare sustainability goals and priorities
16	Working Together in the Sustainability Journey by the Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines
18	Embassy of Hungary in Manila on sustainable water management and innovative waste management
20	Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila on Sustainability
22	Romania's pursuit towards the green energy transition by the Embassy of Romania in Manila
25	A Bold Drive Toward Sustainability: One Vehicle At a Time By PMFTC
26	Balancing ESG priorities with investor intentions By Benjamin N. Villacorte, Sustainability Services Leader of SGV & Co.
28	Stories from the 2025 Europa Awards Winners
37	Mondelēz International Receives Plastic Cleanup Partner Badge
39	SNAP breaks ground on first battery energy storage facility in CAR
41	The Ascott Limited Philippines - Sustainability Efforts
43	Reducing the Carbon Footprint in Healthcare By B.Braun
45	Discover a World-Class International Education in Manila By Nord Anglia International School Manila
46	ECCP Calendar of Events

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to support businesses
transition to net zero



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Opening up a world of opportunity

Editorial

Dear reader,

Now more than ever, industries and sectors are stepping up to heed the call of reevaluating their business practices to determine if they truly align with sustainable practices. Sustainability is no longer a buzzword; but has become a call to action to the pressing problems and challenges we currently face: climate change, waste pollution, rising energy consumption, among many others.

In this special issue, our cover story features Atlas Copco Philippines, where they share how they empower sustainability through innovation and provide innovative solutions to help customers reach their sustainability goals. Read about this on page 6.

This April, we brought together two of the Chamber's flagship events, the annual Sustainability Forum and Europa Awards, to highlight the importance of sustainability and recognize companies and organizations that are championing greener business operations.

This year's edition honored winners across six (6) award categories, Clean and Green Energy, Digitalisation for Sustainability, Water Resource Management, Green Buildings, Waste Management, and lastly, Green LGUs. These categories reflect the diverse sectors and pressing issues at the heart of sustainable development. We congratulate our winners for their unwavering commitment to advancing sustainable practices in their respective industries. By sharing their stories, we aim to provide an avenue to showcase their sustainable business efforts and inspire dialogue and action within the European-Philippine business community. Read more about this year's Sustainability Forum and Europa Awards on page 11.

Deeper into this issue, we invite you to take a look at the stories of our sustainability partners from the Embassy of Austria, Embassy of Denmark, Embassy of Hungary, Embassy of Norway, Embassy of Romania, PMFTC, and SGV. Their efforts and initiatives exemplify how sustainability can be embedded into day-to-day operations and long-term business practices. We also feature our advertisers and content contributors, whose stories further underscore the shared



Florian Gottein
ECCP Executive Director

commitment to advancing sustainability across sectors.

We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received, and in awe of the number of entries submitted by various companies and organizations who were eager to share their sustainability initiatives. Our awardees are true champions of sustainability, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you in the next edition of the Europa Awards in 2026. Look out for announcements on submission of entries and partnership opportunities - we already have exciting plans for growing this platform even further!

In conclusion, the Chamber thanks the awardees, partners, and nominees for their unwavering support and participation in the 2025 Europa Awards. We hope to have more companies and organizations join us in acknowledging and celebrating champions of sustainability.

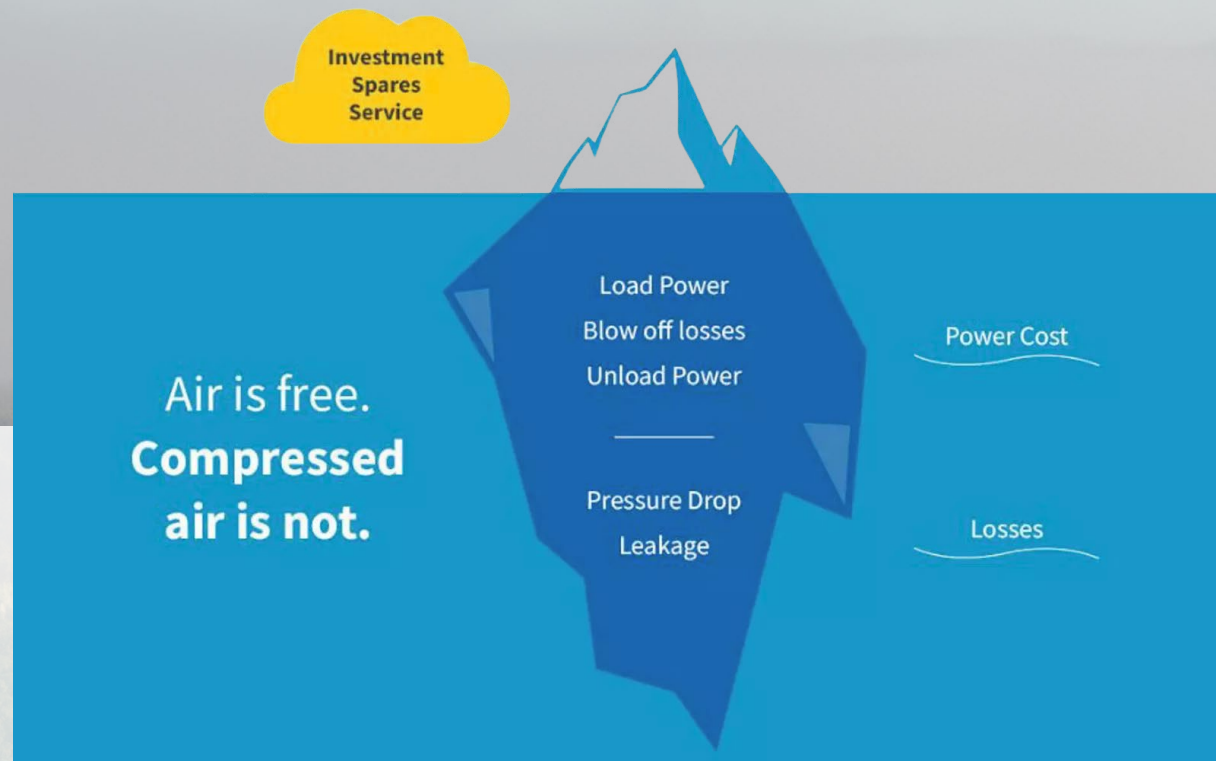
I hope you enjoy this special issue of the EuroPH Connect and, as always, thank you for your continued partnership and trust. We look forward to continuing our relationship this 2025 as we bring more events and opportunities to work together.

Best regards,
Florian

Empowering Sustainability Through Innovation at Atlas Copco Philippines

We know that sustainability is one of your top priorities. And Atlas Copco Philippines has emerged as a key partner in this journey, offering innovative solutions that empower customers to achieve their sustainability goals. By harnessing cutting-edge technologies in energy efficiency and resource optimization, Atlas Copco has enabled companies to streamline their operations while significantly reducing their environmental footprint. Through comprehensive assessments and tailored solutions, the company has helped clients adopt practices that not only enhance productivity but also promote responsible resource usage.

One of the standout innovations offered by Atlas Copco Philippines is its state-of-the-art energy optimization systems, which monitor and adjust air and power consumption in real time. These systems ensure that businesses operate within their optimal energy parameters, leading to substantial cost savings and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, Atlas Copco's commitment to continuous improvement reinforces its role as a catalyst for sustainable development. By collaborating with customers to implement these advanced technologies, Atlas Copco Philippines is not just delivering products but fostering a culture of sustainability in the industrial sector, creating a greener future for generations to come.



In a time focused on sustainability, Atlas Copco Philippines is showing that while air is free, using compressed air efficiently has costs for both money and the environment. As industries work to lower their carbon footprint and improve energy use, it's important to understand the impact of compressed air systems. Atlas Copco's smart solutions improve efficiency and help businesses reconsider how they use energy. By encouraging responsible use of this important resource, we help companies make the most of compressed air while reducing waste and maximizing sustainability.

Let's go on this sustainable journey together

Take your time and browse all the information you find on our website. And when you are ready to go on your own sustainability journey that will take you to a more environment-friendly and prosperous place, we would be honored if you chose Atlas Copco to accompany you.



Atlas Copco

10 steps to a more Efficient Production

1. APPLICATION & INSTALLATION

Compressed air can be crucial for various production processes. But installations can become inefficient due to changing production requirements over time, resulting in increased energy costs and carbon footprint.

2. STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION

Piping distribution and vessels in compressed air systems are often overlooked, but they play a crucial role in the systems efficiency. Properly designed air systems avoid pressure drops and save both energy and money.

3. AIR QUALITY

Having the correct air quality can prevent contaminants such as water, oil, dust, and even microorganisms, which can affect the production reliability and your product quality.

4. AIR VOLUME & FLOW PATTERNS

Be aware of the different flow patterns in production. Changes in the demand need to be considered. An Atlas Copco AIRchitect study can map your flow patterns and demonstrate potential system improvements.

5. CORE TECHNOLOGY

Oil-free, oil-injected, tooth, rotary screw, piston or centrifugal technologies are used in most industrial applications. Atlas Copco can help select the correct technology dependent on the needs of your production process.

6. EQUIPMENT CONTROL

Our advanced controllers can help manage the pressure and optimize power consumption with smart algorithms designed to minimize power consumption, and carbon footprint.

7. SYSTEM CONTROL

Even the most efficient products (compressors, dryers, ...) only reach their full potential when working together. Central controllers maximize system efficiency while reducing your carbon footprint.

8. RECOVERABLE ENERGY

Compression generates heat, so don't let this go to waste. That's why our energy recovery systems are the best option to reduce your energy consumption for process or space heating.

9. SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

A well-maintained compressed air system will more than pay for the maintenance costs through energy savings. You're never saving by delaying maintenance.

10. SYSTEM MONITORING

Remote monitoring allows you to monitor and optimize your compressor room from anywhere. Supporting ISO 50001 energy management standard.

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The Embassy of Sweden Champions Atlas Copco's Sustainability Initiatives

The Swedish Embassy in Manila proudly supports Atlas Copco Philippines in addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development. This partnership leverages innovative technologies and responsible practices to create efficient solutions that minimize environmental impact.

During a recent interview, Swedish Ambassador H.E. Anna Ferry, and Atlas Copco Philippines' General Manager, Eduardo De Winter, shared their vision for a greener future. Together, they are committed to enhancing economic resilience, promoting social responsibility, and strengthening bilateral ties. Their collaborative efforts aim to inspire other nations and businesses to prioritize sustainability in their operations and policies, ultimately contributing to a healthier planet for future generations.



Sweden proudly holds the top spot in the global sustainability competitiveness index. This achievement reflects the hard work of Team Sweden, including Swedish companies like Atlas Copco, which are leading the way in promoting sustainable business practices in the Philippines. Embracing sustainability isn't just a good idea; it's a smart strategy that enhances competitiveness, resilience, and productivity, all while ensuring employee satisfaction.

In the Philippines, Atlas Copco is actively pursuing sustainability through various initiatives. Our facility harnesses renewable energy with solar panels, and we have invested in a hybrid fleet and local warehousing. These efforts help customers in the Philippines lower their CO2 emissions from transportation. Moreover, Atlas Copco provides Energy Audits and consultations, assisting customers in identifying ways to save energy and reduce CO2 emissions in their production processes.

Sweden's reputation for innovative sustainability practices, paired with Atlas Copco's cutting-edge technologies, contributes significantly to sustainable development in the Philippines, especially within the mining and manufacturing sectors.



In October 2024, Sweden Embassy launched a transformative collaboration aimed at advancing sustainable mining practices in the Philippines—a partnership between Business Sweden and the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA). Moreover, Sweden was chosen as the Partner Country for the 70th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference held in November 2024 in Baguio – where Atlas Copco Philippines also participated in. This conference served as a vital platform for showcasing sustainable mining solutions and facilitating dialogue among industry leaders.

In photo: Former Swedish Ambassador to the Philippines Harald Fries in the booth of Atlas Copco Philippines during the PMSEA Expo in Baguio City, November 2024

During the interview, H.E. Ferry emphasized that Atlas Copco's cutting-edge technologies play a crucial role in promoting sustainable development within the manufacturing sector in the Philippines. Their smart and connected solutions are key drivers of Industry 4.0, enhancing productivity while minimizing energy consumption. With a strong commitment to sustainable production and dependable maintenance, Atlas Copco empowers manufacturers to achieve greater efficiency and reduce their carbon footprints. Ultimately, their support enables customers to enhance their success.

Sweden and the Philippines exemplify a powerful model of international collaboration in sustainability. As they continue to forge a path towards a greener future, the lessons learned from this remarkable exchange remind us that sustainable development knows no borders, and our shared commitment to the planet can create a lasting impact for generations to come.

“
The Swedish Embassy is excited to foster a long-term partnership with the Philippines, where sustainability collaborations span from the public sector and businesses to academia and civil society, forming the quadruple helix.

H.E. Anna Ferry
Embassy of Sweden in Manila

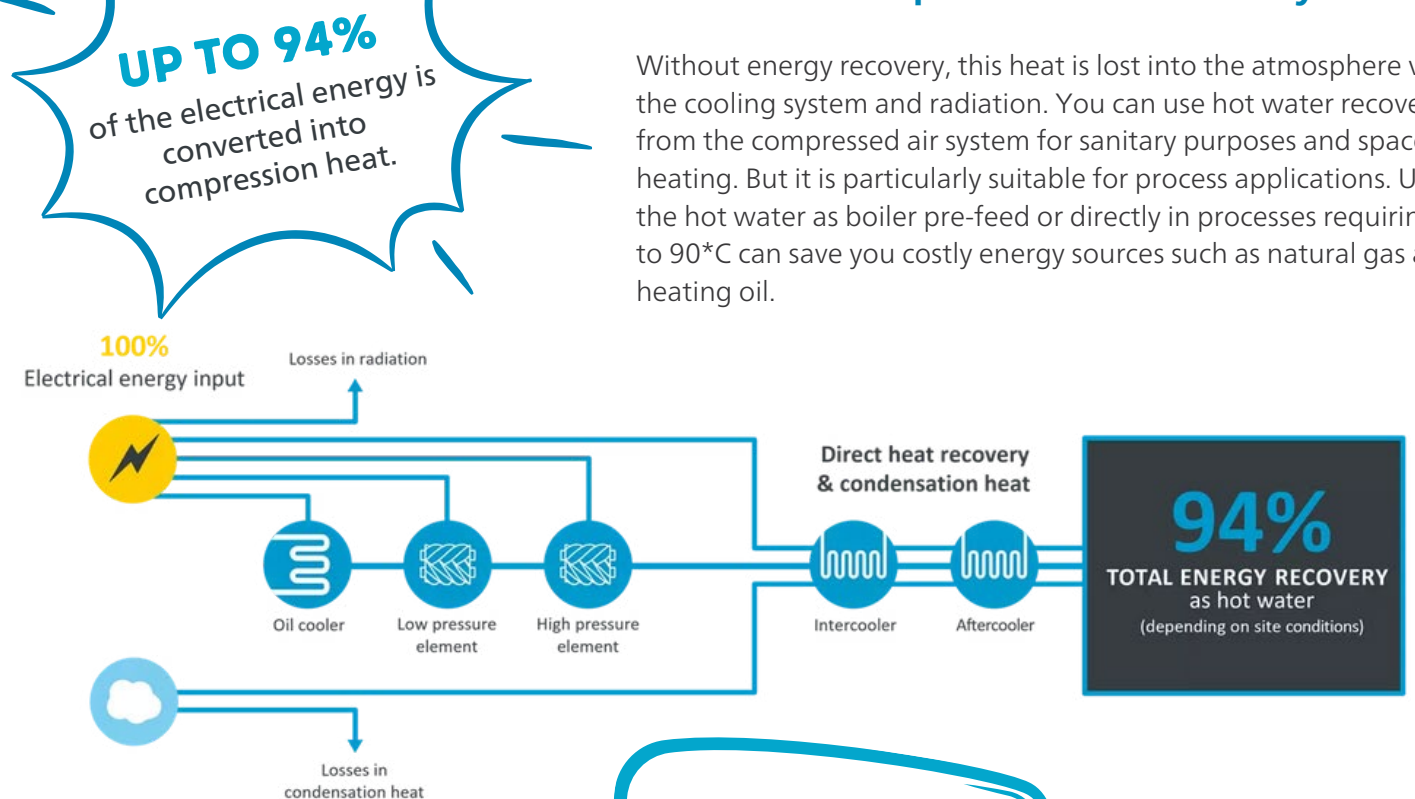
Transforming waste heat into energy

Transition to an energy efficient future with Atlas Copco's Energy Conversion Systems



How does compressor heat recovery work?

Without energy recovery, this heat is lost into the atmosphere via the cooling system and radiation. You can use hot water recovered from the compressed air system for sanitary purposes and space heating. But it is particularly suitable for process applications. Using the hot water as boiler pre-feed or directly in processes requiring 70 to 90°C can save you costly energy sources such as natural gas and heating oil.



What you can get with energy recovery?

- ✓ Save energy
- ✓ Save operational costs
- ✓ Reduce CO2 emissions

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Sustainability Forum



3 April 2025 • 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM • 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM • Raffles & Fairmont Makati

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Euro biz groups bare sustainability goals and priorities

Makati City, Philippines – As climate challenges intensify and the global shift toward green economies accelerates, the partnership between Europe and the Philippines has never been more vital. From clean energy to circular economies, European and Filipino stakeholders are joining forces with a shared vision: sustainability not as a buzzword, but as a blueprint for the future.

This vision was brought to life during the 2025 Sustainability Forum and Europa Awards, organized by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP). Government leaders, business champions, and sustainability advocates convened to align ongoing efforts with the European Green Deal and the Philippine Development Plan.

In his remarks, ECCP President Paulo Duarte emphasized that sustainability must not only be a policy objective but also a business imperative. He underscored the crucial role of business in driving sustainable transformation through investments in renewable energy, green supply chains, and responsible business practices.

“Our country’s leadership in climate action, as reflected in its ranking in the Climate Change Performance Index 2025, presents a unique opportunity for deeper collaboration in key areas such as renewable energy, climate-smart investments, and green financing,” said Duarte.

ECCP 2025 Sustainability Whitebook: A Green Blueprint

During the forum, ECCP Executive Florian Gottein presented the Chamber’s 2025 Sustainability Whitebook, a comprehensive report outlining actionable and forward-looking recommendations to accelerate the country’s green transition.

The Whitebook also outlines key recommendations for accelerating the Philippines’ green transition – a core focus being the country’s clean energy transition, with the Chamber calling for a stronger push to scale up renewable energy adoption and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. This includes advocating for the expedited development of RE

projects, energy storage solutions, and smart and green transmission systems.

Beyond energy, the Whitebook also covers broader sustainability themes including Digitalization for Sustainability, Waste and Water Management, Green Buildings, Green LGUs, and Circular Economy, and Water Resource Management. The ECCP supports the effective implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act and encourages public-private collaboration on waste management solutions. Additionally, it calls for infrastructure decarbonization strategies and upskilling of the workforce—particularly in STEM fields—to ensure a future-ready, sustainable economy.

“Through this Whitebook, we aim to provide actionable recommendations that support forward-thinking policies, encourage green investments, and empower businesses to embed sustainability into their core strategies,” said Gottein.

Scaling Sustainability

In a keynote message, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Director Al Orolfo emphasized the government’s call for deeper collaboration to realize the country’s circular economy goals and strengthen climate resilience.

“To advance our circular economy initiatives effectively, we emphasize that collaborative engagement is the key. As we gather today, I urge all stakeholders – from government agencies and the private sector to civil society and local communities – to work together in fostering an ecosystem of innovation and shared responsibility,” said Orolfo.

He highlighted the Philippines’ partnerships under the EU Green Economy Programme, the development of the National Adaptation Plan, and updates to the country’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)—all of which require a united effort across sectors.

“Moreover, we should foster collaborative platforms that enable knowledge exchange on circular economy practices both locally and globally,” Orolfo added. “We have much to learn from global leaders while also sharing our own experiences and success



stories in the realm of sustainability.”

Echoing the same statement, Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the need for global collaboration and private sector leadership in addressing the climate crisis. Reflecting on the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, he stressed that sustainability has become a “pillar of every government’s economic plan, particularly in Southeast Asia.”

Borje further highlighted the Philippines’ NDC commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030, noting that 72.29% of the target is dependent on international support. The implementation, he said, would require an estimated USD 72 billion, with the energy sector estimated to require US\$36.5 billion, followed by the transport sector, with needs estimated at almost US\$33 billion.

The updated NDC Implementation Plan under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. includes cross-sector convergence for emissions reduction, the launch of a Gender Action Plan, and a Just Transition Strategy to retrain workers affected by the green transition.

Lastly, Borje called on the European Union to continue its leadership in global climate action, noting the EU’s critical role in promoting investments, renewable technologies, and sustainable finance. He also stressed the need for collaboration, cooperation, and partnership as critical forces that will determine the success of the Philippines’ sustainability journey, and invited the private sector to become partners in implementing green and climate-smart initiatives that can empower local communities.

“Together, we can explore avenues for collaboration, such as supporting programs that will allow investment-led, accelerated, just, and equitable transition toward the goal of reducing our emissions,” Borje concluded.

Recognizing players in the sustainability movement

During the 2025 Europa Awards, the ECCP unveiled its newest set of champions who are heeding the call for greener business operations. The winning companies in their respective categories are:

- **Clean and Green Energy: Siemens Energy**
- **Digitalisation for Sustainability: Cloudstaff**

- **Water Resource Management: The Bellevue Resort Bohol**
- **Waste Management: HMR Philippines**
- **Green Buildings: Arcadis Philippines Inc.**
- **Green Local Government Units: Iloilo City Government**

Now in its 4th year, the Europa Awards continues its tradition of honoring European and non-European companies operating in the country for their exceptional performance and contributions in promoting sustainability in line with the European Commission’s efforts on the European Green Deal and the Philippines’ long-term goal to attain Ambisyon Natin 2040.

Also speaking at the event were Department of Energy Philippines Assistant Secretary Hon. Mario Marasigan; German Embassy Manila Deputy Head of Mission Mathias Kruse; International Finance Corporation Global Lead for the Building Resilience Index Program Ommid Saberi; PMFTC Security and Market Safety Manager Engr. Dean Cris Acabo; Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities Senior Policy Advisor Atty. Pete Maniego Jr.; Coca-Cola Europacific Aboitiz Philippines VP for Corporate & Regulatory Affairs Atty. Juan Lorenzo Tañada; Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance Inc. Vice President for Internal Affairs Ruth Yu-Owen; NEO Co-Managing Director and Chief Sustainability Officer Gie Garcia; and Nestlé Philippines Head of Sustainability and Assistant Vice President Meg Santos. The event was hosted by One News Anchor Regina Lay.

The 2025 Sustainability Forum and Europa Awards is organized together with Co-Presenter PMFTC; Sustainability Lead Coca-Cola Europacific Aboitiz Philippines; Sustainability Supporter Phil Ecology Systems Corp.; Advocacy Partner First Gen Corporation; Event Supporter Crown Asia Chemicals Corporation; Official Tabulator SGV & Co.; Sustainability Partners Austrian Embassy in Manila, Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines, Embassy of Finland Manila, Embassy of Hungary in the Philippines, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Philippines, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila, Embassy of Romania in the Philippines, Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden in Manila, and Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines; Trophy Partner Nazareno/Lichauco for Zacarias1925; Venue Partner Raffles and Fairmont Makati; and Media Partners ONE News and iMPACT.

2025 EUROPA AWARDS

Award Categories



Clean and Green
Energy



Digitalisation
for Sustainability



Green Buildings



Green LGUs



Waste
Management



Water Resource
Management

Judges



Atty. Jose Layug Jr.
President, Developers of
Renewable Energy for
AdvanceMent, Inc.



Monchito Ibrahim
Executive Member
National Innovation
Council



Christopher Ilagan
Chairperson
Global Water Partnership
– Southeast Asia



Angelo Tan
Country Lead
Philippines Climate
Business Department,
International Finance
Corporation



Roderick De Castro
Executive Director
Business for Sustainable
Development



Rosstyn Fallorina
Head of Solutions Mapping,
Accelerator Labs Philippines
United Nations
Development Programme



Working Together in the Sustainability Journey

Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines

Harnessing Philippine wind for the Filipino people

As the Philippines faces significant challenges in meeting its growing energy demands and high energy prices, Denmark is stepping in with investments and knowledge to bridge the gap with green solutions. Harnessing Philippine renewable resources can help provide cheap, abundant, and reliable energy for the Filipino people. Following the liberalization of renewable energy development in the Philippines, Denmark has become the top investor in wind energy, and Danish companies have been at the forefront of providing advice, solutions and sharing best practices in developing offshore wind projects.

Beyond technological support, the Embassy also supports the Philippines in navigating complex regulatory processes and developing a skilled workforce for the renewable energy sector. Through partnerships in these areas with global players such as the Asian Development Bank, Global Wind Organisation, and the International Renewable Energy Agency, we contribute to strengthening the Philippine nation by building energy resilience and self-sufficiency.

Closing the loop

The Philippines is one of the top producers of waste in the world, and this challenge has led to an increased interest towards circular economy as the strategic solution. In line with Denmark's strategic approach on circularity at the ASEAN region, we work with like-minded partners such as the United Nations Development Programme to support the Philippines' circular transition.

As part of this commitment, the Nordic Embassies in the Philippines, through funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers, are collaborating with Pasig City to bring Nordic knowledge and technologies on circularity, driving social behavioral change, and mainstreaming gender and inclusivity in circular programs. Our local government partners, alongside the Departments of Environment & Natural Resources and Science & Technology, will have the opportunity to benchmark best practices, identify replicable and scalable solutions, and network with key circular players in the Nordic region through a study visit to Copenhagen and Stockholm.

Greening the maritime sector

Following the recent approval of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) net zero regulations for global

shipping, Denmark and the Philippines demonstrate a shared commitment to support for the decarbonization of the maritime sector.

In partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, the Embassy convened key stakeholders from across the maritime value chain to consolidate their support in exploring feasibility of establishing green corridors in the Philippines, and the first in Asia. The workshop selected two viable corridors, relevant ports, and green fuel opportunities, with expression of commitment from the private sector to lead the initiative. With the Philippines being one of the largest shipbuilding nations, the green corridors will position the country to scale zero-carbon maritime solutions and to catalyze regional decarbonization pathways, and Denmark is thus also engaged in a large shipbuilding initiative to be launched in May 2025.



Offshore Wind Delegation to Taiwan, 2024



Nordic Workshop on Circular Economy with Pasig City, 2024



Embassy of Hungary in Manila

Hungary has long recognized the importance of sustainable water and waste management and sustainable agriculture practices in the context of environmental preservation and public health. With this, Hungary is determined and continues to innovate, not only their agricultural sector through sustainable farming programs, but also their waste and water management through the use of cutting-edge technologies and solutions. With our efforts in aligning with the goals of the global community and of the European Union and in adherence to national policy frameworks and strategic investments, Hungary continues to strive towards a sustainable economy.

Hungary is aware of the critical importance of water management due to the country's reliance on water for agriculture, industries and public consumption. The country has adopted a variety of policies and technologies to ensure efficient use and conservation of their water resources. Hungary has already identified the necessary strategy in order to address water issues and ensure sustainable water management up to 2030. Additionally, the country has also embraced modern water technologies to effectively manage and treat different water resources.

One of the Hungarian companies with the highest level of expertise in the field of modern water technologies is the Hungarian Water Technology Corporation Ltd. (HWTC). HWTC specializes in the design and complete implementation of drinking water treatment plants, construction of wastewater treatment plants, production of containerized mobile water and wastewater treatment compact units, membrane desalination plants and recycling technologies for industrial wastewater. With 30 years of experience and 4000 projects completed

over the years, the company continues to expand their presence across Europe, South America and Asia, with the Philippines being one of their target markets.

Hungary has also achieved great progress in furthering their waste management initiatives. The country has made significant investments in creating innovative waste processing infrastructure in recent years, including both composting and recycling facilities. As part of the responsibilities as a member of the European Union, Hungary adheres to the Waste Framework Directive and the Landfill Directive of the European Union, which serves as a guideline for waste framework policy to lessen the negative effects of trash on the environment, promote recycling, and support environmentally friendly garbage disposal practices.

One of the market leaders in biowaste treatment solutions in Europe is ProfiKomp® Group, a Hungarian company with more than 25 years' experience. ProfiKomp® provides waste-management-related engineering services and technologies, specializes in the utilization of biodegradable waste and has put more than 60 waste treatment plants into operation in Hungary and across Europe.

Hungary's dedication to sustainable water management and innovative waste management is a significant stride towards sustainability. Through national policies and technological advancements, the country continues to further these initiatives. While challenges remain, Hungary's proactivity, investments in new technologies, and active involvement in international environmental initiatives underscore the country's commitment to creating a more sustainable future.



Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila

Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do—both in Norway and at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila. It drives our policies, our partnerships, and our purpose. We firmly believe that building a more sustainable future is not just an option but a responsibility, and we are committed to advancing solutions that contribute to this global goal.

Marine litter and plastic pollution are among the fastest-growing environmental challenges we face today. The Philippines ranks third in the world for ocean plastic pollution, with waste flowing directly into the sea and contributing to environmental problems on a global scale.

Norway's development programme to combat marine litter and microplastics makes it one of the largest bilateral donors supporting efforts to reduce plastic pollution. Through various local projects—including in the Philippines—we actively support the protection and clean-up of marine ecosystems.

Norway is actively participating in the global effort to tackle plastic pollution as a co-chair of the "High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution." Alongside several other ambitious countries, Norway is pushing for an agreement with legally binding measures to reduce plastic production and consumption, including bans on certain plastic products and hazardous additives. We commend the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources for its strong support during negotiations, emphasizing the need for reducing plastic production based on scientific evidence.

It is encouraging to see the Philippines government taking meaningful steps toward implementing

effective waste management solutions. The existing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law ensures that producers are responsible for managing their plastic packaging throughout its entire lifecycle. Norway is committed to assisting the Philippine government in implementing solutions to support this law. We are eager to share Norway's experience and expertise to advance circular economy in the country.

Norway was among the first countries in the world to implement a deposit return system (DRS) for reusable bottles. Today, the DRS is deeply rooted in Norwegian society. In 2023, Norway achieved a total return rate of 92.3% (across both cans and plastic bottles) through the deposit system. This model that has successfully reduced plastic waste in many other countries around the world.

We are confident that the introduction of closed loop solutions would be an effective response to the waste challenges of the Philippines. Norwegian technology and solutions can assist the Philippines in achieving its national and international commitments towards waste reduction, marine litter prevention, and carbon emission savings.

Finally, the Royal Norwegian Embassy would also like to recognize the ECCP for its unwavering dedication to sustainability-related advocacies. It is through collaborations like these that we can create a lasting impact and drive meaningful change.



Romania's pursuit towards the green energy transition

Embassy of Romania in Manila

We mark this year the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, which laid the framework on how the world could work together in combating climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Romania remains committed to the global cooperation in addressing climate change through its implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In doing its part, the country has adopted a long-term strategy in achieving climate neutrality by 2050, at the latest, with its National Energy and Climate Plan designed to drive the correct trajectory towards neutrality and the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change providing a dedicated action plan for the economic and social sectors.

Notably, the country is now an emerging player and a potential regional leader in the shift towards greener and more sustainable energy. The contribution of clean energy sources in the country's energy mix, such as wind, hydropower, nuclear, solar, and biomass, has exponentially increased through well-crafted policies that accelerate its integration.

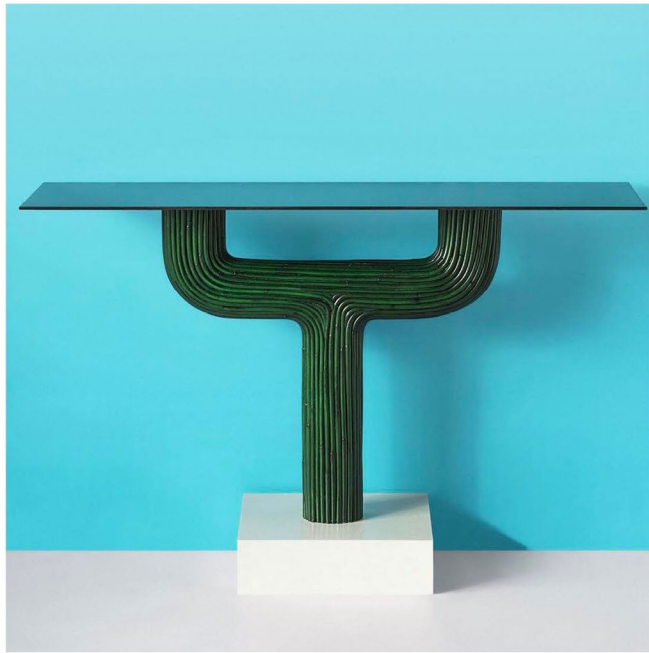
Romania has made strides in pursuing a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable energy production mix. It now hosts one of the largest on-shore wind power farms in Europe. Cooperation in the safe and

sustainable use of nuclear energy is also an area with promising benefits for the country.

Significantly, Romania aims to share its technologies and best practices to its partners, including the Philippines. Last year, a high-profile delegation from the Maurer Group, a leading business conglomerate in Romania, visited the Philippines to explore opportunities for business and cooperation, one of which is sustainable energy production.

Through the introduction and facilitation of the Embassy of Romania in Manila, high-level discussions between the Bases Conversion and Development Authority-Philippines (BCDA) and the Maurer Group are evolving into a dynamic mutually beneficial collaboration, particularly in the introduction of innovative waste-to-energy technologies, affordable housing projects, and other various new technologies in energy and healthcare, in the fast-developing metropolis and economic hub of the New Clark City. A letter of intent on potential investments between the two parties is now expected to be signed in the coming weeks.

Romania, which is on track in reaching the EU's objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030, is committed to striving more and achieving more towards a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for everyone and the generations to come.



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A Bold Drive Toward Sustainability: One Vehicle At a Time

PMFTC

Revolutionizing Fleet Operations with E-Vehicles

On any given day, the streets of Metro Manila are choked with vehicle smog, car exhaust thickening the already polluted air. Commuters endure gridlock while delivery trucks, fueled by diesel, add to the city's worsening air quality.

Today the Philippines remains at a crossroads on electric vehicle (EV) adoption. Unlike its Southeast Asian neighbors, where governments have rolled out policies and infrastructure to support EVs, the country faces a glaring gap—charging stations are scarce, incentives are limited, and traditional fuel-powered fleets continue to dominate the roads.

By choosing to lead the charge despite the odds, PMFTC, an affiliate of Philip Morris International (PMI), is forging ahead with a pioneering initiative: electrifying its fleet of delivery trucks. More than just a shift in transportation, the company's investment in EVs is a statement of intent—a commitment to sustainability even in an environment where such a shift remains difficult.

A Vision for Change in a Challenging Market

The Philippines lags in EV adoption due to its underdeveloped support system. Charging stations are few and far between, public awareness is low, and there is little regulatory push to make electric mobility a mainstream option. In such an environment, many businesses shy away from making the switch, seeing it as an impractical and costly move.

PMFTC, however, has taken a different view. In 2023, the company introduced its first **10 fully electric delivery trucks**, marking the beginning of an ambitious transition. By 2024, it had added 30 more, doubling down on its commitment to reducing emissions and promoting cleaner transport.

This decision was not made in a vacuum—it was a strategic move to confront the reality that corporate fleets account for a significant portion of the company's carbon emissions.

In 2023, **fleet vehicles made up 25 percent of PMI's total Scope 1 carbon footprint**, highlighting the urgency of change. Transitioning this segment became a critical milestone in PMFTC's roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 and net zero by 2040.

"As of 2023, PMFTC has already reduced carbon emissions per kilometer by 32 percent," shared Dean Acabo, PMFTC's Security and Market Safety Manager.

Charging Ahead Despite Limited Infrastructure

One of the biggest hurdles to EV adoption in the Philippines

is the lack of charging infrastructure. Unlike countries with widespread public charging networks, Filipino EV users—especially businesses—must build their own solutions from scratch.

PMFTC saw this challenge and responded proactively, developing its own **network of charging stations** at key sales facilities. This self-sufficiency ensures operational efficiency while reinforcing the long-term viability of its EV program.

"We are fully committed to supporting these sustainability strategies. Even in the face of challenges, we remain steadfast in our dedication to progress," said Yohan Lesmana, former PMFTC Sales Director and a key figure behind the initiative.

The company's move is not just about business efficiency—it is about creating a model for how sustainability can work in a country where infrastructure development is slow.

"PMFTC is one of the first companies in the country to use electric vehicles as a tool of trade," said Tyrone Uy, Procurement Head for PMI's Cluster PH, TH, VN, IN, & BD. "We hope this bold step inspires others to follow suit, amplifying the collective impact of reducing corporate carbon footprints."

Scaling Up for a Sustainable Future

Despite the challenges, PMFTC's plans are expanding. The company is **set to introduce 66 more EVs between 2024 and 2025**, an aggressive push that further cements its leadership in sustainable transport.

"Our goal is clear," said Herminwi Herminwi, PMFTC's Sales Director. "With the collaborative efforts of our internal and external stakeholders, we are confident we can expand our EV fleet and continue transforming how we deliver in the Philippines—one vehicle at a time."

PMFTC's actions stand in stark contrast to the sluggish pace of EV adoption in the country. While the Philippines waits for policy shifts and infrastructure improvements, the company is proving that businesses do not have to wait for ideal conditions to make meaningful change.

By integrating EVs into its logistics network, PMFTC is not just cutting emissions. Rather, it is setting a precedent. In a country where the transition to electric transport remains an uphill battle, PMFTC is showing that sustainability is not just a possibility—it is a reality that businesses can drive forward, even when the road ahead is unpaved.



Balancing ESG priorities with investor intentions

By Benjamin N. Villacorte, Sustainability Services Leader of SGV & Co.

The investment landscape is evolving, with a growing emphasis on sustainability and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. However, a significant gap remains between what investors say about integrating ESG into their decision-making and what they actually do. This article explores the challenges investors face in balancing short-term demands with long-term value and offers strategies to bridge this gap.

The investors' dilemma: short-term pressures vs. long-term performance

Investors acknowledge the importance of sustainability and understand that long-term value is generated by companies transitioning to more sustainable business models. Despite this, immediate macroeconomic and geopolitical pressures often drive investment decisions toward short-term objectives. Nearly two-thirds of investor respondents in the EY 2024 Institutional Investor Survey, which draws on the views of 350 investment decision-makers from institutions worldwide, said that shifts in the business cycle, including periods of slower economic growth and recession, will most acutely affect their institution's investment strategy over the next two years.

Economic concerns, such as trade restrictions, cost of capital, and labor availability, dominate investor focus. However, most investors also recognize the impact of climate change on their investment strategies. Investors see climate change as a significant driver of investment decisions, correlating with the maturity of regulations and policies in these regions.

In light of the major moves in the first 100 days of the Trump administration, the U.S. stance on climate change and environmental issues may influence investor sentiment. The administration's rollback of environmental regulations may encourage short-

term investments but raise long-term climate risks, potentially altering investor sentiment. This divergence could lead to competitive disadvantages for U.S. companies if investors reassess their long-term strategies with a greater emphasis on sustainability.

On the other hand, many investors remain motivated by the desire to deliver short-term returns. Some investors may not push for change if they believe they are sufficiently diversified at a portfolio level regarding sustainability-related risks. This leads to a focus on maximizing value through current business models rather than transitioning to new, sustainable ones.

Greenwashing concerns

Another factor contributing to the gap between investor intentions and actions is the issue of greenwashing. More than 85% of investors surveyed believe that misleading statements about companies' sustainability performance are a greater problem now than five years ago. This lack of trust in corporate sustainability information makes investors cautious about allocating capital to businesses claiming sustainability credentials.

Despite these concerns, 93% of investors expressed confidence that companies will meet their sustainability targets. This confidence contrasts with findings from corporate leaders, with fewer than half of finance leaders believing their organizations will meet major sustainability priorities. This disconnect suggests that investors may be optimistic or not actively tracking companies' progress against their targets.

Voting for change

Investors claim to support ESG shareholder resolutions, with 86% confirming that their recent voting record generally favors such initiatives. However, broader

data indicates lower levels of support from institutional investors for ESG-related shareholder solutions. This discrepancy highlights the ongoing say-do gap in investor behavior.

Political or social pressure on ESG matters significantly influences investors' voting on ESG and sustainability-related shareholder solutions. Yet skepticism remains about the potential long-term impact of these resolutions on shareholder value. Only 26% of investors believe that ESG resolutions substantially influence their firm's voting based on long-term value, and even fewer (10%) believe they impact near-term profitability.

Gauging the impact of climate change

Investors' strategies toward sustainability investment are driven by factors such as government policy, decarbonization targets, fund mandates, and portfolio performance and risk. Nearly two-thirds of investors closely monitor losses or stranded assets tied to extreme-weather-related events, reflecting the direct financial impact these threats can have on a portfolio.

Insurance premiums for physical risks and natural catastrophe protection are expected to increase significantly, and the global cost of decommissioning stranded assets in the energy sector could be as high as US\$8 trillion. Investors also monitor routine climate reporting and shifts in climate-related policies by other investors, although they pay less attention to corporate-specific disclosures.

Climate litigation

Climate litigation poses a significant risk to companies and investors. More than 1,800 climate litigation cases have been filed globally since 2015, challenging companies and governments for not taking enough action on climate or incorporating climate risk into financial decision-making. These cases can damage a company's reputation and undermine its standing with customers, regulators, and society, impacting the value of an investor's stake in the business.

Investors are acutely aware of these risks, with nearly half undertaking structured reviews of climate-related litigation risk against their firm and the companies they invest in. This scrutiny highlights the importance of managing climate-related risks to protect capital and maintain investor confidence.

Sustainability reporting

While investors have access to a wealth of sustainability information thanks to various initiatives and frameworks, many are still dissatisfied with the progress companies have made in delivering nonfinancial performance reporting. They reported being particularly disappointed with the materiality,

comparability, and accuracy of sustainability data.

The implementation of frameworks such as that of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) and the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) is expected to improve the quality of sustainability reporting. In the Philippines, the adoption of the ISSB's PFRS S1 and S2 Standards is anticipated to begin with mandatory disclosures in 2027 covering 2026 data, tiered according to market capitalization. Additionally, mandatory external assurance is expected to be implemented in 2028.

These standards emphasize the critical connection between financial statements and sustainability-related financial information, while also underscoring the importance of understanding financial statement impacts of climate-related risks and opportunities. This will lead to better information for investors and capital markets. However, these frameworks are still in their early days, and investors remain cautious about their usefulness for short-term investment decision-making.

Looking ahead

It is unclear whether the gap between what investors say about integrating sustainability into their decision-making and what they do in practice will narrow or widen in the near future. Investors are showing signs of "sustainability fatigue" and recognizing the challenges of quantifying and selling the ESG benefits of long-term value creation. However, they continue to engage with sustainability at a meaningful level and are developing a deeper understanding of ESG as both a risk and a value driver for their portfolios.

The global direction remains unchanged, with the world's biggest markets maintaining ambitious net-zero targets. Meeting these targets will require significant investments in infrastructure and the development of new, sustainability-oriented business models. The financial losses associated with extreme weather events and the economic risks related to biodiversity loss and ecosystem damage will encourage investors to maintain their focus on sustainability.

Closing the say-do gap is expected to result in more capital being allocated to organizations that make a positive difference over the long term. Investors should integrate sustainability broadly into their entire portfolio rather than confine sustainability investing to a small set of characteristics and companies. They can also leverage third-party assurance to validate the credibility of companies' claims regarding their sustainability performance. This approach will help investors balance short-term demands with long-term value and close the say-do gap.

2025 EUROPA AWARDS

STORIES FROM OUR WINNERS

Clean and Green Energy



Siemens Energy

At Siemens Energy, we energize society. As a global leader in energy technology, we are dedicated to supporting companies and countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring energy remains reliable, affordable, and sustainable. Our team of 100,000 passionate individuals shares a unified vision and values, and our diverse backgrounds strengthen our ability to collaborate effectively with partners around the world.

Located in 90 countries, Siemens Energy operates across the whole energy landscape. From conventional to renewable power, from grid technology to storage to electrifying complex industrial processes. Our portfolio supports energy transition by focusing on efficiency improvement, hybridization and deep decarbonization. This includes coal-to-gas shift, renewable energy solutions, energy efficiency technologies, and digital tools that optimize energy use and reduce emissions.

Our Sustainability Program guides the company's operations, product development, and business decisions. The six key focus areas are: 1) GHG emissions, 2) energy efficiency, 3) innovation, 4) inclusion and diversity, 5) health and safety and 6) talent attraction and retention.



In Batangas City, Philippines, we proudly operate and maintain the 1000MW Santa Rita, the 500MW San Lorenzo and the 414MW San Gabriel combined cycle power plants. All three plants run on natural gas and showcase our commitment to the coal-to-gas shift. This also supports the Philippines Development Plan 2030.

Additionally, we partnered with PacificLight Power Pte Ltd in Singapore to implement the region's first Advanced Turbine Efficiency Package (ATEP) at their 800MW combined cycle power plant, which supplies 10% of Singapore's energy needs. The upgrade has resulted in an annual carbon emission reduction of over 60,000 tonnes, equivalent to taking over 9,300 cars off the road every year.



When Technology Powers More Than Just Business

Cloudstaff

In a quiet neighborhood during a recent typhoon blackout, something unexpected happened. As homes went dark, scattered pockets of light remained—Cloudstaff remote workers' homes, powered by solar energy, became impromptu community charging stations.

This scene captures the essence of how the first Philippine BPO to integrate solar-powered workstations approaches sustainability: technology that extends beyond business boundaries to create meaningful impact.

"We didn't set out just to reduce our carbon footprint—we wanted to reimagine how digital innovation could serve communities and the planet simultaneously," shares Midel Santos, Director-Value and Property at Cloudstaff.

At the heart of this transformation are two groundbreaking innovations: the WOLv3 app, an intelligent energy management system that has saved 300,000 kWh annually by optimizing IT infrastructure power usage, and the mPC Green Program, a first-of-its-kind initiative equipping remote workers with solar power solutions.

The results speak volumes. Beyond the impressive 210,000 kg reduction in CO₂ emissions, Cloudstaff has achieved a remarkable 94% employee retention rate in an industry averaging 60%.

"This program has been the most meaningful benefit I've received," notes Jake Bauson, a Solutions Architect at Cloudstaff. *"The 71% reduction in my electricity bill directly impacts my family's financial well-being."*

What distinguishes this pioneering approach is its integration of sustainability into core operations rather than treating it as a separate initiative. This strategy has driven 32% revenue growth while advancing multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Looking ahead, the company plans to expand solar capacity by 35%, develop AI-enhanced energy analytics, and pioneer community energy-sharing platforms.

The lesson? When sustainability becomes central to business strategy rather than peripheral, it creates a virtuous cycle where environmental responsibility and business success fuel each other—proving that doing good and doing well can be perfectly aligned.



The Bellevue Resort: A Champion of Sustainability in Bohol

The Bellevue Resort Bohol

Tucked along the serene shores of Panglao Island, The Bellevue Resort is more than just a luxury escape—it is a beacon of sustainable hospitality in the Philippines. Guided by a deep respect for nature and community, the resort leads meaningful initiatives that protect the environment and uplift local lives.

As the first in Bohol to eliminate single-use plastic bottles, The Bellevue Resort set the green standard for others to follow. Its sustainability efforts extend far beyond its walls, inspiring ecological stewardship through impactful programs like Earth Hour, plogging, and tree and mangrove planting.

Since 2018, the resort has led the International Coastal Cleanup in Panglao, growing from 300 volunteers to over 3,000. This annual movement not only cleans shores but also sparks lasting awareness among residents and visitors alike.

The resort is also a strong advocate for marine biodiversity preservation. It plays a key role in rescuing endangered giant clams and restoring coral

reefs within the Doljo Marine Protected Area, due to devastation of Typhoon Odette. In collaboration with local partners, these efforts help sustain underwater life while promoting responsible tourism.

Energy and water conservation are embedded in the resort's operations through efficient systems and guest education. Waste is responsibly managed through recycling, composting, and eliminating of single-use plastics.

At the core of these efforts is Bellevue Cares, the resort's CSR arm. It champions environmental education, research, and community-driven sustainability across Bohol.

The Bellevue Resort invites every guest to be part of its journey—proving that sustainability is not just a practice but a shared purpose. Here, luxury meets advocacy, and every stay becomes a step toward preserving Bohol's natural beauty for generations to come.



Investing in Green Building Solutions: How Arcadis Took a Chance on Sustainability

Arcadis

Arcadis Philippines Inc. (API) took a bold step in 2008 when it established a team of consultants dedicated to sustainable design and construction. Albeit seemingly ambitious at the time, the vision was clear: to introduce the value of sustainability to an industry that has yet to see its potential.

Katherine Resurreccion, now head of the Sustainability Solutions Team, reflects on her early days as a budding consultant. She recalls sitting in meetings where the team worked tirelessly to convey that sustainability was not just an additional cost, but a strategic, long-term investment. They often found themselves educating stakeholders about its many benefits, including energy efficiency, resource conservation, enhanced reputation, and competitive advantage. As early as 2011, way before COVID-19 put an emphasis on health, safety, and well-being, the team was already integrating these principles in projects, ultimately extending it to certifying Arcadis' own offices in the Philippines. Beyond projects, API internally fostered a culture of knowledge-sharing, leveraging innovation to ensure sustainability is also embedded in operations and our people's individual choices. It was a time of planting seeds, hoping the market will pick it up and challenge industry practices to transition toward a planet-positive future.

Initially embraced by multinational companies with offices in the Philippines, the movement has since grown to include several local developers. Today, sustainable design with considerations for timeliness, cost, and aesthetics is increasingly becoming the norm, with many seeking API's expert guidance.

As understanding of sustainability evolved, so did API. From its early focus on green building certifications, the Sustainability Solutions Team now offers a full suite of services, expanding to include Sustainability Advisory for ESG and Net Zero, Energy and Life Cycle Analysis, and Carbon Accounting.

Seventeen years after its inception, the team is proud to have certified over 70 buildings and interior spaces locally and internationally, contributing to the development of over 3 million square meters of sustainable spaces and avoidance of over 300 billion kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions – a figure that hopefully will inspire organizations to see the impact of standing by a collective vision.

With only 25 years to 2050, and just 10 years remaining to meet our Net Zero Ambition for 2035, Arcadis remains steadfast in driving meaningful impact towards a net zero world, a legacy and a planet that we can proudly leave to future generations.



Turning Waste into Worth: HMR's Award-Winning Sustainability Journey

HMR Philippines

At HMR Philippines, sustainability is not just an initiative—it is the foundation of our business and the heartbeat of our operations. For over 40 years, we've been pioneering circular economy practices in the Philippines, long before the term became a global movement. As the 2025 Europa Awards winner in the Waste Management category, we are proud to lead the way in redefining how assets are valued, recovered, and reimaged in today's resource-conscious world.



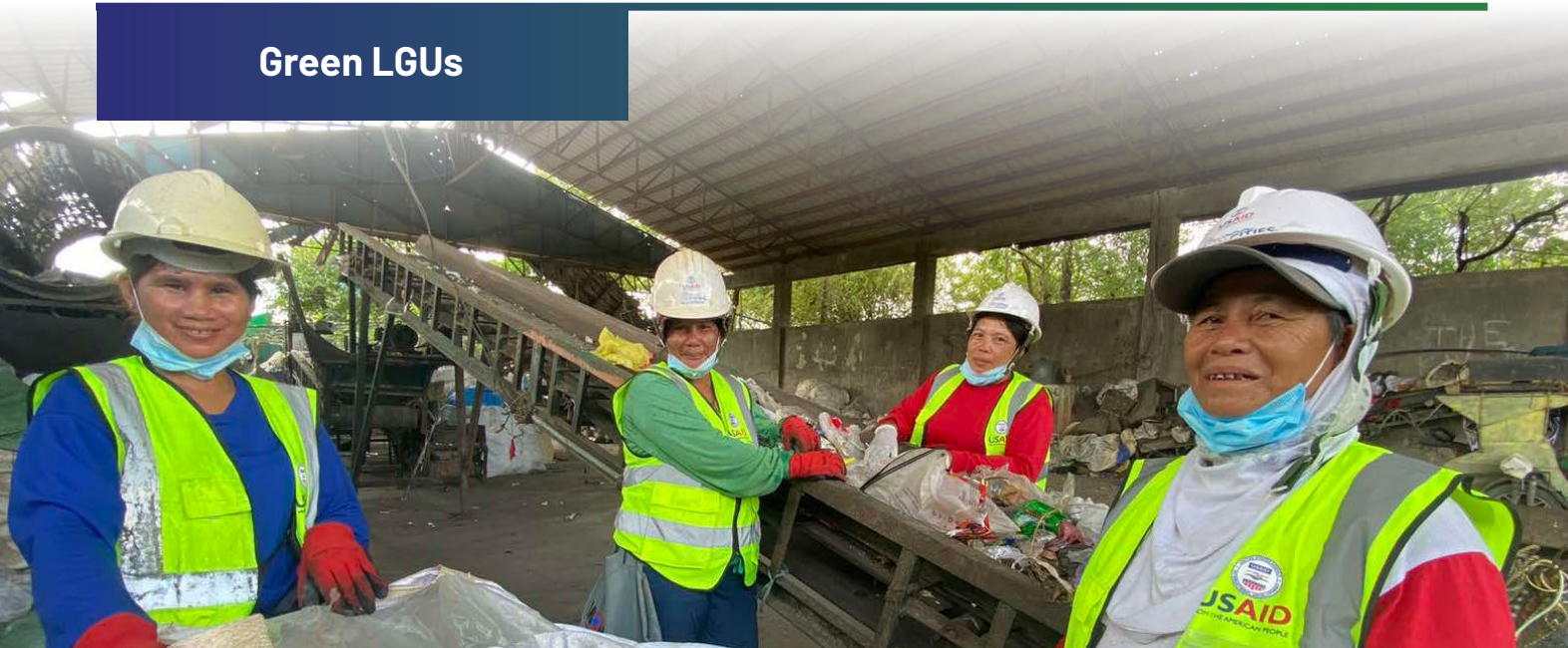
Our core mission is simple yet transformative: **to extend the life of every end-of-life asset**. Through refurbishment, repackaging, remarketing, and responsible recycling, we divert over **14,000 tonnes of waste from landfills** and prevent more than **5,200**

tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually. We refurbish **over 1 million assets each year**, from electronics and appliances to hardware and industrial, making essential goods more affordable while significantly reducing environmental impact and conserving raw materials.

HMR is proud to be the **only company in the Philippines certified with both ISO 14064 and ISO 14067**, allowing us to track and report the greenhouse gas footprint of every asset we process. Our exclusive, in-house inventory management platform and third-party verified Environmental Impact Reports enable our global partners to meet their ESG goals with integrity, credibility, and measurable results.

But sustainability at HMR goes beyond business. It's about **educating communities, supporting inclusive economic growth, and forging long-term strategic alliances**. From our work with the **UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** to grassroots training in schools and workplaces, we empower the next generation to think sustainably and act boldly.

Winning the Europa Award affirms our vision and fuels our resolve to innovate, educate, and lead toward a circular, climate-resilient future.



Iloilo City's Sustainable Transformation: A Model for Green Governance

Iloilo City Government

Iloilo City stands as a trailblazer in sustainability and environmental stewardship through its transformative waste management initiatives. Guided by a vision of building a resilient and inclusive urban community, the city has embedded sustainability, anchored in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), at the core of its governance, development plans, and public services.



The City's commitment to environmental protection through sustainable strategies in implementing R.A 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, highlights its Barangay-based Material Recovery Facilities with innovative waste-to-value programs, and an inclusive strategy involving the

landfill waste pickers in waste diversion and recovery. This clearly manifests the city's commitment to inclusivity by formalizing the role of waste pickers in crucial circular economy projects, thereby providing alternative livelihood options within the informal waste sector.

The integration of different stakeholders enables the city to promote sustainability, through community-led initiatives rather than government-driven programs leading to cleaner accessible public spaces, increased tourism, reduced greenhouse emissions, and stronger local livelihoods. By placing innovation, inclusivity, and environmental integrity at the heart of governance, Iloilo City emerges as a leading force in the Philippines' green transition and a beacon for ASEAN cities striving toward sustainable urban futures.

Winning the Europa Award in Green LGU category provides significant recognition for the city's efforts and can serve as an inspiration and model for other local governments in the Philippines striving for greener and more sustainable waste management solutions.





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GOGREEN INITIATIVES

DHL is dedicated to a sustainable future, promoting electric vehicle use with charging stations and rainwater harvesting for water recycling. We aim for carbon neutrality through solar panel installations and LED lighting to reduce emissions. Together, we focus on measuring and managing our environmental impact.



Coca-Cola EUROPAIC ABOITIZ PHILIPPINES

Coca-Cola Europacific Aboitiz Philippines (CCEAP)

Coca-Cola Europacific Aboitiz Philippines (CCEAP) – the bottling partner and official distributor of Coca-Cola products in the Philippines – operates 18 manufacturing facilities and almost 70 distribution centers and sales offices nationwide, employing approximately 9,000 Filipinos. Its current product portfolio includes much-loved brands under 8 different beverage categories. CCEAP is committed to its vision of refreshing Filipinos and making a difference across the Philippines.



Mondelēz International Receives Plastic Cleanup Partner Badge

Manila, Philippines – December 04, 2024 – Mondelēz International in the Philippines celebrated a major milestone in its sustainability journey as it has been conferred the Plastic Cleanup Partner Badge by the PCX Markets. This recognition highlights the company's commitment to sustainable practices, particularly its adherence to the Philippine Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law and ongoing efforts to manage plastic waste within the snacking industry.

The Plastic Cleanup Partner label is awarded to companies that take significant, measurable actions to clean up plastic waste. Mondelēz International's involvement in this initiative is part of a broader sustainability strategy focused on reducing packaging waste, evolving packaging designs, and improving recycling systems to contribute to a circular economy. PCX Markets is a plastic credit marketplace which collaborates with organizations that collect and divert post-consumer plastic waste through a transparent, environmentally sound, and socially responsible framework.

"Achieving the Plastic Cleanup Partner badge is an important milestone for us," said **Aleli Arcilla, Managing Director of Mondelēz International in the Philippines**. "This badge is a powerful message to our stakeholders, consumers, and partners that we are actively working to ensure that plastic waste is diverted from nature and the landfill. It is a symbol of our dedication to our Sustainable Snacking Strategy, ensuring that the right snack is delivered in the right way."

In addition to receiving the Plastic Cleanup Partner badge, Mondelēz International also discussed its ongoing efforts to support the EPR Law. The company is committed to complying with the law's guidelines and actively participates in initiatives to make packaging materials more circular and less wasteful.

"We believe compliance with the EPR Law is not just about meeting requirements; it's about leading by example and advocating for others to follow," added Arcilla. "At Mondelēz International, we are committed to reducing plastic packaging, evolving our materials to use recycled content, and improving waste management systems in countries where we operate. That is why for every kilo of post-consumer plastic packaging we introduce to the market; we ensure the equivalent amount is collected and diverted from nature here

in the Philippines." This commitment goes beyond the 40% collection and diversion requirement of the EPR Law this 2024.

The company's sustainability programs also extends beyond certification. Their 'Trash Right' program, which educates teachers and schoolchildren about waste management and plastic collection, has already engaged twenty-seven public elementary schools in Parañaque City together with ocean advocacy group Save Philippine Seas. Mondelēz International has successfully collected almost ten metric tons of plastic for diversion to upcycling through this initiative.

Furthermore, the company has just launched two new Aling Tindera sites in Parañaque City, providing local collection points to further support community recycling and sustainability efforts. This program, which transforms women micro-entrepreneurs running small "sari-sari" stores into sustainability leaders, allows local residents to sell their plastic waste directly to their neighborhood Aling Tindera. These women collect, clean, and store the plastic, which is then responsibly processed, with compensation provided for each delivery.

Adds **Rudi Ramin, Commercial Director of PCX Markets**, "Mondelēz International's achievement of the Plastic Cleanup Partner Badge in the Philippines shows their commitment to real, measurable action against plastic waste. Their initiatives, like 'Trash Right' and Aling Tindera, go beyond compliance—they empower communities and set the standard for sustainability in business. At PCX Markets, we're proud to partner with Mondelēz International in creating a cleaner, more circular future."

The company's commitment to diverting plastic pollution from nature is part of a wider plastic sustainability plan. Globally, Mondelēz International aims to ensure 98% or more of its packaging is designed for recyclability, and to reduce the amount of virgin plastic it uses by 2025.

With its ongoing efforts and future commitments, Mondelēz International aims to continue its collection and diversion of its total post-consumer plastic packaging onwards, making sustainability a core aspect of its operations and contributing to a circular economy where plastic is seen as a valuable resource and does not end up as waste.

SWITCH TO RESPONSIBLE ENERGY

SN Aboitiz Power Group (SNAP) is the country's leading renewable energy (RE) supplier offering 100% clean energy harnessed from the flowing water of four hydroelectric power plants in Magat and Benguet.

The combined technical expertise, stakeholder experience, and local and global best practices of our partners, Scatec of Norway and AboitizPower, make SNAP the ideal partner for growing businesses.

With SNAP, customers are guaranteed with responsibly-produced energy that is Renewable, Reasonable, and Reliable.



SNAP breaks ground on first battery energy storage facility in CAR

Renewable energy provider SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) Group has broken ground on the 40-megawatt (MW) Binga battery energy storage system (BESS) facility co-located at the Binga Hydroelectric Power Plant, Itogon, Benguet on March 24, 2025.

The Binga BESS is SNAP's first battery storage project in Benguet and the third in its fleet. It marks a significant step in the company's ongoing efforts to support the Philippines' transition to renewable energy.

"We are proud to break ground on our first BESS in Benguet and the first BESS facility to reach financial close and start construction in the Cordillera Administrative Region. This project underscores our commitment to innovation, sustainability, and the country's energy transition," said Joseph Yu, SNAP President and Chief Executive Officer. This is part of the company's broader strategy to integrate complementary technologies with their hydro assets contributing to the development of a more resilient and secure energy market in the Philippines.

SNAP Group Chief Operations Officer Michael Bon Hosillos reaffirmed the company's commitment to responsible operations and sustainable practices, highlighting the importance of transparency and collaboration with the local community. "We deeply value the trust and support of this community, and we pledge to operate responsibly, sustainably, and transparently. From environmental stewardship to local job creation, we are committed to being not just a facility in this community but a true partner in its growth," he said.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by key officials, including Assistant Secretary Mario Marasigan from the

Department of Energy and Ambassador of Norway to the Philippines who expressed their support for the project.

"The Binga BESS project demonstrates the optimization of the country's energy system. SNAP continues to enhance grid stability while reinforcing its commitment to green energy," said Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla from DOE in a video message.

His Excellency Ambassador of Norway to the Philippines Christian Halaas Lyster noted that "the installation of BESS in Binga is another breakthrough in SNAP's commitment to innovative renewable energy solutions."

"Renewable energy is weather dependent; balancing the grid requires batteries. Today's event is not only important for SNAP but for the Philippines, enabling the country to achieve its goal towards 30% renewable by 2030. From Norway's side, we are committed to contributing so that you can achieve a green energy future. The Norwegian Embassy in Manila is truly dedicated to work closely with energy and industry stakeholders to push the green energy agenda," he added.

This Binga BESS project builds on the 24-MW Magat BESS and the ongoing development of the 16-MW Magat BESS Phase 2, which together will bring SNAP's total battery storage capacity to 80 MW by 2026.

In February, SNAP sealed its engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) deals with GEDI China Energy, a China Energy Engineering Group subsidiary for the development of the 40-MW Binga BESS. The Binga BESS will be funded by the Bank of the Philippine Islands and BDO Unibank, Inc.

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The Ascott Limited Philippines - Sustainability Efforts

Ascott Limited Philippines, a premier hospitality group, emphasizes sustainability through active community engagement and corporate social responsibility (CSR). Anchored around community, alliance, respect, environment, and supply chain, the Ascott CARES Council ensures that the hospitality group consistently adapts the latest sustainable practices, initiatives, and innovations yearly.



The company has undertaken various CSR initiatives, such as collaborating with SOS Children's Village and partnering with non-profits like Gawad Kalinga. These initiatives involved over 900 employee volunteers nationwide and positively impacted on the lives of over 680 children.

Significant strides have also been made in environmental sustainability, including a continued push to minimize the brand's carbon footprint throughout its operations. The hospitality group emphasizes high ethical standards within its supply chain as a key aspect of its sustainability strategy. Through these efforts, Ascott acquired 13 GSTC-certified properties, including its corporate office, and has raised PHP 4 million from sustainability events.

The organization actively engages in global environmental campaigns, with all properties participating in World Clean Up Day and World Environmental Education Day, showcasing their dedication to environmental care. They champion

sustainable transportation by installing EV charging stations, with 75% of operational properties equipped to support electric vehicles, ensuring convenience for guests and reducing environmental impact.



As Ascott celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2025, it looks forward to advancing its sustainability goals. Plans include continuing the GSTC multi-site audit, participating in the World Sustainable Travel and Hospitality Awards, and collaborating with organizations like the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Gawad Kalinga, Diversey, and several other sustainability-focused organizations. Moreover, the group aims to broaden its CSR efforts, benefiting more communities through education, health initiatives, and the distribution of essential supplies.

As a leader in sustainable hospitality, the hospitality group remains steadfast in its mission to deliver exceptional guest experiences while embracing environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Recent accomplishments highlight Ascott's unwavering commitment to sustainability and ambition to build a greener and more sustainable future for generations to come, while future plans aim to raise the already high bar, assuring that Ascott Philippines will remain ever conscious of the importance of sustainable practices in all its facets.



Reducing the Carbon Footprint in Healthcare

Patient safety is paramount in healthcare delivery.

Learn how B. Braun Philippines, in collaboration with an esteemed government healthcare institution in the country, is advancing sustainability through effective hospital waste management.

By implementing innovative waste reduction strategies, this institution is minimizing its environmental impact and setting a benchmark for sustainable healthcare operations in the Philippines.



Philippine Heart Center (PHC)



>3,000 surgeries annually



Per sterilization set: 4.7 grams (paper filters and locks)

"The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) performs over 3,000 surgeries annually, with 90% being cardiovascular, vascular, minimally invasive, and endovascular procedures.

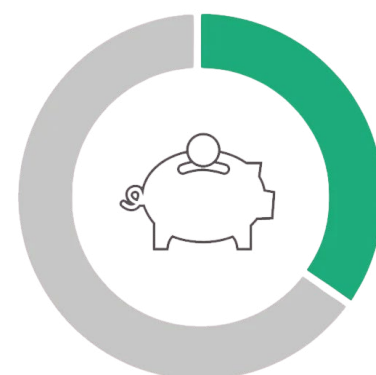
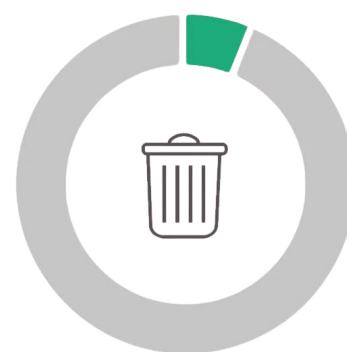
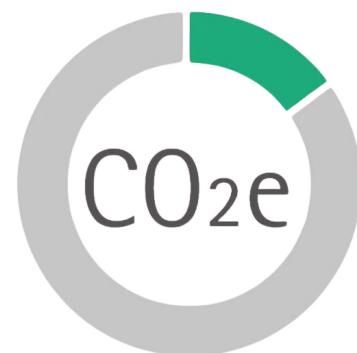
Since 2014, we have adopted Aesculap Sterile Container System, which align with our sustainability goals by reducing waste and improving sterilization processes.

These reusable containers have significantly reduced surgical infections and operational costs, while ensuring the sterility and integrity of surgical instruments."



CHRISTOPHER IAN JOSEPH M. DE GUZMAN, RN, MMHoA

Head Nurse, Operating Room
Philippine Heart Center



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SHARING EXPERTISE

Reducing the Carbon Footprint in Healthcare

Patient safety is a top priority in healthcare, but the environmental impact of healthcare operations, particularly waste management, is becoming increasingly significant. B. Braun Philippines, in collaboration with a leading government healthcare institution, is pioneering sustainable waste management strategies.



One key initiative involves adopting reusable sterile containers for surgical instruments, significantly reducing the need for single-use packaging materials in operating rooms. By eliminating disposable wraps, hospitals can decrease waste by over 95%, minimizing environmental impact and improving operational efficiency.

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) conducts over 3,000 surgeries annually. Since 2014, PHC has implemented the sterile container system due to its practicality and sustainability, enhancing sterilization processes and ensuring surgical instruments are available in optimal sterile conditions.

The Aesculap sterile container system supports PHC's sustainability goals through its reusability and reduced linen requirements. As the first government hospital to fully

implement this system, PHC effectively monitors sterility, preventing leaks and preserving instrument integrity, which reduces surgical infection risks. These containers increase sterilization safety, lower contamination risks, and reduce costs associated with single-use sterile packaging, ultimately providing peace of mind and financial savings.



B. Braun's reusable sterile container system presents a sustainable alternative, meeting international standards (ISO) and designed for longevity. Constructed from high-quality aluminum with integrated germ-barrier filters made of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), they are validated for 5,000 reprocessing cycles or around 12 to 15 years.

These durable containers can potentially save PHC approximately 2,496 kg of blue wrap annually, yielding long-term savings for healthcare institutions. PHC's commitment to reusable sterile container systems exemplifies B. Braun's dedication to sustainability and patient safety.

By implementing these innovative waste reduction strategies, B. Braun Philippines and PHC set a benchmark for sustainable healthcare operations, contributing to a healthier environment and inspiring other providers to follow.

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Q1

JANUARY

- 16 9th Joint Economic Briefing
- 21 IPR Forum with IPSME Helpdesk
- 23 Doing Business in the Philippines Guidebook Launch / Ambassadors' Meeting / New Year's Reception

MARCH

- 5 Luncheon Meeting with ARTA Director General Ernesto Perez
- 5 - 6 DELIVER Asia 2025, Singapore (Supported Event)
- 11 She Means Business: Accelerating Vision into Action by Women in Business Committee
- 21 Beyond Capital: How Private Equity Builds Businesses That Last
- 27 ECCP Community Connect

Q2

APRIL

- 3 Sustainability Forum & Europa Awards
- 23 Luncheon Meeting with DOT Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco
- 30 Sustainable Agriculture Forum

MAY

- 7 Luncheon Meeting with TESDA Director General Francisco Benitez
- 14 2nd JFC Clark International Mixer
- 20 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Forum
- 21 Luncheon Meeting with DTI Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque
- 27 Annual General Membership Meeting & Sunset Socials

JUNE

- 25 Luncheon Meeting with IPOPHL DG Atty. Brigitte Da Costa-Villaluz

Q3

JULY

- 2 Healthcare Forum
- 24 Nutrition Forum

AUGUST

- 7 Luncheon Meeting
- 14 European Networking Socials
- 28 Energy Smart Forum

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Human Capital Forum
- 11 Waste Management Forum / Circular Economy
- 18 ECCP Community Connect
- 30 Luncheon Meeting

Q4

OCTOBER

- 8 - 9 Aviation Summit
- 16 European-Philippine Business Dialogue & European Investors' Night
- 23 Luncheon Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 4 23rd European Golf Tournament
- 13 European Networking Socials
- 26 Appreciation Dinner

DECEMBER

- 2 ECCP Community Connect
- 4 Economic Outlook

