

**Best practices**

**Ecological-economic Perspectives of sustainability in the Vocational training**

EcoGreen aims to support teachers at vocational schools in implementing the topic of sustainable economic education. Our strategy strengthens the professional profile of teachers and supports their students in acquiring ecological skills.

Our consortium:



**Leibniz Universität Hannover**

**Universität Wien**

**SamiEDU**

**PKZ Voca Train**

**Zespół Szkół Leśnych Lesnych**

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SDG in Practice - Polish Companies on the Green Wave

Polish companies are increasingly integrating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their business strategies, contributing to global efforts to achieve sustainable development by 2030. These companies are addressing various SDGs through innovative practices in areas such as clean energy, responsible production, and social inclusion. This article highlights some of the leading Polish companies implementing SDG goals and their impact on sustainability.

## Grupa Żywiec: SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

Sustainable Brewing Practices: Grupa Żywiec, one of Poland’s largest beer producers, is committed to sustainable production practices. The company focuses on reducing its environmental footprint by implementing water and energy-saving technologies and optimizing raw material usage. Grupa Żywiec has also launched initiatives to promote recycling and reduce packaging waste, contributing significantly to SDG 12.

Circular Economy Initiatives: The company’s circular economy approach includes reusing waste materials and by-products from the brewing process. For example, spent grain, a by-product of beer production, is repurposed as animal feed or used in the production of bioenergy.

Impact: These efforts have resulted in a significant reduction in waste generation and resource consumption, demonstrating Grupa Żywiec's commitment to responsible consumption and production.

## PKN Orlen: SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

Renewable Energy Investments: PKN Orlen, a leading Polish oil and gas company, is investing heavily in renewable energy projects to diversify its energy portfolio and reduce carbon emissions. The company is developing wind farms, solar power plants, and exploring the potential of hydrogen fuel.

Hydrogen Economy: PKN Orlen is actively working on building a hydrogen economy in Poland. The company has established hydrogen refueling stations and is involved in projects to produce green hydrogen from renewable sources, aligning with SDG 7's objective of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

Impact: These initiatives are helping to transition Poland towards a more sustainable energy future, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.

## LPP S.A.: SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

Ethical Manufacturing: LPP S.A., a major Polish clothing retailer, is committed to improving labor conditions in its supply chain. The company adheres to ethical manufacturing standards, ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and no child labor, thus supporting SDG 8.

Sustainable Fashion: LPP is also advancing sustainable fashion by incorporating eco-friendly materials and production processes. The company’s ECO AWARE label identifies products made with environmentally friendly materials and sustainable manufacturing practices.

Impact: LPP’s initiatives promote decent work and economic growth by fostering ethical labor practices and driving sustainable consumption in the fashion industry.

## Santander Bank Polska: SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Supporting Innovation: Santander Bank Polska supports innovation and infrastructure development through its financing programs for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The bank offers financial products that support the growth of tech startups and innovative businesses, aligning with SDG 9.

Green Financing: The bank has introduced green financing options to fund projects that have a positive environmental impact. This includes loans for renewable energy projects, energy efficiency improvements, and sustainable infrastructure developments.

Impact: By fostering innovation and supporting sustainable infrastructure projects, Santander Bank Polska is contributing to the development of resilient and sustainable industries in Poland.

## Żabka Polska: SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

Green Stores Initiative: Żabka Polska, a leading convenience store chain, is implementing the Green Stores initiative to reduce its environmental impact. This includes energy-efficient store designs, waste reduction practices, and sustainable sourcing of products.

Community Engagement: Żabka engages in various community projects aimed at promoting sustainability. This includes supporting local suppliers, reducing food waste through partnerships with food banks, and organizing environmental awareness campaigns.

Impact: Żabka’s initiatives contribute to creating more sustainable cities and communities, aligning with SDG 11 by enhancing urban sustainability and community well-being.

## Conclusion

Polish companies are making significant strides in implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating leadership in sustainable business practices. From renewable energy investments and ethical manufacturing to supporting innovation and community engagement, these companies are playing a crucial role in driving sustainable development in Poland. Their efforts not only contribute to global sustainability goals but also enhance their competitiveness and reputation in the market.

## References and Further Reading:

1. Grupa Żywiec Sustainability: <https://www.grupazywiec.pl/en/sustainability/>

2. PKN Orlen Hydrogen Projects: <https://www.orlen.pl/EN/CorporateSocialResponsibility/Pages/Our-Strategy.aspx>

3. LPP S.A. Sustainability: <https://www.lppsa.com/en/sustainable-development>

4. Santander Bank Polska Green Financing: <https://www.santander.pl/en>

5. Żabka Polska Green Stores: <https://zabka.pl/en/sustainable-development>