



SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Master Digital Content: A Data Driven and Accessible Approach

Stacie Manger Director, Digital and UX Strategy

Forest Products Industry Economic Impact

Top 10 manufacturing sector

employer in 43 states

products manufactured annually



Employs about

925,000

people and supports more than

2 million

indirect jobs throughout the supply chain.



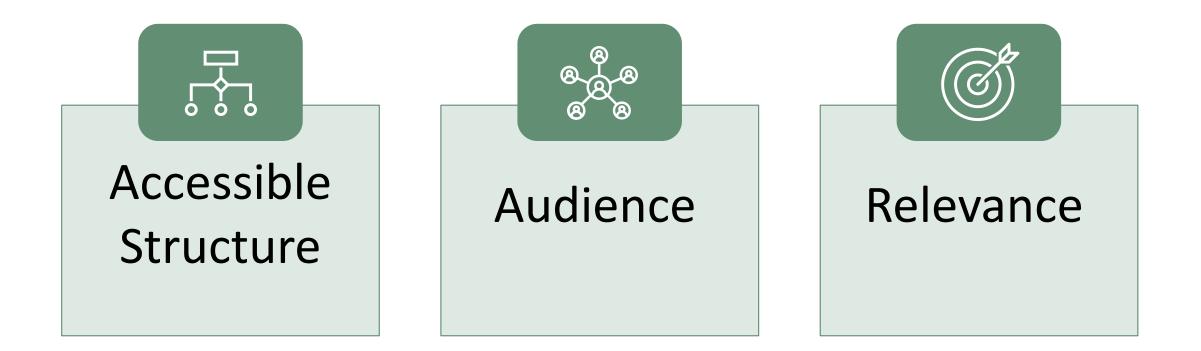
Invested nearly

\$7 Billion

in manufacturing infrastructure (2019-2025) to continue the best use of recycled fiber in our products.



What Makes Good Content and Websites?





The Starting Point on Effective and Engaging Content



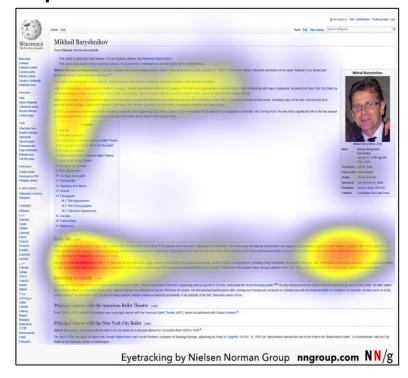


Eyetracking: The Science Behind How People Read Online

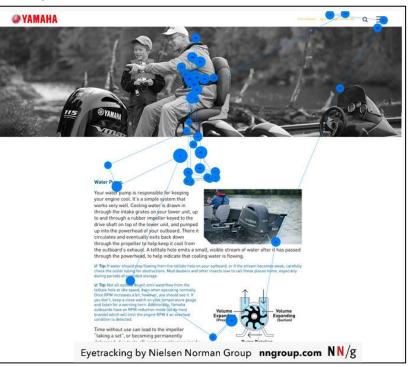
F Pattern



Spotted Pattern



Layer-Cake Pattern





Source: Nielsen Norman Group

Reduce Cognitive Load to Improve Usability

Features	Contributing to the Circular Economy: The Paper and
News	Wood Products Industry
Statistics	Aug 15, 2019 By Jerry Schwartz, Senior Director, Energy and Environmental Policy
Blog	
Resources	The paper and wood products industry uses renewable and recyclable resources to manufacture products that makes people's lives better. Printing-writing papers, paper-based packaging, pulp, tissue and wood products play significant roles in everyday life by meeting needs for information, product
log Categorı	protection, hygiene, housing and more. The manufacture of our industry's products is customer and market driven
2014 2015	As the global population grows and impacts production and consumption, increasing circularity in our economy would build resilience, generate new business opportunities and provide economic, environmental and social benefits.
2016 2017	The paper and wood products industry's efforts to promote sustainable forest management, do more with less in the manufacturing process and recover products for recycling form the foundation of our contributions to the circular economy.
, 2018 , 2019	We regenerate the renewable resources we use to maintain balance in the environment. U.S. forest cover has expanded over the past 40 years due to continued demand for paper and wood products, which creates incentives to plant and grow trees. Our industry also regenerates and reuses pulping
, 2020	chemicals when recovering energy from black liquor. To reduce waste and pollution, we are continually at work to optimize design and maximize efficient use of resources in all areas of our manufacturing processes.
, Father's Day	In this context, design refers to products as well as the equipment and manufacturing processes used to make them. For example, using less materials to make products and improving products' recyclability. We also develop new bio-based products, including liners and enhancements to existing products, to reduce and replace fossil fuel-derived materials. Updates to equipment and manufacturing processes ensure less energy is used to make products
	Maximizing efficient use of resources refers to improving the fiber yield (i.e. using every part of the tree), using renewable, carbon-neutral biomass, reusing and recycling water in the manufacturing process, producing renewable energy on-site in lieu of purchasing energy, reducing and optimizing the use of non-renewable resources, providing manufacturing residuals and byproducts for other uses, etc.
	At paper and wood products' end-of-life, we support improved recycling infrastructure and encourage recycling best practices so that our industry can reuse paper that is recovered for recycling to make new products. At the same time, innovative product design is helping to ensure more paper and wood products are accepted for recycling. Technology improvements and innovations in recycling processes allow our mills to recover more fiber from used paper products.

What is the Environmental Impact of the Paper Industry?

Paper products and packaging are part of our daily lives. From tissues and paper towels to the absorbent pulp in diapers to cardboard boxes to boxes that package medicine and food.

Paper production requires resources like wood, recycled paper, water and energy. Here in the U.S., the paper industry is working hard to find ways to make production and our products more sustainable.

We answered some common questions about the U.S. paper industry and its environmental impact. Dive in to explore how our industry is committed to sustainable manufacturing practices.

Does the U.S. Paper Industry Contribute to Deforestation?

No. The U.S. pulp and paper industry is not linked to global deforestation and forest degradation.

U.S. forests are strong and stable. More than 1 billion trees are replanted in the U.S. each year.

The U.S. paper industry is a responsible steward of our planet's resources. We have a long history of sustainable forest management and innovation.

Our industry uses trees from working forests. These forests are continuously replanted, ensuring a healthy balance for the future.

EXPLORE HOW WORKING FORESTS STORE CARBON

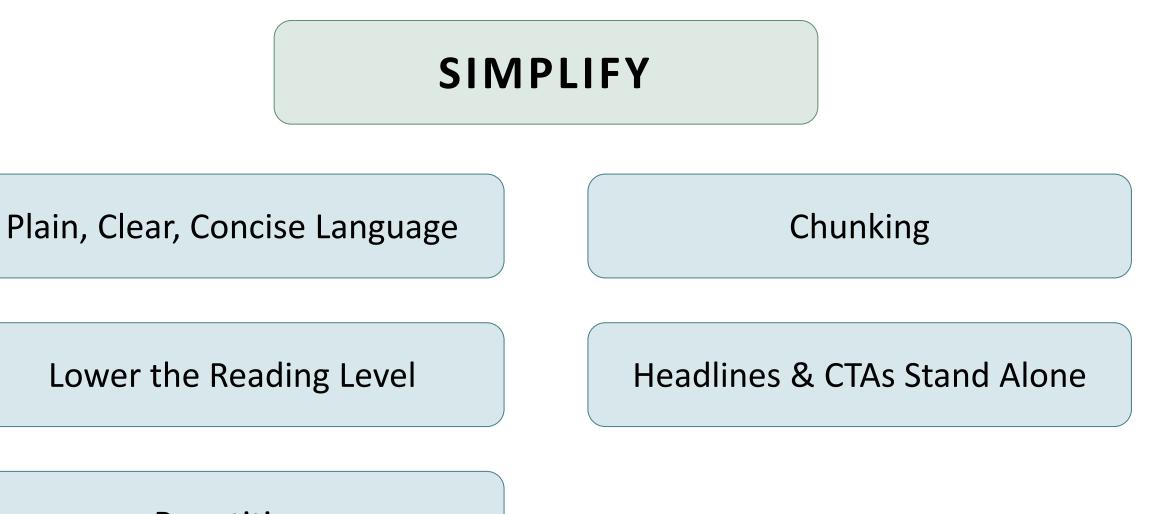
1 Billion +

trees are planted each year

LEARN MORE ABOUT WORKING FORESTS



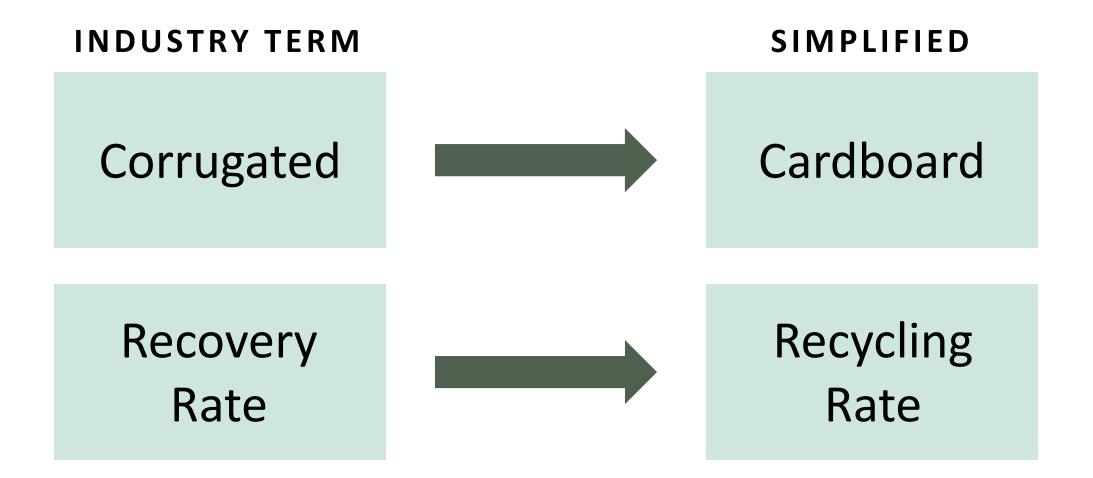
The Fundamentals to Writing for the Web





Repetition



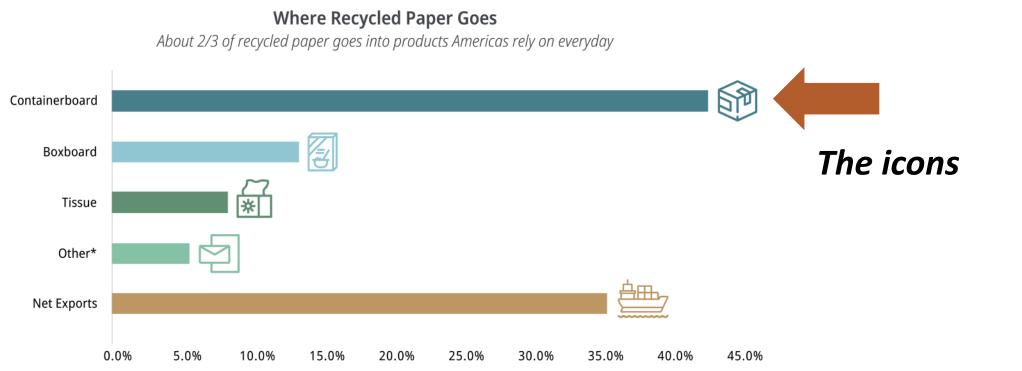




Adding Visual Cues and Written Explanations

The materials in your recycling bin are taken to a materials recovery facility (MRF). That's where your recyclables are sorted.

This sentence





When Text Is Not Chunked, It's Hard to Skim

American Forest & Paper Association



TopLine



BROUGHT TO YOU BY – AF&PA It's true. Pizza boxes are recyclable.

We're setting the record straight. Pizza boxes are recyclable. Grease and cheese are not an issue. Get the facts at <u>PaperRecycles.org.</u>

Pizza Box Messaging Sets Records

During <u>America Recycles Week</u>, the American Forest & Paper Association sponsored a Waste Dive email blast and newsletter highlighting the recyclability of pizza boxes and our industry's investment in U.S. manufacturing capacity. The email blast and newsletter sponsorship set Waste Dive records for 2020 and overall, as one of the publication's top performers of the year. The newsletter sponsorship set a new record for most clicks, and <u>the email blast</u> was one of the year's top five in terms of engagement. Many local municipalities, federal agencies and top waste haulers got the facts on pizza boxes <u>on our website</u>, as well. (<u>Stacie Manger</u>, 202-463-5162)

China Ban on Solid Waste Imports Set to Take Effect January 1, 2021 On November 25, the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced details about the country's upcoming ban on materials it classifies as "solid waste," which includes recovered fiber. The ban will take effect January 1, 2021. An unofficial English translation is available <u>here</u> from the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI).

The total ban is the culmination of "National Sword" policies introduced in 2017 to phase out the import of solid waste and has been anticipated by the industry for some time. Since 2017, AF&PA has responded to the disruption created by China's National Sword program. AF&PA supports free and fair trade in products and raw materials, and we believe China's ban on imports of recovered paper violates the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and other WTO rules. AF&PA has filed multiple rounds of comments with WTO, the Chinese government and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). Most recently, in response to a Federal Register notice, in September AF&PA submitted <u>comments</u> to USTR on China's reported plan to ban all imports of "solid waste." USTR and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing

Transportation

AF&PA advocates for investments and policies that will ease congestion on roads and create safer, stronger highways. We support updating the antiquated weight limits on the interstate so that truck traffic can be reduced in a safe and efficient manner. An increase in the maximum allowable weight of six-axle semi-trailers is an effective and safe way to increase truck productivity and America's freight capacity. Technology improvements and stronger roads and bridges make it safe for each truck to carry more freight. It would also mitigate the current transportation capacity shortage that inhibits moving raw materials to mills and products to customers.

Rail customers are not receiving reliable rail service at reasonable rates. Nearly one-third of forest products facilities have access to only one rail carrier. The railroad industry has an obligation to serve its customers and the nation's freight rail needs, but many see their monopoly status as an opportunity to charge excessive rates while providing poor service.



Chunked Text Supports Scanning and Helps Users Remember

"

The U.S. pulp and paper industry is not linked to global deforestation and forest degradation.

HEIDI BROCK, PRESIDENT & CEO



American Forest & Paper Association

AF&PA Advocates for Clarity on European Union Deforestation-free Regulation Requirements

Quick Take: AF&PA President and CEO Heidi Brock praised bipartisan Senate efforts urging United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Katherine Tai, to engage with the European Union on challenges posed by the E.U. Deforestation- free Regulation (EUDR).

Dive Deeper: EUDR poses significant compliance issues for our industry. It also creates obstacles to trade. The rule:

- Requires companies to prove the origin of certain agricultural commodities and products. The requirement includes wood and wood products.
- Companies must demonstrate that these products do not originate from deforested land.
- They also must prove that their products have not contributed to forest degradation after 2020.

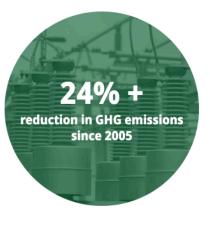
Why it Matters: The U.S. pulp and paper industry is not a contributor to global deforestation or forest degradation. EUDR puts costly and burdensome reporting requirements on our industry.

What's Next: This rule will be effective on December 30, 2024. We will continue our efforts to address the challenges of EUDR.



- 1. Short sentences
- 2. Short paragraphs
- 3. Use white space

Is the Paper Industry a Responsible and Sustainable Manufacturer?



Yes! The U.S. paper industry is a crucial part of the climate solution.

We took early, voluntary action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Since 2005, AF&PA members have **reduced GHG emissions by more than 24%.** And they've committed to **reducing GHG emissions by 50% by 2030!**

We've also **improved our energy efficiency by more than 13% since 2005**. This is largely due to the increased use of renewable energy like biomass.

As part of our 2030 sustainability goals, we're advancing a circular value chain through the production of renewable and recyclable products.

That includes **increasing the percentage** of our products that are **recyclable or compostable**. We're also increasing the use of secondary materials like recycled paper and wood leftovers.



Lowering the Reading Level Benefits Your Audience

Avg. U.S. Reading Level

6th- 7th Grade

AF&PA's Goal

How to Lower the Reading Level

- 1. Shorten sentences
- 2. Front load sentences
- 3. Remove unnecessary words and phrases
- 4. Bullet lists
- 5. Simplify words



Shorten and Front Load Sentences for Easy Reading

Grade 11 Long Hard to read

At paper mills across the country, recycled paper is used to make essential products millions of people rely on every day.

Grade 6 Concise Easy to read

U.S. paper mills use recycled paper to make essential products.



Headlines Need to Stand Alone

Old Headline	Rewritten
Holiday Recycling Done Right	How to Recycle Paper During the Holiday Season
Spotlight in Brief: 2020 Sustainability Award Winner for Innovation in Sustainability	WestRock Wins Award for Innovative Packaging Solution



Calls to Action Need to Be Descriptive

Avoid

- Learn More
- Click HERE to download
- To view the document, click here
- To share, click here

• Explore Our 2030 Sustainability Goals

Preferred

- Download the document
- Share our social post
- Watch the video



Repeating Key Facts and Messaging is Helpful

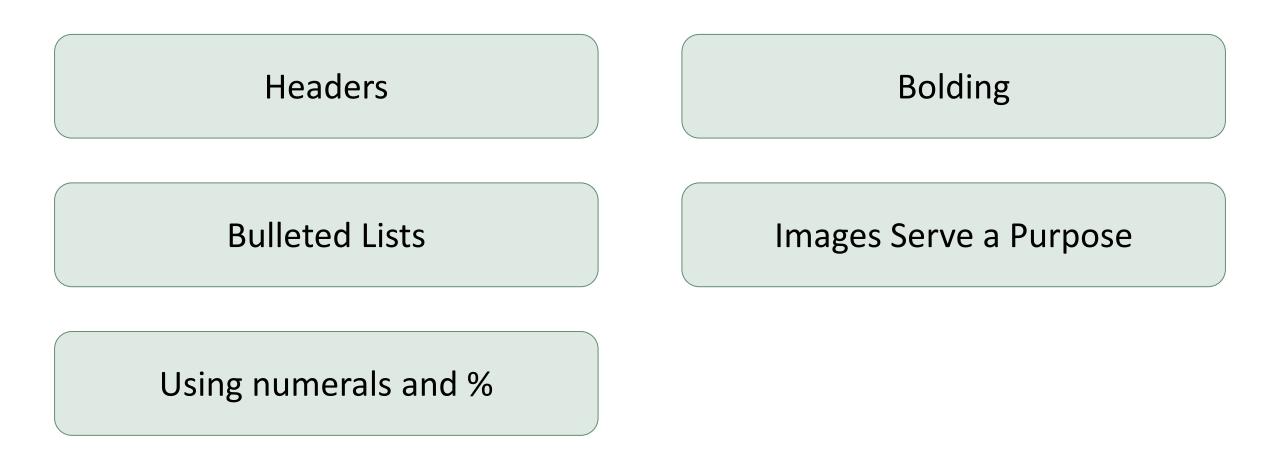
Avg. Business Days in 1 Year



REPEAT. REPEAT. REPEAT.



The Fundamentals to Visual Content Design





Headers, Lists and Bolding Draw Eyes Down

JULY 17, 2024 UPDATE IN BRIEF

Why Does the Price of Stamps Keep Increasing?

On July 14, 2024, the price of a first-class stamp increased from \$.68 to \$.73. This is the 6th rate hike since 2021. Postal rates are climbing faster than inflation.

But why? We explain why United States Postal Service (USPS) postal rates went up and what higher postal rates mean for the paper industry.

Breaking Down the USPS "Delivering for America Plan"

The Delivering for America Plan (DFA) was published in March of 2021 by Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. The goals for the plan were to:

- Achieve financial stability;
- Improve postal service; and
- Reorganize key networks like delivery and processing.

It is important to note: As these goals were developed, stakeholder input was not solicited from those who rely on USPS – like the paper industry.

Understanding the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022

The bipartisan **Postal Service Reform Act** was signed into law in 2022, **giving USPS \$50 billion in relief** of financial obligations and budget deficits. The legislation aimed to:

- Increase financial stability for USPS;
- Increase transparency;
- Improve postal service; and Keep U.S. mail as a competitive option.

One of the provisions was mandating 6-day-a-week delivery for mail. However, the bill did not address postal rate uncertainty.

Are Postage Rate Increases Helping USPS?

The short answer is no. Through the DFA, USPS increased postage rates to help address financial challenges. **Since 2021, postage rates have increased a record 6 times**. In fact, postal rates have risen faster than inflation!



Images and Graphics are Necessary and Deliberate

How is Paper Pulp Made?



Image credit: Domtar

The pulping process starts with what kind of input material is being used.

When using wood, the main goal of pulp production is to **separate the cellulose fibers** from the lignin. Cellulose fiber is the structural backbone of paper products. Lignin is a natural glue-like substance that holds the cellulose together.

Softwoods, like pine, and hardwoods like oak or ash are both used to make pulp. **Softwood pulp has longer fibers** and is used for products **that need strength**, like cardboard— what the industry refers to as containerboard, — or paper grocery bags.

Hardwood pulp has shorter, fatter fibers that add bulk to products. They also make something softer. This makes it good for things like toilet paper and paper towels.

When **using recycled paper**, papers that are recovered for reuse are **mixed in a giant blender called a repulper**. This helps separate the fibers so they can be washed, screened and turned into something new.

The U.S. Pulp and Paper Industry Does Not Contribute to Global Deforestation and Forest Degradation





The ROI on Developing Accessible Content

25% OF PEOPLE IN THE U.S. HAVE A DISABILITY

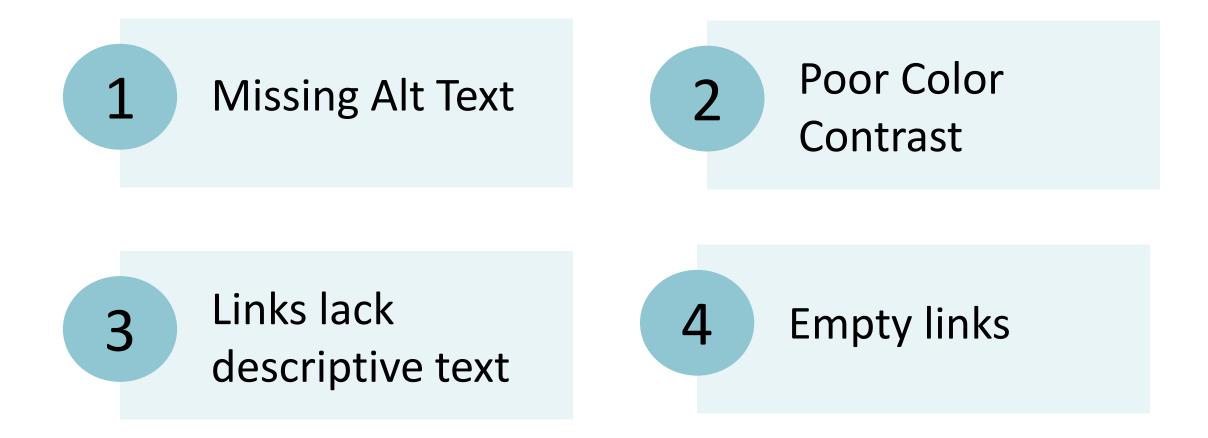
DISABILITY CAN AFFECT

Vision Remembering Movement Learning Thinking Hearing Communicating Mental Health Social Relationships





Common Website Accessibility Mistakes





Is Investing in Simplified Digital Content Worth It?

Quantitative

- Website visits from our key audiences on priority content
- 36% increase in visibility
- 183% increase in CTR
- 37% increase in organic traffic
- 900+ keywords ranked in positions 1-10

Qualitative

 Positive feedback from key audiences, both subject matter experts and non experts



Resources, Resources, Resources!

- Hemingway App
- Nielsen Norman Group
 - Eye Tracking, How People Read Online, Writing for the Web
- Accessibility Research

Scan the QR code or use https://linktr.ee/afandpa_manger





How to Follow AF&PA and Stay in Touch



Stacie Manger Director, Digital and UX Strategy Stacie_Manger@afandpa.org Follow us on social media:

TWITTER: @forestandpaper

INSTAGRAM: @afandpa

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/ForestandPaper

LINKEDIN:

linkedin.com/company/American-Forest-&-Paper-Association





American Forest & Paper Association

BETTER PRACTICES 2030

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



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