Coal has been fundamental to building modern economies for centuries. From early mining practices to modern ultra-supercritical power plants and steel production, the story of coal is one of continuous development and improvement in technologies and practices. This story continues in the 21st Century.

Coal’s impact on modern society and people will be continuously enhanced by building on its positive contribution to building modern economies and societies and reducing the environmental impact of its production and use.

The members of the World Coal Association believe in a sustainable future for coal. This future is founded in operational excellence by integrating sustainability across our entire business model from our own operations through to supporting new technologies for coal utilisation.

We strongly believe that building economic value, protecting the environment and supporting our communities is essential to ensuring our businesses make a positive contribution to society and enhance value for our shareholders.

**Sustainability initiatives**

There are a number of global initiatives designed to improve and demonstrate business sustainability. In particular there are specific initiatives that relate to the mining and coal industries including the ICMM Sustainable Development Framework and the BetterCoal Initiative. Many similar initiatives operate at the local level in many countries.

The World Coal Association recognises the value of these initiatives and we support their objectives.
Our commitment to sustainable mining practice

These initiatives demonstrate how to achieve sustainability and many of our members are already involved in them. We will draw on and utilise their experience in continuing to build sustainability across the operations of all members of the WCA by focusing on –

• Improving environmental performance
• Protecting water resources
• Improving our connection with the land
• Reducing emissions in our operations
• Being committed to health and safety
• Ensuring fairness in employment
• Valuing human rights
• Engaging with our communities
• Being trustworthy and transparent
• Maintaining good governance

As the leaders of the global coal industry we expect the highest standards of ourselves and our fellow World Coal Association Members.

We are committed to working across the industry at a global level to share our knowledge and experience in sustainable development practices.

All members of the World Coal Association are expected to work towards best practice in sustainable development and are encouraged to utilise tools endorsed by external sustainability initiatives. We will share knowledge wherever possible and work cooperatively to help make that happen.