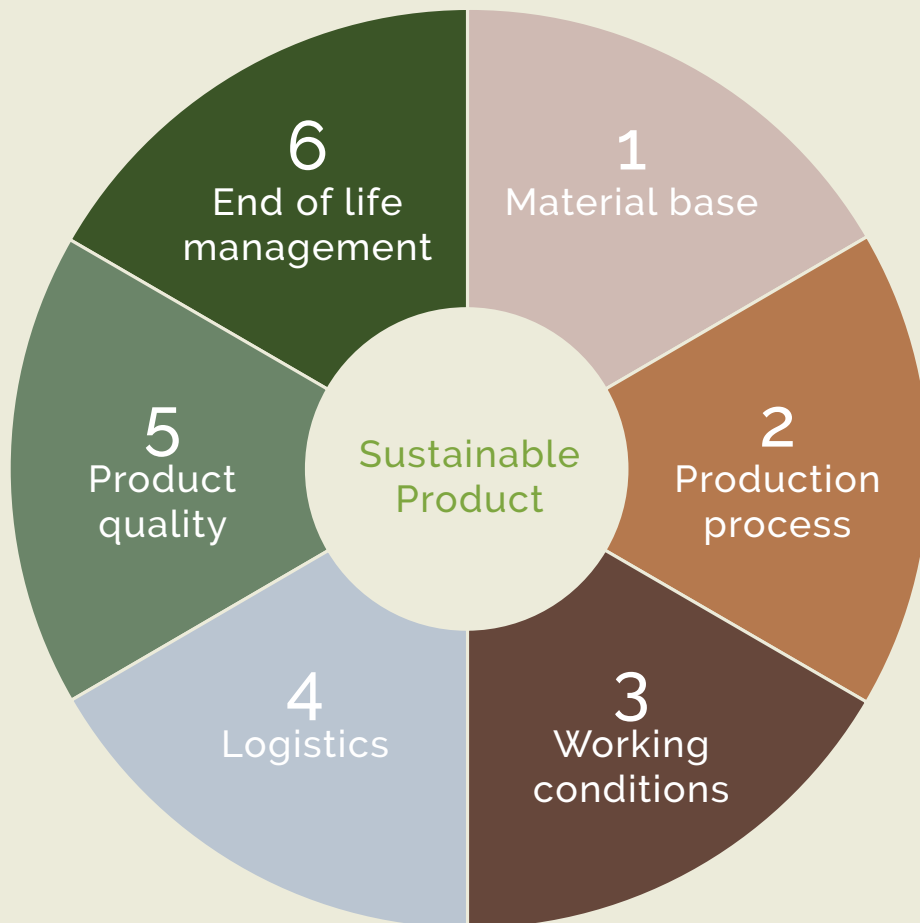


# Sustainable Product Evaluation Model

What makes a product sustainable? There is no clear definition as there are many factors that come into play. All interior products we produce have an impact on the environment. So when we talk about a sustainable product, it is better to think of it as a relative term that compares the environmental, social, technical aspects of a product with respect to an aspirational zero level or standard.

With the evaluation model developed by Flinders, we look at six criteria of sustainability. The model is based on the 17 sustainable development goals of the United Nations (UNESCO, 2015). They are a global compass for challenges such as poverty, education and the climate crisis.



# Sustainable Product Evaluation Model

## The six sustainability criteria for interior products.

Criterion		Description
1	<b>Material base</b>	Minimizing the impact of the materials used on the environment by making use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean materials</li> <li>• Recycled materials</li> <li>• Biodegradable materials</li> <li>• Non-toxic chemicals</li> <li>• In the case of wood: guarantee of positive management of trees, land and soil</li> </ul>
2	<b>Production process</b>	Minimizing the environmental impact of the production process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use as little materials as possible</li> <li>• Energy usage and efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Water usage and efficiency</li> <li>• Use of cleaner energy resources</li> <li>• Waste management: reduce waste and reuse it if possible</li> </ul>
3	<b>Working conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring responsible labor and worker practices in the field of health and safety throughout the supply chain</li> <li>• Avoidance of child labor</li> </ul>
4	<b>Logistics</b>	Minimizing the impact of logistics on the environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logistics optimization</li> <li>• Locally produced materials, local production and sales</li> <li>• Making the right packaging choices (less / reusable / cleaner packaging)</li> <li>• Sustainable transport &amp; transport efficiency</li> </ul>
5	<b>Product quality</b>	Ensuring lifelong use of the product by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Product quality</li> <li>• Product safety</li> <li>• Product reliability</li> <li>• Serviceability of the product</li> <li>• Encouragement of proper usage of the product</li> <li>• Repairability of the product: it is relatively cheap to repair the product, easy to disassemble and the presence of a service manual</li> <li>• Extending the life of the product by providing maintenance tips and providing repair options</li> </ul>
6	<b>End of life management</b>	Good management of the final phase of a product: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usage of biodegradable materials</li> <li>• Usage of recyclable materials or providing recycling options</li> <li>• Providing refurbishment options</li> </ul>

Source: Sustainable Product Evaluation Model (Flinders, 2019)

With the six criteria it is possible to compare design interior design products.

Each criterion has a 5 point scale (Likert scale). 1 stands for none at all, 5 for exceptionally good.

Each criterion has an equal value in the final judgment of the sustainability of the interior product.