

# REPORT 2024

Inspire, Mobilise, Act



INDUSTRIA, TRANSIZIO  
ENERGETIKO ETA  
JASANGARRITASUN SAILA

DEPARTAMENTO DE INDUSTRIA,  
TRANSICIÓN ENERGÉTICA Y  
SOSTENIBILIDAD



# “Leading the transition towards a sustainable and competitive Basque Country”

**Mikel Jauregi Letemendia**

Regional Minister for Industry, Energy Transition and Sustainability  
President of Ihobe  
Basque Government

The Basque Country faces complex and decisive challenges on its path towards a sustainable future. We are aware that the climate and energy transition is inseparable from industrial development, and therefore, we are working with a firm intention: more Industry, better Industry and less emissions.

Industry has been, is and will continue to be the driving force of our region. Not only is it a source of quality employment and competitiveness, but it is also at the heart of our commitment to lead the sustainable reindustrialisation of Europe. We want the Basque Country to be at the forefront in the fight against climate change. To achieve this goal, we are moving forward with clear measures, such as the creation of the Office for Energy Transition and Climate Change or the Citizen Climate Assembly, which will enable us to make progress towards reducing emissions, promoting energy efficiency in industry and strengthening the implementation of renewable energies, while boosting citizen participation.

A modern society that seeks to be sustainable can only achieve this with an industry aligned with the principles of sustainability. For this reason, we are integrating environmental and energy criteria into all sectoral policies. Far from being an obligation, we see it as an opportunity to increase competitiveness, with the conviction that environmental friendliness brings added value to both our economy and our society.

Ihobe plays a key role in this challenge and I hereby invite you to find out more about its main advances and achievements in 2024.



# “A year of transformative action for the future”

**Alexander Boto Bastegieta**

Ihobe, Public Environmental  
Management Company  
Basque Government

2024 was a year that laid the foundations for the future. In 2024, the Basque Country took a decisive step forward by passing the Energy Transition and Climate Change Law. It reinforces our commitment to climate neutrality and a just transition by 2050, and positions us as a driver of change, accelerating mitigation policies, regional adaptation to climate impact and social equity that will ensure that no one is left behind.

2024 also placed the Basque Country at the forefront of Europe with the publication of the new List of Clean Technologies, a key fiscal instrument to boost the energy transition and the circular economy. This list enables companies to deduct 30% of the cost of investment in sustainable technologies, becoming a key tool to accelerate the decarbonisation of our economy.

And we are looking towards 2025 with the same enthusiasm and determination. The Basque Circular Summit, the largest circular economy event in southern Europe, will be back in April. Over three days, Bilbao will be the venue for analysing challenges and opportunities, consolidating alliances and highlighting the role of the Basque Country as a source of inspiration to move towards a more sustainable development model.

This report, which includes these and many other milestones, reflects the fact that Ihobe is convinced that inspiring and mobilising Basque society is the way to build a sustainable future. We will continue working hard to make the energy and climate transition a reality shared by all, determinedly leading the changes that our environment and our times are calling for.

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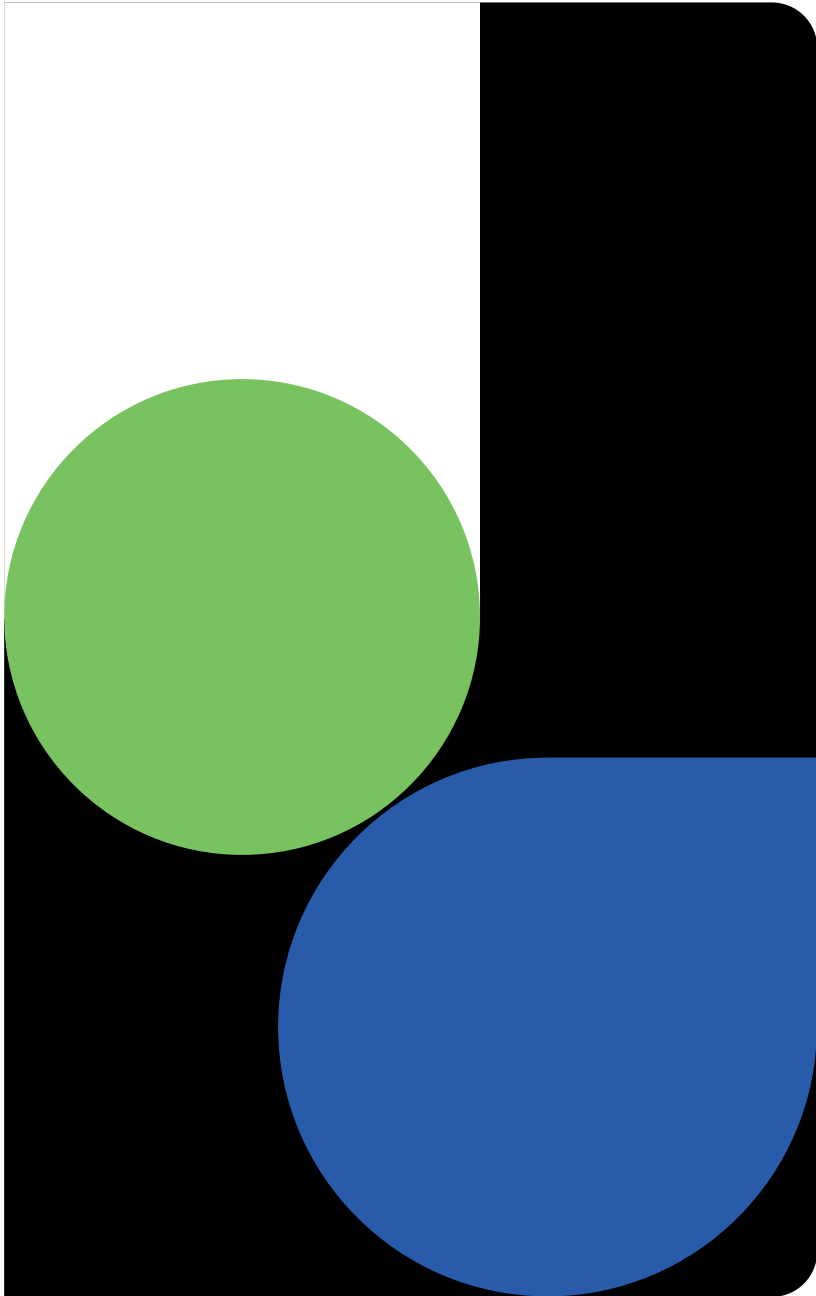
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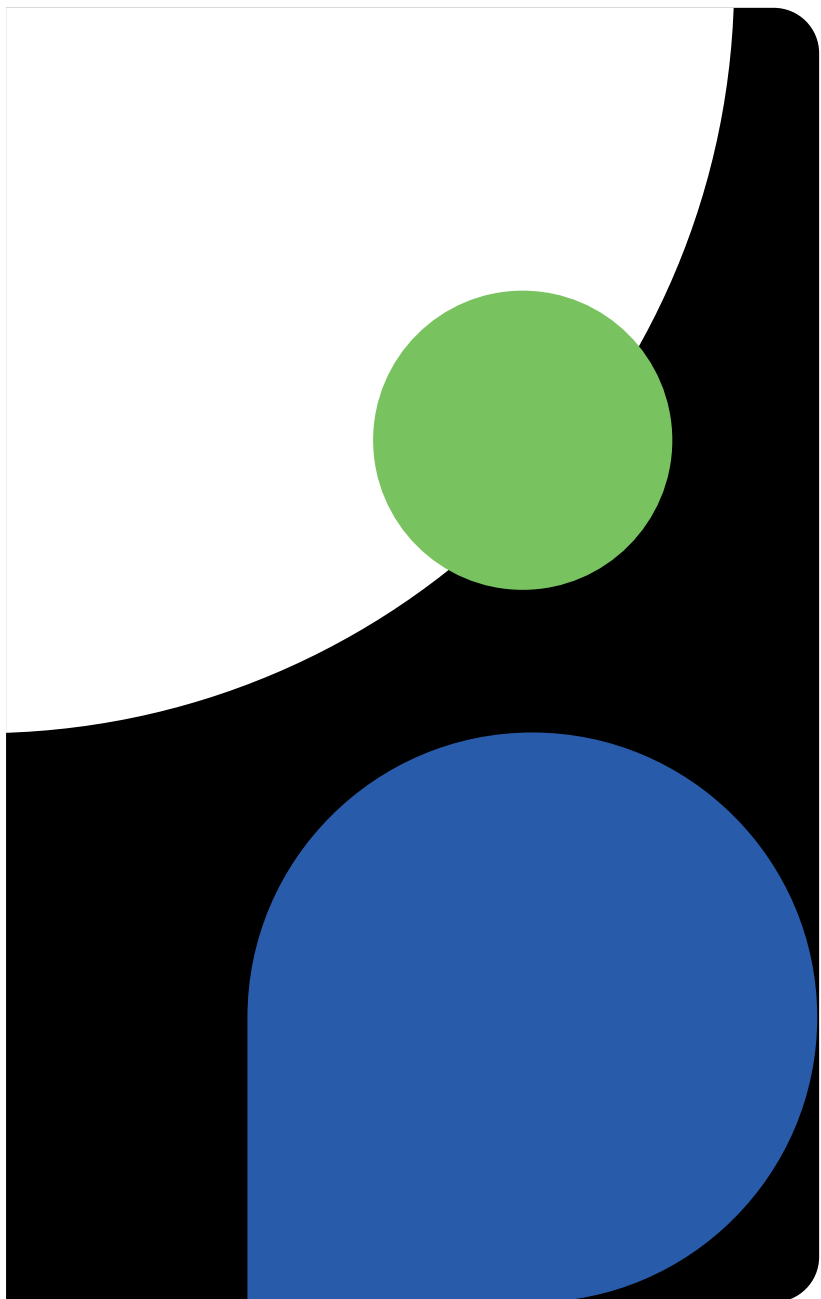
**OUR MISSION** is to protect and improve the environment while addressing the transition towards sustainability in the Basque Country.

As a public entity of the Basque Government, Ihobe's mission is to protect and improve the environment, addressing the main challenges related to the climate transition in the Basque Country and hence improving the resilience and competitiveness of the Basque Country.



## HOW?

- | Generating and disseminating quality technical knowledge.
- | Supporting the design, deployment and evaluation of public policies.
- | Developing action tools to mobilise and support society and its different agents towards an environmentally sustainable transformation.



## OUR CHALLENGES

- A | Strengthen Ihobe's position as a key public agent to lead the climate transition and sustainable economic development in the Basque Country
- B | Contribute to addressing regulatory requirements, accompanying and facilitating the deployment of environmental policy planning in the Basque Country and the mainstreaming of the environment into other sectoral policies
- C | Work with a wide range of stakeholders to drive a just climate transition in the Basque Country
- D | Turn Ihobe into an excellent organisation, ensuring the suitability of the skills of the human team and the organisation itself to offer a quality public service that adds value to the region

# OUR AREAS OF ACTION



**CIRCULAR ECONOMY**



**WASTE**



**CLIMATE ACTION**



**SOIL PROTECTION**



**LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY**



**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**



**ECOINNOVATION**

# 2024 IN FIGURES

**12.609**

**actions with companies**

to mobilise them in relation to the circular economy, climate change, and contaminated soil.

**148.157**

**people**

have been part of the change with the Ekoetxea network

**21%**

of Ihobe's total expenditure on

**innovation**

**3**

**projects**

in the Klimatek programme related to innovation in climate change adaptation

3.078

actions with municipalities  
and public entities

to mobilise them in relation to  
climate change, soil, the circular  
economy, and green procurement

106

environmentally certified

events

with Erronka Garbia

67

municipalities

have drawn up their  
Local Climate and  
Energy Plans

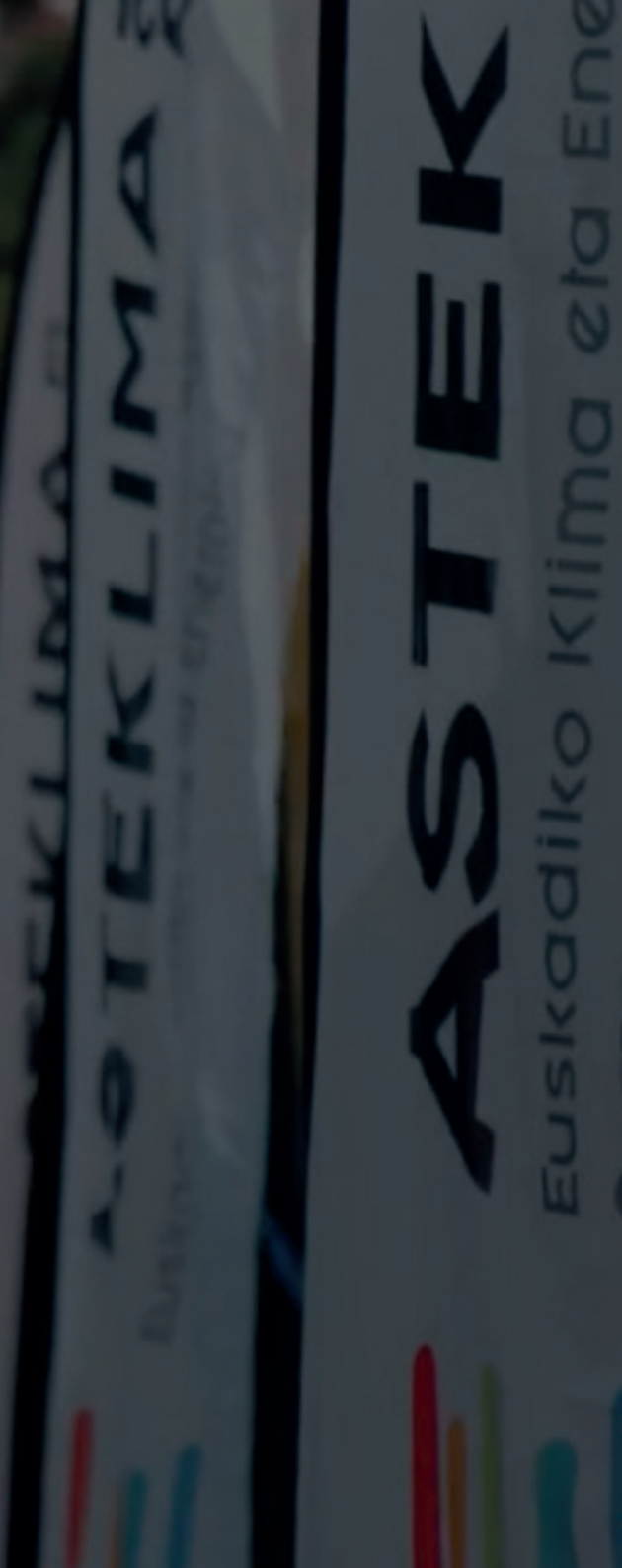
80

waste collection and cleaning

actions

carried out as part of the Let's  
Clean Up Euskadi! initiative.

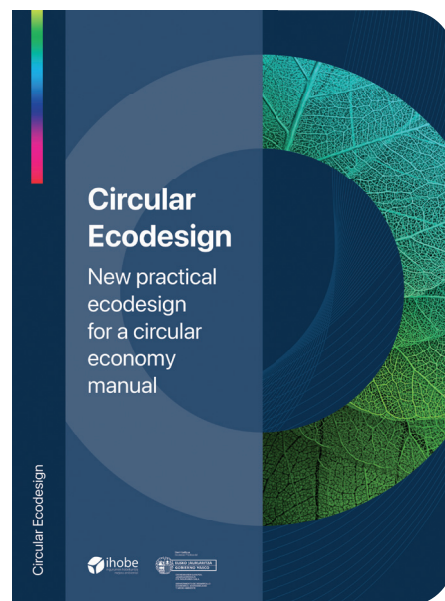
# 2024 IN IMAGES



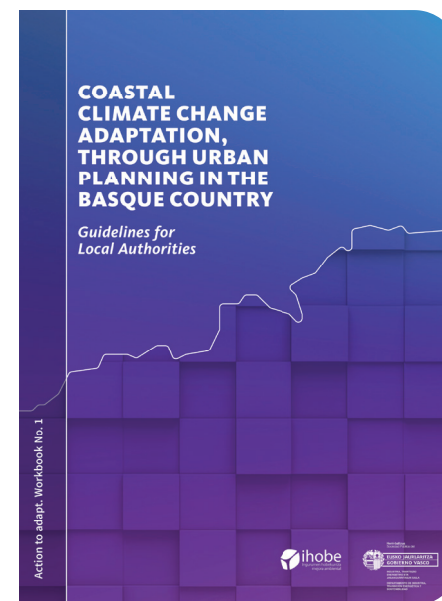
# 2024 IN PUBLICATIONS



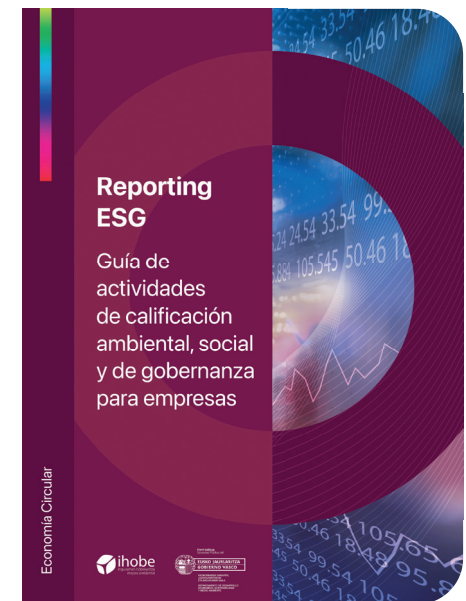
Interventions, including lessons learned, barriers, success factors and practical information to inspire the implementation of NBS.



Guidelines to integrate environmental criteria and a circularity approach into product design.



Guidelines for the adaptation of the Basque coast in order to make further progress in this direction.



A wide range of available environmental, social and governance rating activities are compiled and classified.

# 2024 IN PUBLICATIONS



The company is provided with environmental and tax benefits, enabling it to obtain a tax deduction of 30% of the investment cost.



Provides information on the status, evolution and trends of environmental determinants that impact the health of citizens.



This publication compiles the results of projects completed under the Circular Eco-Innovation Programme between 2017 and 2023.



This guide provides a methodology to follow to set up a business model aligned with the principles of the circular economy through product servitisation.

# EKOETXEA



The Basque Environmental Centre Network, Ekoetxea, managed by the Basque Government through its public company Ihobe, offers unique experiences for all audiences in emblematic places, aimed at raising awareness of the importance of caring for the environment and taking action by acquiring sustainable habits on a daily basis.

Its PURPOSE is to change the way people think and act in a sustainable way.

It is made up of four spaces located in strategic points of the Basque Country: Urdaibai and Meatzaldea, in Bizkaia; and Txingudi and Azpeitia, in Gipuzkoa. Each centre offers activities adapted to its environment, such as exhibitions, workshops, guided tours and educational programmes.

Be part of the change 

+ **140.00**  
face-to-face visits

**278**  
experiences  
offered in the 4  
centers of the  
network

**28.000**  
schoolchildren  
have enjoyed learning  
about sustainability

A rating of  
**9,3**  
out of 10

# UDALSAREA

Udalsarea 2030 is the Basque network of sustainable municipalities. Its goal is to foster local sustainability and encourage coordination between the different levels of the public administration of the Basque Country: Basque Government, public authorities, Provincial Councils, supramunicipal authorities and local councils. The latter play a particularly important role. Furthermore, its remit includes driving the sustainability action plans and policies of the network's local authorities. Those plans and policies are always aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Udalsarea 2030's MISSION is to rally Basque municipalities and supramunicipal districts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. This is to be achieved by transformative local action and the alignment and coherence of supramunicipal and local policies.



[More information](#) 

# ALLIANCES

Ihobe's main distinguishing features are its firm commitment to and ongoing cooperation with other institutions and entities with which it maintains a dynamic of collaborating on environmental policy to achieve environmental improvement through climate action, developing the circular economy and local sustainability in the Basque Country as a whole.



In 2024, a conference to exchange and search for synergies was held with all the alliances. Furthermore, there was a technical meeting between the Elankidetzeta and Ihobe teams to increase the integration of environmental and cooperation policies. Ihobe's participation in the SDG Management Model promoted by Euskalit and Lehendakaritza of the Basque Government is also worth highlighting.

# INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS



The Basque Country is a member of the Executive Committee of ENCORE, a political platform that brings together 122 European governments to contribute to the effective implementation of EU environmental policy, improve governance and act in 3 areas: achieving zero emissions through climate action; maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services; and integrating a circular society to create a fair transition.

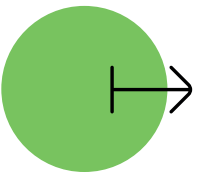


The Basque Country is a member of the Executive Committee of the Under2 Coalition, the world's largest network of states and regions committed to reducing emissions under the Paris Agreement. The network has more than 260 member governments, which account for 50% of the global economy and are working on climate action, policy innovation and transparency.



In 2024, the Basque Country handed over the Presidency of the Regions4 global network of regional governments for sustainable development to Scotland, leaving a legacy of a community of 77 regions representing more than 300 million people, working on climate change adaptation and biodiversity protection, with the 2030 Agenda as a roadmap to guarantee a sustainable and resilient future.

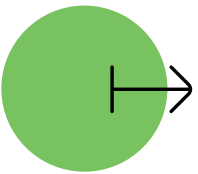
## INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS



# 9

### good practices published

on international platforms and networks (Gender and Climate Change, LIFE IP Urban Klima 2050 project, Regions4Climate project, Soil Protection, Costs of Climate Inaction, Nature-based Solutions and Sustainable Building).



# 6

### international environmental events

with the participation of heads of the Department

- EIB Adaptation Days in Luxembourg 24th and 25th April
- Regions4 General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro 26th-28th June
- Under2 Coalition Ministerial Meeting in Brussels 18th June
- UN Summit of the Future in New York 21st September
- United Nations Action Days in New York 22nd September
- Climate Education for Sustainable Cities, UNESCO event in New York 27th September



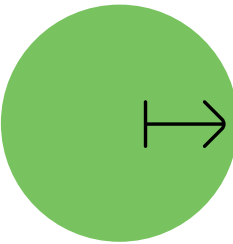
# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION

At Ihobe we believe that quality environmental communication is key for society to move forward on the path to sustainability.

↳ **environmental  
communication  
school**

↳ **Environmental  
Journalism  
award**

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION



# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION SCHOOL

Ihobe has a collaboration agreement with the Association of Environmental Journalists - APIA, from which the Environmental Communication School originated, among other initiatives, as part of the Summer Courses organised by the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), in response to two major concerns: communication and the environment.

The sixth edition of the School, held on 12th September 2024, evolved into a **new format of in-depth conversations** with those who are contributing, from different perspectives, to **advancing the energy and climate transition**, and changing the narrative to **increase and improve the communication of environmental issues**.

The objectives were to inspire citizens to take action; address the climate crisis and other environmental challenges; and take advantage of new formats, media and channels for environmental communication.



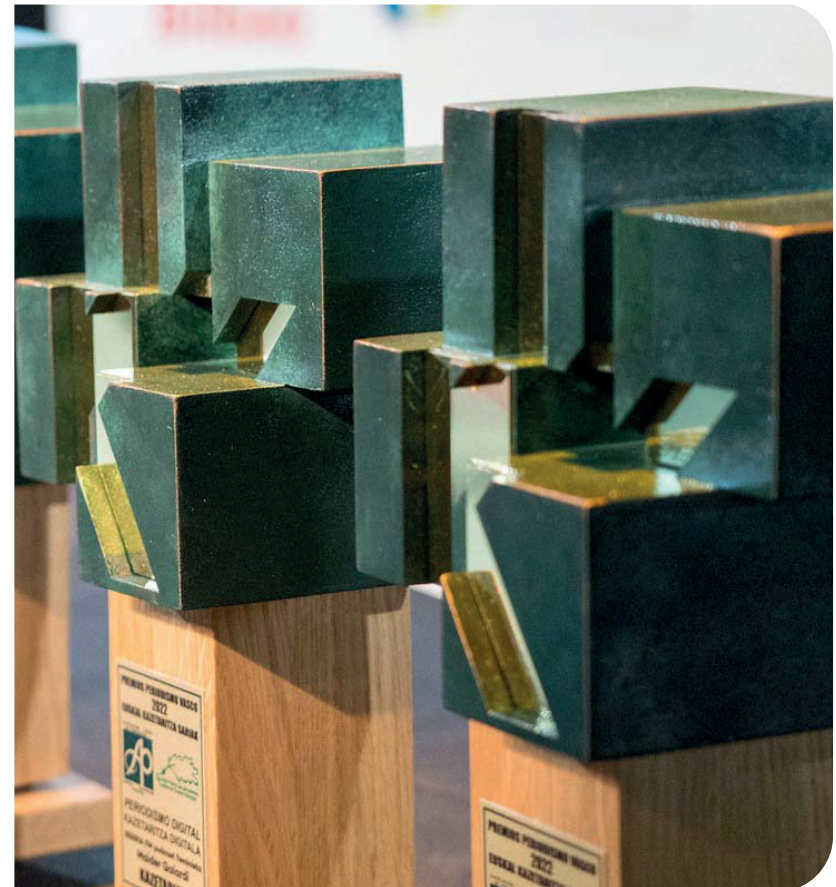
## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION



# ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM AWARD

The **Basque Environmental Journalism Award** has been awarded since 2019 thanks to Ihobe's support and as a result of the joint work with the Association and the Basque School of Journalists (CVP-AVP). The aim of this award is to recognise the work of information professionals in publicising sustainable development, disseminating the effects of climate change, and promoting the preservation of the natural environment, among other issues.

In 2024, the award went to **Jokin Aldazabal**.



# PEOPLE AT IHOBE

We are an organisation committed to transparency, good governance and equality between women and men.

**53**

**people**

41 women / 12 men

Average  
age of

**51**

**91%**

with

**permanent contracts**

**85%**

with

**higher qualifications**

Level of

**7,44**

**satisfaction of**

with Ihobe's work

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## **PRESIDENT**

**MIKEL JAUREGI LETEMENDIA**  
Regional Minister for Industry,  
Energy Transition and Sustainability



## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

**JOSU BILBAO BEGOÑA**  
Deputy Minister for the Environ-  
ment and Sustainability



## **MEMBER**

**JAVIER AGUIRRE ORCAJO**  
Director of Environmental Quality  
and Circular Economy



## **MEMBER**

**ALBERTO JOSÉ FERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ**  
Director of Technology and Innovation



## **MEMBER**

**IÑAKI ALONSO ARCE**  
Deputy Minister for Finance



## **MEMBER**

**OLGA MARTÍN GARCÍA**  
General Manager of Aclima



## **NON-DIRECTOR SECRETARY**

**JOSÉ ANTONIO ARMOLEA SOLABARRIETA**  
Legal Director at Ihobe



## **GENERAL MANAGEMENT**

**ALEXANDER BOTO BASTEGIETA**  
General Manager of Ihobe

# IHOBE ORGANISATION CHART



**Alexander Boto Bastegieta**  
Directorate-General

**Jaione Lanborena Elorduy**  
Corporate Management

**María García Flecha**  
Strategy and Innovation

**Jose Antonio Armolea Solabarrieta**  
Legal Counsel

**José María Fernández Alcalá**  
Circular Economy

**Mari Mar Alonso Martín**  
Climate Action

**Xabier González Vegas**  
Environmental Sustainability

# TRANSPARENCY

**13,7**  
million €  
Operating  
budget in 2024

**100%**  
Budgetary  
**execution**  
in 2024

**0%**  
Financial  
**indebtedness**  
in 2024

**12**  
days  
Average payment term  
of invoices to suppliers  
in 2024

# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

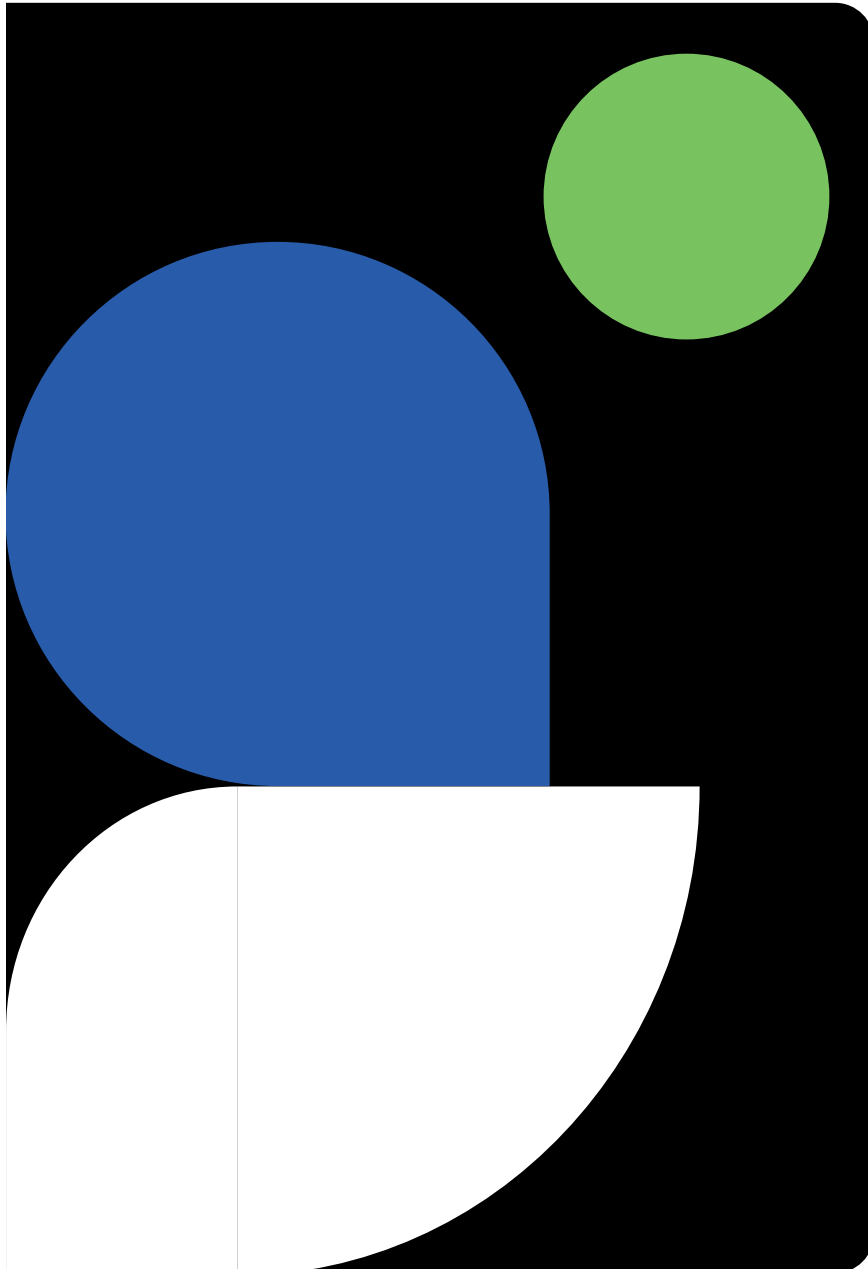
"lhobe watches over the development of the entities that make up the social environment in which it operates, analysing the impact it has on it and taking an active part in those activities in which it can carry out social work, in line with its capacities and values, reinforcing its strategy and, at the same time, without ceasing to promote measures that contribute to environmental sustainability".

All of this is based on participation, creating a breeding ground for proposing and carrying out cooperation, integration and education activities.

At lhobe we defined and established the **company as a stakeholder**, with three specific scopes:

- A | Responsibility towards the **world's poorest regions** as a way of supporting their development as part of a cooperation scheme.
- B | Responsibility towards **Basque youth**, fostering employment opportunities and the improvement of human capabilities, regarding the main environmental challenges facing our country.
- C | Responsibility for the **environment and sustainability**, rethinking and improving how we carry out our activity, from a local standpoint with a global approach, and with a social and environmental commitment to carrying out our activity as a model to others.

All of this **taking into account the needs of our environment, our capabilities and our values**, as part of our policy and strategy. And **the participation of lhobe's people**, encouraging personal commitments aligned with our approach.



# SCOPE 1 COOPERATION

- A | **Meeting with Elankidetza** for the deployment and integration of environmental and cooperation criteria in the activities of both entities, within the framework of the Agreement and the need for the integration of public policies.
- B | **0.1%** of the budget assigned to the "**Cooperation Fund**" and contribution to a pilot project, through Elankidetza, to deploy the actions resulting from the 2023 diagnosis to define an environmental project in the region of Malicounda (Senegal).
- C | **Contribution to the Basque Government's 0.7 Fund** by Ihobe workers

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



# SCOPE 2

## RECRUITMENT, INTEGRATION

- A | Participation in the **Lanbide programme** to recruit up to 20 professionals, for up to one year, in order to provide first work experiences and promote knowledge and awareness of the environment.
- B | An average of three **Dual people** at Ihobe in different areas of the company's activity.
- C | **Volunteering** to teach environmental subjects on various **Masters and postgraduate courses**.



# SCOPE 3

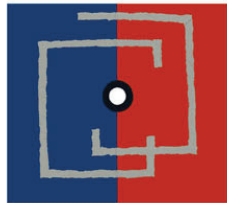
## RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- A | Environment: Obtaining the **EMAS** certificate
- B | 100% increase in the turnover of workplace inclusion companies and special employment centres, having recruited from up to 8 insertion companies and special employment centres, accounting for 33% of turnover of this kind of contracts.
- C | Collaboration in actions with a social perspective along with the other public companies in the Plaza Bizkaia building, specifically related to gender violence, transphobia, mental health, Basque language and equality. Ihobe has launched a campaign to raise awareness and collect mobile phones and tablets in collaboration with the Alboan NGO project.
- D | Maintenance of 100% of Ihobe's zero emission vehicle fleet.

# EQUALITY

We have been recognised as a **"Collaborating Entity for Equality between Women and Men"** by **Emakunde**, a network made up of entities that have the distinction of being Collaborating Entities for Equality between Women and Men, and voluntarily commit to promoting equality between women and men.

emakumeen eta gizonen  
berdintasunerako  
lankidetzak erakundeak



entidad colaboradora  
para la igualdad de  
mujeres y hombres

Ihobe's 4th Plan for the equality of women and men has 4 axes of action, which includes one associated with our activity: Axis III. Gender-sensitive environmental and climate change management. In 2024, we **incorporated the gender perspective in the management of some projects, programmes and services**. We also drew up the first gender budget.

We launched a **pilot project to introduce climate change and the gender perspective at a local level**, taking into account the challenges arising from 'Climate change in the Basque Country from a gender perspective', along with 18 local entities in the Basque Country.

We also carried out a study into the **"Calculation and analysis of the gender pay gap in the workforce"** with the help of the EDE Fundazioa consultancy firm.

For the effective governance of the Equality Policy, we set up an **Equality Group in Ihobe** targeting all tasks related to the promotion of equality.



# BASQUE LANGUAGE

At Ihobe, we assume our commitment to the promotion and use of the Basque language through the Declaration of the International Day of the Basque Language in 2024.

Furthermore, in 2024, we contracted a consultancy service for the standardisation of the use of the Basque language at Ihobe. As a first step towards drawing up the Basque Language Strategic Plan, we carried out a diagnosis of the situation in terms of its management and use.





ABENDUAK 3  
**bat, bi... ehun!**  
Euskararen geroa ehunduz  
EUSKARAREN NAZIOARTEKO EGUNA 2024

### DÍA INTERNACIONAL DEL EUSKERA DE 2024. DECLARACIÓN

Un hilo, y un hilo, y uno, y otro... dos, otro más... lo importante es la suma, ese tejido individual y, a la vez, colectivo, que conforman todos los hilos trenzados entre sí. Lo realmente importante es la creación colectiva a partir de unos simples hilos. El arte textil. El movimiento de los telares. Anudando hilos en las intersecciones. Cortes y uniones entre hilos finos o gruesos. Rojos, azules o blancos... Mirándose unos a otros. Nudos convertidos en puntos de encuentro. Cada cual con su personalidad. Hilos gruesos compartiendo espacio con hillitos. Hilos viejos junto a otros más jóvenes. La nada, en solitario: el todo, en conjunto. ¡El lienzo! ¡El lienzo tejido por toda una comunidad!

Entre todos formamos un taller de artesanos que, trabajando a veces con hilos cortos y a veces con hilos más largos, pespuntamos, remendamos y rematamos nuestras respectivas soledades. Abriendo y cerrando. Zurciendo, hilvanando y descosiendo. Somos el movimiento que estira la mano para relajarla después. El telar del euskera. El telar del futuro de lo que ya somos.

Viejo es el telar del euskera. Quienes amamos nuestra lengua, quienes se han dedicado a tejer hilos y más hilos a lo largo de su vida son tantos ahora como lo eran antes. Algunos sabiendo euskera; otros desconociéndolo. La defensa del euskera engloba a diferentes lenguas, a diferentes tipos de habitantes, y todas y todos formamos el mismo tejido. El tejido de quienes estamos en marcha.

Las iniciativas a favor del euskera se han mantenido sin interrupción a lo largo de los años gracias al esfuerzo tenaz de quienes han sido compañeros de viaje. Todos ellos y ellas han sido eslabones de la cadena que constituye el futuro del euskera. La suya ha sido una labor imprescindible, porque el euskera siempre ha necesitado de su presencia. Han sido unos acompañantes incansables. Un verdadero colectivo. Euskaltzais que han estado siempre allí donde había que arrimar el hombro, desde las agrupaciones. Colectivos que, a fuerza de perseverancia, han hecho realidad un sueño, como en un juego, y, en definitiva, se han convertido por méritos propios en los grandes protagonistas de este telar que es el euskera.

Un hilo, y un hilo... y otro... dos y dos, y otro. Pero dos o uno, y uno. A lo mejor, otro. O, tal vez, uno y medio. Sin embargo, en el lienzo tejido por este colectivo que trabajó por el euskera la acción se va detallando. Como hacemos con los hilos, estiramos y aflojamos. Y en un mundo tan global el empuje colectivo parece que pierde fuerza. Lo imposible. Como si los hilos formasen de pronto un enorme nudo que empujara el tejido. Que cuesta soltar con las manos. Miedo a abandonar el conjunto. Hay un vacío en el tejido. Un pequeño agujero en el dibujo. En un momento en el que la responsabilidad colectiva se aleja, también parece alejarse el activismo, y aparece un agujero en el tejido que no podemos llenar. Ante nuestros ojos se perfila ese no-lugar donde la mano no llega a actuar.

Si el tejido del euskera es delicado. Y para mantenerlo cuidado, cruzamos hilos o agrandamos y aflojamos nudos. Color a color. Remendamos la tela. Fila a fila. Entretejiendo. Entrelazando. Convirtiendo el desgarro en algo hermoso, tanto visto de cerca como de lejos. Porque también somos un agujero, un hilo discontinuo y, a la vez, una amalgama. En el telar del euskera, la continuidad pasa por seguir trabajando. La revitalización pasa por seguir trabajando. Movimiento social. Sector público, asociaciones, trabajadores y familiares. Somos acción a favor del euskera. Para el euskera y lo que queremos ser gracias a él. Somos el telar del euskera. Los telares irremovibles de nuestro futuro.

En este día del euskera, es de justicia reconocer la enorme labor realizada por personas e instituciones que han dedicado sus esfuerzos a tejer el lienzo de nuestra lengua. La revitalización del euskera es un proceso imparitable y nuestra responsabilidad, siempre desde el reconocimiento del trabajo llevado a cabo por los demás, pasa por crear las condiciones que permitan responder adecuadamente a los nuevos retos del euskera.

El ejercicio de tejer el euskera es responsabilidad de todas las personas. Instituciones públicas y agentes sociales. La acción es imprescindible. El euskera necesita movimiento para mantener su esencia y vitalidad; para que su luz nos haga brillar desde la diversidad.

El euskera es de todas y de todos. De quienes estamos aquí y de quienes están por llegar. Avancemos decididamente por el camino del euskera.

LEIHOA ALBARRITIN GOBIERNO VASCO EUDAL ERABIAZ BILBAO @ihoba GIBUZKOA

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JASANGARRITASUN SAILA

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TRANSICIÓN ENERGÉTICA Y  
SOSTENIBILIDAD