2019 Global Compact Network Netherlands SDG Pioneer — Dylan McNeill

Dylan is the Global Director for Supplier Sustainability at Royal Philips. In his role, Dylan oversees various programmes, including Philips’ sustainability engagement programme with direct suppliers — the company’s initiatives on circular procurement — and various projects relating to responsible sourcing of minerals.

Dylan is also a Board Member of the European Partnership on Responsible Minerals, a multi-stakeholder partnership established with the goal to create better social and economic conditions for mine workers and local mining communities.

Dylan leads a sustainability engagement programme and ensures suppliers adhere to the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. The programme focuses on transparency on performance, clear commitments to meet the agreed targets, and ensuring the guiding Principles become part of their management systems.

Through his role at Philips, he has been advocating three of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production Goal 13 on Climate Action.

In 2016, Dylan implemented a programme focused on continuous sustainability improvement. In 2018 alone, working conditions of more than 240,000 workers at suppliers were improved. Through his work, Philips is able to pin-point with high precision the biggest improvement opportunities in suppliers’ sustainability performance. This resulted in tailor-made improvement plans, enabling suppliers to work on their performance through our best-practice sharing.

Dylan helped direct suppliers reduce their negative impacts on the environment. For example, the programme helped improved hazardous waste handling, wastewater and air-treatment facilities, and fire-prevention initiatives. The environmental performance of suppliers in the program showed a year-on-year improvement of 17 per cent. In addition, a significant change was realized in the labour conditions of workers. The programme improved the workers’ benefit schemes: it ensured that adherence to human rights was strongly embedded.

Dylan also partnered with Technical University Eindhoven on a data-science project that enables predictions on sustainability performance over time, where greatly increased the effectiveness of the programme. This enabled the programme’s change experts to experiment new methods that drive sustainable change at suppliers. In 2018, the average year-on-year improvement in sustainability performance of suppliers in this programme was up 25 per cent.

In 2019, Dylan became the youngest Board Member of the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals — a partnership between Governments, civil society and industry that was established with the goal to create better social and economic conditions for mine workers and local mining communities by increasing the number of mines that adopt responsible mining practices in conflict and high risk areas. Internally, he is part of a sounding board for the human rights practitioners that focus on Philips’ own operations, ensuring the topic gets more attention from senior management as well as fellow colleagues. Through one-on-one conversations with cross-industry peers, he has made the supplier engagement methodology available to other companies that want to make a sustainable impact in their supply chain.