Fossil to Clean: Alignment Checklist

The Fossil to Clean campaign is a global initiative launched by ResponsibleSteel member and funder We Mean Business Coalition, uniting businesses committed to transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy solutions. By taking decisive action to phase out fossil fuels, participating companies send a strong market signal that encourages energy providers, investors, and governments to expand the availability of cleaner alternatives.

The Fossil to Clean campaign calls on companies to:

- Phase out fossil fuel use (especially coal)
- Electrify operations where possible
- Switch to 100% renewable electricity
- Eliminate new fossil fuel infrastructure
- Align climate action with a 1.5°C pathway
- Use purchasing power and policy advocacy to accelerate the transition

This checklist maps the requirements of the ResponsibleSteel International Production Standard against the Fossil to Clean campaign. It provides steelmakers with a practical tool to demonstrate alignment with the campaign.

'Fossil to Clean' focus area	Relevant ResponsibleSteel Principle 10 requirements (V2.1.1 of the Production Standard)	Checklist questions to assess a steelmaker's alignment with 'Fossil to Clean'
Paris-aligned climate targets, aiming for a 1.5°C pathway	Define a science-based GHG reduction pathway and set of emission reduction targets for both the corporate (10.1.2) and site (10.5.1).	☐ Are both near- and long-term targets defined? ☐ Are scope 1 & 2 targets aligned with a 1.5°C or well below 2°C pathway? ☐ Are relevant scope 3 emissions addressed?

		☐ Have the targets been verified by SBTi, or equivalent?
Credible decarbonisation strategy	Develop a credible, documented strategy to achieve the declared emissions reduction targets for both the corporate (10.1.3) and site (10.5.3).	☐ Are actions clearly defined, and explicitly connected to enabling conditions? ☐ Are assets, energy and material dependencies clearly mapped out against the timeline to net zero? ☐ Are EAF, DRI-H_2 or other near-zero emissions compatible technologies to be developed and deployed? ☐ Is electricity consumption fully mapped and disclosed? ☐ Are PPAs or on-site renewables, or pathways to renewable electricity grid improvements prioritised? ☐ Are CAPEX and OPEX aligned with decarbonisation objectives?
Energy-related indirect emissions	Quantification of scope 2 emissions related to imported energy, including electricity, heat, and steam (10.4.4). For location-based electricity emissions, the emission factor must characterise the pertinent grid utilised (i.e. dedicated transmission line, local, regional or national grid-average). For market-based electricity emissions, e.g. based on the use of renewable energy certificates, power purchase agreements, virtual power purchase agreements, or green tariffs, the requirements of ISO 14064-1:2018 must be met.	☐ Are all scope 2 emissions accounted for at the production site/portfolio of sites, covering both location-based and market-based emissions? ☐ Are scope 2 emissions associated with imported electricity reducing in-line with targets, due to increased energy efficiency and/or increased utilisation of low emissions energy sources?

	Medium-term targets are in place to reduce the net GHG emissions associated with the site's use of imported electricity, where significant (10.5.2).	
Value-chain emissions	Quantification of upstream scope 3 emissions, primarily derived from the procurement of materials and fuels (10.4.5). *Also related to Principle 3: Responsible Sourcing.*	☐ Are relevant and material scope 3 emissions accounted for at the production site/portfolio of sites, including methane and nitrous oxide? ☐ Are suppliers assessed for climate performance?
Bio-based inputs & biogenic emissions	Quantification of both direct fossil-based and biogenic-based emissions in scope 1 (10.4.3). Quantification of upstream emissions related to the production of bio-based inputs and any CO2 sequestration, based on ISO 14067 / PAS2050 (10.4.5.c). Where these are net-negative, a negative upstream scope 3 emissions factor is applied; otherwise, the default value of zero is used (10.4.5.b). The emissions determination using primary data must include explicit accounting for the GHG emissions associated with land use change and forest/agricultural management for at least 20 years prior to harvest, as well as the GHG emissions associated with harvesting and further processing and transportation of the input material.	☐ Is the net impact of the utilisation of bio-based inputs considered, including harvesting and processing-related emissions, and direct biogenic emissions? ☐ Are the bio-based materials and/or fuels utilised in steel production derived from sustainable forest/agricultural sources?
Governance & accountability	Regular review of the strategy's implementation success and consequent update of the strategy, if deemed necessary (10.1.4).	☐ Is the decarbonisation strategy a living document (i.e. regularly reviewed and updated)?

	Board-level oversight of the assessment of climate-related risks and opportunities (10.2.1).	☐ Is climate action overseen by the Board? ☐ Are roles and responsibilities to implement the climate action plan clearly defined?
Transparency & disclosure	Public reporting of site-level GHG emissions and near-term reduction targets (10.7), as well as progress towards achieving these targets, on a regular basis (10.5.5).	☐ Are site-level scope 1–3 emissions publicly disclosed? ☐ Are the applicable emissions accounting methodologies transparent? ☐ Is progress against achieving site-level near-term emission reduction targets reported?

Note that all boxes must be ticked to achieve ResponsibleSteel Core Site Certification, excluding the specific requirements within criterion 10.4 related to energy-related indirect emissions, value chain emissions, and bio-based inputs which are currently only required for Certified Steel. Learn more about ResponsibleSteel certification.

In the current review of Principle 10 the Production Standard, strong support has been received for mandatory use of the ResponsibleSteel methodology for crude steel emissions intensity determination. The proposal is to harmonise the site-level emissions accounting approaches across criteria 10.3 (applicable to Core Site Certification) and 10.4 (applicable to Steel Certification) to effectively improve the comprehensiveness, transparency and comparability of declared steelmaking emissions intensities. This will be brought to public consultation later this year as part of the wider revision of the Production Standard.