



Economic, environmental and social impacts

The table below shows the potential impacts of the individual key topics on the economy, the environment and society, as well as the measures that RAG Austria AG has introduced in order to enhance the positive effects and prevent or moderate any




negative effects. Our aim is to build on previous achievements and existing systems, and continuously examine the impacts over the next two years, in order to adapt or improve the measures we have implemented, where necessary.



Key topic		Economic impacts (+/-)	Environmental impacts (+/-)	Social impacts (+/-)	Measures
<p>Secure and resilient facilities</p>  <p>This means prioritising the elimination of all risks, hazards and damage at all of the facilities that RAG operates</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Economic benefits + Reliable energy supplies + Planning certainty/risk minimisation for customers - Substantial investment and technology spending for RAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Lower or zero emissions + Avoiding duplicated structures in infrastructure planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Secure, reliable energy supplies + Seasonal energy storage + Significantly fewer accidents + Increased safety for employees + Protection against attacks by third parties, incl. cyberattacks 	<p>Ensuring high technical safety levels at facilities through measures and management of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, safety and the environment (HSE) • Integrity of facilities, pipelines and casings (integrity management) • Safeguarding information systems (ISMS) • Site security • Regular risk analysis
<p>Security of supply</p>  <p>This means ensuring reliable, uninterrupted, affordable and secure supplies of gas for power and heat generation, industry and transport</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Economic benefits – domestic value-added + Reliable energy supplies for Austria and Central Europe + Safeguarding Austria's standing as a business location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Low land use relative to energy output - Storage operations generate technically conditioned greenhouse gas emissions, consume resources, and influence landscapes and habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Reliable and affordable energy supplies for Austria and Central Europe for power and heat generation, as well as for industry and transport 	<p>Ensuring high technical safety levels at facilities through measures and management of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, safety and the environment (HSE) • Integrity of facilities, pipelines and casings (integrity management) • Safeguarding information systems (ISMS) • Site security • Regular risk analysis



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<p>Strategic focus on sustainability</p>  <p>This means that sustainability is firmly embedded in our strategy. The cornerstone of this approach is the sustainable use of former production sites. Existing production infrastructure, pore reservoirs, above-ground facilities and pipeline systems will be put to efficient use, expanded and operated in a climate-neutral manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Economic growth through innovation + Economic benefits + Safeguard the company's long-term performance by diversifying future business operations - Significant technology expenditure and investment required in order to achieve climate and energy targets - Risk associated with R&D projects 	<p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in future by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Integrating conventional energy storage and carbon-neutral energy forms (sector coupling) + Developing and establishing storage options for renewables (hydrogen storage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Supporting social/political calls for renewable energy supplies + Affordable energy supplies for future generations through reuse of infrastructure + Year-round availability of renewable energy + Job creation + Safeguarding domestic expertise in decarbonisation technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability-related targets anchored in the company's strategy • Developing innovative technologies • R&D collaboration with business partners, University of Leoben and University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna • Generating renewable electricity for own use • Regular risk analysis • Sustainability-related criteria for procurement
<p>Climate protection</p>  <p>Protecting the climate is the core focus of a sustainable energy system. RAG aims to support decarbonisation by developing and implementing projects related to environmentally friendly energy storage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Develop innovative solutions for the storage of renewable energies through research and development ± Evolution of CO₂ prices - Significant technology expenditure and investment required in order to achieve climate and energy targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Efficient use of energy at RAG sites + Short transportation routes - Operation of facilities generates greenhouse gas emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Secure and clean energy supplies + Supporting achievement of European and Austrian climate targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets defined for gradual reduction of emissions (25/30/40) • Conversion of well sites into solar energy plants for carbon-neutral energy supplies (photovoltaic) • Energy and emissions management • Continuous reduction in energy use • Use of natural gas-powered company vehicles (CNG) • Filling station infrastructure (CNG, LNG) • Storage of waste heat

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<p>Workplace health and safety</p>  <p>This means taking proactive steps to protect our employees' health and safety in a constantly changing working environment and aiming for zero accidents in all of our operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Preventive measures reduce number of sick leave days - Outages due to work-related accidents - Risk of physical and mental health problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Raising awareness influences personal environmental behaviours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Healthy employees + Positive image as a good employer - Injured employees - Risk of physical and mental health problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE management system • Regular risk analysis • Regular training for employees and contractors • Crisis and emergency management (HSE) • Flexible working time models and establishing remote working • Workplace health promotion • Employee assistance programme (EAP) • Employee reintegration
<p>Transparency and compliance</p>  <p>This means that RAG operates in a socially responsible manner, in conformity with the relevant legislation, and that its decisions are transparent for the company's suppliers and customers, as well as clearly communicated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ± Fair or distorted market conditions - Influence by politicians - Breaches of compliance regulations by employees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Environmental protection + Enhanced information/transparency regarding supply chains + Sustainability as a quality criterion for goods and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Role model in corporate governance ± Public reputation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate philosophy and code of conduct • Compliance management • Risk management • Internal control systems • Regular training for employees • Compliance with environmental protection regulations • Implementation of GDPR provisions
<p>Sustainable energy solutions</p>  <p>This means performing R&D on sustainable, innovative technologies for seasonal, high-capacity energy storage and the supply of gaseous energy forms, as well as reuse of depleted reservoirs for energy storage and the production of renewable gas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Economic growth through innovation + Safeguarding competitiveness + Competitive advantage thanks to technological expertise + Economic benefits + Options for shaping the energy market - Risk of delays and setbacks in R&D projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Reuse of depleted reservoirs + Significant contribution to climate protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Protecting and creating jobs + Use of existing gas infrastructure for future generations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing groundbreaking technologies • Systematic management of innovative energy solutions: Green Gas Technologies and Renewable Energy, and Technical Planning departments • Technology expert and partner for politicians and businesses: storage, geothermal, etc. • Partnerships with companies and universities • International partnerships • Construction of the Geothermal plant Garching an der Alz

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<p>Environmental protection</p>  <p>We are committed to using resources responsibly, using environmentally sound processes, minimising environmental risks and local impacts, and remediating former production sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Cost savings due to more efficient, eco-friendly processes - Costs arising from stricter environmental regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Site restoration - Impacts on landscapes and habitats - Consumption of natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Supporting social/political calls for renewable energy supplies combined with environmental protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE management system • “Greenfield to greenfield” approach to restoration • Environmental protection policy – facilities embedded in surrounding landscape • Sustainable use of resources • Providing information by communicating directly with local authorities and local residents • Regular risk analysis
<p>Responsible employer</p>  <p>This means that RAG treats its employees with respect, offers them flexible and safe working conditions, and creates an environment that supports them in making the best use of and developing their abilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Creating and protecting jobs + Economic benefits + Retaining expertise within the company - Higher expenses for employee benefits and staff retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Support for measures aimed at raising awareness of eco-friendly behaviours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Attractive working environment + Flexible working arrangements result in improved work-life balance + Training and development for students and interns + Good labour market prospects for staff in technical occupations + Creating jobs in the local technology/science sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced training for employees • Employee appraisals • Charta der Vielfalt (“Diversity Charter”) • Management principles • New work culture: flexible arrangements for remote working • Technical equipment for remote working • Office infrastructure for a flexible working environment within the new work culture • Business trips (rail travel, or trips replaced by video conferencing) • CNG transport initiative • Steps to protect employees during the Covid-19 pandemic
<p>Stakeholder engagement</p>  <p>This means that RAG has a responsibility to communicate openly with stakeholder groups, provide them with comprehensive information, treat them with respect, and take their interests into account as far as possible – we believe that open, proactive communications are essential for our operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Project implementation + Transfer of knowledge on topics related to climate and environmental protection - Delays in or obstacles to projects 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Image as a good neighbour - Negative image of oil and gas companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications guidelines for projects • Open and transparent communications • Online surveys on key issues • Sustainability report • Information on website and social media • Face-to-face discussions with local residents and local authority representatives • For more information see “Forms of dialogue with stakeholders” – see page 35

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Sustainable procurement  <p>This means that our procurement policy is transparent and understandable to suppliers, and that sustainability forms part of contract award procedures.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Domestic value-added + Transparent procurement policies lead to fair competition - Higher costs due to regional sources of supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Lower emissions due to reduction in transportation + Reduced impact thanks to full-life-cycle approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Compliance with CSR principles leads to increased awareness and stronger image among employees and suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with CSR criteria • Integration of environmental and social criteria into procurement processes
Local links  <p>This means that we talk openly and honestly with local authorities, residents, landowners and public agencies, and act as a reliable partner to host regions. RAG sees itself as part of the communities that host its facilities.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Support for regional economy - Image affected by negative publicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Short transportation routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Image as a good neighbour in local communities + Employees as local residents: ambassadors in the community - Public opposition to projects + Stemming flow of people away from rural areas by creating local, high-tech jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications guidelines for projects • Open and transparent communications with local communities: contact persons for projects introduce themselves to the community in person • Support for social and charitable projects



Integrating sustainability into risk assessments

Risks related to plant safety, the environment, workplace safety and compliance are already taken into account in RAG's company-wide risk management systems (see the chapters "Responsible management", "Safe plant and work processes" and "Climate and environmental protection" for further details). By the time our next sustainability report is published, we aim to have identified any additional risks as well as opportunities associated with sustainability that have not yet been taken into account.