CLIMB GREEN MANIFESTO

WHAT IT MEANS | WHAT'S IT GOOD FOR | WHY WE STICK TO IT

CLIMB GREEN IN A NUTSHELL

If you had one sentence to describe what the Climb Green label stands for?

"A dynamic, internally defined label for a product that meets the highest current standards of responsible design and manufacturing for its respective product group in the market."

That does not sound very specific, right? True! But this statement tries to summarize a very complex subject matter which we will explain in more detail in the following. Yet, the most important takeaway message is that the Climb Green label offers you the possibility to easily identify the most responsible product within a respective product group of climbing equipment in the market.

Are you still with me? Cool! So, let's look at the above statement blow by blow…

BUT BEFORE WE START – LET'S GET THE SAME UNDERSTANDING OF "RESPONSIBLE"

Did you already recognize that we used the word "responsible" instead of "sustainable" here? This has several reasons. Facing the threats of incessant climate change raised a consciousness for a functioning environment in the society. The good aspect is that consumers want to reduce their carbon footprint and are calling for corresponding, so-called "sustainable" products. Driven by this, companies put many efforts in the development of innovative products meeting these demands, thus trying to steer the desolate state of our planet in a reasonably good direction. However, the bad aspect is that the term "sustainability" is often misused through exuberant, out-of-context or even false portrayals of practically ineffective initiatives – a habit that is commonly known as green-washing. The literal meaning of the word "sustainable" is to keep something at a certain level, meaning that the needs of current generations should be guaranteed without compromising the needs of future generations, while ensuring a balance between economic growth, environmental care and social well-being. This must mean unequivocally that a matter so designated does no ecological harm, respectively creates more good than bad for that environment. We all must admit that this is obviously pretty much never the case today. In a world where we cannot overturn everything overnight due to political and social circumstances, the least that we can do to move into this direction is by following a long-term vision through incremental improvements. Anything else would be irresponsible. This is exactly what feels like a more truthful and honest approach to what we strive for: being aware of our all situation and acting responsibly! That is why we will replace the term "sustainability" with "responsibility" as often as possible in this text as well as in our general corporate vision and communication.

For us, the meaning of the word responsibility consists of an ecological and social component. Both areas are surely worth considering as well as protecting. Social standards have been discussed for decades and are yet well-defined. In contrast, the field of product-related ecological impact is much younger and broader, thus bearing the risk of misjudgement and -interpretation of interests and data. Therefore, we would like to take the opportunity to explain and discuss our perspective of that subject and set it into the context of climbing products. We will proceed in two steps:

1. Create an understanding of all the negative effects a product can have on our environment.
2. Identify possible procedures to systematically reduce these effects.

Tackling the first step, it is necessary to first and foremost understand that there are many different possible negative impacts a product can have on the environment and that they cannot really be ranked according to their severeness in many cases. However, guidelines exist that attempt to quantify the ecological impact of a product. One of these guidelines is the ISO14040 which defines best practices for life cycle assessments of products based on multiple impact categories (climate change, ozone depletion, acidification, eutrophication (for freshwater, marine and terrestrial), photochemical ozone formation, depletion of abiotic resources (for minerals and metals and for fossil fuels), human toxicity, eco-toxicity, water use, land use, ionising radiation, particulate matter). All of these are hazardous for our environment and related risks should be reduced, ideally avoided in the first place. You get a feeling of how big this topic is? It is a huge task we are facing, but as in climbing we want to tackle such problems pitch by pitch.

For the second step, there are certainly many approaches available. One of our mantras is the slogan Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The order of the 3Rs is crucial and should not be ignored. They point out the importance or rather effectiveness of these action principles regarding reducing ecological harm.

The 1st R, "Reducing" describes that something originally considered a component of a product is omitted, replaced or reduced in size. To put it simple, a non-used component cannot do harm to the environment in the first place.

The 2nd R, "Reusing", takes the middle spot in effectiveness as, like the name suggests, it reuses a component in another matter. The harm for that component is already done, but nothing more needs to be added when reusing it.

The 3rd R, "Recycling" denotes the least effective, nevertheless it is the most popular among the 3Rs and has become a buzz word in recent years. "Recycling" means that something already produced needs to be reprocessed again before it can re-enter a products life cycle. Sure, this action prevents that a product is disposed, meaning that garbage is reduced here (that's the reason why this word is often confused with "Reused") and less raw material is needed, however reprocessing the materials still relies on resource consumption (e.g., energy).

An example: Our Parrot 9.8 mm uses leftover yarn from our production. The yarn is re-spooled and can in this form be re-introduced in the rope production process again – so to "reuse" it. For our Neo 3R 9.8 mm, leftover yarn from our production is shredded, agglomerated, re-granulated, melted and spun out – and so "recycled". In the above example the Parrot 9.8 mm uses leftovers from *before* the braiding process, the Neo 3R those from *after* the braiding process – both initiatives tackle different problems and so make use of two different measures to reduce the overall environmental harm.

Now that we have a common understanding of the 3Rs, this ranking can give us a first orientation when evaluating the importance of non-quantifiable initiatives on a certain product. As you read through the next chapters, you will see that this is one of the challenges we face when we try to determine what a "more responsible" product is. However, be aware that an overall judgment remains difficult. We must always remember that there are very many and different types of damage to our environment and that we need to define and relate them product by product.

"More responsible" means less impact in one or more impact categories.

To counteract the potential misuse of actions declared as sustainable (key word green washing), independent third-party assessments (e.g., bluesign (chemicals), Fair Wear (social standards within supply chain), etc.) define the minimum standards which a product must fulfil to deserve the respective label. Wherever such a procedure is not possible, for example where no label exists for a certain impact category, only uncompromising transparency remains.

INTERNALLY DEFINED LABEL? – THE RAISON D'ETRE OF YET ANOTHER LABEL

Given the deteriorating credibility of the term "sustainability" as well as of "sustainable" labels in general over the last years, how credible is yet another such label created by a manufacturer itself? This is a very understandable doubt that we share, too.

At the same time, we feel that, for very specialized and diverse climbing equipment, existing labels alone do not justice and are sometimes not sufficient to assess the environmental impact of such products. Meaning, although we are constantly looking for environmentally compatible alternatives for our products, we must consider that the developmental scope of personal protective equipment, thus products to which users entrust their lives are limited and do not allow for compromises.

Yet, we still want to give our consumers the possibility to identify the product alternative that is best for our environment in its category accordingly without much effort. Sure, the most responsible and in this case truly most sustainable action is to not buy a product at all, but once you need it, you should be able to choose the one with the least impact on the environment - the most responsible one. This is exactly what our Climb Green label is supposed to do.

And to finally add: a label can simplify communication of complex matters as it offers a single point of contact where issues and ideas that apply to multiple products are explained in a centralized manner. Just as in this document 😊.

However, we must also acknowledge that the framework in which such labels operate is not static. Beyond technological progress and internal evaluation, external expectations — and increasingly, regulatory requirements — are evolving rapidly. What today is communicated through internally defined approaches may in the future be subject to stricter, harmonized and legally binding standards.

NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK – EMPOWERING CONSUMERS DIRECTIVE (UCPD)

With the ongoing evolution of regulatory frameworks within the European Union, the way environmental claims can be communicated is undergoing a fundamental shift. One of the most relevant developments in this context is the so-called "Empowering Consumers Directive", which amends the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD) and becomes effective on 09/27/2026.

The objective of this directive is clear: to strengthen consumer protection by ensuring that environmental claims are transparent, substantiated and not misleading. In particular, it addresses vague or non-verifiable statements that may lead to greenwashing. Broad claims such as "environmentally friendly" will increasingly require clear evidence, robust methodologies and, where applicable, standardized metrics.

In essence, the directive targets the exact challenge that internally defined labels such as Climb Green are facing: how to communicate complex and multidimensional product assessments in a way that is both honest and comparable across an entire market.

While we have always aimed to communicate responsibility as transparently and honestly as possible, Climb Green remains an internally defined and inherently holistic evaluation tool. Its strength lies precisely in its ability to take multiple dimensions into account — but this also means that it cannot always be reduced to a single, universally standardized metric.

This creates an inherent tension with a regulatory approach that aims to standardize and harmonize environmental communication.

We explicitly welcome these developments at EU level. Strengthening transparency, comparability and credibility of environmental communication fully aligns with our own ambition to counteract greenwashing and enable more informed purchasing decisions.

Against this backdrop, we consider it our responsibility not only to improve our products, but also to continuously question how we communicate about them.

Consequently, we have taken the decision to actively support and reinforce the directive's objective:

As of 09/27/2026, we no longer label any of our products within the European Union with the Climb Green claim.

At the same time, we remain convinced that the Climb Green approach provides meaningful orientation where comparable regulatory frameworks are not yet in place. Therefore, **we will continue to apply the Climb Green label in markets outside of the EU**, where it can serve as a transparent guide for identifying comparatively more responsible product alternatives within a given category.

In this way, Climb Green remains what it was always intended to be: a tool that supports better decisions — applied where it adds clarity, and adapted where new standards require a different approach.

This step reflects our understanding of responsibility not only in product design and manufacturing, but also in communication — aligned with applicable legal frameworks and grounded in transparency and honesty.

HIGHEST STANDARD FOR THE MARKET? – COUNTING WHAT CANNOT BE COUNTED

In order to live up to the claim to always buy the product with the least impact on our environment, we must consequently look at the entire market as a benchmark. But who defines what the entire market is, and how? Our previous efforts have taught us that the possibilities of producing a certain product in a responsible way vary greatly from product group to product group. Accordingly, we need to define the entire market within a particular product group. A carabiner cannot currently be a bluesign product, a rope cannot be labelled Fair Trade, a harness cannot be reasonably produced from plant fibres (yet), etc.

What should be clear, however, is that this is not an exact science. There may be alternatives on the market that hold just as many but, in some way, different responsible initiatives within. Our Climb Green labelled product may then not always be the best but should at least be an equally good responsible alternative within its product category. We aim to understand the entire market and so pad our judgement with transparency and objectivity. Still, we are aware that our evaluations cannot always be based on scientific research and need to follow our own most honest judgement which may lead to discussions. We will be happy to face them and always try to quantify our considerations, if possible. In any case, we will try to be as transparent as possible.

A DYNAMIC LABEL? – TRYING TO BE HONEST

To do justice to the above and to realize an honest product label that shows you the most responsible alternative in a product category at the moment, it must be clear from the very start that circumstances can change. Climb Green is not a label that is assigned to a product for eternity. With all efforts to reduce the impacts of our-all consumer behaviour and with advancing technology it is inevitable that a product assessed as a Climb Green product today may no longer qualify as such tomorrow. Markets change and new products, ours or from others, may constitute a more responsible alternative. With the term "dynamic" we want to remind, perhaps above all to ourselves, that we must continuously question and

challenge ourselves to reduce the environmental (and social) impacts of our products. Because as long as we make products, we will be responsible and leave a footprint. And of course, this dynamic nature does not only apply to technological progress and market developments, but also to the regulatory context in which such a label exists.

WHAT WE CURRENTLY SEE AS THE HIGHEST RESPONSIBLE STANDARD IN EACH PRODUCT GROUP THAT CARRIES A CLIMB GREEN LABELED PRODUCT

The table below shows our product groups that currently include products that qualify for the Climb Green label. In each case, the (cumulative) criteria that we currently consider to be the highest realized responsibility standard are shown. Some criteria are mutually exclusive and are therefore marked with an "|" meaning "or". For other categories, those which are not listed below, we currently do not see one of our products as the most responsible alternative. Either because there is another third-party product that represents such an alternative (e.g., a climbing shoe with sole material made from a rubber compound certified according to the Global Recycling Standard (GRS)) or simply because there is currently no outstanding product that qualifies as a responsible alternative on the market.

PRODUCT CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	CRITERIA
Ropes	Dynamic DRY Ropes	PFC-Free (UIAA Dry) + bluesign® approved materials
	Dynamic Ropes	Reused Yarn | Recycled Yarn + bluesign® product
	Static Ropes	Recycled Yarn + bluesign® approved materials
Harnesses	-	bluesign® product
Helmets	-	Recycled Load Bearing Materials
Slings / Tapes	-	Bio-Based Yarns | Recycled Yarns
Carabiners	Aluminium	Non-anodized + Steel Reinforcement
Accessories	-	Recycled Materials | Reused Materials
Chalk Bags	-	bluesign® product

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE CLIMB GREEN LABEL?

A dynamic, internally defined label for a product that meets the highest current standards of responsible design and manufacturing for its respective product group in the market.

WHAT IS OUR INTENTION BEHIND THE CLIMB GREEN LABEL?

Making and supplying products that impact our environment less than other comparable products is the first step. However, this will only be effective if these products are also purchased instead of their alternatives. And for that, in turn, they must at least be made visible. With a Climb Green labelled product, we want to visually point out the most responsible product option there currently is in a certain product group. The sustainable action is to not buy a product, but once you do, you now are able to choose the most responsible alternative with regard to the environment.

THE CLIMB GREEN LABEL SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED ON A CERTAIN PRODUCT OF YOUR WEBSITE, HOW COME?

This can have several different reasons:

1. Another product is a more responsible alternative in the corresponding product category now.

2. The criteria previously justifying the allocation of the Climb Green label became an industry standard and thus do not stand out anymore.

3. We have noticed a mistake and corrected it.

4. Regulatory requirements may have evolved in certain markets and no longer allow us to use the label in its current form.

In particular, within the European Union, the regulatory framework for environmental claims is currently undergoing significant changes. The so-called “Empowering Consumers Directive” (amending the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive – UCPD) introduces stricter requirements regarding how environmental claims must be communicated.

These developments aim to ensure that such claims are:

- ✓ Transparent
- ✓ Verifiable
- ✓ comparable across the market

As Climb Green is an internally defined label based on a holistic and multidimensional assessment, it cannot always be expressed through standardized, externally verifiable metrics in the way the directive increasingly requires.

For this reason, we have taken the decision to discontinue the use of the Climb Green label within the European Union in alignment with the upcoming EU regulatory framework becoming effective on 09/27/2026.

Outside of the EU, where comparable regulatory frameworks may not yet be in place, the label will continue to be used as a tool to provide orientation for more responsible purchasing decisions.

Regardless of the presence or absence of the label, our underlying ambition remains unchanged: to continuously reduce the environmental and social impact of our products and to communicate about this in the most transparent and honest way possible.

HOW CAN IT BE THAT THERE IS A CLIMB GREEN LABEL ON A PRODUCT, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A MORE RESPONSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ON THE MARKET?

This can have three different reasons:

1. We did not know this product alternative yet. We certainly deal a lot with our markets and know our way around here, but we are not infallible either. Any hint is appreciated.
2. We have not yet been able to react. The fastest response on our part is an amendment on our website. Thus, you can always find the latest status here. However, in some cases we may wait for the range update at the beginning of each year, so as not to cause too much confusion. Because to change labels on the physical product takes some time. And, for example, it is not possible for us to relabel products that have already been produced and, above all, distributed. Sometimes it also takes several years until products are put into circulation. As said, the latest status can always be taken from our website.
3. We are not convinced that this product represents necessarily a more responsible alternative. Here, of course, it becomes a little subjective, but we try to clearly state our position and try to act to the best of our knowledge and belief. As always, we are open to discussion here.

WOULD IT NOT BE EVEN MORE RESPONSIBLE IF EDELRID WOULD STOP PRODUCING PRODUCTS ALTOGETHER?

Even though, if at all, it would reduce the ecological harm being caused, at least towards the EDELRID family with its many employees here it would certainly not be responsible. And apart from this we believe that there is a very broad consensus in our society that it is not up for debate that from now on, we reduce our life to reproduction and food intake and do not allow any other consumption. Surely, this would be a sustainable way of existence for mankind, but this must be discussed elsewhere. As long as we want to move freely in the vertical world, it needs the appropriate products for it. And in terms of responsible change, we are convinced that we make a significant positive contribution to this in the climbing and altitude work hardware sector. We are one of the main drivers for change in these products and as long as that is the case, with all humility, we feel it is better with than without us.

WHAT ABOUT PRODUCT CATEGORIES THAT DO NOT HAVE A CLIMB GREEN LABELED PRODUCT?

In those product categories we simply cannot offer a product about which we can confidently say that it offers a more responsible choice than what is currently available on the market. We simply may not be able to realise this with our abilities, we may not know enough about its impact to be able to change something significantly or it may be that it is currently technologically not possible. After all we must not forget that we always talk about personal protective equipment that people depend their lives upon. The safety and functional aspects will always be prioritised over ecological responsible ones.

WILL THERE BE MORE CLIMB GREEN LABELED PRODUCTS?

Whether there will be more or less Climb Green products is hard to predict. What is safe to say, is that we will always seek to reduce the environmental and social impact of our products. But the way we have defined this label means that there may be other more responsible alternatives in the meantime, reducing a once Climb Green qualified criteria down to the general standard. And we only have to

endorse it if more manufacturers honestly pursue the same goal. But maybe in the long run even other manufacturers are interested in joining and further developing the Climb Green standard, so that a market-wide standard and exchange can be established. Our competitors are more than welcome to do so!

THIS IS ALL ARBITRARY BULLSHIT!

You're right, the whole thing has an indisputable element of arbitrariness to it. After all, it is a self-defined label of our own products. In addition, our responsibility towards our environment is so multifaceted and a matter that is not always measurable, quantifiable, and thus clearly calculable. However, we are convinced that our approach has a positive effect in the end, and we can only try to lay down our considerations as transparently as possible. We seek to further improve our understanding in this matter, so should anything remain unclear, or should there be constructive suggestions for improvements, we invite you, the end-user of our products as well as our competitor, to address them directly to us for an exchange of ideas at any time.

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LIST OF 2026 LABELLED PRODUCTS

To offer a centralized overview of current Climb Green labelled products we provide the following overview that is at least annually updated.

PRODUCT CATEGORY	MODEL NUMBER	PRODUCT NAME	REASONING FOR THE LABEL
Dynamic Dry Ropes	71357	Swift 48 2R Eco Dry 8,9 mm	Reused Yarn + PFC-Free (UIAA Dry) + bluesign® approved materials
Dynamic Ropes	71336	Neo 100 3R 9,8 mm	100% Recycled Yarn + bluesign® product
Dynamic Ropes	71366	Birdlime 1R 9,8 mm	Partly Bio-Based Yarn
Dynamic Ropes	71500	Parrot 9,8 mm	Reused Yarn + bluesign® product
Dynamic Ropes	71363	Parrot 2R 9,6 mm	Reused Yarn + bluesign® product
Dynamic Ropes	71245	Boa Eco 9,8 mm	Reused Yarn + bluesign® product
Dynamic Ropes	71364	Boa Eco 2R 9,6 mm	Reused Yarn + bluesign® product
Static Ropes	83242	Bucco 11,8 mm	Recycled Yarn + bluesign® approved materials
Static Ropes	83248	Jacamar 12,5 mm	Recycled Yarn + bluesign® approved materials
Harness	74931	Moe 3R	Recycled Polyester upper and padding + bluesign® approved materials
Helmet	72051	Zodiac 3R	Recycled Load Bearing Materials
Slings	73932	PES Sling 3R	Recycled Yarns
Karabiner	73757	HMS Bulletproof Belay FG Eco	Non-anodized + Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73789	HMS Bulletproof Screw Eco	Non-anodized + Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73790	HMS Bulletproof Triple Eco	Non-anodized + Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73784	HMS Bulletproof Triple FG Eco	Non-anodized + Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73785	HMS Bulletproof Screw FG Eco	Non-anodized + Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73786	Bulletproof Screw Eco	Non-anodized + Steel Reinforcement
Accessories	74415	SM-Clip 3R	Recycled Material
Accessories	89008	Retrieval Cone 3R	Recycled Material + Reused Cord
Chalkbags	72177	Boulder Bag Herkules	bluesign® product
Chalkbags	72178	Chalk Bag Splitter Twist	bluesign® product
Chalkbags	72179	Chalk Bag Monoblock	bluesign® product
Chalkbags	72180	Chalk Bag Rodeo Small	bluesign® product
Chalkbags	72181	Chalk Bag Rodeo Large	bluesign® product
Chalkbags	72185	Chalk Bag Rodeo TC	bluesign® product
Chalkbags	72182	Chalk Bag Muffin	bluesign® product
Chalkbags	71284	DIY Chalk Bag	bluesign® product

Products that have carried the Climb Green label in the past but have had it withdrawn at the current time.

PRODUCT CATEGORY	MODEL NUMBER	PRODUCT NAME	REASONING FOR THE LABEL
Slings	73920	Dyneema® Sling 8 mm	Bio-Based Yarns
Slings	73921	Dyneema® Sling 11 mm	Bio-Based Yarns
Dynamic Dry Ropes	71272	Swift Eco Dry 8,9 mm	PFC-Free (UIAA Dry) + bluesign® approved materials
Dynamic Dry Ropes	71290	Hummingbird Eco Dry 9,2 mm	PFC-Free (UIAA Dry) + bluesign® approved materials
Dynamic Dry Ropes	71341	Eagle Lite Eco Dry 9,5 mm	PFC-Free (UIAA Dry) + bluesign® approved materials
Dynamic Dry Ropes	71317	Tommy Caldwell Eco Dry CT 9,3 mm	PFC-Free (UIAA Dry) + bluesign® approved materials
Dynamic Dry Ropes	71334	Tommy Caldwell Eco Dry DT 9,6 mm	PFC-Free (UIAA Dry) + bluesign® approved materials
Dynamic Dry Ropes	71335	Heron Eco Dry 9,8 mm	PFC-Free (UIAA Dry) + bluesign® approved materials
Dynamic Dry Ropes	71292	Skimmer Eco Dry 7,1 mm	PFC-Free (UIAA Dry) + bluesign® approved materials
Dynamic Ropes	71319	Neo 3R 9,8 mm	Recycled Yarn + bluesign® product
Harness	74327	Sendero	bluesign product®
Harness	74328	Autana	bluesign product®
Harness	74329	Sirana	bluesign product®
Harness	74325	Jay	bluesign product®
Harness	74326	Jayne	bluesign product®
Harness	74913	Moe	bluesign product®
Harness	74333	Finn	bluesign product®
Harness	74908	Fraggle	bluesign product®
Harness	74910	Kermit	bluesign product®
Karabiner	73808	Bulletproof Set	Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73809	Bulletproof Straight	Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73810	Bulletproof Bent	Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73788	HMS Bullet Screw Eco	Non-anodized
Karabiner	73813	HMS Bulletproof Screw FG	Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73815	HMS Bulletproof Triple FG	Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73812	HMS Bulletproof Screw	Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	73814	HMS Bulletproof Triple	Steel Reinforcement
Karabiner	83811	Bulletproof Screw	Steel Reinforcement