

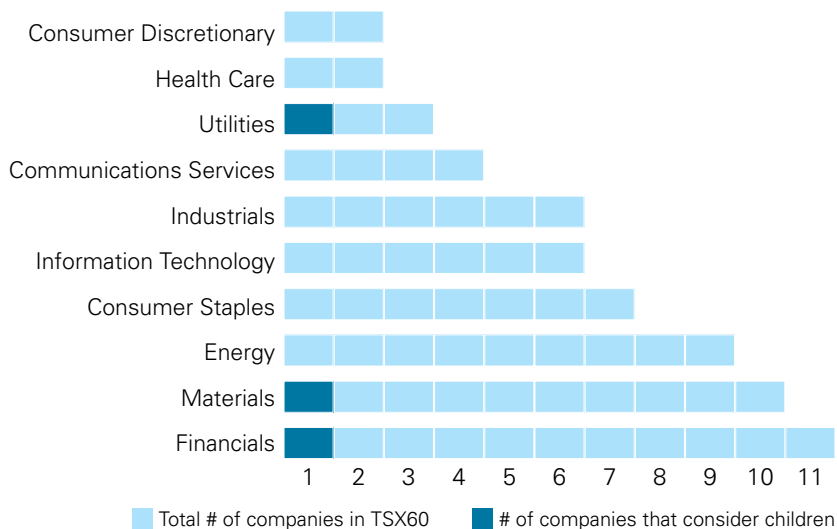


Principle 7: Respect Child Rights in Relation to the Environment and Land Use

Children are most severely affected by issues like climate change, water scarcity and urbanization. Due to their physiology and increased exposure, the impact of climate change and pollution (air, soil, water, and noise) on children can be more serious and long-lasting than in adults.

The Canadian Index of Child and Youth Wellbeing estimates that 11.1 per cent of homes with children under 18 in Canada have to boil their water to ensure it is safe to drink. Children are at greater risk from environmental hazards than adults because of their physical size, developing bodies, metabolic rates, natural curiosity and lack of knowledge about threats in their environment. Businesses should take the particular vulnerabilities and risks faced by children – to resource scarcity, waste, pollution and toxicity – into account in company environmental policies and due diligence processes. Businesses should ensure that the rights of children, their families and communities are addressed in contingency planning and remediation activities. Business use of land may also affect children's community resources if it displaces schools, health centres or places of play. Engaging in meaningful, informed consultation with women, youth and children can ensure that the risks of adverse impacts on children are identified and addressed early on. Land ownership and registries may discriminate against women and children, and girls in particular, whose inheritance rights are often not registered or recognized. If relocation cannot be avoided, businesses should ensure that the best interests of the child and children's rights to education, protection, health, adequate food and standard of living, and participation are taken into consideration when carrying out resettlement and providing for compensation.

TSX60 Companies that Consider Children in Relation to the Environment and Land Use



Good Practice Examples

- **Arc'teryx** is a Canadian design company specializing in technical high-performance apparel, outerwear and equipment. They used their expertise in insulation to contribute to a project to *tackle air pollution in Mongolia's cities*, where the health and wellbeing of young people is being compromised. By improving the thermal performance of the traditional, tent-like ger dwellings, which house more than half the population, air pollution is reduced and child and maternal health improved. This includes the first thermal performance model of the ger; a set of validated strategies to improve ger insulation; and a number of tested prototype solutions for the floor, walls, door and roof.

Relevant Frameworks



Global Compact
Network Canada

- **Principle 7:** Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- **Principle 8:** undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- **Principle 9:** encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.



- **13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- **12.4** Significantly reduce the release of chemicals and all waste into air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- **3.9** Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination



The Canadian Index of
Child and Youth Well-being

- Being environmentally aware
- Having polluted air
- Having safe drinking water
- Living with a sustainable climate