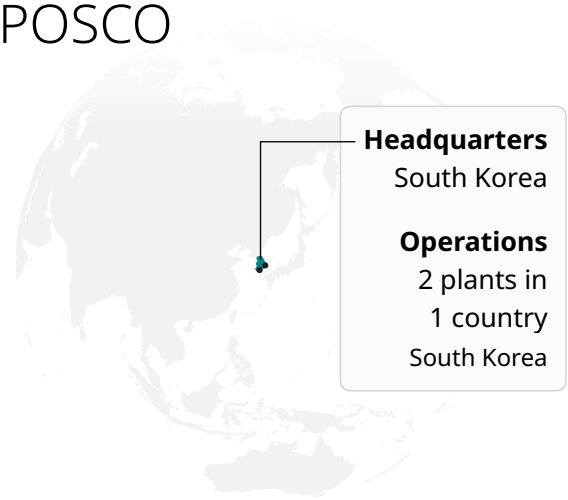
POSCO



Steel production (total crude steel)

35 Mtpa → **5th largest**
Million tonnes in 2024 — of 18 selected companies

Blast furnaces

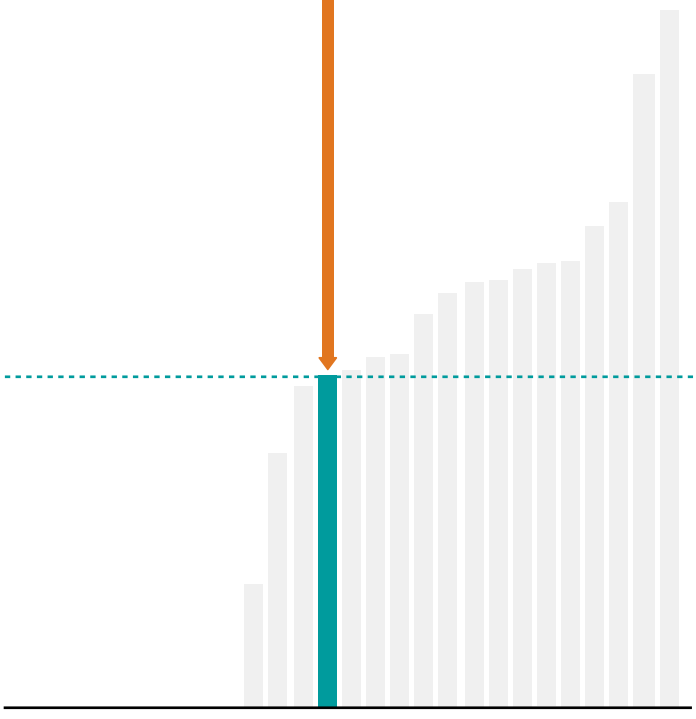
8 units → **38 Mtpa**
operating end of 2024 — nominal capacity

posco

Total score
21.9 / 100

Rank
15th
of 18 selected companies

Transition readiness gap
The difference between what is needed for a credible near-zero emissions transition and what a company is actually doing



Transition readiness verdict

POSCO is at risk of becoming a transition laggard if it does not move beyond efficiency gains, and towards structural transformation away from coal.

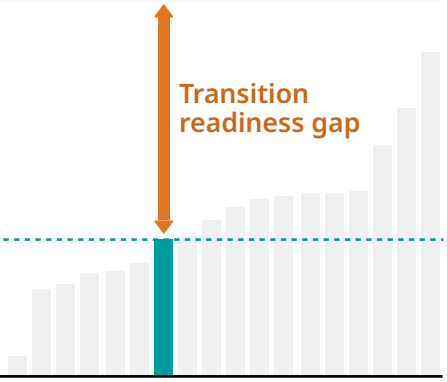
POSCO remains at a crossroads, with a trajectory that currently risks placing it among the companies least prepared for the transition. The company is one of the world's largest and most technically sophisticated steelmakers, yet its position in the Scorecard highlights a company whose long-term ambition is not yet matched by the scale or pace of action required. Without decisive movement on coal retirement and green iron investment, its readiness gap will continue to widen.

SteelWatch Corporate Score by category

Total score		**21.9 / 100**
1	Phasing out coal	9.1 / 25
2	Scaling green	0.1 / 25
3	Climate performance	6.3 / 15
4	Targets and transparency	4.7 / 15
5	Social and environmental responsibility	1.7 / 20

1 Phasing out coal

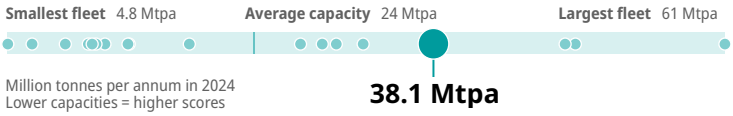
Score
9.1 / 25
Rank
12th
of 18 selected companies



The strongest contributor to POSCO's transition readiness gap is its continued reliance on a very large blast furnace fleet, with no retirement announcements. While its coal consumption shows a slightly decreasing trend, this has not yet translated into a meaningful redirection of its asset base. Without a commitment to retire blast furnaces or halt reinvestment through blast furnace relinings, POSCO risks locking itself into a carbon-intensive future, far beyond what its climate goals require, and out of line with South Korea's newly reinforced climate ambition.

1.1 Size of blast furnace fleet — 1.0 / 5

Total capacity of the company's operating blast furnace fleet



Million tonnes per annum in 2024
Lower capacities = higher scores

38.1 Mtpa

1.2 Blast furnaces under construction — 5.0 / 5

Is the company building new blast furnace capacity?

No → **0 Mtpa** under construction in 2024

1.3 Blast furnace investments — 0.0 / 5

Has the company recently completed investments in blast furnace capacity, or announced upcoming ones?

Yes → **2** projects

1.4 Blast furnace retirement — 0.0 / 5

Has the company announced the retirement of all operating blast furnace capacity?

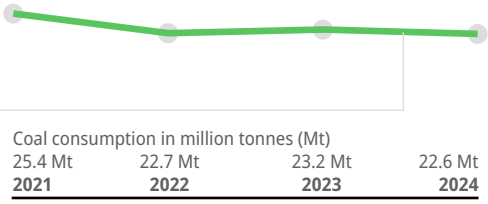
No → **0%** of capacity with retirement announced

1.5 Coal consumption trend — 3.1 / 5

Has absolute coal consumption decreased between 2021 and 2024?

Yes

Coal consumption trend decreased



Coal consumption in million tonnes (Mt)

2021	2022	2023	2024
25.4 Mt	22.7 Mt	23.2 Mt	22.6 Mt

2 Scaling green

Score
0.1 / 25
Rank
10th
of 18 selected companies

On green iron and renewable energy, POSCO scores only fractionally above zero, as it is only beginning to move. The company has begun to develop a 0.3 Mtpa demonstration plant for near-zero-emissions iron production, an important initial step, but still far short of what is needed for a company of POSCO's scale. However, it currently reports zero renewable energy consumption and has no large, operational near-zero-emissions-capable ironmaking capacity.

2.1 Green iron consumption — 0.0 / 5

Absolute volume of green iron used in steelmaking

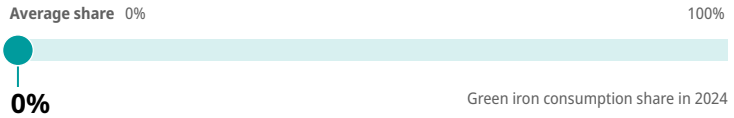
0 Mt → The company did not use any green iron in steelmaking processes

Million tonnes of green iron in 2024

0 Mt Average consumption of all 18 companies in 2024

2.2 Green iron share — 0.0 / 5

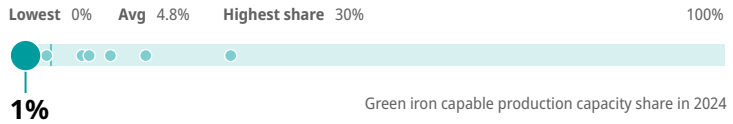
Green iron consumption as a share of total ore-based iron used in steelmaking



0% Green iron consumption share in 2024

2.3 Green iron capable production capacity — 0.1 / 10

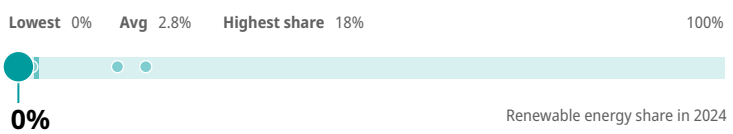
Company's share of total iron production capacity that is near-zero-emissions-capable (operational, under construction or committed)



1% Green iron capable production capacity share in 2024

2.4 Renewable energy uptake — 0.0 / 5

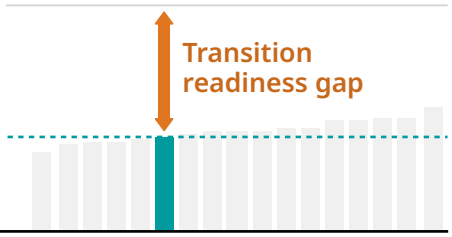
Share of renewable energy in total consumption of energy



0% Renewable energy share in 2024

3 Climate performance

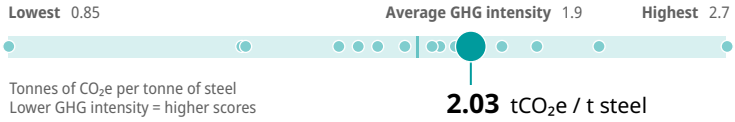
Score
6.3 / 15
Rank
12th
of 18 selected companies



POSCO's GHG emissions intensity is above the average of the companies assessed, reflecting its large blast furnace-based production. Its total score in this category is slightly boosted by a modest decline in emissions intensity over recent years, but this is largely due to efficiency gains rather than structural change or transitional momentum change.

3.1 Current emissions intensity 5.9 / 12

Average amount of greenhouse gases emitted per tonne of steel produced (scope 1 and 2)

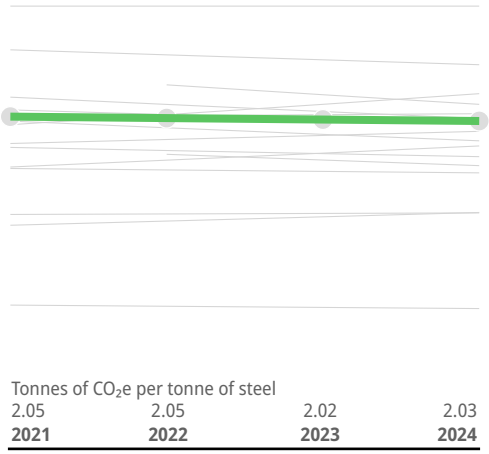


Tonnes of CO_2e per tonne of steel
Lower GHG intensity = higher scores

2.03 tCO_2e / t steel

3.2 Emissions intensity trend 0.4 / 3

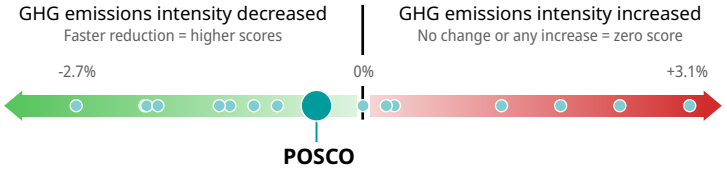
Emissions intensity change between 2021 and 2024



POSCO
GHG emissions intensity in 2024
2.03 tCO_2e / t steel

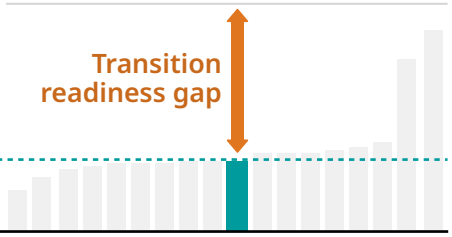
Tonnes of CO_2e per tonne of steel

2021	2022	2023	2024
2.05	2.05	2.02	2.03



4 Targets and transparency

Score
4.7 / 15
Rank
Equal 9th
of 18 selected companies



POSCO has performed slightly better than average in regards to its overall transparency and targets. It has committed to a net-zero 2050 target and its disclosure practices are stronger than many of its peers. However, the absence of SBTi-verified climate targets means its transition pathway remains unclear.

4.1 Net-zero target 2.0 / 3

Does the company have a target of net-zero emissions by 2050 or earlier?

Yes
Net-zero by
2050

Company wording
"'Net-zero Carbon' by 2050"

- 3 companies have target set earlier than 2050
- 12 companies have target set for 2050
- 3 companies do not have a net-zero target

4.2 SBTi verified emissions reduction target 0.0 / 7

Has the Science Based Targets initiative verified the company's emissions target as 1.5°C compatible?

No

- 2 companies have targets verified by SBTi
- 16 companies do not have any targets verified by SBTi

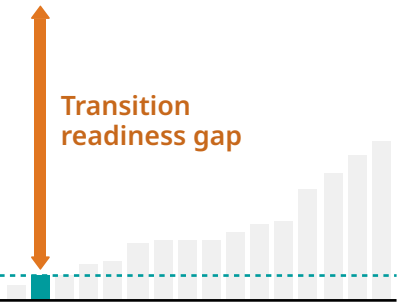
4.3 Transparency & data disclosure 2.7 / 5

How well does the company communicate key information about its operations based on 12 public disclosure indicators?

- List all assets
- Disclose non-financial metrics for all assets
- Quality of scope 1 emissions reporting
- Quality of scope 2 emissions reporting
- Quality of scope 3 emissions reporting
- Quality of GHG intensity reporting
- Quality of scrap use reporting
- Quality of coal consumption reporting
- Quality of renewable energy use reporting
- Disclosure of methane emissions associated with coal mining (scope 1 or 3)
- Quality of OHS reporting / Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate
- Overall easiness of access to information

5 Social and environmental responsibility

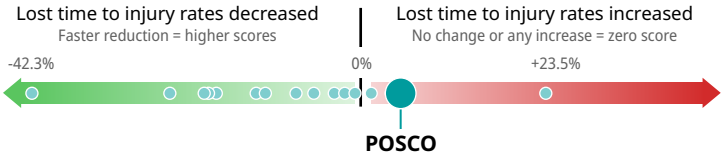
Score
1.7 / 20
Rank
15th
of 18 selected companies



POSCO's transition readiness gap widens further in the areas of worker safety, air quality, and ResponsibleSteel certification. While NO_x and SO_x intensities have declined in recent years, the company has not shown similarly clear signs of improvement in occupational health and safety, or particulate matter (PM) emissions intensity. POSCO's withdrawal from ResponsibleSteel in 2024 removed a key avenue for external assurance and accountability in regards to broader social and environmental performance and transparency.

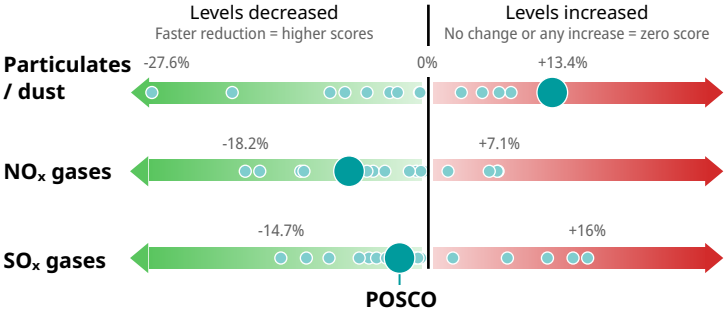
5.1 Health & safety trend 0.0 / 4

Has the rate of workplace injuries changed between 2021 and 2024?



5.2 Air pollution trend 1.7 / 6

Have the levels of dust/particulates, NO_x and SO_x gases per tonne of steel changed between 2021 and 2024?



5.3 ResponsibleSteel Core Site certification 0.0 / 5

Share of the company's production capacity covered by ResponsibleSteel Core Site certification

0%

5.4 ResponsibleSteel Certified Steel 0.0 / 5

The number of ResponsibleSteel Certified Steel certificates

0 certificates

Priority areas for improvement

1 Cease reinvestment and adopt retirement plans for all existing blast furnaces

POSCO should improve its transition readiness by developing a clear plan to retire its blast furnace fleet and accelerate adoption of low-emissions ironmaking.

2 Invest in securing green iron inputs

POSCO needs to go beyond its pilot Hyrex plant to develop commercial scale green hydrogen-based ironmaking capacity and secure procurement of green iron, to deliver on its transition pathway.

3 Adopt SBTi-verified climate targets

Adopting and realigning its climate strategy to SBTi-verified climate targets would anchor POSCO's operational improvements within a credibly verified transition pathway.