

Responsible **copper sourcing**

Nexans
ELECTRIFY THE FUTURE

Table of contents

p.3 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

p.4 PART 1 Context & challenges
A STRUCTURAL DEFICIT IN THE FACE OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

p.5 PART 2 Nexans' point of view
FOR ELECTRICAL SOVEREIGNTY BASED ON THE E3 BUSINESS MODEL

p.6 PART 3 Nexans' solutions
OUR STRATEGY TO SECURE AND DECARBONIZE COPPER

p.8 PART 4 Conclusion
RECOMMENDATION FOR SOVEREIGN AND CIRCULAR ELECTRIFICATION

A 10% to 20% global shortage of copper is expected by 2030, making recycling crucial to meet future demand. Copper—once a lowly commodity—is facing unprecedented demand due to its central role in the energy and digital transitions, while mining supply may peak by 2030.

This structural deficit could slow global electrification, which remains reliant on copper despite innovative aluminum solutions offering a substitute in certain contexts. At Nexans, we recognize that responsible sourcing today goes well beyond ethics and compliance; it is a fundamental condition for business continuity.

A paradigm shift is vital: we must industrialize and scale copper recycling and impose unified ESG standards to guarantee the long-term viability of electrification.

A structural deficit in the face of the climate emergency

The cable systems and electrification solutions industries are being challenged by the growing scarcity of virgin copper. Driven by electricity demand and the acceleration of the digital economy, global copper demand is expected to reach 42 million tons in 2040. However, mining production capacity is expected to peak at 33 million tons in 2030, leaving a shortfall that we will have to mitigate with recycled copper.

Far from being cyclical, this imbalance is both structural and geological. First, new mines can take around 18 years to develop, making it impossible to adjust production quickly to demand. Second, the quality of mined ore has been steadily declining at aging mines—falling by roughly 40% since 1991, from about 1% to around 0.6% today.



To obtain the same amount of copper, more rock must be extracted and treated, significantly increasing the environmental footprint. Yet in the face of increasingly strict regulation, such as the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Critical Raw Materials Act, the "ESG quality" of the metal is becoming as crucial as its availability.

Fortunately, with appropriate separation and refining processes, copper can be recycled indefinitely while conserving its intrinsic properties and performance. To fully exploit this potential, countries will need to increase their smelting and refining capacities.
For example, France, Italy and the UK will have a large surplus of scrap metal by 2030 relative to their current refining capacity.

For electrical sovereignty based on the E3 business model

Nexans refuses to accept the inevitability of copper scarcity or compromise on sustainability. Our position is clear: responsible sourcing is not a nice-to-have, it's a must-have. In fact, we see the supply crunch as an opportunity to innovate and rethink business models. As a vertically integrated player—controlling operations from scrap collection to copper casting and the manufacturing of finished products—we assert that responsibility begins with the industrial mastery of the resource.

We champion the E3—Economy, Environment and Engagement—model, based on the conviction that economic performance goes hand in hand with environmental and social progress. For Nexans, responsible copper sourcing relies on an effective combination of primary (mined) and secondary (recycled) sources.

To secure primary copper, we must build long-term partnerships with certified suppliers that apply sustainability best practices, such as OECD Due Diligence Guidance, the United Nations Global Compact and the Copper Mark standards. At the same time, we need to massively accelerate the use of recycled copper, making significant investments in the circular economy to reduce our dependence on virgin copper. Innovation can help us do this: thanks to industrial partnerships pushing the boundaries of recycling technologies, for example, we've been able to increase the recycled content of our products without compromising their physical quality.

Nexans is not simply a cable manufacturer, but a pioneer in sustainable electrification, guaranteeing that the copper powering the energy transition is as responsibly sourced as the electricity it carries. This approach is increasingly important to our customers, who are seeking solutions that are not only competitively priced but also low carbon.





"Circularity is the backbone of our future supply. We must transform a linear value chain into a circular ecosystem to secure copper for the long term."

David Grall | VP Sustainability & Corporate Transformation, Nexans

Our strategy to secure **and decarbonize copper**

The transition from a linear copper supply chain to a circular, transparent, and certified ecosystem represents a paradigm shift. At Nexans, we are helping drive this shift via a bold strategy based on three pillars, proving that sustainability can be a powerful lever for industrial performance.



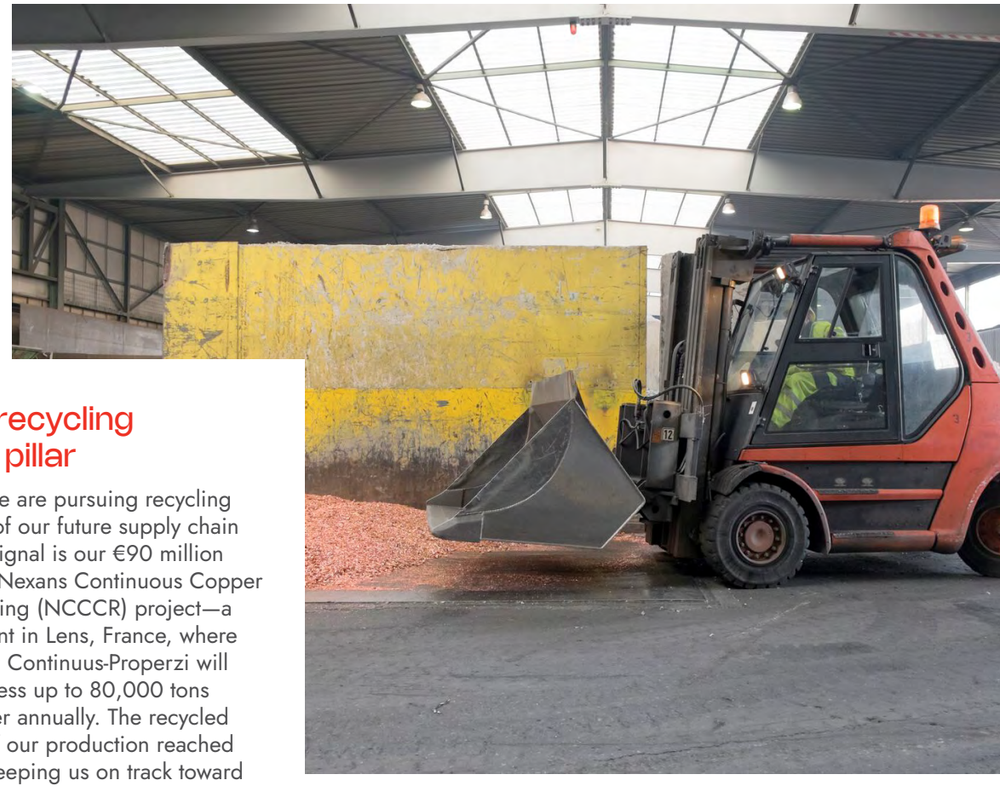
Imposing radical transparency

For indispensable primary copper, we refuse opacity. For us, responsible sourcing is less about excluding suppliers that are only just starting their sustainability journeys than of raising the bar with them through long-term contractual commitments and on-site audits. We ask all our partners to sign our CSR Charter, and we look for sustainability credentials such as EcoVadis and the Veramark Assurance (formerly The Copper Mark) a recognized global standard that covers 33 ESG criteria. These labels create a common language and build the necessary trust through the entire value chain from supplier to end customers.



"A set of standards doesn't stand still at any point. The Copper Mark, for example, reassesses its sites—including Nexans' metallurgical facilities in Montreal, Canada and in Lens, France—every three years. This can ensure that advancement is happening over time, going beyond one-time compliance to continuous improvement."

Mike Smith | Director of Value Chain, The Copper Mark



Making recycling a strategic pillar

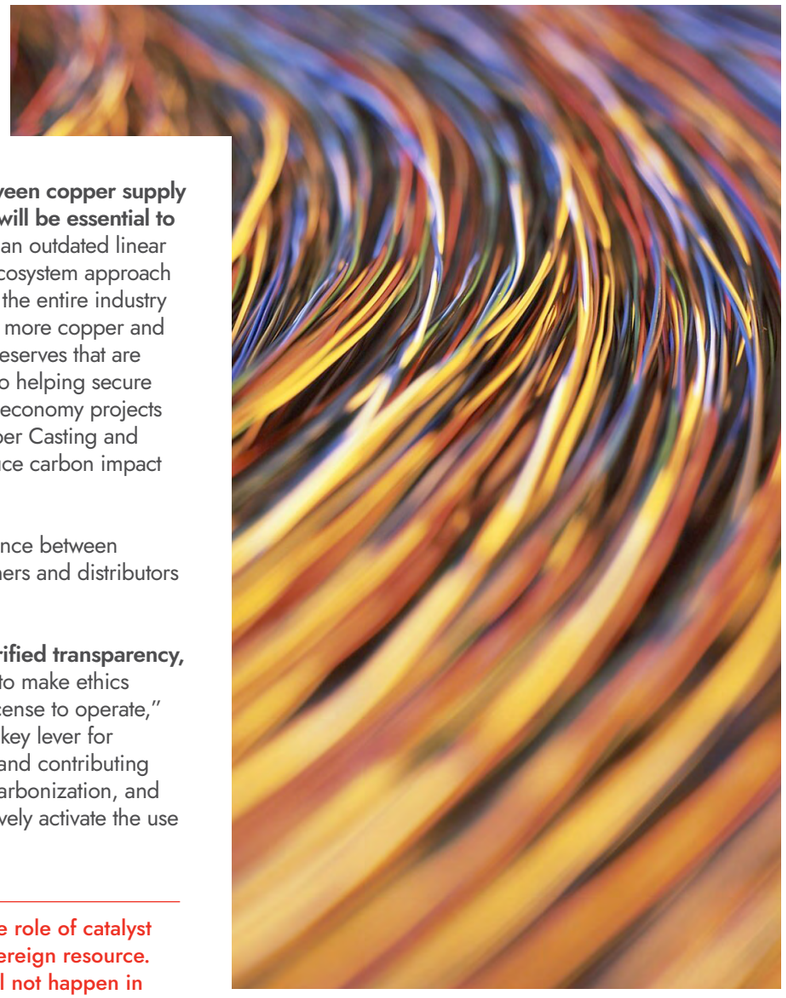
Simultaneously, we are pursuing recycling as the backbone of our future supply chain security. A clear signal is our €90 million investment in the Nexans Continuous Copper Casting and Refining (NCCCR) project—a new recycling plant in Lens, France, where a partnership with Continuus-Properzi will enable us to process up to 80,000 tons of recycled copper annually. The recycled copper content of our production reached 19.3% in 2025, keeping us on track toward our 25% target by 2028.

At Nexans, we recycled 84300 tons of copper in 2025.
In Europe, this cable sorting and recovery process is carried out through the RecyCâbles joint venture created with Suez in 2008. Europe has also seen the launch of CableLoop, our new recovery and recycling service in cooperation with leading distributors of electrical products and solutions. Sonepar is one such partner that uses Nexans' recycling service for its warehouse offcuts. By enabling electricians and installers to drop off cable waste at local branches or request on-site collections, we recovered 880 tons in 2025—transforming construction waste into a critical resource directly reinjected into our foundries.

Collaborating across the entire value chain

Circularity cannot scale up without structuring the "urban mine." The copper deposits lying dormant in decommissioned infrastructure require high-performance reverse logistics that we cannot build alone. The electrification ecosystem of construction, power networks, vehicle fleets and other appliances also plays a pivotal role here in educating the market and organizing collection. Nexans is thus transforming the customer-supplier relationship from a purely linear model into a truly circular ecosystem of partnerships helping to bridge the gap between supply and demand.

Recommendation
for sovereign and circular electrification



There's a structural gap between copper supply and demand, and recycling will be essential to closing it. Moving away from an outdated linear model toward an integrated ecosystem approach is now necessary—and it calls the entire industry to action. We need to recover more copper and better exploit the large scrap reserves that are already available. In addition to helping secure the necessary supply, circular economy projects like Nexans' Continuous Copper Casting and Refining project will help reduce carbon impact at competitive costs.

The future rests on a new alliance between committed manufacturers, miners and distributors who:

- **Generalize third-party verified transparency,** such as the Copper Mark, to make ethics our common standards "license to operate,"
- **Recognize recycling** as a key lever for mitigating copper scarcity and contributing significantly to copper decarbonization, and
- **Break down silos** to massively activate the use of "urban mines."

Nexans is ready to play the role of catalyst to transform waste into a sovereign resource. The world's electrification will not happen in spite of scarcity but through circularity. It is our shared responsibility to secure this future.

References

Nexans – Copper Odyssey

Webinar Nexans: "Responsible sourcing: building a resilient cable value chain" (Oct. 2025)

The Copper Mark Standard & Criteria

International Copper Study Group (ICSG)

Nexans Circular Economy & Climate Commitments

CIC Webinar.

Design and publishing: Nexans - Graphic design, layout and production: Angie - Photo credits: ©Nexans

www.nexans.com

NEXANS
LIGHTWELL
39, Esplanade du Général de GAULLE
CS 70519
92980 Paris La Défense Cedex

Nexans
ELECTRIFY THE FUTURE