

press release

Bologna, 4 May 2026

Hera, a global leader in sustainability: once again at the top of the Dow Jones Best-in-Class Index

The Group, included for the sixth year in both the Dow Jones Best-in-Class Europe and World Indices, confirms its position as the most sustainable Multi & Water Utility at global level. A further recognition that rewards the results achieved and the Group's approach to creating shared value for all stakeholders.

According to S&P Global, the Hera Group has once again been ranked the world's leading company in the Multi & Water Utility sector and has been included, for the sixth consecutive year, in the Dow Jones Best-in-Class Index (formerly known as the Dow Jones Sustainability Index), both at European and global level.

This result follows an in-depth assessment of performance across environmental, social and governance (ESG) dimensions. The Dow Jones Best-in-Class Index, a leading international stock market index, comprises listed companies demonstrating the highest performance in Environmental, Social and Governance & Economic dimensions.

In particular, the multi-utility has reaffirmed its global leadership in its sector, achieving a score of 83/100 compared with a sector average of 37/100.

This recognition rewards the quality of the Group's sustainability reporting, the results achieved by a company that has always been aware of its role within its operating ecosystem, and its strategy of pursuing the creation of shared value for all stakeholders, in line with its purpose.

The Group is considered a best practice across multiple areas:

- In governance, it stands out for the transparency of its reporting, its careful and effective risk management – including cyber risk – and its exemplary ability to manage the supply chain sustainably;
- In the environmental dimension, it ranks first for the efficient management of energy in its internal processes and for safeguarding biodiversity in the territories in which it operates, and has distinguished itself in particular for its reporting and management of climate change-related risks and opportunities;
- In the social dimension, it has achieved the highest global score in respect for human rights, the development of its employees' human capital, customer engagement, data privacy protection and relations with local communities.

These assessments confirm the aspects most highlighted by analysts: a company capable of combining economic growth with sustainable development, continuing to generate value for its stakeholders and not only for shareholders. This is also evidenced by a shared value EBITDA, which rose in 2025 to 60% of Group EBITDA (in line with the 2029 target of 68% set out in the business plan), and by an expected double-digit average annual Total Shareholder Return.

Listed since 2003 and included in the FTSE MIB since 2019, Hera stock has been part of the Dow Jones Best-in-Class Index Europe & World (formerly the Dow Jones Sustainability Index) and the FTSE4Good Index since 2020, and is also included in the Italian ESG MIB blue-chip index dedicated to best ESG practices. For a decade, the Group has been included in the FTSE Diversity & Inclusion Index Top 100 and, in 2025, reached the global Top 10, according to FTSE Russell certification, in recognition of its commitment to promoting diversity, inclusion and people development. Furthermore, for the past five years it has ranked among the top three companies in the ESG Identity Corporate Index, acknowledging the full and conscious integration of sustainability policies into its governance and business strategies.