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CFA Guide to Sustainability 2024-2025

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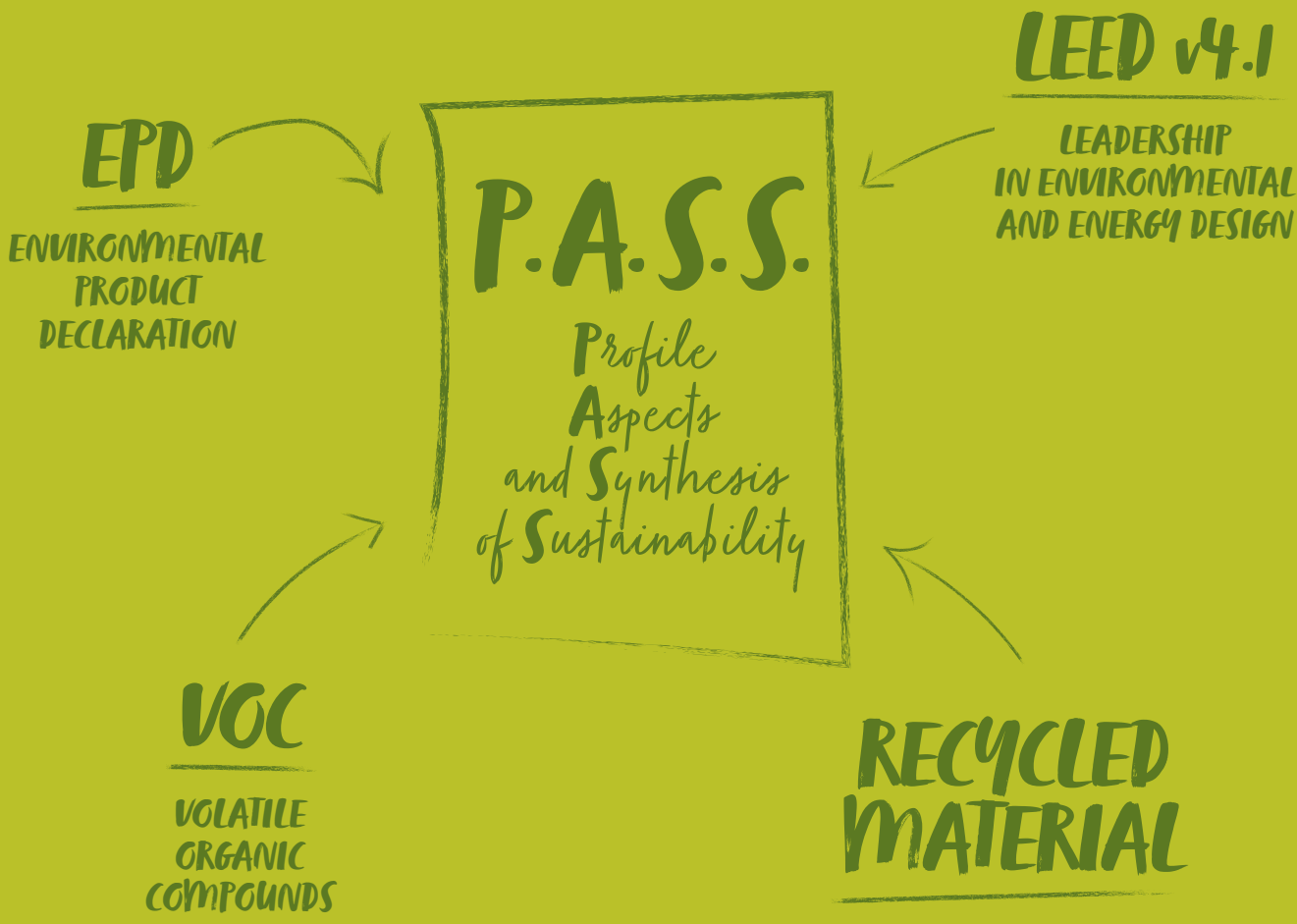

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Back to basics

***Richard Catt**, CEO of the Contract Flooring Association, introduces the 2024/25 CFA Guide to Sustainability – following a year in which the climate indicators seem to have become ever more urgent, but also a year in which CFA member businesses and others have continued to take important steps forward towards meeting the goal of Net Zero Carbon by 2050.*

This version of the CFA's Guide to Sustainability is somewhat back to basics, returning to its roots in seeking to offer guidance that the reader can apply to improve their sustainability activity.

And so that has been part of my thinking in offering input and an outline for the type of articles we might seek in development meetings. I'm currently seeing flooring sustainability through three main lenses. The first is the drive to net zero and how we can help our members to improve their carbon footprint. The second, is the circular economy and products lens. I accept that they are linked, but in terms of input, the former relates to things that contractors can do today and the latter includes wider industry issues that we need to think about. Circular flooring needs development across the supply chain and beyond even to a political and legislative level. I said three subject areas and the third is legacy products, but I'll come on to that later.

In the pages of this year's guide you will see articles that remind our members of the many ways that they can "green" their business. Solar panels on buildings to reduce energy costs and support the supply of renewables. Information on EV vehicles and ensuring that journeys are direct and kept to minimum with car/van sharing. Recycling of waste produced outside of flooring as well as on projects and how that can be best be dealt with. It is no co-incidence that there are more schemes now available from a large range of suppliers, many of course sponsored or supported by CFA manufacturers. Clearly, more businesses are taking this seriously.

All of this is extremely positive and is exactly what we need. Challenging the status quo towards better solutions than we currently operate, where in reality a large proportion of flooring waste still goes to landfill. I am not ignoring some of the excellent work and products already available but it is important we continue with these conversations and developments, which is why I recently agreed to contribute to a study undertaken by a major UK manufacturer to inform their business strategy. But I also think we need to keep widening these conversations in order that we can replicate any best practice developed in silos, on scale. As an industry, we need to start seriously thinking about how we identify and tag installed materials that are being installed to a common standard that is user friendly and easily accessible. We need to make sure that they are made of widely recyclable products and that they can be uplifted cleanly and that we have an infrastructure to move these uplifted materials around the country to recycling facilities that can deal with volume.

Each material sector, material type and manufacturer/supplier is in a different place. But the overarching reality is that we still have a long way to go and need more co-ordinated and funded activity to really move us forward. A direction of travel that avoids differences in standards and barriers to best practice toward an overall agreed aim. Even Apple now use a USB-C connector!

Finally, there is legacy material. That's a whole other subject area, but a commercial, environmental and potentially legislatively driven taxation issue (Extended Producer Responsibility), that we need to think about in a lot more detail. Before Government tell us what to do.

For all these reasons, the CFA Guide to Sustainability continues to be really important.

> *In the pages of this year's guide you will see articles that remind our members of the many ways that they can "green" their business*

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A picture of slow improvement

*CFA President **Carl Harper**, heralds the publication of this year's CFA Guide to Sustainability – the third to be published solely in digital format – saying that it comes at a time of slow and steady improvement within the industry with regard to sustainability.*

I'm delighted to report that both awareness and activity regarding sustainability are increasing steadily within our industry. I think that this will be obvious to anyone having a look through this year's Guide.

People increasingly know what they have to do, even when there is not a Government or client imperative to take action – they just know they have to do the right thing, for the sake of the planet and to ensure the long term sustainability of their businesses.

I also sense a real enthusiasm to take action as well, which is very gratifying. I think this is partly because doing so can often save a business money, contrary to what is sometimes thought. Solar panels on the roof of your warehouse now regularly have a payback time of just two to three years, because of the reducing costs of the technology involved, allied with the increasing cost of energy purchased from power suppliers.

Electric cars are not the disaster area that some people foresaw. Although for many who are travelling longer distances, hybrid vehicles are still the most practical option, nonetheless increased ranges of 300 miles or more are beginning to make full-electric vehicles a viable and cost-effective alternative to ICE-powered vehicles in some circumstances. If electric vans could be brought down to more realistic prices, then I think businesses would be even more inclined to embrace this technology.

Of course we all learned during the pandemic about the powers of online meeting software. Adopting these for regular use has enabled many more people to work from home or carry out that important client meeting online, rather than driving to visit them. That's not to understate the role of the face-to-face meeting, which is of course critical in strengthening personal relationships which are so important in all aspects of business. It's all about striking a balance and using smart thinking about how we organise our businesses at the most basic level, which can make a big difference. How many envelopes containing single use plastics do we really need to use? If we upgrade our computer system, will that enable us to print out fewer hard copies of documents? If we change the lighting in our warehouse to LED panels, will that save energy?

The sector is absolutely buzzing with companies looking at all these and many other aspects, which is very encouraging.

The problem is that change is still not happening fast enough. Despite what I feel is a generally positive picture, I still see plenty of businesses who are not yet doing what is necessary. I think there are broadly three reasons for that: firstly they think it is going to be too much hassle (it probably isn't); secondly it's because they think it is going to involve a lot of additional cost (not necessarily) and thirdly it's because no one is telling them they have to do it (that may be true in some cases – but I suspect it won't be for long).

The CFA sees its role as leading by example, showing how things can be done. It's very much an education thing, because not everybody is on board yet. This Guide is part of that process.

It needs to be the norm not the exception to do the right thing in terms of recycling, sorting and uplifting of waste material, and although we are currently quite a long way from that, this is the ideal time to focus on your business internally. There are so many ways you can make yourself more attractive through "greening" your business, as well as what products you fit, where they come from, how they get to you, the way you operate and the way you recycle on site. There is a useful article in this year's Guide specifically on this subject.

You will also find plenty of examples of best practice, along with examples of the challenges that are being faced, and some guidance which I hope you will find genuinely useful. This latter aspect is one which we have tried to focus on strongly in this year's Guide. So you will hopefully find a lot of practical information about what other companies are doing, which you may not have thought of and which may help you.

As well as looking at sustainability improvements that you can make today in your business, we also look at some of the legislation that has been recently enacted on this topic and consider what is coming down the track towards us. We consider some of the developments on the European stage, with regard to the CISUFLO project, in which the CFA is a participant, and look at some of the latest in developments in carpet and vinyl recycling in the UK.

Once again we are very grateful to the Construction Products Association, who have given permission for us to reproduce six of the very latest of their superb Briefing Documents on sustainability. You will notice in these a focus on Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and for good reason. Many in the industry, now believe the greater adoption of these will be a real game changer for sustainability in our sector, as they allow anyone to see all relevant sustainability information as it applies to particular products and companies.

We believe the Sustainability Guide will give you much needed information about EPDs and all other aspects of this topic. Happy reading!

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BUILDING TRUST

Optimism about progress on the European stage

*CISUFLO is a pan-European project, of which the CFA is a member, which is looking at ways of developing circular sustainable floorcoverings. We spoke to **Jane Gardner** of the European Floorcoverings Association (EUFCA) and the European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute (ERFMI).*

Jane has developed a 'White paper on Collection' which aims to address in practical terms the issue of facilitating and increasing the volume of floorcoverings to be uplifted from site and enhancing the circularity of the floorcoverings sector.

The White Paper can be accessed here: https://www.cisuflo.eu/download/d5-1-white-paper-strategy-for-implementing-industry-wide-collection-schemes-for-the-flooring-industry/

Jane Gardner is optimistic that cross-border partnerships, Government support and the input of a variety of trade associations is leading to significant positive developments which will help us develop collection schemes for waste flooring products. Her work is under the auspices of CISUFLO and there is currently a white paper out for discussion which considers the issues involved.

"We are looking at textile, laminate and resilient," she says. "The question is: how do you collect this flooring? Do you collect it all together, or do you collect it separately by flooring type? The Association of European Producers of Laminate Flooring (EPLF) have put together a paper which states their belief that laminate should be collected with wood. So that would be kept separate because it would go in the wood waste stream. With regard to carpet and resilient, I believe these should be collected separately where possible. However at a household waste collection centre for example, it is quite difficult to separate - and it will be difficult to persuade a household waste collection centre to have one container for carpet and a separate one for resilient flooring. So there can be a case for collecting together and then sorting it separately. That is basically what the white paper is saying, but it is up for discussion within the flooring sector, because the question is how do you fund and organise collections and who takes the lead."

The idea would be that in the future when product passports are fully introduced, it will be possible to identify products more clearly, making collections and sorting easier at the end of life. But currently recyclers are faced with a mix of flooring and no identification, so have to look at other ways of sorting. The essence of the CISUFLO project is to work on all the challenges associated with identifying products for recycling.

In order to improve the situation, there will be a Transition Support Tool, which will take the form of an App, which can be used by all stakeholders within the flooring sector, so for example, if they have a question about where to collect the flooring, they can go to this App and have a look to see what schemes there are available. This App would give manufacturers and contractors the answer to what they need to do at a very practical level. It has been developed by a branch of the University of Aachen in Germany, who are partners of CISUFLO.

"It is quite advanced and the idea is that you can search for anything you need," says Jane. "For example if you are a manufacturer and you want to find out what the options are for designing a carpet, it will lead you in the right direction to find the information and if you are looking for somewhere you can recycle your carpet, then it will lead you to that information.

"The problem of course is that we still need someone to host it, because these kind of Apps are only any good if they are regularly updated by someone who takes ownership of them. That aspect has not been finalised yet.

"It will be finished by the end of the project which is in June 2025, so there needs to be agreement on who is going to host the App, which will not be an easy thing to solve. But one way or another we hope it will be live in a year-and-a-half or so."

One aspect of CISUFLO's work is to look at the lack of recycling options for floor coverings. ERFMI

> *"The various initiatives that are taking place are exciting and, whether or not they are ultimately successful, you need these to be taking place in order to push development forward*

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is researching how to recycle more end-of-life PVC floor coverings. It has developed a business plan to look at the various processes involved to establish which one would be the most suitable. There is also work going with carpets, being led by Aquafil and others. This is being encouraged by regulatory actions as well.

"So I think the industry is trying to address the lack of recycling options," says Jane. "We are also trying to address legacy substances in floorcoverings. Within ERFMI we are looking at how you can sort material with legacy substances from material that doesn't have it. The economic feasibility is more difficult to address, and the lack of incentives, but I think that will change, together with the legislative landscape.

"If you look for example at the situation in France, 'producer responsibility' has been brought in for construction products, including flooring. This means producers have to pay into a producer responsibility organisation, which then takes over the sorting and collection of these end-of-life products. So you immediately have a stream of material you can recycle and recover. What's more, the incentive is increasing all the time, because within the construction product regulations, there will be mandatory recycling targets.

"The main existing scheme for vinyl in the UK is Recofloor, and then you have individual manufacturers managing their own schemes, Germany has a dedicated recycling plant for PVC flooring, which has been going for over 20 years, funded by a number of major manufacturers."

"The Aquafil process has been going for many years and is part of the CISUFLO project. This takes Nylon 6 carpets to a plant in Slovenia, where there is a chemical recycling plant to make the original consistency of nylon and make new yarns out of it. Many of today's nylon carpets use Econyl® regenerated carpets, which is a recycled fibre from Aquafil, and they are trying to increase the amount of carpet yarn they take back and recycle. They are running some processing trials which are part of the CISUFLO project."

For these types of projects to succeed, it needs investment, but it also needs the right legislation and political climate to change the landscape and make it viable. Government support is required to take the risk out of investment.

"If you have a waste model, combined with legislation and a demand for recycled material, if we can find an outlet which can make clean recycled material to go back into the flooring, which is now starting up in a few places, and that material starts having a value and they pay you for the separately collected flooring, that's when it all comes together," says Jane.

"If you look at window frames, for example, they are a commodity for which the recycler will pay, because they can make a business case out of it. That's where we need to get to with flooring. And the flooring needs to be collected separately on site from other material and ideally should be separated into different types (for example vinyl should be collected separately from carpet). Once everything is mixed together and then you try and sort it out at a facility, it's already become more contaminated than it was before. You might have paint on it and dust from rubble. That really is where it falls down today but that has to change."

Given that a lot of projects are just getting going and recycling options are not as full as we might like, the practical advice for UK contractors laying vinyl or carpet in the current situation is for them to contact Recofloor or Carpet Recycling UK, as appropriate, and also to get involved in manufacturers' own take-back programmes.

The CISUFLO project aims to come up with an ideal plan at the end of it. All stakeholders within CISUFLO are encouraged to comment on it, and the more input the better.

"The various initiatives that are taking place are exciting and, whether or not they are ultimately successful, you need these to be taking place in order to push development forward. People might say we are being unrealistic, but if we want to make this work, this is what needs to happen. Things seem to be moving in the right direction, so I am optimistic," concludes Jane.

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How to make YOUR BUSINESS GREENER

Sustainability improvements you can make today

While approaching sustainability can seem like a daunting task, there are many straightforward improvements that flooring contractors can be making today to make a difference.

Implementing simple sustainability measures will not only be necessary to stay one step ahead of evolving environmental regulations but is also an opportunity to improve business practices and stay in front of the competition.

Thanks to increasing financial incentives and returns, the sustainable choice is also the practical one. By committing to sustainability, a contractor will enhance their brand image and can attract environmentally-conscious customers who are more likely to support businesses that prioritise sustainability. As customers increasingly come to expect sustainable credentials in your operations, it could be a missed opportunity!

Some of the possible actions you can take to make your offices and operations more sustainable are discussed below. This guide recommends the following list as easy starting points, in no particular order, for businesses looking to make simple changes that will improve their sustainability position. Advice must be tailored to your own business according to your particular needs and how far along you are in your sustainability journey.

Measure your energy consumption by working out the carbon footprint associated with your energy bills. The formula is that Emissions = Total energy consumption (fuel, electricity) x Emission Factors (fuel, electricity). The emission conversion factors are listed on the Government website.

Measure your building's environmental performance through Energy Performance Certificates, which rate the energy efficiency of a building from A (very efficient) to G (inefficient). These are mandatory in the UK when a building is constructed, sold or rented out and are valid for 10 years from the date of issue. To get a new energy certificate, you will need to have the property assessed. Find an accredited assessor through the Government's website.

Generate your own energy by installing renewable energy sources such as solar panels. You can find out how much you might save with solar panels using the Energy Saving Trust's solar panel calculator. Installations must comply with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) and you must acquire planning permission. Any electricity you don't use or store in a battery can be sold to the National Grid through the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG); find out if you are eligible and apply for a licence on Ofgem's website. From 2022 to 2027 VAT will not be charged on solar panels

Adhesives manufacturer Palace Chemicals have installed solar panels this year at their manufacturing site in Liverpool

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Choose a green energy supplier that uses renewable energy sources such as wind, solar or biomass. A growing number of suppliers offer 100% renewable energy – examples include Ecotricity, 100Green, Octopus and Good Energy.

Switch to a green energy tariff, which is an agreement to pay more for the use of renewable energy such as wind, solar or biomass. Find out who offers green tariffs and compare prices with Business Comparison.

Install energy saving features to improve the environmental impact of your heating, electricity and water and encourage employees to be mindful of their energy usage. Heating: install draught-proofing, heat pumps, biomass boilers, and insulation. Electricity: switch to lights that are LED or automatic on/off. Water: install low-flow taps and toilets, fix leaks, use plants with low watering needs or use recycled/harvested rainwater. The Competitions and Markets Authority (CMA) has produced a consumer guide to buying green heating and insulations products.

Select an accredited, responsible installer that belongs to a certification scheme. TrustMark (TM) is a government-endorsed quality scheme, while the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) is an independent standards body that certifies green heating products, installers and installations to a set standard. Businesses accredited by MCS currently are required to belong to a consumer code, either the Renewable Energy Consumer Code (RECC) or the Home Insulation and Energy Systems Quality Assured Contractors Scheme (HIES). Both these consumer codes operate in the green heating sector and are approved by Trading Standards. To find a member near you, search on their website directories, respectively:

- https://www.trustmark.org.uk/homeowner/find-a-business
- https://mcscertified.com/find-an-installer/
- https://www.recc.org.uk/scheme/members
- https://search.hiesscheme.org.uk/

Check that a product is certifiably eco-friendly such as via an ISO 14001 Certification for Environmental Management System or an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). An EPD provides transparent and comparable information about the environmental impact of a product throughout its life cycle, based on international standards and verified by third-party experts.

Avoid greenwashing by questioning what marketing is or is not telling you and checking against evidence. Additionally, make sure that your own green claims are compliant with current and upcoming regulations (see the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill). The CMA launched the Green Claims Code campaign containing guiding principles that businesses' environmental claims should follow, including a green claims checklist for businesses to make sure that their green claims comply with consumer protection law.

Transition to electric vehicles (EVs) to receive capital allowance benefits. Currently, if you buy a new and unused vehicle that is fully electric or has zero CO2 emissions you can claim 100% first year allowances in addition to annual investment allowance (AIA) as long as you do not claim both for the same expenditure. The "100% first year allowances" also apply with the same terms and conditions to other assets such as equipment for EV charging points or plant and machinery for company use in a freeport tax site.

Reduce vehicle journeys by opting for online meetings, travelling as effectively as possible such as via public transportation or car-shares and cutting back on unnecessary deliveries.

Go digital to reduce paper and improve your efficiency, giving you access to exclusive digital benefits and easier filing/sharing – this Guide is a leading example, if we say so ourselves!

Measure your waste and recycle by using a waste management calculator, carefully following your Duty of Care obligations and finding registered buyers near to you. Avoid paying Landfill Tax Rates by recycling your waste instead of sending it to landfill.

Join a take-back scheme, such as Carpet Recycling UK in the carpet sector and Recofloor in the vinyl sector, to reduce waste disposal costs and potentially earn extra income through selling recycled materials. This will help your business in the transition toward a circular economy.

Evaluate your supply chain to make sure that you are associated with and are supporting sustainable companies. Scope 3 emissions include the upstream and downstream activity in an organisation's value chain. SMEs may be asked by larger businesses to provide information on their emissions contributions as part of their reporting requirements.

Monitor your trade associations content and resources to ensure you remain at the forefront of industry developments and sustainability news. Make sure to follow on social media and read the latest emails, newsletters and announcements.

Appoint a sustainability champion to generate ideas and implement plans to make your business more environmentally friendly and socially responsible.

See if there is financial support available, which will depend on your company's location, changing circumstances and specific needs. The Government hosts a page of guidance to find funding to help your business become greener that is updated as new funding becomes available. In addition, find finance and support on the UK Business Climate Hub.

Announce your sustainability plan to advertise your business' alignment with sustainability and encourage industry progress, such as via a Carbon Reduction Plan. To create such a document, the UK Government has guidance as well as a template which can be downloaded online.

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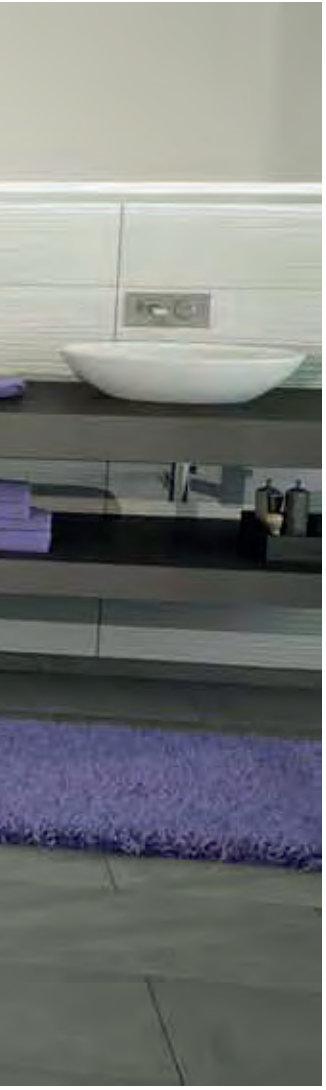
BEWI has an especially strong commitment to sustainability. It views its significant annual purchasing volume as an opportunity to drive change and to increase the emphasis on sustainability in the value chain. Though setting clear goals and actively collaborating with suppliers, the company works to ensure that its procurement reflects its goals linked to resource efficiency, circularity and social responsibility. Transport is a large part of the value chain, accounting for much of the company's CO_2 emissions. It is constantly working to reduce the impact from its transport operations by creating cleaner and leaner logistics. It works to optimize routes, fill vehicles more



efficiently and work with logistic providers to implement non-fossil fuel alternative transport options.
The company is committed to becoming circular. It continuously works to increase its collection capacity both through its own investment and also by collaborating with its customers and partners to ensure that its products are sorted out for collection and that the logistics are in place for the recycling of materials.

The Jackoboard® construction boards themselves comprise 98% air and are 100% recyclable, meaning that they provide excellent insulation and can help to improve the sustainability of houses, while driving down heating costs. The extruded polystyrene (XPS), from which they are made, is inherently a very long-lasting material, which is inert and does not leak liquids or gases.

Jackoboard® provides the flexibility to meet modern requirements in bathroom design for both commercial and domestic projects. Each board features an extruded XPS polystyrene core with a special coating on each side. This ensures that the boards form an ideal substrate for all types of ceramic, porcelain, or natural stone tiles. They are waterproof meaning that only the joints need to be tanked, again saving on materials and reducing environmental impact. They are also thermally insulating, easy to shape, truly lightweight and strong.

The latest British Standard for tiling requires the wider use of more appropriate materials for construction, and for receiving tiles in water sensitive and wet areas. This has increased the demand for the Jackoboard® range in new build applications as well as in renovation works.

When the Jackoboard® product range is used in new builds or extensions which are constructed using the BEWI Building Systems, Jackodur® ATLAS and Thermomur®, these buildings can be made to meet the latest Part L regulations, which are designed to cut carbon emissions from houses by 31%. The BEWI product range also enables such dwellings to exceed the requirements of the Future Homes Standard, which is coming in by 2025 and which will require 75-80% less carbon emissions than currently.

This product range not only has BBA approval but also Passivhaus certification, meaning the products can play a role in the drive towards net zero house construction.

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Greening Skills and Sustainability

EDUCATING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

*CFA Training Manager, **Shaun Wadsworth**, describes the role of the training sector in educating the contract flooring workforce of today and tomorrow about the part they need to play in achieving Net Zero Carbon*

Half of the world's population is 30 years old or younger, and this figure is expected to reach 57 per cent by the end of 2030 (according to United Nations report published in 2015), the largest generation of young people in history. Highlighting the importance of developing green skills for our future generations is key to ensure a transition to a greener and more sustainable world where everyone – including young people – benefit equally.

Green skills apply in many professional settings, including construction, and more specifically commercial flooring. They draw on a wider range of knowledge, values, and attitudes towards sustainable decision-making at work and in life. Although green skills and competencies are relevant for people of all ages, they are of greater importance for younger people entering the industry over the next decade and beyond, who can contribute towards the transitions and evolutions in materials and processes over a longer period of time. And let's be clear there is a HUGE transition to be made that is as much a cultural change as it is practical and operational one. For both these elements training will be incredibly important.

There is already a wealth of standards and qualifications being developed and delivered by awarding bodies and training providers in the wider construction sector designed with varying levels of impact, scale and influence. It is reported by NOCN Group (one of the largest contributors to training and assessment in construction) that there could be as many as 694,000 'green jobs' in the low carbon and renewable energy sector across England by 2030. For the construction sector there are specific construction qualifications aimed at 'green skills' including areas such as Insulation and Building Treatments and retrofit qualifications (designed with industry specialists to align with industry needs and enhance the skills and knowledge required for retrofitting).

But how does all of this affect the next generation of floorlayer and the flooring industry? It started with the revision and reform of Apprenticeship Standards and Occupations Standards that have been completed over the past 18 months. These are two areas where CFA and its members are already heavily involved. Both the new versions of the Floorlaying Apprenticeship Standard and The National Occupation Standards for Floorlaying include upgrades in areas such as green skills, digitisation and productivity improvements within the training and assessment plans. This means topics such as sustainable waste disposal, digital communication, climate change, sustainability regulation, carbon footprint and more, must be covered at apprentice level and assessed for achievement.

This year the CFA have also released additional guidance regarding underfloor heating (UFH) and specifically how legislation relating to heat source pumps is likely to affect our industry and the whole supply chain. UFH is probably the main solution to the recommendation for in the Future Building Standards (developed as the Future Homes Standard) which will mean that traditional boilers will be replaced by heat pumps for all new build homes. This will have a huge impact on how flooring is installed in the future and will be a key learning point for new entrants into the flooring sector who will be tasked with working on new sites where UFH is the primary heat source for a home or building.

All of the above will inevitably see more focus on floorlaying apprentices and new entrants having a much wider understanding of their commitment to sustainability, along with more dedicated positions, qualifications and apprenticeships established specifically for 'green skills'. It is also safe to assume that there will be a rise in educating those in industry both young and old on the perils of climate change, and the need for everyone to make positive change.

CFA, and our training arm FITA, will continue to lead the challenge and deliver best practice for those we work with. This is another reason to look for the CFA logo when appointing your supply chain partners, as CFA members have access to a wealth of knowledge and training opportunities.

> *"Although green skills and competencies are relevant for people of all ages, they are of greater importance for younger people entering the industry over the next decade and beyond*

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Although product specification for commercial projects is often carried out in architects' offices and designers' studios, the flooring contractors on any project are responsible for installing the products and dealing with waste at the end of a job. We spoke to a selection of the leading flooring contractors to find out how they are making their own businesses more sustainable and to establish their views on recycling specifically and sustainability more generally in our sector.

LOUGHTON CONTRACTS
We know flooring

As one of the biggest flooring contractors in the business, with the bulk of its work inside the M25, it is reassuring to hear that Loughton Contracts are working towards becoming carbon neutral.

The company has certainly done a lot of work on sustainability, both with regard to the handling of its waste and also the way it operates its business.

"Waste is the big issue for us," says Nick Perkins, Divisional Managing Director (Fit-Out). "On the fit-out side of the business, we install a lot of carpet tiles, where the waste can be quite low. You might see only 2-3% waste if you're working on a very large area, but if it is offices, you could be looking at 10-20% waste because of the number of cuts you have to do. We use software systems that calculates this for us, which helps reduce the amount of waste we need to allow for. We are now recycling the majority of uplifted material, so it is not going into skips and, in turn, to landfill. We use Recofloor to recycle vinyl offcuts. wherever possible, which helps reduce the amount of waste, and we are now recycling the majority of uplifted material so it is not going into skips. We use Recofloor for the vinyl offcuts."

Another important area is floor protection, which is required on most jobs. The company works with Protec, who have developed a system where floor protection is recycled and put back into making new protection products. This is the only closed loop scheme of its type.

"Our work comprises commercial, along with high end residential and construction. Office fit-out is a large part of our business and is a busy sector, despite the increase in working from home post-covid. A large number of major corporate firms are looking to improve their premises and make them greener and more sustainable. Landlords are also realising the need to make their buildings more environmentally friendly. Although floor coverings are a small part of the overall project, if the owner of a building is improving its sustainability, they will also want to improve the floorcoverings."

Nick Perkins says one of the biggest main contractors they work with is now pushing its subcontractors to be carbon neutral, or as near as possible, by next year.

"The majority of tenders that we receive contain something around sustainability. There is a cost to this in general, although in some areas this will save money. Whatever scheme the clients sign up for on a building, whether it is BREEAM, LEED, WELL or SKA, these will have sustainability targets that they need to meet in a variety of different areas. Mostly products will be specified by the time we get on site, but sometimes we get asked for our advice. Typically this might be that the designer has specified a certain product and we are asked if we can offer an alternative product which is going to achieve the same environmental standard, for a slightly lower price".

"We are regularly involved in projects that use magnetic backed systems, which have benefits for office fit-out schemes, as these products do not contaminate the raised floor or the product that is being installed. Uplifting and recycling these products at the end of life is much easier and possible when the time comes. We can suggest adhesive free technology to our customers as an innovation. This might cost a little bit more in the short term but will definitely save money in the long term. It's not just the raised floor that it helps with, it's also the carpet tiles or LVT as there is no issue with contamination to the product by the adhesive at the end of its life."

Other product development is also helping with sustainability. For example LVT with a cork backing is now common, or products with a cork top and a sustainable ply or MDF backing. Nick Perkins says this is good for the environment, as cork grows very quickly and is a sustainable source. It is also superb for acoustics, which is excellent for the office environment.

A willingness to look at these types of new products is being delivered by interior designers and architects. Most of the major practices in London have sustainability and environmental advisors working in-house, whose job it is to check product data sheets and EPDs, making sure that the materials are suitable for the intended use.

"A lot of manufacturers are signing up to deals now where they are agreeing that if their product is specified, they will take it back free of charge at the end of its life and recycle it. This is what clients and main contractors want to hear.

"It is true sometimes that sustainable products cause problems for us. Something we are seeing more of is magnetic backed timber, where the boards have a magnetic backing which fits to a raised metal floor. This does away with the need for both plywood and adhesives which bonds directly to a raised access floor. In terms of sustainability it's a great idea and it can also be easily lifted to get to the services underneath, which you can't do if it's fully bonded."

Within the business Loughton Contracts employ a number of people working on Health Safety and Environmental areas, including

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sustainability aspects wherever possible. It looks to source only sustainable products and it is FSC and PEFC-accredited completing audits with the accrediting bodies on a yearly basis. This means that when they buy FSC material, they retain the chain of custody documentation, which can be passed on to clients.

"This represents a big investment for us, but we have to have it in place in order to work for certain contractors."

The company is also exploring solar panels and all of its office lighting is run on PIRs. All of its vehicles are either electric or hybrid, although being London-based, 90% of journeys are by public transport.

The positive signs are are that carpet tile manufacturers are collaborating to take back each other's products.

"If that becomes the norm and if we can persuade more clients to use reused or recycled carpet tiles, it will be a game changer. Reuse of products is now growing. We should be doing more of this where possible by repurposing product for the benefit of people who need them at affordable prices."

Designer Contracts

Saving the oceans and driving up sustainability

Designer Contracts is one of the UK's largest contractors supplying and installing nationally across many markets in the public and private sectors.

"Flooring is an important category to think about when it comes to sustainability," says Louise Walters, Commercial Director. "I feel we've been leading the way as a flooring contractor. That is partly because we have the freedom to choose what products we use, and we are always looking for innovative new products. We look at the whole supply chain when it comes to sourcing products and looking at what we can offer. There is not a lot out there in terms of cradle to grave sustainable flooring products, but there are a few. We are aware of them and we offer them to our customers where we can."

Designer Contracts has itself launched a number of sustainable products recently. In addition to carpet ranges made from recycled yarn, probably its most significant product is Springbond foam underlay, manufactured by Texfelt. This is made from recycled plastic bottles recovered from the sea and beaches.

"For every three-bedroom house where we use this instead of a PU underlay we are diverting 1,000 plastic bottles from landfill," says Louise Walters. "Texfelt have told us that we have hit the 3 million bottle mark in terms of the product that we have used on customers' projects. We are now using this widely in the housebuilding market and we are able to share milestones with our housebuilder customers, and provide a certificate which they really appreciate, as it's great for their sustainability credentials as well."

With regard to recycling the company has run a huge project which enables it to collect all its carpet waste regionally free from contamination via back haul in its own vehicles. It is sent to a central distribution facility in Kettering, where it is baled and sent on to the company's recycling partner Innovate.

Designer Contracts has been a member of Carpet Recycling UK for 15 years and has won many of their awards, including Take Back Partner of the Year and Recycling Champion of the Year on multiple occasions since 2015.

"Carpet Recycling UK have supported us hugely and we remain closely affiliated with them," says Louise Walters.

The company also has a new recycling programme ongoing with Amtico for both offcuts and uplifted LVT.

Louise Walters is firmly of the view that EPDs are critical to the success of driving forward future recycling work.

"Textile manufacturers are now starting to get EPDs, but it is still a minority. On laminates, LVT, vinyl and safety flooring the manufacturers appear to have invested and they tend to have them. My team have spent a lot of time researching which products have EPDs and which do not. We then have this information available to pass on to our customers. In addition to EPDs, we also source all other environmental and green credentials for each product we supply so that we can give this information to our customers and help them to make greener flooring choices. EPDs and requirements for sustainable products are definitely something we've seen a spike for in terms of requests from customers."

When it comes to running its business operations, all of the company's vehicles going forward are set to be electric. It now has a total fleet of 39 EVs for its sales and management team and has installed a total of 23 EV charging points across all of its facilities across the UK. These are also now mostly being converted to LED lighting and the company hopes also to install solar panels at some of its sites. It recycles all of its polythene and cardboard packaging and

makes an annual report on this subject to the Environment Agency.

However, despite all the work that Designer Contracts and other companies in the sector are doing, Louise Walters feels we still have a mountain to climb.

"As it stands I am very concerned that we are not going fast enough to avoid more onerous Government intervention, and I think this could happen," she says, "which could be a problem, as the changes could affect us adversely. I very much hope that CRUK can help to move things along more quickly before anything like that happens. At the CRUK conference it was mentioned that there is only 10-12 years of available landfill left, which is a very scary statistic.

"As an industry collectively we are just at the start of this journey and there has to be collaboration between manufacturers and recyclers. So there should be some kind of standard to enable manufacturers to understand what can and what cannot be recycled. At the moment we are a long way off from that. The role of research programmes, such as that being carried out by CISUFLO, is very important in understanding and improving recycling."

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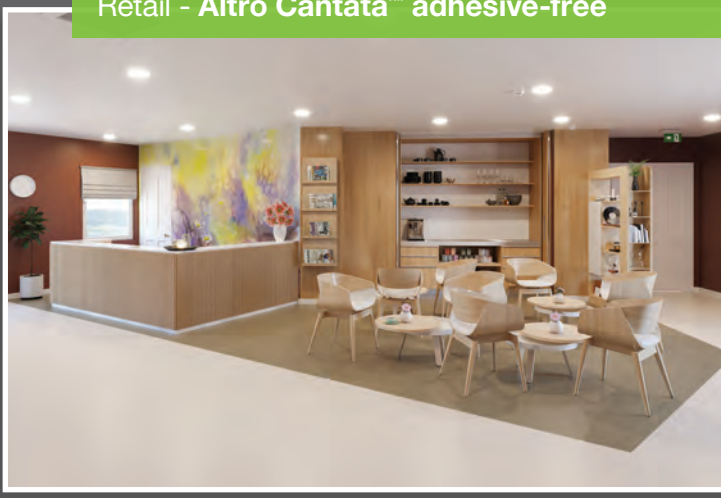

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WFC
Westcotes Flooring Company

For Westcotes, material selection and purchasing are the areas of biggest impact. When working through main contractors, a lot of the projects' floor finishes are fully specified prior to engaging with the main contractor and actually starting on site.

But even in these situations, flooring contractors still have influence with regard to other items such as floor protection, DPMs, latex smoothing compounds and the adhesives used, so they can opt for low VOC products.

Westcotes also targets a significant amount of end-user work, in which the company can specify what flooring it fits, and has the option, for example, to go for loose lay fast fit systems, reducing the need for adhesives – making the products easier to uplift and easier to recycle.

"We do a lot of work directly for schools and the education sector in general," says Carl Harper, Managing Director, Westcotes Flooring Company. "A lot of schools nowadays can make their own choices about these things, so that means we can get involved with the specification, assisting and guiding the school where necessary. For them it is often more about colour and aesthetics than anything else, to match the walls and the rest of the teaching environment. They'll often leave it to us as the professionals to specify the exact products that are going to be used."

Whatever the type of contract, the contractor can generally choose the type of floor protection used. Westcotes mainly use Protec RE Board for the day-to-day temporary floor protection for their jobs, which is made from 60% post-consumer waste, and it is then recycled again after use.

They are also involved with various take back schemes such as Recofloor, Forbo's take back scheme, F Ball's recycling scheme and Protec's closed loop recycling scheme.

"For example on a job that we are on at the moment, we are using Polyflor vinyl, so we are using Recofloor, founded by Polyflor and Altro," says Carl Harper. "We have big lockable bins on site to take back all our Polyflor off-cuts. We also participate in the F Ball recycling scheme, so all the F Ball buckets go into that bin. We are also utilising the Protec closed loop recycling scheme, they take away the floor protection at the end of the job for recycling. So all those three elements are being diverted away from landfill.

"The majority of contaminated material still does go to landfill, and I believe the main contractors need to be more committed to getting this material recycled. What we also need is further advances in technology to enable this to be properly separated. There are processes being developed to do this, but there is more work to do. The main contractors have to play a bigger part in making improvements, especially with regard to segregation of waste, whether its cardboard, timber or plastic.

"The reality is we would make more money just by dumping our waste material in a skip, rather than paying Recofloor and other companies who recycle to sort it out. We are doing this because it is the right thing to do, but in my view main contractors need to get more involved and support all the initiatives available and drive it from the top down."

With regard to its own business operations, Westcotes has had three charging points installed at one of its offices and now has eight hybrid/electric vehicles, making up a third of its fleet, and has a plan to get more. This has happened within the last three years. There are tax benefits of course, but the company says it has done this mainly because it is the right thing to do. It has also installed charging points and incentivises car sharing amongst staff and fitters to reduce its carbon footprint.

"Unfortunately electric vans are still too expensive for most companies. Hopefully the technology will improve though in the coming years and the price will come down. Also the sites need to have charging points of course. At the moment we are generally finding that the hybrids are the most practical vehicles for us."

Westcotes is also keen to trial new products where these offer a sustainability benefit.

"With regard to new technology, my sense is that adhesive-free magnetic flooring systems are now gaining some traction, as some carpet manufacturers like Shaw and Forbo are coming on board with them. In the past year we have started using this technology as well. For example, a big benefit in, for example, the fit-out sector is that it doesn't contaminate the raised access floor, which is a significant cost benefit to the client. It might be more expensive initially than some adhesives, but when you consider the cost of the raised access floor which might be a £50-£60 asset to the client, it really does make sense in the long term. We are now using loose lay systems from various manufacturers, including loose lay LVTs."

Westcotes are using non-solvent based products where possible, and using mainly water based smoothing compounds to help reduce and eliminate the use for large numbers of plastic bottles. Carl Harper refers to a recent hospital job of 8,000sqm, which would have required 1,600 plastic bottles. This was eliminated by the choice to use a water-based product. Although the bottles could have been recycled, it is still better not to require them in the first place.

"Main contractors love the idea of sustainability," he says. "They are all saying we need to be doing more, so they can tell their clients what they are doing. It's the same for manufacturers. The issue as ever is who is going to pay for it, because there are additional costs associated with some of these things. The people who are pushing it are not always willing to step up and share the cost.

"When it comes to dealing with waste product, we could go and put all our vinyl waste in a skip, which costs us nothing as this is paid for by the main contractor, but to do it right and recycle I have got to pay for the relevant products, bins and bags to be delivered and collected. At the moment I would say eight out of ten main contractors just want us to put the flooring waste in a skip because they don't want to pay for it to be recycled, even though we have demonstrated it is actually cheaper to recycle and divert from landfill, but in their eyes it is more hassle. I feel that if there was financial support and a mutual desire to work more sustainably, together with better communication and education on the subject, more people would do this correctly. By working together in that way, we would achieve a better result."

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Anthony Francis, Managing Director of Mayfield Floors, is proud of his company's leading role on sustainability, notably its support for Recofloor.

"We have been involved with Recofloor since it started," he says, "and we were one of the first companies to do so, since we saw its advantages. We have championed it since then and I was personally delighted to be recognised with an award in their ten year awards presentations. We do view ourselves as a leading light in terms of the Recofloor scheme. That's because we view waste and offcuts as our biggest issue when it comes to sustainability.

"One of the main misconceptions with the whole recycling agenda is that it costs more. That has not been our experience. Even in the early days of it, it saved us a lot of money. In fact our main motivation for working more sustainably was cost-saving. As the cost of skips and sending waste to landfill has gone up, this has only become increasingly true. Sending waste to landfill has become increasingly costly. Using Recofloor is in reality a lot cheaper."

Five years ago Mayfield also got involved with CRUK who put them in touch with Tarkett and their ReStart scheme, who now do all the recycling of their carpet tiles.

"We do a lot of office fit-out so there are a lot carpet tiles. Our growth with the scheme has been consistent, sometimes doubling within a year. So our involvement helps the planet and it is also a cost saving to us. This is the message we need to get over – it is perceived to be expensive, but actually it saves you money."

The company has also partnered with F Ball on their collection scheme, which has mainly operated through distributers up to this point, but they are now starting to work with contractors as well.

"I know it's not always easy to carry out full recycling – one of the issues is that some flooring contractors don't have the space to do it. You need room for bins, sacks and palletised carpet tiles. You also need someone to manage it, to oversee the segregation of materials. A lot of flooring contractors are really small businesses, so there are challenges for them to do this."

According to Anthony Francis, although there are separate waste streams for aluminium, plasterboard and some other products, you rarely see one for flooring. "It's almost like flooring is the forgotten part of the whole sustainability story, and one of our challenges as a trade is how do we get that changed. How do we get the flooring included in the mindset of the main contractors when it comes to recycling."

"There certainly needs to be more collaboration across the industry to drive this issue forward," he says, "as I feel there is a lot of undercutting on cost going on between contractors, and this can push sustainability off the agenda. There are still too many companies unfortunately who aren't really interested.

"Anyone who is a member of the CFA is probably already doing the right things. It's the ones that aren't who need to up their game. There are of course plenty of very good small businesses, employing excellent fitters, who might not be CFA members and because of the way their businesses are structured, they simply don't have the space to carry out recycling operations – so I am fully aware of the challenges that they face."

For Mayfield, the work that the company has already carried out on recycling is its biggest contribution towards increased sustainability. But it has also tackled the carbon footprint of its business operations, including using more and more electric vehicles, and it has changed all its lighting to energy efficient lighting and installed solar panels.

"It's mainly those staff who are making local journeys who are using EVs currently. The infrastructure in this country is not where it needs to be to enable us to use them for guys who are travelling longer distances. This really needs to be improved so that the country can hit the targets that the Government has set. I know there are chargers out there that will charge a vehicle in 20 minutes, but they are too few and far between. We've looked at electric vans, but these need to improve before they become more mainstream. The problem is with weight. If they are carrying a load of flooring the range can drop drastically."

One thing that the company has started doing in the past year is repurposing. This means that its offcuts go to charities who reuse them for the benefit of people who might be struggling to fit new flooring in their homes, due to the cost of living crisis.

"In many ways this is the ideal situation, because you are not even using the energy involved in a normal recycling process. I think there needs to be more of this done. We have to keep excess material here for a year after a job is completed, in case there are any issues, but once that time period is over we are then left with a lot of material that is basically doing nothing. We would normally then pay to have that taken by a recycling company, whereas by partnering with these local organisations we can invite people in to choose what they need. This approach is working really well for us."

According to Tony Mathé, Director of Hillside Contracts and a former President of the CFA: "An issue with being a finishing trade, is that projects are often out of budget by the time they get to us and that is when 'value engineering' tends to arise" he says.

"We would love to be able to push harder on environmental issues but we have to be aware of these commercial pressures. The more environmentally friendly you become, the more expensive a project is, simply because the truly sustainable products potentially can be more expensive."

With regard to product development, Tony Mathé says that they are now starting to see large projects where loose lay vinyl is specified. These products tend to be sold on the basis that they can be quicker to install as they are adhesive free, and they do less damage to the subfloor. But they are still a very small part of the market. There are also vinyl underlay systems, which are not adhesive-free, but can also protect the subfloor and be easy to remove.

The area which Hillside does have control over is ancillaries, and on that side they do try hard to use products that are as close to environmentally friendly as possible.

"I believe education and changing the mindset is key for the designers, architects and clients. They are the ones who make the decisions. We will influence decision making where we can of course. One suggestion to recommend would be to increase the size and quality of entrance matting. There's no doubt that this would help the lifespan of the floorcoverings.

"Generally the manufacturers do a great job of educating the specifiers. Manufacturers have that relationship with specifiers more than we do. The specifiers have the samples and literature from the manufactures who are trying to get their product specified. When they go and see the specifiers and the architects that's when they need to be pushing the environmental side of their businesses, which I'm sure they do. The issue here is that a high percentage of 'new build' developments are design and build. Therefore, automatically you are starting from a low base, where cost is everything.

"However, the new buildings that architects are most interested in, and which seem to win awards, are sometimes the most wasteful – curved buildings and other odd shapes. So while we're trying to get our wastage on materials down to as low as possible, the reality on some of these prestige projects is that wastage is up to 25 to 30% or more, which is ridiculous. A lot can be recycled, but unfortunately, a lot will end up in landfill."

The waste that Hillside deals with is mostly clean offcuts which go back into recycling, working with the likes of Recofloor, and manufacturers such as F Ball & Co. and Altro Whiterock, who provide containers for them to fill and the material then goes on to make traffic cones and such products. Most contaminated product still goes into landfill.

"Smooth vinyl with a small amount of adhesive residue can be recycled, but if there was a way of recycling all contaminated uplifted floor coverings, that would be a game changer," says Tony Mathé.

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Since its formation in 2007, ***Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK)*** *has become the UK industry leader and go-to body on sustainability matters for the carpet and textile flooring sector in the UK. Scheme Manager, Adnan Zeb-Khan, updates us on the latest developments*

CRUK is an independent not-for-profit membership association working with the supply chain for carpet and textile flooring in the UK, currently representing over 80% of the UK's carpet and textile flooring manufacturers and distributors.

Our ultimate aim is to move carpet and textile flooring up the waste hierarchy and create circularity to maximise the use of these resources and preventing this material from becoming a waste by reusing flooring in new applications.

At a time marked by unique challenges and complexities, the importance of collaboration cannot be overstated. Nowhere is this truer than in the realm of sustainability, where concerted efforts are required to address pressing environmental issues.

In the UK, the carpet and textile flooring industry stands at a pivotal juncture, tasked with transforming its operations towards a circular model. As we navigate through these challenging times, what we are noticing more is that collaboration between our members is a vital ingredient to successfully develop a pathway towards becoming more sustainable.

The concept of circularity, particularly in the context of carpet and textile floor recycling, revolves around the idea of minimising waste and maximizing the lifespan of products through reuse, remanufacturing, and recycling. Achieving circularity demands a fundamental shift in the way we design, produce, and dispose of carpets and textile flooring. It requires the active participation and cooperation of various stakeholders across the industry's supply chain.

At the heart of this transformation lies the need for collaboration among members. By working together and through CRUK, stakeholders can leverage their collective expertise, resources, and networks to overcome challenges and drive innovation.

The sharing of best practice and experience will allow the key players in the sector to learn from one another to create standards leading to the development of more efficient recycling processes, novel technologies, and sustainable materials.

CRUK works extensively to expand its learning and understanding from other similar trade associations that are facing the same challenges and is now part of the British Furniture Confederation which allows us to understand and share what other sectors are doing and facing, as well as being part of an active lobby group which meets regularly with MPS and Parliamentary Groups.

In addition, CRUK is also forging alliances with academia, research institutions, and government agencies, so our members can access cutting-edge research, funding opportunities, and regulatory support. These partnerships not only accelerate progress but also enhance the credibility and legitimacy of sustainability initiatives within the industry.

CRUK members understand the power of collaboration in driving sustainable change. As a voluntary association of raw material suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, contract flooring companies, retailers, and reuse and recycling companies, CRUK is pivotal in promoting and guiding circularity within the sector. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, CRUK creates dialogue, facilitates collaboration, and leads discussions.

Furthermore, collaboration enables us to address systemic barriers to circularity, such as logistical challenges, market fragmentation, data gaps and schemes promoting take-back options. However, CRUK cannot do this alone, especially as the challenges are getting bigger and we will need our members to play a bigger and more active role within our organisation so we can be heard and looked upon as being a high-performing sector that is capable of measuring its performance.

Data sharing and management is a key aspect that needs to improve, especially if we want to be taken seriously by Defra and other government agencies. We are also missing out on coming together as a single voice on certain local and central government consultations where we need to show solidarity to ensure that our opinions are considered, acknowledged and acted upon.

In conclusion, collaboration is the linchpin of success as we strive to transition towards creating circularity within the carpet and textile flooring sector. By fostering partnerships, sharing knowledge, and pooling resources, stakeholders can overcome challenges, drive innovation, and accelerate progress towards sustainability goals.

The case of CRUK exemplifies the transformative potential of collaboration within the industry, serving as a model for collective action in pursuit of a more sustainable future. As we navigate through complicated and challenging times, let us come together to harness the power of collaboration to create a sector that can be proud of how it is transitioning to becoming more circular and sustainable.

Collaboration will be a key discussion point at our next annual conference to be held in Solihull on 10-11 July.

www.carpetrecyclinguk.com

CARPET RECYCLING UK
Repurposing textile flooring

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, EVENING DINNER & AWARDS

On the 10th - 11th July 2024 Carpet Recycling UK will once again be hosting their Annual Conference at voco, St. Johns, Solihull.

Conference registration is now open.
Please visit **www.carpetrecyclinguk.com** to reserve your place.

During the two day event delegates will be brought together to focus on the key waste handling, recycling and sustainability issues facing the industry today.

A panel of expert keynote speakers will also deliver insightful presentations and discussions throughout the event and there will be an exhibition area for companies to showcase their products. The evening will consist of a three course, gourmet dinner followed by our annual awards ceremony.

Throughout the conference there will be plenty of opportunities for delegates to network with members and non-members attending from every corner of the carpet and textile flooring industry providing new business leads and potential support links from the UK, EU and overseas.

Sponsorship & Exhibition

CRUK are inviting companies to showcase their products and services by exhibiting at the 2024 Annual conference. There will also be sponsorship opportunities available for companies this year.

There are **three tiers of sponsorship** providing different levels of event coverage.

Please contact **julie@carpetrecyclinguk.com** if you are interested in exhibiting at the conference or to discuss the available sponsorship options.

Programme

Wednesday 10th July: Conference, Keynote Speakers and Exhibition, Evening Dinner and Awards Ceremony. Accommodation available.

Thursday 11th July: Conference, Keynote Speakers and Exhibition.

Awards

CRUK will be presenting their renowned awards ceremony. Here are the categories up for nominations: Best awards for Reuse/Recycling Project of the Year, Most Sustainable Product of the Year, and Circular Economy Initiative of the Year. If you are interested in entering for one or more of the awards please contact **info@carpetrecyclinguk.com**

Thank you to our Core Members:

BALSAN, betap, Brintons, CONDOR group, CORMAR CARPET CO, ege, Furlong Flooring, GRADUS, headlam, IVC COMMERCIAL, Likewise, Milliken, modulyss, RAWSON CARPET SOLUTIONS, Shaw, Tarkett, VICTORIA PLC

Tarkett

Let's go round again: The value of circular economy

*We spoke to **Ross Dight**, Technical & Sustainability Director UK&I at Tarkett*

What does it mean to be Sustainable?

Sustainability is a broad term and takes on various meanings to individual businesses. One area which features prominently when we talk about sustainability is the circular economy, a method of eliminating waste and reusing resources in a renewable, cyclical fashion. But what are the fundamentals of circular economy and how can businesses utilise it to be greener?

In 2015, as part of a study with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the sustainability consultancy McKinsey discovered that adopting a regenerative approach such as the Circular Economy could boost Europe's resource productivity by 3 percent by 2030, generating cost savings of €600 billion a year and €1.8 trillion more in other economic benefits. The Circular Economy has shown significant prospects in recent years, no doubt for these tangible economic advantages and other benefits including reduced pressure on the environment, greater innovation and lower emissions.

For the construction industry in particular, the Circular Economy is an alluring method that will displace the current 'throw it away' culture for a long-term solution that offers ample value. According to DEFRA's (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) 2018 edition of the 2014 UK Statistics on Waste, construction, demolition and excavation (CDE) was responsible for 59% of the UK's 202.8 million tonnes of waste.

It's a sprint, not a marathon

The industry's journey is still in its earliest stages, and indeed many businesses are starting to take the important steps to be more Sustainable. But, in order to continue on this trajectory and maximise productivity, efficiency and innovation are key. Feeding the wider, collective aim for fully circular buildings – something which has been seen on projects in the Netherlands – requires individual businesses to change their habits. Tarkett is committed to changing the game with Circular Economy and has implemented an eco-innovation strategy based on Cradle to Cradle® principles, fully aligned with a Tarkett Human-Conscious Design™ approach.

This strategy has been filtered down to product innovation. The DESSO Origins Carpet Tile collection provide a truly sustainable answer. They are made with 100% regenerated ECONYL® yarn and at the end of their lifecycle, they are 100% recyclable in Tarkett's own carpet recycling centre – the first of its kind in Europe. The tiles also come with Tarkett's EcoBase® backing as standard, which contains upcycled chalk sourced from local water providers and has achieved a Cradle-to-Cradle Certified™ Silver level. The Cradle-to-Cradle certification is a globally recognised measure of safer, more sustainable products made for the Circular Economy.

Circular Carbon Footprint; doing good for people and the planet means taking real steps to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global warming. Tarkett's circular approach to carpet tiles enables us to do just that. The only carpet tile manufacturer with a closed-loop recycling system, we limit the use of virgin raw materials for new products, and avoid common, carbon emitting options such as incineration and the landfill at product end-of-life.

From the initial point of extraction through manufacturing, installation, use and recycling, we bear a responsibility for guiding the carpet on to its next life, over and over again. Our closed-loop system ensures that our carpet tiles have the lowest circular carbon footprint* in Europe – one that is at least 6 times lower** than the total carbon footprint of our competitors.

In order to set change in motion, businesses across the world have to actively be a part of it. Companies must continually work towards closing the loop through recycling to unlock circularity, which reduces carbon emissions, usage of landfill and the amount of new raw materials that need to be sourced.

Tarkett is doing just that, minimising the amount of flooring that is incinerated or left in landfill. Old flooring is transformed into new product through our ReStart® programme, which is dedicated to the collection of flooring to be recycled and reused. Our new Carbon Calculator helps to identify these benefits; developed to help you on your search for products sustainability information. Based on third party assessed EPD (environmental product declaration) data, you can see a complete overview of your chosen product's environmental impact across production, installation, use and end-of-life stages and compare this with alternative end-of-life scenarios. You'll also be able to measure the

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Send us your best install photos to **sales@wilsons-group.com**

benefit recycling has on the environment!

The circular economy is a far more effective strategy to reduce carbon emissions compared to offsetting. It is why circular products are a cornerstone of Tarkett's 'The way to better floors' strategy, a focused campaign that illustrates the positive impact recyclable products have on nature. In our Circular Selection, you can easily find all our products which are 100% recyclable in our own recycling facilities.

A long-term solution which is here to stay, the Circular Economy shows definite possibility in terms of making our industry more sustainable. Many businesses across individual construction sectors can utilise it to be greener – for their benefit and the planet's. The key ingredients when it comes to adopting Circular Economy are creativity, collaboration and efficiency. Moving forward, these aspects will be crucial to making its implementation a reality.

** For EcoBase-backed carpet tiles with PA6 yarn, according to the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) S-P-05827 externally verified by Bureau Veritas, based on the total carbon footprint (Modules A-D) with a closed loop circular recycling scenario.*

*** Comparison of EPD S-P-05827 with the total carbon footprint (Module A-D) of each of the 19 carpet tiles' EPDs available on internet (May 2022) for competitors with production location in the EU+UK, in the product weight range 600-699gr, Polyamide yarn and incineration as end-of-life scenario.*

Burmatex®
MANUFACTURERS OF CREATIVE FLOORING

British made flooring solutions creating sustainable value globally

Yorkshire carpet tile manufacturer Burmatex®'s product ranges demonstrate the company's commitment both to sustainability and to UK manufacturing.

The company's sustainability principles, eco2matters, help to provide the right business focus, trading responsibly and working towards Net Zero in a sustainable manner.

Burmatex®'s latest product launch, which was debuted at Clerkenwell Design Week, is balance collection®, comprised of balance grid®, balance ratio® and balance scale®. Manufactured with Universal Fibers®' ground-breaking Thrive® matter yarn which is C2C Certified Material Health Certificate™ Silver, the world's first carbon negative yarn. This, combined with Burmatex®'s unique BioBase® recycled backing – makes balance collection® carbon neutral.

The innovative Thrive® matter yarn is created from 100% post-industrial recycled resin which results in a total of 90% recycled content. Then, over 99.9% of the waste in production is captured and fed back into the manufacturing process. This results in a low product to CO2 footprint at 1.5kg CO2 equivalent, as compared to 9.6kg CO2 equivalent for virgin materials (based on Nylon 6). This already low number is brought below zero by partnering with Carbonfund.org in support of their forest conservation and reforestation projects around the world.

All Burmatex® carpet tile products use the BioBase® recycled backing system. Unique to Burmatex®, BioBase® is a low carbon backing system, made using locally sourced recycled organic materials. Developed as part of a joint research project with Huddersfield University, BioBase® includes recycled industrial waste, previously destined for landfill, which is used in the backing system.

Combined with 100% organic, non-vinyl polymer binders and fillers, BioBase® contains a minimum of 77% recycled content. This combination of material science and process technology means Bio Base® requires less energy during the production process. Burmatex also offers a takeback service for used tiles, eliminating product going to landfill.

balance collection® joins the company's established carbon neutral multilevel loop carpet tile and plank ranges of arctic®, osaka® and dapple®. In addition the loop pile range of go to®, infinity®, tivoli® and tivoli mist® are low carbon.

Both the low carbon and carbon neutral ranges are all designed, manufactured with 100% renewable energy and stocked in Yorkshire with high stock levels for rapid delivery.

https://www.burmatex.co.uk/eco2matters/

RECYCLING POLYPROPYLENE CARPET WASTE IS A FRACTION OF THE COST COMPARED TO LANDFILL

Recycle all your new and uplifted polypropylene carpet waste with a Kenburn carpet crusher.

Over the past 10 years landfill tax has increased every year so that the UK can meet their landfill diversion targets.

There are no plans to create any more landfill sites, so landfill tax will continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

It's therefore inevitable that skip costs will also have to increase significantly.

It's not all doom and gloom though, especially for the flooring industry as improvements in technology has enabled polypropylene carpet waste to be shredded, melted down then pelletised.

The pellets are then sold to plastic injection moulding companies who manufacture car bumpers and dashboards as well as UPVC window frames.

The current average cost to landfill is around £180.00 per tonne.

The current average cost to recycle polypropylene carpet waste is around £49.00 per tonne or 10 pence per square metre.

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To arrange a brief survey please give us a call on **01727 844988**

Kenburn

For more information, please contact us: **01727 844988** **sales@kenburn.co.uk**

www.kenburn.co.uk

How the UK's first carpet recycling facility is changing the future of carpets

Innovate Recycle has created the UK's first means of recycling carpet at volume, opening a new £5m facility in Northampton during 2023.

Despite being a new-start company, Innovate Recycle has already established itself as an award-winning innovative solution to the problem of carpet recycling. The company is playing a key role in the drive towards a circular economy in the carpet industry, as well as the government's 2050 Net Zero target.

Joseph Eccleston, CEO and Founder, started Innovate Recycle as a waste management operation after growing up in a family business that sold, fitted and removed carpets. Innovate Recycle has grown as a small company to involve a range of entrepreneurial talent. The company won the 2021 Flooring Innovation Award and its Northampton facility – aimed to be the first of several – has been fully operational since Autumn 2023. Eccleston says: "I am proud of the team we have put together and I believe that we can be the answer to the carpet industry's costly and damaging waste carpet problem", with Innovate Recycle "leading the way on first steps to building a circular economy approach to carpet waste".

The brilliance of the idea is that Innovate Recycle finds a way to extend the lifespan of carpet materials after customer use, diverting carpet waste from landfill and other detrimental fates. According to a report commissioned by Carpet Recycling UK, the nation produces between 450,000-500,000 tonnes of textile flooring waste each year. In 2021, 81% was diverted from landfill, largely burnt as fuel for energy production (56%) or incinerated without recovery (6%). While a significant proportion has been recycled for outdoor equine surfaces (14%), this practice was stopped in January 2024 due to concerns of PFOA and PFOS chemicals as well as microplastics spreading into the environment. Innovate Recycle sets out to break from this pattern by growing the volume sent to other reuse and recovery outcomes, using a mechanical manufacturing process that produces 100% recyclable output with zero carbon emissions.

Innovate Recycle's work has been enabled through funding from private sector investors, crowdfunding, the UK Government's Getting Building Fund and the South-East Midlands LEP. Circular design requires communication across sectors, which Innovate Recycle practises by working closely with customer-focused carpet manufacturers and retailers, local authorities and national government.

Joseph Eccleston

"We have been working with Innovate for some time now to recycle our carpet waste, sending on average 22 tonnes of carpet to them each month for recycling. What Joe and his team at Innovate have done is just phenomenal. They have achieved a process which can recycle 100% of the carpet into pellets, for use in a wide range of industry applications, such as the automotive industry. They have also managed to separate out the adhesive and latex, producing calcium carbonate which can be recycled separately for various purposes. Having access to such an innovative recycling solution for our carpet waste is vital to help us move towards a circular economy."

Louise Walters, Commercial Director, Designer Contracts

Since December 2023, Innovate Recycle has been working with UBH Group, a company that segregates the polypropylene-tufted and action-backed material required for Innovate Recycle's Northampton process line and finds alternative outlets for the other forms of carpet. UBH Group finds end-of-life recycling solutions for general, hazardous and technological waste, as well as offers recycling consultancy services; some of their main material intake includes carpets, solar panels and mattresses. This partnership ensures that different types of carpets can be responsibly recycled with maximum efficiency.

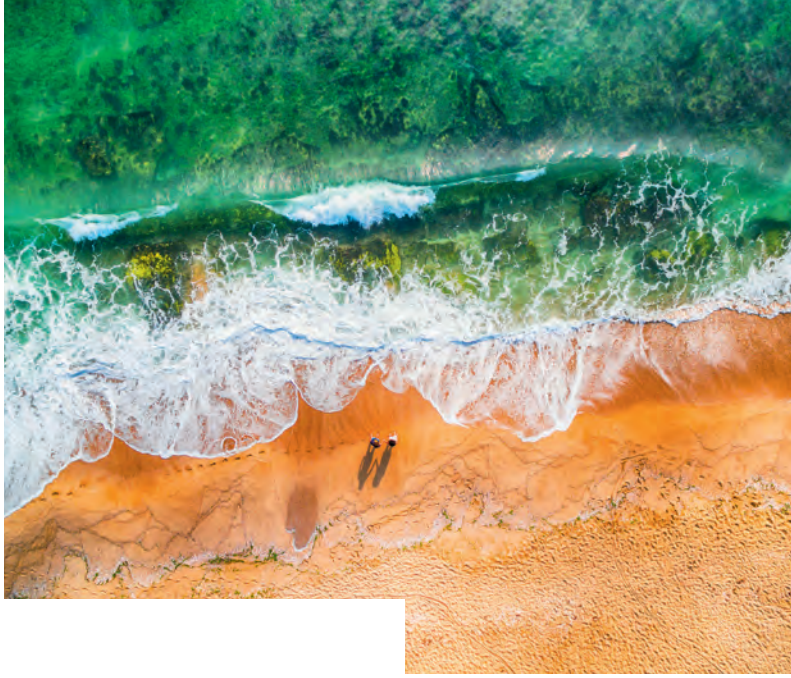
The Northampton site is close to two key cities, Birmingham and London, that account for the majority of Innovate Recycle's carpet intake. Aiming to open more facilities in the future, Innovate Recycle will be better positioned to take in more local carpet waste across the UK. This plan will not only increase processing capacities but will also further minimise transportation carbon emissions and create more green jobs.

The company is ambitious with its plans for growth, capitalising on the momentum behind environmental initiatives. Eccleston is conscious that "There is still much to do for all of us to rethink our mindset to achieve the levels of individual and collective action necessary". Indeed, there is more than enough carpet waste to allow Innovate Recycle to grow; the company is looking for new sites across the UK, where it will be able to open multi-line facilities for this purpose. In the longer-term, there are also opportunities to expand into other material recycling: nylon carpet, astro turf, synthetic textiles, and fishnets are just some of the possibilities.

There are still issues within the carpet industry which need to be addressed. There is no existing trademark to show whether a carpet is recyclable, meaning that Innovate Recycle must spend more effort to manually inspect the quality of their carpet intake. In addition, so far there is no EPR scheme for carpets in the UK which, if introduced, would further encourage carpet design to be reusable and fully recyclable.

Nonetheless, the work of the first carpet recycling facility in the UK is an example of a sustainability initiative that is leading the way for the future of the carpet industry. Innovate Recycle gives new life to post-consumer carpet waste and opens up possibilities for sustainable collaboration across the carpet sector. More than this, it demonstrates that there is a growing market readily available for circular manufacturing for those with the ambition and motivation to achieve it.

To watch a video of this story, go to:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svzmij2qgwo



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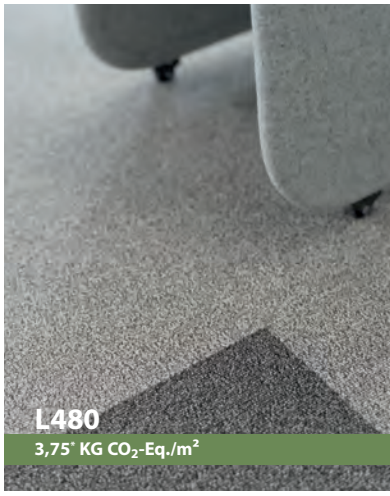
(1) Standard & custom
(2) FDES: environmental and health data sheets, can be consulted in the INIES database: www.inies.fr



* Cradle to gate

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Recofloor scheme

Recofloor
Vinyl Take-Back Scheme

Walking the green path: Sustainability in vinyl flooring with **Recofloor**

It's encouraging to see that eco-friendly flooring products are growing in popularity – but true sustainability in flooring is about much more than product choice. The bigger picture includes considerations of resource conservation and waste reduction – issues which are best tackled using circular economy principles.

Unlike the traditional linear "take-make-use-dispose" model, circular economy principles emphasise minimising waste and maximising resource efficiency. This means designing products and processes in such a way that materials can be repurposed, re-used or recycled at the end of their lifecycle, so 'closing the loop' of resource consumption and waste generation.

In the flooring sector, PVC is used to make various types of vinyl flooring for the commercial and residential sectors and is a leading choice for education, healthcare, hospitality, and public buildings. When PVC reaches its end-of-life it can be recycled up to seven times without any loss of performance.

With vinyl, we typically need to deal with both waste from uplifted end-of-life flooring and installation waste in the form of offcuts. And despite industry efforts to minimise offcut waste, it can be tricky, given the need to accommodate irregular room shapes, complex layouts, and design preferences. However, with Recofloor, there is a viable opportunity to keep the materials from both uplifted vinyl and installation offcuts in circulation.

Recofloor: Leading vinyl flooring recycling

Established in 2009 by UK flooring manufacturers Altro and Polyflor, Recofloor provides an easy-to-use service for the collection and recycling of waste vinyl flooring. Their UK-wide take-back collection scheme has become a driving force within the industry.

By participating in the scheme, construction companies, building contractors, and flooring specialists can support PVC recovery and so reduce the demand for new raw materials in manufacturing. The material collected is recycled back into new flooring or sent to a UK traffic management product manufacturer.

The benefits of Recofloor's recycling initiative extend well beyond the conservation of resources. Importantly, the scheme diverts waste vinyl flooring from landfill or incineration. This enables participants to avoid the environmental harm that would otherwise be caused by what is a non-biodegradable material.

The scheme employs back-haul logistics, optimising vehicle usage for both new flooring delivery and waste collections so vehicles don't come back empty to Altro and Polyflor plants where the material is sorted for recycling. For every kilogram of offcuts recycled, Recofloor is helping to save approximately 1.2 Kg of CO_2 emissions. This

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TONNES OF RECYCLED GLASS USED IN POLYSAFE PRODUCTS IN 2023= 894,000 WINE BOTTLES

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calculation is based on displacing the concrete in traffic management products, the primary application for the flooring collected.

From a business perspective, Recofloor can deliver substantial cost savings, with companies seeing reductions of up to 70% in waste disposal costs when using the service.

This combination of environmental benefits and financial incentives makes Recofloor a compelling proposition for businesses keen to enhance their sustainability and waste management practices.

As Recofloor Manager Carla Eslava highlights: “The Recofloor initiative goes beyond being a mere collection scheme. It forms the core of many companies’ sustainability commitments in the flooring sector. As the need to protect the environment grows ever stronger, we’re proud to be helping flooring businesses play their part.”

Recofloor Case Studies - Sustainability in action

Recofloor members and clients are seeing tangible results across the UK. At NHS Grampian’s new Baird Family Hospital and Anchor Centre in Aberdeen, flooring contractor Veitchi Flooring is using Recofloor for on-site collections to keep around 2,300 m2 of vinyl offcuts out of landfill while installing 23,000 m2 of Polyflor vinyl.

Fiona Walker, Environmental Advisor from project main contractor GRAHAM Construction, says: “Construction waste reduction and the circular economy are key strands in GRAHAM’s environmental mission. Building on existing successes in reducing waste to landfill, we’ve set a target of a 50% reduction in construction waste by 2030. Veitchi’s use of the Recofloor vinyl take back scheme is a great example of how supply chain support can help us reach that goal. And, importantly, our site team report smooth on-the-ground processes. Clearly labelled, lockable bins mean that contamination is easily avoided, and the impressive collections turnaround time make the scheme easy to work with.”

Similarly, during the building of the Weldon Village Academy secondary school in Northamptonshire under the care of BAM, Recofloor reduced the project’s CO2 emissions by 1.88 tonnes, equivalent to nine average-sized UK classrooms. Flooring Contract Manager, Tom Sheppard from Hillsides explains, “We value Recofloor highly and we do as much recycling as we can with our different suppliers. We have space at our Leicester premises where we can store different materials for recycling. It’s obviously beneficial for the environment, but then the other main factor is cost-driven as well.” On the cost savings of recycling waste vinyl flooring versus using skips, he says: “It’s hard to put an exact number on it, but if you fill one average-sized general waste skip per month, you’re saving perhaps £5,000 per year by recycling waste vinyl flooring. Plus, you’re preventing that material from going to landfill or incineration.”

The cumulative impact of Recofloor collections in the industry since launch has been substantial. To date, Recofloor has collected more than 7,020 tonnes of vinyl flooring waste. This is equivalent to 2,340,000 m2 of flooring – enough to cover 323 football pitches. The resulting 8,235 tonnes of CO2 emissions savings – is equal to removing 2,149 cars from the road for a year.

Recofloor Baird & Anchor Recycling

Keeping flooring circular: A team effort

While Recofloor provides resources and support, the success of the scheme hinges upon the active participation of flooring contractors and fitters.

As Carla Eslava explains: “The construction sector is a challenging, diverse environment for waste management. Though there is a growing awareness of sustainability topics, only a minority of firms are actively seeking out greener ways of working. To increase collections of recoverable resources requires constant and ongoing engagement with contractors.”

While Recofloor processes are simple and straightforward, it is important that guidelines are followed. These guidelines include material specifications and basic measures to prevent contamination. Where waste is wrongly categorised, or if non-recyclable waste is added to bins, this can stop the recycling process altogether.

Other guidelines focus on ensuring the operation runs smoothly, covering points such as when to order Recofloor collection containers, how to use and care for the containers, and how to book collections when full.

Other ways that contractors can boost success include:

- Ensuring ongoing communication with all parties involved in the project and the collections.
- Training fitting teams to follow installation practices that minimize offcuts.
- Monitoring collection containers to ensure they contain only material that meets the relevant waste specification.
- Coordinating with Recofloor to schedule timely pickups from the project site to prevent overflow.

Embracing sustainability: The path forward

Initiatives like Recofloor are leading the way in flooring, diverting thousands of tonnes of waste vinyl flooring away from landfill. However, this is just a drop in the ocean - the scale of waste in the sector remains substantial.

For the flooring industry to become truly sustainable requires greater participation all round. Rather than asking why they should participate in circularity initiatives, flooring firms should see recycling as the default option. Landfill must become the last resort.

The larger the firm, the greater the impact of action – but even the smallest businesses can make a difference. With collective drive, we can pave the way for a more resilient future.

For more information on the scheme, visit www.recofloor.org or contact Recofloor on 0161 355 7618 or at info@recofloor.org.

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Recofloor™
Vinyl Take-Back Scheme

THE LEADING TAKE-BACK SCHEME FOR VINYL FLOORING

Sustainable waste collection service

Material collected is recycled back into new products including flooring

Cost saving

Save up to 70% on disposal costs

Easy to deploy

Order containers, fill with material, book a collection

Reduce projects' footprints

Reduce waste and CO2e

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altro

From intention to action: How vinyl and LVT is going sustainable

In the shift to a circular economy, plastics are a point of contention. This year, Earth Day's theme was "Planet vs. Plastics", linking to the demand of a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040. However, thanks to their impressive durability and constantly improving recyclability, vinyl and LVT floor coverings have a sure place in a more sustainable future – as manufacturers are proving right now.

amtico flooring

The first stage for any vinyl manufacturer is to prioritise sustainability by finding facts and setting targets. One example of this, Amtico, appointed its first full-time Sustainability Manager, Chris Robinson-Hart, as well as four more sustainability champion roles within the company, during September 2023.

The company had previously contracted external experts to help develop its ongoing sustainability strategy, Responsible Foundations. It only sees this prioritisation within the brand as a growing focus, setting KPIs in 2021 that the company has pledged to measure and report on over the next 5 years across four main pillars: fighting climate change, reducing waste, championing innovation and empowering people.

Amtico is therefore making strides as the first company in the world to offer what they call "bio-attributed" PVC. Amtico's UK range provides the consumer with the option to upgrade to this environmentally-friendly variation of PVC, which replaces the carbon emissions associated with ethylene with the dramatically reduced environmental impacts of crude tall oil or cooking oil. The process saves more than 90% of carbon emissions compared to the manufacture of standard fossil fuel derived PVC and is accredited by ISSC (International Sustainability & Carbon Certification) PLUS certification at every stage. Amtico's bio-attributed PVC has existed for 12 months out in the market and is picking up sales, especially for government building projects.

It is possible to get 100% bio-based vinyl floor coverings on the market, but only with materials coming from within Europe, meaning that there is a payoff with increasing the carbon footprint from transportation.

In their manufacturing process, Amtico uses a REGO-certified renewable energy source. The Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) scheme demonstrates electricity has been generated from renewable sources. Amtico is also actively discussing the possibility of incorporating solar panels and the benefits of generating its own power in its Coventry manufacturing site. Local sourcing is another way that Amtico's UK operations reduce carbon footprint, whereas a lot of LVT is sourced from China.

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David Collins-Lafferty

At Gerflor, "We care, we act is more than just a catchphrase", so says its 2022 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report. In this spirit David Collins-Lafferty, Gerflor UK Marketing Manager, comments on the recycling of vinyl and LVT and their contribution to the environment. He says: "There is no doubt that recycling vinyl flooring and LVT does and will continue to play an imperative role in reducing the carbon impact of flooring within the built environment. Vinyl flooring is 100% recyclable, meaning it can be effectively used as a raw material in the production of new vinyl floorcoverings."

"At Gerflor the PVC floors have approximately 25% recycled materials. Some of their more technical products can contain up to 50% recycled materials! These secondary raw materials can come from manufacturing waste, circular economy (laying waste or end of life) or other industries. All Gerflor recycled components are controlled and compliant with European REACH regulations. The business goal is to continue to increase recycled materials in our products by 2025."

"The European Union, in their new Circular Economy Action plan, are looking to introduce mandatory requirements for recycled content and waste reduction measures for packaging and construction materials. The wider view now hints that sustainability experts are saying that we should acknowledge that plastics in construction can be a positive thing. Many are exceptionally durable, long lasting, and permanently installed, so they're unlikely to become marine litter, unlike single-use plastics."

For Collins-Lafferty, the importance of recycling and the circular economy approach in the flooring manufacturers' transition to Net Zero cannot be overstated. The 'Cradle-to-Gate' approach to a product life cycle makes a huge difference in reducing embodied carbon emissions. To achieve this, Collins-Lafferty declares: "Factories must continually work to reduce their environmental impact – which covers waste gas treatment, limitation of noise pollution, energy optimisation and green energy use (renewable energies of hydroelectric origins). They must drastically decrease their water consumption and introduce immediate waste sorting and recycling. Very simply put, greener factories mean a greener product.

"To enable this, flooring manufacturers must reduce their energy consumption, redesign production lines and take a stiff look at how their factories operate. Gerflor has a 42% renewable energy mix, aiming to achieve 50% in 2050 and has introduced gravitational technology at the Klam factory in France, which is delivering a significant reduction in Global Warming Potential (GWP) on LVT manufactured products."

"Beyond the gate", Collins-Lafferty continues, "manufacturers must commit to bringing the manufacturer of their products closer to their markets. Closer geographical proximity of the manufacturing plants and logistic hubs with their customers means they can respond quickly to their needs but also reduce the carbon impact of transportation. Gerflor chose to join the FRET21 programme in 2022 to work effectively on the impact of freight and reduce its carbon footprint. The entire scope of distribution in France and abroad as well as all modes of transport are considered in this approach. In the short term, Gerflor is assessing all freight reduction opportunities and has a goal of reducing transport emission by 5% by 2025 (compared to 2022). Just a first step before setting more ambitious goals after the initial diagnosis phase."

"The greener choices for flooring specifiers and designers are now as wide as they are long. Several sustainable flooring options include looselay and interlocking products which are easier to install, eliminate the need for adhesives, and can be removed and repurposed or recycled easily at end of life. Whilst not suitable for all applications, they do have their place alongside traditional dryback adhered solutions. It's all about the environment and where the actual products will be installed. At this point in time, it is not 'one size fits all', as each project is unique in terms of location, usage, footfall, heavy loads etc.

"The advancements in product surface treatments also plays a crucial role in the operational carbon impact of a floorcovering, both by extending the expected life span of the product and by reducing the amount of secondary water, polish, detergents and electricity required to effectively maintain the product. This 'in use' phase is also a big contributor to the overall impact that a floorcovering can contribute to a buildings' operational carbon. With shifts towards creating net zero buildings, reducing the impact of maintenance schedules on buildings is a key consideration for flooring manufacturers, especially when developing new products or better surface treatments."

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Jamie Shaw

Karndean

Jamie Shaw, global head of sustainability at Karndean Designflooring, shares his experience of developing a sustainability strategy and looks at how we can all avoid the pitfalls of greenwashing.

"Change is hard," says Jamie Shaw, "especially in a highly competitive market, but with the effects of increasing greenhouse gas emissions becoming clearer every day and growing public demand for more sustainable products and services, it has become obvious that business as usual no longer serves us well. It is now imperative that we think differently and take bold decisive steps toward a new paradigm.

"The government's Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener explains how the UK will meet its legally binding target to reach net zero by 2050, offering us a framework and incentives (currently more carrot than stick) to revolutionise our industry and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As an added bonus, many of the new working processes required are also more cost effective and will improve employee engagement and retention."

In the first step of measuring its emissions, Karndean used the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, an international standard for corporate accounting and reporting, to help establish their current carbon footprint, as well as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for gluedown, rigid core and loose lay products. Shaw acknowledges: "Establishing a baseline for emissions, called a carbon footprint, is vital to have any chance of reducing your impact. Without knowing your current situation it is impossible to set meaningful targets or implement specific plans."

In this light, Karndean made a commitment to reduce carbon emissions by at least 50% by 2023. The Karndean Evolve™ strategy divides its action plan into six key areas of sustainability: confronting climate change, sustainable resource use, supply chain transparency, individual health and wellbeing, inclusion and diversity, and education.

To achieve this, Shaw says: "starting with the low hanging fruit, the easy wins, our plans include increasing our use of renewable energy, constructing new buildings to meet 'Excellent' BREEAM accreditation, transitioning to more fuel-efficient fleet vehicles and encouraging change and transparency throughout our supply chain.

"We are in the process of setting verifiable science-based targets in line with the standards set by the Business Ambition for 1.5°C Campaign. This will allow us to evidence our progress year by year."

This brings us to another key issue: honesty. Shaw declares: "Karndean is proud to be the first flooring manufacturer to sign up to The Anti-Greenwash Charter, established in 2023 to promote responsible marketing practices and emphasise the need for accountability and fairness. As a signatory, we are clearly stating our intention to be open and transparent, and to keep our marketing fair with product claims that have been independently substantiated.

"One of the main challenges faced by the flooring industry is that few products are fully recyclable. While the backing layers of Karndean products already contain up to 50% recycled material from production waste, developing a process to easily recycle LVT from post-consumer waste is a little more complicated to implement. However, there is more we can do to reduce waste during installation so we are trialling a scheme with independent retailers and contractors to take back clean off-cuts and recycle into street furniture. Once we know the volumes and impact, we hope to roll this out as a full initiative throughout the UK. Long term, we will continue to work towards a circular recycling process where we hope to return this material into our manufacturing process."

karndean.com/sustainability
Instagram: @karndeancommercialuk

WORKING TOGETHER

On the immediate horizon, the vinyl sector will need to be increasingly working together to improve waste management and recycling schemes. As much progress is being made, more work needs to be done to repurpose post-life vinyl, as well as to optimise downstream recycling. It will require more open dialogues between stakeholders – manufacturers, installers, Government and consumers – that lead to meaningful, sustainable change.

Take-back schemes are growing and evolving to meet this demand. For example, founded by Altro and Polyflor, Recofloor is a collection and recycling service for commercial waste vinyl flooring across the UK. The company is responsible for the annual Recofloor Awards, which recognises and rewards companies driving sustainability in the vinyl flooring sector. Furthermore, Karndean is now trialling a scheme with independent retailers and contractors to take back clean off-cuts and recycle into street furniture that, once the company knows the volumes and impact, it hopes to roll out as a full initiative throughout the UK.

Another way for the industry to work together is by getting involved with sustainability groups: not just CFA but also the United Kingdom Resilient Flooring Association (UKFRA), the UK's trade association for the resilient flooring sector; European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute (ERFMI), the European trade association for the resilient flooring sector; VinylPlus®, the voluntary commitment to sustainable development by the European PVC industry; and more.

Finally, work together within your own business to reflect on your practices, whether you buy or supply vinyl and LVT, to make sure that your actions are aligned with your sustainability goals. Following and setting examples will help to bring everyone in the industry forward in the journey towards Net Zero.

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Accessory suppliers

FACE UP TO THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

They might make up a small part of most projects, but that doesn't mean suppliers of flooring accessories have been slacking when it comes to improving the sustainability of their products and their business operations – far from it, as we discover.

GENESIS

Genesis are one of the market leaders in the retail and trade sectors. They believe that the most significant impact of their operations from an environmental point of view is transport and packaging.

According to Michael Gadney, Sales Director at Genesis: "Our desire to be as responsible and as sustainable as we can is not something that we are doing because we have to, but because it is the right thing to do. It's not because Government legislation is forcing us down a particular route. We are going down the environmental road because we believe it is the right thing to do."

Although they are often asked by customers how much of their product packaging is recyclable, when it comes to the products themselves, he says they do not normally get asked any more detailed information beyond the origin of a product, not how is it getting to the UK or anything about the carbon footprint.

"I don't find this particularly surprising," says Michael Gadney. "I don't think they go into any more detail because, as long as they've asked the question they've ticked the box. Here at Genesis we believe in sustainability, we think it's the right thing to do, but the problem is getting people to pay for it. It takes a lot to be the pioneer in this industry, especially in a commodity sector like accessories. If you went out there and said your product was going to cost 20 to 30% more, but you should buy it because it's the right thing to do, unfortunately you wouldn't get far. We win a lot of specifications because we are competitive. If we said we're not competitive, but we're sustainable, we probably wouldn't win them.

"What we need is more incentive to go carbon neutral. If you are an early adopter, as I believe we have been, there should be some type of relief against taxation. They should reduce the taxes for people who are working towards net zero. Then you won't just have people talking about it, you'll have people actually implementing it."

Three years ago Genesis moved to 100% carboard packaging, removing all plastics. It was an increased cost to the business, but they took the view that it was the right direction to go. Furthermore all the different grades of cardboard packaging that the company uses are labelled to show the grade, for ease of recycling.

In 2016 the company changed all its fluorescent lights into energy efficient LED panels. These give off a better light, they are cheaper to run and because they are more efficient, fewer of them are required per square metre of office space. The company also only uses power suppliers that provide a certain percentage of their energy from renewables. By doing this a business can know that all its energy comes from a renewable source.

A change of computer system three years ago enabled the company to halve the amount of paper that it uses, and it is now looking to go almost totally paperless in the coming year. For the future it is looking at putting solar panels on its buildings and modernising its heating system. All vehicles in its fleet are now either hybrid or fully electric.

"We're very happy with the way this is working," says Michael Gadney. "Some of our national sales managers traveling all around the country are using full electric and they are not finding it a problem. A half an hour's charge allows them to do some things which they can't do when they are driving, so it seems to work OK. They are now fully on board with full electric.

"The range capability of these cars has improved a lot. Our two national sales managers drive Tesla Model 3s and they get 340 miles on a charge. Being based in the Midlands they can get pretty much anywhere on that charge, do what they need to do, recharge and get back. Clearly if you're based in other parts of the country, it might not work so well for you. We've just changed our fleet, so it's going to be a good couple of years before we need to change our sales vehicles again. By then I can think of at least three more brands which are coming out with 300+ mile range vehicles. That makes it increasingly viable and the cost will come down of course as well. The problem will be in ten years when the batteries need to be recycled. Hopefully the technology will have moved on by then to deal with it."

With regard to the products themselves, the majority of Genesis products are made from aluminium, 100% of which is recycled. PVC products are also recyclable. The problem is with adhesives, which make it more difficult to recycle the material the adhesive is stuck to. If it's got certain types of adhesive stuck to it that product is no longer able to be recycled.

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> *Our desire to be as responsible and as sustainable as we can is not something that we are doing because we have to, but because it is the right thing to do*

With ISO14001, the company feels that it is doing more or less everything it can on the sustainability front. It is also keeping ahead of what might be coming down the track.

"Because we export all over the world, we have to keep on top of changing requirements from around the world, especially EU regulations. We keep ahead of them and make the necessary changes, as we see the requirements coming. We have to comply with European regulations more than a company which is just operating in the UK. One of them is the new CBAM legislation which has come out. This has come into Europe this year and there is no clear directive from the EU yet on how you are supposed to measure it. But we are doing it the best we can and we are already supplying that data to our export accounts. This is a figure for the amount of carbon involved to make the product. At some point this will come into the UK and it will also involve a tax levy as well. Unfortunately it is unlikely this money collected will be ringfenced for environmental purposes. It will just be a tax like any other."

CBAM is the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism – a tool to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries. In December 2023, the UK Government announced the UK would implement a CBAM, and it is consulting on the design for it during this year.

QUANTUM FLOORING ACCESSORIES

We spoke to Tim Hayes, Specification & Marketing Manager Quantum Flooring Accessories, who is also Chair of the CFA Manufacturers Committee

For Quantum Flooring Accessories, a leading manufacturer in the contract flooring accessories market, addressing energy consumption, transportation logistics, and raw material usage stands out as pivotal in mitigating environmental impact.

Sustainability has been a cornerstone of Quantum Flooring Accessories' business for many years and since 2020 there has been a robust carbon reduction roadmap.

Tim Hayes says: "Prioritising sustainability isn't new to us, and its importance has become increasingly evident. We've implemented various measures over the last ten years to reduce energy consumption. We have reduced the energy required to process one tonne of material by over 15% through enhanced production efficiencies, and further savings have been made by continuously investing into more energy efficient equipment. Moreover, our closed-loop water system has significantly curbed water wastage by up to 90% during manufacturing processes."

Tim further highlights: "Our commitment extends to tangible actions, including installing solar panels on our refurbished and insulated roof and transitioning our car fleet to EVs. Our solar panels are capable of meeting up to 100% of our energy needs on sunny days and around 30% on average over the year. Being part of Greater Manchester's Green Economy has enabled us to showcase our solar initiatives as a testament to our sustainability endeavours".

While there are clear sustainability benefits, Quantum emphasises the equally compelling business advantages. Harnessing solar energy has notably reduced operational costs, particularly amidst fluctuating energy prices, resulting in a significantly shortened payback period.

Even seemingly small adjustments, like transitioning from plastic jiffy envelopes to cardboard has benefits. The cumulative effect of such measures should not be understated, especially in a context where every resource-saving effort counts.

In terms of recycling, Quantum has achieved a remarkable milestone by recycling 99.5% of waste from production with in-house processes and take-back schemes.

Tim Hayes outlines their comprehensive approach, which entails holding an upper-tier waste carrier licence, enabling Quantum Flooring Accessories to efficiently manage the retrieval of old aluminium nosings and collect off-cuts from contractors who provide a cutting service using stock length for their customers, as needed. Typically, due to the intrinsic value of aluminium, recycling by the contractor is the norm. Conversely, PVC accessories waste presents ease of recyclability and can be seamlessly integrated into the recycling process alongside PVC (vinyl flooring) waste.

In terms of material exploration, Quantum acknowledges ongoing research into alternative options to PVC while also recognising its recyclability and indispensable nature in certain product lines within the construction sector. It is imperative to underscore the essential role of PVC in various construction applications. Both PVC and aluminium boast high recyclability and are readily adaptable for future use. Notably, aluminium stands as an infinitely recyclable material, demanding only 5% of the energy required for its initial production, with approximately 75% of all aluminium ever manufactured still in active use today.

Looking ahead, Quantum remains committed to further sustainability strides, including the elimination of single-use plastics across procurement and marketing channels. Moreover, the company advocates for industry-wide collaboration on such items as the Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI) focused on sustainability metrics, fostering transparency and enabling objective evaluations among manufacturers. Such initiatives, Tim Hayes believes, would empower architects and specifiers to make informed choices aligned with sustainability objectives. Quantum Flooring Accessories have already implemented an ID document tracking system for all of their marketing and product content, which will be shortly rolled out across their website.

Quantum Flooring Accessories have successfully achieved a silver business award for their sustainability actions, policies and achievements. In the year ahead they are looking to further reduce energy consumption and also increase biodiversity on their Oldham manufacturing site.

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Endorsement of Forest Certification) certifications, complete with a full chain of custody. This ensures that every certified flooring we produce can be meticulously traced back to responsibly managed forests where it was harvested. It's not just a certification; it's a promise of accountability and transparency in every plank. We are audited each year by the Timber Trade Federation on their Responsible Purchasing Policy and also by the FSC and PEFC auditors. You can see our percentage of FSC and PEFC certified material since 2013 and the very small percentage of material that was not FSC or PEFC certified still had the relevant EUTR certificate so we can guarantee that all our wood flooring comes from sustainable sources.

But our commitment to sustainability doesn't stop there. We're honoured to be active participants in the "Gone West" mission, an initiative dedicated to planting long-term forests in England. As part of this endeavour, we've pledged to plant 4,000 new Oak trees annually. It's a pledge that speaks volumes: for every mature tree we responsibly harvest for our Oak Wood Flooring, we sow the seeds for three new trees to flourish. It's a tangible demonstration of our dedication to replenishing what we use, ensuring that future generations inherit a world rich in natural resources.

Moreover, we take pride in the health and well-being of our customers. That's why our products undergo rigorous testing to ensure they meet stringent standards for indoor air quality. When tested for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), our flooring consistently scores very low, providing peace of mind that your home remains a healthy and safe environment.

And while some may speculate that such noble pursuits would inflate prices, we stand firm in assuring our customers: our commitment to sustainability will not burden your budget. Our ethos is one of balance, where quality craftsmanship and environmental stewardship harmonise without compromise.

At The Solid Wood Flooring Company, sustainability isn't an afterthought; it's woven into every fibre of our company. From ethical sourcing to responsible manufacturing and active reforestation, we're crafting a future where beautiful floors coexist with a thriving planet. Join us in walking the path towards a greener, more sustainable tomorrow—one plank at a time. ■

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Sustainability, circularity, and recycling of adhesives in flooring

Adhesives are, or have been up to now, critical in floorlaying. Starting with an overview from Jim Palmer, Technical Officer at the British Adhesives & Sealants Association (BASA), we review some of the key issues around sustainability and adhesives in flooring.

The concept of re-use or recycling is not a new topic for adhesives and sealants manufacturers; however, it is vital to address these issues at the initial stage of any new design process, by involving the manufacturers of the flooring and adhesive systems, the installers, and de-installers (always considering the efficiency of the installation), and the recyclers, to achieve a successful implementation that addresses all stakeholder concerns. It is not simply about the disassembly but requires a close collaboration between the parties to implement a sustainable solution for all.

Whilst it may seem like a good idea to have unbonded flooring to 'avoid' issues with recycling, it is better to have a holistic approach which considers all aspects of the installation, for example, to avoid any unnecessary use of energy during the in-service phase.

For example, the bonding of parquet and LVT (luxury vinyl tile) floorings to the screed of underfloor heating systems with an adhesive instead of a floating installation has been investigated in two recent studies.

It has been demonstrated that the flow temperature of the underfloor heating system could be reduced by about 2-3°C with bonded installation. The lower flow temperature leads to an energy saving of up to 2.6 % compared to the corresponding floating installation resulting in heating energy savings of about 2-3 %.

Sustainability of all resource materials is receiving increasing attention in developing legislation, especially in the construction sector. Furthermore, the lifetime of products and assemblies in the construction sector is considerably longer than in many other sectors.

Adhesives and sealants manufacturers have been creating more sustainable solutions for decades and contribute significantly to a broad range of application areas.

Different product groups within the flooring sector present different challenges in respect of recycling and long terms durability. The long-term cost of carbon should not be sacrificed to an overly simple view of recyclability and debonding.

Furthermore, all installations have performance requirements that must be met and as already indicated, all actors in the supply, installation and end of life/repair/renovation stages need to work together to maintain the value of the raw materials involved, avoiding loss to landfill, or energy recovery by incineration, which must be considered as a last resort.

The solution is to have flooring installations that can be 'disassembled', however, there must be value in that disassembly. If the individual components are not actually re-used, and still end up in landfill, then this is the worst possible outcome.

VINYL FLOORING

When it reaches its end of life, PVC can be recycled up to seven times without any loss of performance. Recycled PVC can be reused in many diverse new products, such as windows, facias, electrical components, as well as flooring and traffic management products. However, further investment in recycling technologies and infrastructure to recycle PVC is needed, but in 2021, 810,775 tonnes of PVC waste were recycled through VinylPlus®, the voluntary commitment to sustainable development of the European PVC industry.

Here in the UK, the Recofloor commercial waste vinyl flooring take-back scheme

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BALL

collects most of the vinyl flooring for recycling. Materials are sorted and that suitable for recycling used in new flooring, while unsuitable material is sent for recycling into long-life traffic management products, such as traffic cones and sign bases. This means used vinyl is given at least another 10 years' life in durable products that can ultimately be recycled again.

In conclusion, the use of adhesives and sealants present numerous sustainability benefits to the construction sector. When used in the manufacture of construction products, such as floor coverings, they help improve energy efficiency and enable material efficiency through material reduction and the use of more sustainable materials.

During the lifetime of the building, they support maintenance, repair and renovation and can thereby increase the building's life span. The high recycling rates already achieved for many waste streams illustrate that with the right design, adhesives and sealants can facilitate circularity at end-of-life.

CARPETS

The recycling of carpet is not as easy as recycling water bottles and cardboard. Carpets have multiple parts with different chemical makeups, often including adhesives in their construction, requiring special processes to break them down and recycle the parts individually. The parts may have been bonded, to ensure product durability, and therefore require the infrastructure to recycle them efficiently, which can only be achieved by a combination of legislation and funding and to ensure that designers and manufacturers use sustainable and recyclable ingredients. There already exists demand for more than 90% of the materials in carpets, but the high cost of collecting, transporting, and processing carpets for recycling acts as a deterrent.

When nylon-based carpets are recycled, they are broken down into three main components: polypropylene, Nylon 6, and calcium carbonate. Polypropylene, which is mainly used for carpet backing, can be reused in injection moulding production and the calcium carbonate added to stabilize the carpet can be re-used for road construction and concrete. The Nylon 6 recovered from carpets can be repurposed along with other waste, like reclaimed fishing nets or textile scraps, to create more nylon. Regenerated nylon can maintain the same quality as the virgin material and be used as fibre in carpet, furniture, clothing and more.

BALL

We spoke to Alan McEwan, Technical Representative at F Ball. He started off by telling us which are the areas where the business has the greatest environmental impact.

"As a manufacturer, energy usage, raw material consumption, and minimising waste are the main areas of focus. Therefore, working to reduce our energy consumption, minimising our use of raw materials, and optimising the amount of recycling we are able to do are currently high on our environmental agenda.

"The environmental standard ISO 14001 helps us to drive continual improvement throughout our business.

"We evaluate all activities at our Staffordshire headquarters via a cross-functional Environmental Committee, as well as analysing the entire life cycle of our products when looking for ways to be more sustainable. This includes considering the materials that are used to make the products, our manufacturing processes, and providing recycling facilities for the end user.

In terms of energy saving, we've implemented a range of initiatives, starting with simple measures, such as installing low energy lighting, to use energy more efficiently.

"We've also introduced changes to our manufacturing processes, such as utilising gravity-fed mixing plant to avoid the need for electric motors to pump material into the mixing vessels.

"We've invested heavily in photovoltaic solar panels and have around 1,000 on our main building roof which generates a significant proportion of our energy requirements, particularly in the summer months. We are continually investigating new technologies and opportunities to increase our renewable energy potential on site.

"In terms of material recycling we have switched much of our plastic packaging to use recycled plastic, which itself can be recycled a number of times. Over recent years, we've introduced a recycling scheme so flooring contractors can drop off empty plastic bottles and buckets that we use to package products, such as adhesives, primers and other liquids, for recycling.

"We have branded recycling units located at wholesalers around the country, which we collect on a regular basis, to make the process as easy as possible for the contractors. This scheme saves contractors the cost of commercial waste disposal and currently prevents over 100 tonnes of virgin plastic material from entering the waste stream each year.

"As a responsible manufacturer, we've been making changes going back over 30

Solar panels generate the majority of F. Ball's power supply in the summer months

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years but our efforts have accelerated over the past 10-15 years, with our new powder plant opening in 2010, designed to be as energy efficient as possible, and benefiting from the latest upgrade to the facility in 2018. The F. Ball bucket and bottle recycling scheme was launched in 2019 and has steadily expanded to cover over 30 wholesalers across the UK with more due to join the scheme in the coming months.

"Adherence to international standards is an absolute minimum and we are always benchmarking to achieve best practice wherever possible. Making continuous, incremental changes over a prolonged period of time has delivered and will continue to deliver significant results. Keeping up to date with technological changes and continually reviewing processes enables us to keep ahead of changes and potential future legislative changes.

"Training and development for all employees and investing in future skills is important to ensuring the future of the business for future generations. This includes an award winning apprenticeship programme and investing time to work with local schools and colleges, creating awareness of sustainability in manufacturing.

"When it comes to new product development, there are already some adhesives that make it easy to remove old floorcoverings. These include carpet tile tackifiers that resist lateral movement of tiles, but enable them to be lifted up vertically to replace worn or stained tiles.

"Similarly, dual bond systems for carpets allow a permanent adhesive to be used to bond a carpet to an underlay, and an adhesive, which dries to form a transparent, permanently tacky coating to adhere the underlay to the subfloor. This creates a peelable bond that facilitates the easy removal of the carpet and underlay at the end of its lifetime.

"I think flooring adhesives will continue to play an important role in delivering high quality floorcovering installations, especially in commercial projects and locations subjected to high levels of foot traffic, for example airport corridors, or varying environmental conditions such as temperature fluctuations that require an adhesive to hold floorcoverings firmly in place.

"In clinical applications too, firmly adhered resilient floorcoverings will eliminate gaps and cracks where dirt and bacteria could otherwise build up, as well as being able to withstand the punishment of foot traffic and heavy wheeled equipment and hospital beds.

"Sustainability is very much front and centre for many organisations, especially government at national and local level, where sustainability credentials are often part of tender submissions. Generally, there is increasing awareness of the importance of sustainability in both product development and purchasing decisions. Therefore, engaging with all aspects of the supply chain is an important aspect.

"Making a business more energy efficient and reducing electricity consumption can have a direct and positive effect on the bottom line. Using new technology, such as motion sensor lighting, throughout our buildings is just one example of a simple and low cost way we have achieved this.

"Solar panels have traditionally represented a longer-term return on investment, but after what we've seen over the past couple of years with spiralling energy costs that payback period can be significantly reduced by producing some of your own electricity.

"With regard to the legislative framework in which we operate, the Government will probably continue to take a carrot and stick approach to encouraging manufacturers to reduce carbon emissions and cut waste. Although there is probably less headroom for Government to offer grants and tax cuts in the current economic situation, this is something that should be looked at when things pick up again.

"Obviously, they can have an impact on carbon emissions and waste by placing limits on outputs, with penalties for non-compliance, but it's also important to positively promote the benefits of environmental improvement, such as the very real cost savings, to encourage companies to make the required investment.

"They should also continue to 'nudge' companies to make the right choices by focusing on sustainability when awarding Government contracts.

"The CFA itself has an important role in highlighting and sharing best practice in regard to sustainability and the environment, as well as flagging up forthcoming legislation and what it means for members, so they can prepare well in advance of it coming into effect.

"Whether all this work is ultimately going to be effective is the big question. On our own, as an industry or even as a country, we can't make enough physical difference to the amount of greenhouse gases produced globally. However, it is incumbent on us to do the right thing; to lead by example and encourage other countries to follow suit.

"It is only by working together on a global scale that we can make the necessary changes and hopefully reduce and start to reverse the negative impact."

The F. Ball Recycling Scheme allows empty recyclable F. Ball buckets and bottles to be disposed of for free

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According to Matthew Brown, Managing Director of Uzin Utz UK Ltd, the company leads the way on sustainability, with a raft of accreditations, such as EC1, EC1 Plus and Blue Angel.

"We have been sustainability orientated since 1985 and I believe we are world leaders in this area," he says. "We produced the first solvent-free adhesive for flooring and have looked towards removing solvents from all our products since then. We look at this as an environmental and social responsibility."

The company's Chairman of the supervisory board and previous CEO, Dr Werner Utz, was involved, along with likeminded colleagues, in 1997 in the development of the EMICODE, which is the accreditation for for construction products with low emissions. In the 1980s the company produced the first solvent-free dispersion adhesive for flooring and in the 1990s a full low emission flooring system. Also in the 1990s it started using recycled and recyclable packaging and since 2011 it has almost totally removed solvents from its range.

"We do find that there is still an important role for training," says Matthew Brown, "as some installers still prefer the solvent-based products, and we are aware that we still sometimes have to convince people of the effectiveness of solvent-free products. Unfortunately there are still some products containing quite unpleasant chemicals in use out there."

The company uses raw materials which have been produced sustainably as far as possible, and has worked with BASF to develop polymers which are from biomass, rather than the petrochemical industry. It has managed to do this without its products being generally more expensive than those of other companies. It is also proud of the fact that all the adhesives that it sells in the UK come from the greenest adhesive production facility in Europe, which is situated in the Netherlands and is completely carbon neutral.

Regarding sustainable product initiatives, one of the most important ones is a new generation of dry adhesives, which leave no contaminant on the floorcovering or on the sub-floor. This makes the floorcovering more easily removable and recyclable and enhances the cradle-to-cradle approach on flooring.

"Because the floorcoverings can be uplifted without any residue remaining, this system opens up important new possibilities when it comes to recycling. There is a cost implication in the short term, but you have to consider the cost of the full lifecycle, including waste removal at the end of life."

"Another example of this is our Remur metal-reinforced tape adhesive for skirtings," says Matthew Brown. "This type of product is particularly good in installations such as working hospitals where unpleasant and potentially hazardous chemicals are not desirable or in retail where minimal downtime is desirable. It also reduces shrinkage and gapping of the skirting as a mitigation against plasticiser migration."

At Uzin Utz these developments are supported by a corporate culture, which covers all aspects of the business, the manufacturing operations, the products, the vehicle fleet and how the office buildings are run.

"We think of it as a holistic approach, of which a central plank is the welfare of the installer who is using the product. This aspect is really important and it is too often neglected. Raising awareness of cleanliness, or otherwise, of products in use needs to be a core part of this discussion. As long as the products we use are unpleasant, dirty and unhealthy, we are going to struggle to encourage people to join our industry, never mind the environmental aspects of them. This is a holistic approach which involves protecting the planet, the health of the workforce and the future of the industry itself."

Speaking from the perspective of a global company, Matthew Brown believes the development of sustainable thinking in Europe is 10-20 years ahead of the UK and as a European business, Uzin Utz benefits from that.

"In the UK these things have tended to be driven by legislation," he says, "rather than through the corporate culture. This is mainly because we have a very price-orientated market in the UK. But I believe the cost factor, whether it is increased landfill tax or through EPRs, is going to drive future change in the direction of greater sustainability."

Matthew Brown believes one of only fully sustainable floorcovering that we have at the moment is wood. "Consider the whole cradle to cradle aspect of wood flooring, it is the one product that is truly sustainable, and I think it will possibly be the big growth area in the future. It can be floated on a system without adhering to the subfloor. If you want to change the look of it, you can sand it down and put a different colour stain on it. Wood is also a robust floorcovering and, with correct cleaning and maintenance, will never need to be removed. We can plant trees and harvest them sustainably, unlike other man-made floor coverings. We can also manufacture sustainable lacquers and timber treatments. Uzin Utz, via the PALLMAN brand, has a wood oil that is made from hemp oil.

"Uzin Utz considers the planet and wider society one of our key strategic initiatives, which not only shape the future of Uzin Utz, but also form part of our mission, company values and principles that each employee of our organisation lives and breathes."

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Regulations
PAST AND PRESENT

Sustainability regulations timeline

Following the Paris Agreement in COP21 at the end of 2015, the UK has joined global targets to prevent the rise of global average temperature above 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with the ambition to limit this increase to 1.5°C. It is clear that to meet these targets, the UK and its flooring industry has a lot to do in playing its part. At the same time, it is important to celebrate the strides that have been taken in the progression towards a circular economy.

This timeline of regulations and resources is designed to encourage precisely that, providing insights to support businesses navigating industry changes, as well as allowing you to identify gaps that still need further work to be addressed. The timeline is not exhaustive, but rather shows some highlights from the Paris Agreement to the present day and onwards that are relevant to all of us in the flooring industry. Future dates are not guaranteed but are anticipated based on current working deadlines and contingent on significant factors that are liable to change, including the political direction of the Government following the upcoming general election.

Since the word "sustainability" has itself grown to cover the full spectrum of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors, this timeline takes a holistic approach to sustainability. Not only should we be asking vital questions about the climate crisis, carbon emissions and biodiversity but we are also striving for improvements in physical and mental wellbeing – with the support of organisations such as the Health and Safety Executive. This timeline celebrates the diversity of sustainable actions in the wide range of business types and sizes across the contract flooring industry.

December 2015 – the UK adopted the Paris Agreement alongside 195 other Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21), which entered into force on 4th November 2016. Its goal is to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels."

April 2019 – the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was introduced in London as a means to improve air quality and discourage carbon emissions. The zone initially covered just central London and was expanded across the entire city on 29th August 2023. It requires that petrol cars and vans must be Euro 4 and diesel cars and vans must be Euro 6 to avoid the £12.50 daily charge. Larger vehicles over 3.5 tonnes (including some vans, lorries and specialist vehicles) do not need to pay the ULEZ charge, however are still subject to any relevant LEZ charges. Drivers who do not pay the ULEZ charge will face a fine of up to £180.

February 2021 – the CFA published the Zero Avoidable Waste in Flooring – A Scoping Study investigating and encouraging the transition towards a circular economy. Download the study from the CFA website.

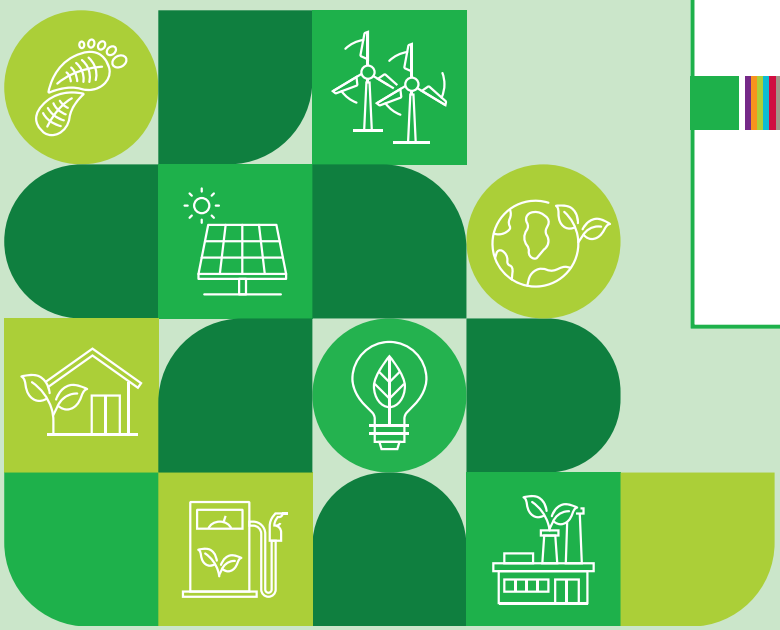
20th September 2021 – the Competitions and Markets Authority (CMA) adopts the Green Claims Code, setting out the principles businesses need to know to ensure the environmental claims they make are genuinely green.

16th November 2021 – the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) launched the Working Minds Campaign, encouraging an examination of issues relating to health at work. The campaign aims to help businesses recognise the signs of work-related stress and make tackling issues routine.

The CFA helps its members with support on sustainability and environmental challenges.

The new CFA guidance document "Beyond Installation: Guidance on UFH" is available exclusively to CFA members.

Login to the Members' Area and download a copy today,



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April 2022 – the Plastic Packaging Tax was introduced for businesses that expect to import into the UK or manufacture in the UK 10 tonnes or more of finished plastic packaging components in the next 30 days, or have imported/manufactured in the UK 10 tonnes or more of finished plastic packaging components in the last 12 months. It is charged at a rate of £217.85 per tonne from 1st April 2024. Check if you need to register on the Government website.

13th May 2022 – the Environment Act 2021 came into force, with some provisions coming into effect on 10th May 2022 and some on 30th September 2022. This comprehensive set of regulations follows after Brexit to set clear statutory targets in the UK for the recovery of the natural world. It is broken down into seven key parts: 1 and 2 – environmental governance, principles, targets and improvement plans; 3 – waste and resource efficiency; 4 – air quality and environmental recall; 5 – water; 6 – nature and biodiversity; and 7 – conservation covenants.

1st January 2023 – from either this date or 1st March 2023 businesses became required under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging to record data about the empty packaging and packaged goods they supply or import in the UK. Reporting requirements vary according to size of business and whether or not your organisation is based in Wales. You may also be required to collect "nation data". Find out more on the Government website.

1st April 2024 – the Landfill Tax increased to a standard rate of £103.70 per tonne and lower rate of £3.30 per tonne. The two rates of tax are dependent on how polluting the material is. Find out how your waste qualifies on the Government website. The Landfill Tax applies to England and Northern Ireland; the Scottish Landfill Tax and Welsh Landfill Disposals Tax operate differently as a result of devolved powers.

6th April 2023 – the Building Safety Act 2022 came into force, overhauling the existing regulations to give residents and homeowners more rights, powers and protections. It introduces the 'golden thread' of information as a requirement for all complex or high-residential buildings (HRBs), new and occupied.

January 2024 – the use of waste carpet in equestrian surfaces was banned following concerns of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) chemicals as well as microplastics spreading into the environment. In 2021, recycling for outdoor equine surfaces made up 14% of post-consumer use according to a report commissioned by Carpet Recycling UK.

15th January 2024 – the HSE launched the Asbestos: Your Duty campaign to keep people safe from future dangers of asbestos. Check if you have the duty to manage asbestos, find out if asbestos could be present in your building and more from the campaign website.

12th February 2024 – Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory for all but some small sites and exemptions. It then became mandatory for small sites from 2nd April 2024 and will become mandatory for developers of nationally significant infrastructure projects from late November 2025. Developers are required to deliver a BNG of 10%, meaning that a development will result in more or better quality natural habitat than there was before development. Further guidance is available from the Government.

February 2024 – the Construction Leadership Council's Green Construction Board launched its Biodiversity Roadmap for the sector, detailing how the construction industry will work together to reduce harm to our natural environment.

February 2024 – CFA launch additional guidance regarding underfloor heating (UFH) and specifically how legislation relating to heat source pumps is likely to affect our industry and the whole supply chain. CFA members can access this document from the CFA Member Area.

6th April 2024 – changes to the building control process for higher-risk buildings and other provisions introduced by the Building Safety regime. Building Control Approvers and Building Inspectors must now be registered with the Building Safety Regulator (BSR). Other provisions can be seen in full within the statutory instruments of the Building Safety Act.

2025 – the Future Homes Standard will come into effect to ensure that new homes built from 2025 will produce 75–80% less carbon emissions than homes built under the current Building Regulations.

31st March 2025 – the Simpler Recycling legislation takes effect, aiming to increase recycling rates by standardising recycling practices throughout the UK. From this date, it will be the responsibility of businesses to ensure that all food waste is segregated from other waste into a specific food waste bin so that it can be collected for recycling. In addition businesses are encouraged to sort other recyclable waste into dry mixed recyclables (including recyclable paper, cardboard, metals and plastics) and non-recyclables into general waste. Find out more on the Government website.

April 2025 – the cost of Landfill Tax is set to increase by more than 21%. This means that the standard rate per tonne will be £126.15 (up from £103.70) and the lower rate per tonne will be £4.05 (up from £3.30). Together with the Simpler Recycling legislation, these two initiatives aim to reduce landfill use and encourage sustainable waste management.

30th June 2025 – the current deadline for the UKCA mark for construction products, an alternative to the CE mark for the post-Brexit UK economy. It was moved to this deadline at the end of 2022, however there has been no further update or guidance issued as of yet by the Government.

October 2025 – legal requirements for reporting via the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging will take effect. This was delayed for a year from 2024 to 2025; you will not have to pay any EPR for packaging fees in 2024. In addition, if you are required to collect nation data, you will need to submit your nation data for the 2024 calendar year by 1st December 2025. Find out more on the Government website.

2035 – the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans will be banned. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced a five-year delay in the embargo from 2030 to 2035, bringing the UK in line with the EU and many other global markets in the transition to electric motor vehicles. Second-hand cars will be unaffected by the internal combustion engine (ICE) ban, meaning that they will still be able to be bought and sold freely following 2035.

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CPA Sustainability Briefing Documents

A comprehensive resource for the construction industry

The Construction Products Association (CPA) has once again added to its very comprehensive portfolio of documents on sustainability. Authored by Jane Thornback, the CPA's Sustainability Policy Advisor, in addition to others with expert knowledge in particular areas, the Briefing Documents cover the key issues of concern to companies in our sector looking for information on the case for making improvements in their sustainability performance, as well as the practicalities of doing so. The documents include a vast amount of 'need-to-know' information, which is important for anyone in business nowadays. They also contain many links to further resources which are very useful for those who wish to research specific areas in more detail.

The CFA is very grateful to have the CPA's permission to reproduce here a number of the most recent documents in full. These documents have all been published this year, so they are totally up-to-date and have a focus this time on EPDs. Many of the companies we have spoken to this year have told us that these are now a vital tool in evidencing your sustainability credentials and are increasingly being requested by main contractors and clients, as well as architects and specifiers.

The Documents are reproduced in full on the following pages and are also linked below. You are encouraged to follow the links, to ensure you have the latest version, in case there may be updates.

- https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/decarbonisation-and-net-zero/treatment-of-biogenic-carbon-content-of-construction-products-in-environmental-product-declarations-epd/
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I am a manufacturer and I keep being asked for an EPD How do I start? What steps do I need to take?

Authored by Flavie Lowres, Green Thinking Ltd

The request to construction product manufacturers for Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) is becoming more frequent. Whilst large companies may have commissioned EPD for their products for some years, many others, especially SMEs, find this a new and confusing journey. This Briefing Paper aims to provide guidance to getting started in obtaining an EPD by giving an overview of the process involved and the data that will be required. (This paper is not about what is an EPD – information about which can be found in other CPA Briefing Papers).

Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)

The first thing to understand is that there are different types of EPD – guidance on the different types can be found in section 5.2.1 of BRE's EN15804+A2 PCR, as well as in a separate CPA Briefing Paper.

Overview of the process for obtaining an EPD

The diagram below describes the process for obtaining an EPD. Each of the four steps of this diagram is then described in more detail. The Life Cycle Assessment and subsequent EPD publication is a desktop exercise requiring information to be gathered relating to the factories material consumption, energy, water and waste typically for one full production year.

- Appoint LCA expert
- Collect data
- Analyse – results
- Report

- Create an unverified EPD

- Third-party verifier appointed by Programme Operator
- Submit LCA report + unverified EPD

- EPD is published on Programme Operator's website + Eco Platform
- Valid 5 years

HOW DO I GET AN EPD?

Step 1: Carry out a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) study

The LCA is the process of collecting data, analysing the results, writing a report.

Who can create the LCA study

It is highly recommended that you use an LCA consultant who can use a software specifically developed to create LCA studies (such a GaBi or Simapro). These software are aimed at LCA experts, so can be hard to use. However, there are also a number of web-based tools that can be used by manufacturers and do not require an LCA expert, such as: BRE LINA or OneClickLCA EPD tool.

How to choose the right LCA consultant

The LCA consultant should be familiar with the relevant standards, namely: ISO 14040, ISO 14044, ISO 14025 and, for construction products: EN15804 (or ISO 21930 if outside of the UK or Europe). In addition to these standards, the LCA consultant will have to follow a Product Category Rule (PCR) applicable to the product identified. Programme Operators[1] (PO) might have their own Product Category Rule and in order to simplify the verification process (see step 3), it is important to choose an LCA consultant who is familiar with the relevant PO's PCR requirements to avoid confusion during the verification process. A PO may be able to recommend LCA consultants to you.

It is recommended to use a PO recognised by ECO Platform and the EPD should be completed in line with the requirements of the methodology agreed in the standard EN15804+A2.

How to choose the right LCA tool

There are a number of LCA tools that offer a route to an EPD. They typically have been pre-verified by a specific PO. It is highly recommended to either ask the PO if they can recommend a tool or to work with a PO that has pre-verified the tool chosen.

How many EPD should I create to cover my product?

There are different types of EPD – see CPA Briefing Paper on EPD Types. It is not necessary to have one EPD per product, an EPD can cover a number of products. There are rules for the grouping of products which are provided in the PO's PCR. A discussion with the PO, who will verify the EPD, or the LCA consultant is recommended.

Is it better to use a tool or an LCA consultant?

EPD tools have been created to enable manufacturers to create their own calculations and to take ownership of the process. It is possible to directly work with a tool. However, even if the tools provide guidance on what information is required, it might be best to carry out the first study with a consultant who uses a tool on behalf of the manufacturer. Once the manufacturer has been through the process once, it should be easier for the manufacturer to do it by itself in the tool. The choice between using a tool or an LCA consultant might also come down to price and it is worth getting quotes for both.

Note that tool providers provide training and some also provide support during the data entry.

[1] PO are organisations that are set up to appoint a third party to verify and publish EPD – a comprehensive list can be found here: ECO EPD Programmes - Eco Platform en (eco-platform.org)

What data will be needed during the LCA study?

In order to carry out an LCA study, the manufacturer needs to collect information on its product in order to carry out calculations that will inform the various stages of EN15804 (the standard describing the methodology for an EPD). The information provided need to relate to what has actually happened in the factory over a period of time. Information based on the typical composition of a product is likely not be accepted. The information required is included in Appendix A of this paper. An example of a typical data collection form used can be found HERE.

While there is a very long list of information to provide, the manufacturer only has to provide information for construction lifecycle stages A1-A3, C1-C4 and D. Stages A4-A5, B1-B5 are optional. Information for C1-C4 and D is based on typical scenarios and a consultant can help the manufacturer with this information. For information about what is the construction lifecycle see separate CPA Briefing Paper.

It is important to note that any information provided will need to be evidenced, for example, energy bills for the manufacturing life cycle stage (A3). The evidence will be submitted to the Programme Operator for the verification process.

Is it likely to be difficult and time-consuming for me to gather such information?

Collecting the data is an intensive process. Once the data has been submitted to the consultant, the consultant is likely to ask questions to make sure the data is accurate and complete. The consultant will carry out a mass balance exercise (see Section 6.3.5 of BRE's PCR) where the consultant takes the amount of input (quantity of raw materials) divided by the quantity of outputs (quantity of product manufactured in the period + production wastes). The result needs to be between 95% and 105%.

How much time would I have to spend with a consultant?

Initially, the manufacturer will have to spend time collecting the data and responding to questions from the consultant. Once the manufacturer and the consultant have come to an agreement on the data collection, then the consultant will start the data modelling and write the LCA report, which requires less time from the manufacturer.

What are the results of an LCA study - Does the information stay confidential?

The result of the LCA study is a report that summarises all the information provided, the calculation method and any assumptions made. The report also contains the numerical results of the calculations made by the consultant or tool. The report contains information that relate to the manufacturing process and is therefore confidential. The report is not published, it is just used to explain the calculation to the verifier.

Step 2: Create an unverified EPD

Once the LCA study has been completed, the consultant (or the manufacturer if using a tool) will need to complete an EPD template, provided by the Programme Operator that will verify the EPD. In addition to the information provided to carry out the LCA calculations, the EPD requires the following information:

- A high quality photo of the product which will be published at the front of the EPD
- Name of the product and address of the manufacturing plant(s)

- Description of the product: this description needs to be factual and describes the product, its function and application
- Technical performance: the manufacturer can include information on the performance of the product. Note that all performances declared will need to be evidenced
- Product composition: the manufacturer needs to include a high level description of the composition of the product
- Manufacturing process and process flow diagram: the manufacturer needs to provide a description of the manufacturing process and a diagram that explains the process
- Description of all the scenarios that have been used to model stages beyond A3
- Life cycle assessment calculations rules: this includes a description of the "declared or functional unit", description of the system boundaries, data source/quality/allocation, cut-off criteria. This information can be provided by the consultant or tool support for the first EPD.

It might help the manufacturer to look at other EPD (ideally similar product) to get an idea of what information would be good to list. It might also help the manufacturer choose the appropriate declared/functional unit, ie: the unit against which the results are reported (eg: 1 m^2 of carpet tile including floor underlay).

Step 3: Get EPD verified

Once Steps 1 and 2 described above have been done, the manufacturer submits the LCA report, all relevant evidence and the unverified EPD to the Programme Operator. The PO appoints a third-party independent verifier who will review all information provided. The verifier is likely to come back seeking clarifications. Once all the information has been agreed, the verifier makes a recommendation to the PO for publication.

This step will incur additional costs which are often provided separately from Steps 1 and 2.

Do I need to choose a PO in my country?

EPD are recognised beyond the UK borders and vice versa. The manufacturer can therefore choose any Programme Operator to engage with. It is recommended to use a PO recognised by ECO Platform and the EPD should be completed in line with EN15804+A2 requirements.

Step 4: Publication

Once the verification process is complete, the finished EPD is sent to the manufacturer for a final check and, once approved, is published on the PO's and ECO Platform's websites. An EPD is only valid if it is third party verified and publicly available. An EPD is valid 5 years from its publication date.

Further reading:

- ISO 14040, ISO 14044, ISO 14025
- SIMAPRO
- GABI
- BRE LINA
- OneClickLCA

- BS EN 15804:2012+A2:2019
- ISO 21930
- Ecoplatform
- ECO EPD Programmes - Eco Platform en (eco-platform.org)
- BRE PN514 EN15804+A2 PCR V3.1.pdf (greenbooklive.com)

Contact

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Flavie Lowres has over 20 years experience in sustainability in the build environment including many years experience in LCA and has delivered many EPD for construction products.

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Appendix A – information required to carry out an LCA study for the purpose of obtaining an EPD in line with EN15804:A2

Life cycle stage	Information required	Comment
General	Quantity of the product manufactured during period A. Total site production during period A. This information will be used to calculate the % of product manufactured in relation to other activities. For example, if 20 tonnes of products were manufactured during period A and the total quantity of manufactured outputs is 100 tonnes, then the product assessed represents 20% of the overall production. This % might be used to allocate the amount of energy used to the product studied. Period A: the period during which the data have been collected. This should be at least 6 months. If the period is less, then discuss with the consultant.	
A1 - Raw materials	List of the raw materials used in the making of the product – also referred to "input" materials. The information required will include: -input name: manufacturing name and description -input quantity – the quantities of inputs should relate to the amount of product manufactured during period A. Any information on the input, such as COSH may also be provided to help the consultant or tool user to identify the best dataset to use	The information related to A1-A3 stages relate to a specific time period and the information provided should relate to this time period.
A2 – transport	Transport distance of the input materials from their manufacturing location to the factory where the product assessed is manufactured. The information required will include: -transport distance -transport type (eg: lorry, van)	
A3 – manufacturing	All information related to the manufacturing process during period A. If there are offices on the manufacturing site, their impact should be included. This includes: -amount of energy used: electricity, gas -amount of water used -amount of water discharged (usually the same as amount of water used if no water is used in the product) -packaging: type and amount used -wastes: production waste and any other wastes (eg: packaging, office wastes) -emissions to air, water and land: emissions reported to authorities such as the Environment Agency	
A4 – transport to site	Typical transport distance of the products from their manufacturing location to the point of use. The information required will include: -transport distance -transport type (eg: lorry, van) This information is often based on scenarios as each delivery will be different. The consultant or the tool can propose some appropriate scenarios[2]	Information based on a typical scenario. Any information provided will need to be evidenced Optional stage
A5 – construction	Information related to the activities that happen on site. The manufacturer might provide information on: -the amount of waste generated on site during the installation of a product (this may be zero) -the amount of energy required to install the product -the amount of water required to install the product	
B1 – in use	Information related to the impact of the product in use. This is, for example, for products that might have an impact on the indoor air quality when in use.	
B2 – maintenance	Information related to the maintenance of the product in use during the study period[3] chosen for the EPD.	
B3 – repair	Information related to the repairs of the product in use during the study period chosen for the EPD.	
B4 – replacement	Information related to the replacement of the product in use during the study period chosen for the EPD.	
B5 – refurbishment	Information related to the impact of the product during a refurbishment phase.	
C1 – deconstruction demolition	Information related to the typical deconstruction or demolition of the product in a building at the end of its life or useful life. This may be, for example: the impact is zero as the product is taken out of the building by hand. The consultant or the tool can propose some appropriate scenarios[4]	Information based on a typical scenario. Any information provided will need to be evidenced
C2 – transport	Information related to the typical transport of the product from its point of use to a place where it will be processed for reuse, recycling, incineration or landfill. The consultant or the tool can propose some appropriate scenarios[5]	
C3 – waste processing	Information related to the processing of the product for reuse, recycling, incineration or landfill once it has been taken out of its point of use. The consultant or the tool can propose some appropriate scenarios[6]	Mandatory stage
C4 – disposal	Information related to the % of reuse, recycling, incineration or landfill of the product once it has been taken out of its point of use. The consultant or the tool can propose some appropriate scenarios[7]	
D – benefits and loads beyond the system boundary	Information related to the potential reuse or recycling of the product in a new product. The consultant or the tool can propose some appropriate scenarios[8]	

[2] Information may be found in Appendix D of this document: BRE PN514 EN15804+A2 PCR V3.1.pdf (greenbooklive.com)
[3] The study period is duration of the study, which is different to the service life of the product. The study period is used to calculate the impact of module B (stages B1-B5).
[4] Information may be found in Appendix D of this document: BRE PN514 EN15804+A2 PCR V3.1.pdf (greenbooklive.com)
[5] Information may be found in Appendix D of this document: BRE PN514 EN15804+A2 PCR V3.1.pdf (greenbooklive.com)
[6] Information may be found in Appendix D of this document: BRE PN514 EN15804+A2 PCR V3.1.pdf (greenbooklive.com)
[7] Information may be found in Appendix D of this document: BRE PN514 EN15804+A2 PCR V3.1.pdf (greenbooklive.com)
[8] Information may be found in Appendix D of this document: BRE PN514 EN15804+A2 PCR V3.1.pdf (greenbooklive.com)

How is waste and recovery modelled in Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)?

Authored by Jane Anderson, ConstructionLCA Ltd

This Briefing Paper provides a detailed technical description of how waste and recovery are modelled in Environmental Product Declarations (EPD). A separate paper discusses *How Waste and Recovery* are reported in EPD.

Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) are now widely used to provide information about the environmental impacts of manufacturing, using and disposing of construction products. EPD assess a range of impacts from embodied carbon to eutrophication to resource use. They include an assessment of waste and recovery.

The European Standard, EN 15804 sets out Product Category Rules for the development of EPD for construction products, to ensure that all types of construction products are assessed consistently using the same methodology and approaches. EN 15804 was first published in 2012 and amended in 2019. Life cycle assessment experts have refined the concepts and methodology over the years. The following describes their approach to waste and recovery.

How is Waste assessed in the EN 15804 methodology for EPD?

System Boundary: The first consideration is to understand the system that is being considered; where are the boundaries. Based on the Polluter Pays principle, and the product life cycle, the system boundary in EN 15804 includes all processes in relation to use of recovered material and fuel from the point at which the waste has been recovered (the "*end of waste state*") and all processes in relation to treatment and recovery of waste until it stops being waste (again, the "*end of waste state*"). **So the system boundary is the End of Waste state** and is defined using the EU Waste Framework Directive's end-of-waste criteria. Within Europe, you can tell when a recovered material or secondary fuel enters your system based on the point at which it stops being covered by waste legislation and starts being covered by product legislation such as REACH for example.

Allocation Methodology: This is very complex but essential to understand in order to model how impacts are allocated. EN 15804 uses a "100:0" recycling allocation methodology for post-consumer waste, also known as the "Cut-Off" or "Recycled Content Approach" – so all the impacts of using primary materials and recovered material from the point they enter the product system are allocated to the product and no impacts from production are allocated to any future recycling at the product's end of life. This means that recovered post-consumer waste entering the product system does not bring with it any impacts from the previous system.

For waste arising from manufacturing (pre-consumer waste):

- If the product uses the same amount of a recovered pre-consumer waste as it produces, then this is closed loop recycling.
- If the amount of recovered pre-consumer waste which leaves the system is more than that which is used (e.g. for a product made of primary metal) then EN 15804 says "co-product allocation" should be used to allocate impact to the output, based on the value of the recovered waste and that of the product. Conservatively, the recovered pre-consumer waste could be considered to leave the system with no impact (this would mean both recovered pre- and post-consumer waste enters the system with no impact).
- If the product uses more recovered pre-consumer waste than it produces (for example it is made of 100% pre-consumer scrap), then it should have the allocated impact from the process that made them. Conservatively, it can be considered to have the impacts of virgin production if data for allocation is not available.

How is the benefit of Recovery recognised in EN 15804 EPD

EN 15804 divides the product life cycle into four stages and then into Information Modules:

- **the product stage (Modules A1-A3)** covering all processes from extraction from nature until the product is ready to leave the factory gate (cradle to gate);
- **the construction stage (Modules A4-A5)** covering transport to site and installation on site;
- **the use stage (Modules B1-B7)** covering any emissions from the product in use, and maintenance, repair and replacement over its service life in the building, and any energy or water consumed by the product in use; and
- **the end of life stage (Modules C1-C4)** covering demolition/deconstruction, transport to waste processing and waste processing and disposal.

These stages and modules make up the product life cycle, so explain what is within the "System Boundary". EN 15804 provides an additional module,

- **Benefits and loads beyond the product system boundary (Module D)** covering the benefit of any recovery processes from net output flows leaving the system.

Beyond the system boundary, Module D of an EPD provides information about the benefits of recovery in the next product life cycle. This is because the "100:0" recycling methodology used gives all the benefit of recycling to the product using the recycled material and does not show any benefits to products with no recycled content which are recycled at the end of life. Module D should not be added to Modules A-C to give a total impact for products as this will be double counting the benefits of recycling at both the input and output side, and will contravene the use of a consistent product system boundary applied at both the input and output side. As with other modules beyond the factory gate, Module D is also assessed using scenarios based on current approaches in common use.

How is Module D calculated?

Any waste generated in the system should be recovered, with the impact of the recovery process reported in the module in which the waste occurs. If the same recovered waste is also used in A1-A3 (e.g. steel scrap from a recovered beam is produced at end of life but also used in producing the steel beam), then this is considered as "closed loop" and only the benefit of the "net output flow" (the mass of recovered material leaving the system minus the mass of the same recovered material entering the system) is considered in Module D. For the net output flow, the Module D models the impact of any process to reach the point at which the output flow substitute primary material or energy, and deducts the impact of producing the substituted primary material or energy. For products made of primary materials which are recovered at end of life, Module D is normally negative showing a benefit.

However for products made of recycled content, rather than a net output flow leaving the system, there is often a net input flow into the system. EN 15804 states only net output flows leaving the product system shall be included in Module D, so many EPD disregard net input flows which enter the system. Some products with net input flows however treat them as negative net output flows which means that rather than Module D showing a benefit, it will show a disbenefit from end of life recovery for these products using recycled content, as Module D would show the additional primary material that would need to be manufactured to "top up" the outputs to match the inputs.

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EPD and the Circular Economy

Construction is, in fact, one of the major users of recycled material, though there is always opportunity to use more recycled material and to move its use up the waste hierarchy. The CIRIA Mass Balance Report, published over 20 years ago in 2002, identified that UK construction products used nearly 70 million tonnes of recycled, reused or secondary materials, around 18% of the total mass of final products sold. There is no more recent data and a new study would be beneficial.

And although construction is one of the biggest sources of waste, recovery of construction and demolition waste is very high, DEFRA Waste Statistics suggest that 92.6% for recovery for non-hazardous construction and demolition waste in the UK in 2020. However, much of this is "downcycling", e.g. crushing concrete and bricks into aggregates; a move up the waste hierarchy would be beneficial. (For an understanding of the waste hierarchy see separate CPA Briefing Paper).

As mentioned above, EPD use the 100:0 approach to recycling which recognises the benefit of recycling for those using recycled material. This approach has been used in construction because most construction products have very long lives – there is therefore a greater focus on trying to recognise and encourage recycling now rather than potential benefits at end of life in many years' time, when recovery infrastructure may be very different and there may be little difference in impact for primary and recycled processes due to decarbonisation.

Some suggest that including Module D in the calculation of impact by adding it to the impacts for the product life cycle (A-C) accounts for the Circular Economy. However this is a misunderstanding, as it double counts the benefit of recycling at both the input and output side. Also, using the EN 15804 calculation rules, there is no real difference in the impacts for A-C+D for a virgin product, which is 100% recycled at end of life, and a 100% recycled product of the same material which itself is also 100% recycled (truly circular). This does not seem to be correct in terms of encouraging both the use of recycled material and recovery at end of life as we must do to achieve a circular economy.

Further reading:

- EN 15804+A2
- UK Waste statistics
- Waste Framework Directive
- CIRIA Mass Balance Report - not accessible online.

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Jane Anderson is Chair of BSI's B/558 Committee which is responsible in the UK for developing and commenting on the CEN TC 350 suite of standards.

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What is meant by the construction product life cycle?

Authored by Jane Thornback of CPA and Jane Anderson of ConstructionLCA Ltd

When assessing the environmental impact of a construction product, what parts of its journey from extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, transport to and installation on a construction site, repair and maintenance in use, to end of life and waste treatment of the product should be considered? The answer is all of them! Thankfully life cycle assessment gurus have thought about this topic in considerable depth over the past 20 years and have derived a logical framework. This Briefing Paper aims to provide clarity on this issue.

Standards for assessing sustainability performance of construction works – a bit of history

Work in International (ISO) and European (CEN) Standards Committees over the past 20 years have derived a logical structure for looking at environmental impacts throughout a construction product life cycle.

At the European level, the European Standards Body (CEN) in 2005 set up a Technical Committee CEN/TC 350 to develop standards to assess the sustainability performance of construction works, including construction products. This was at the request of the European Commission which was becoming concerned that a host of national sustainability assessment schemes were arising across Europe that could act as barriers to the single market. In the UK, BRE (formerly a government technical institute but privatised in 1997) provided the "national" assessment methodology for construction products (BRE Environmental Profiles), building elements (BRE Green Guide to Specification) and buildings (BREEAM).

In the UK, the British Standards Institution (BSI) convenes the Mirror Committee B/558, which participates in, and reviews the work of CEN/TC 350 in developing European Standards.

The work of CEN/TC 350 has led to the publication of a suite of standards, including;

- EN 15804 which sets out the calculation methodology (called product category rules (PCR)) for assessing the environmental impact of construction products resulting in an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)
- EN 15978 which provides the calculation methodology for the assessment of the environmental performance of buildings
- EN 17472 which provides the calculation methodology for the assessment of the environmental performance of infrastructure
- EN 15941 which provides requirements and guidance on data quality for EPD and data used for assessments of buildings and infrastructure.

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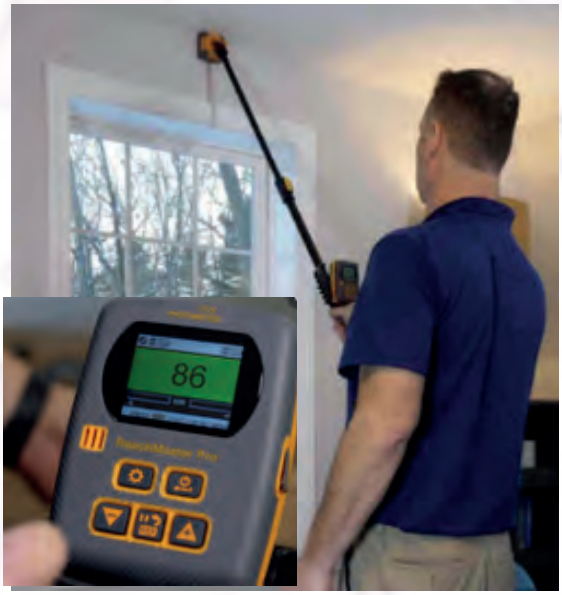

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Early in the life of the CEN/TC 350 Committee, it developed a construction works life cycle model divided into life cycle stages and modules. This very logical structure is described in Figure 1.

All of the sustainability assessment standards under CEN/TC 350 are based on this same description and structure of the construction life cycle. This means that measurement is based on the same system thus facilitating the comparison of different options.

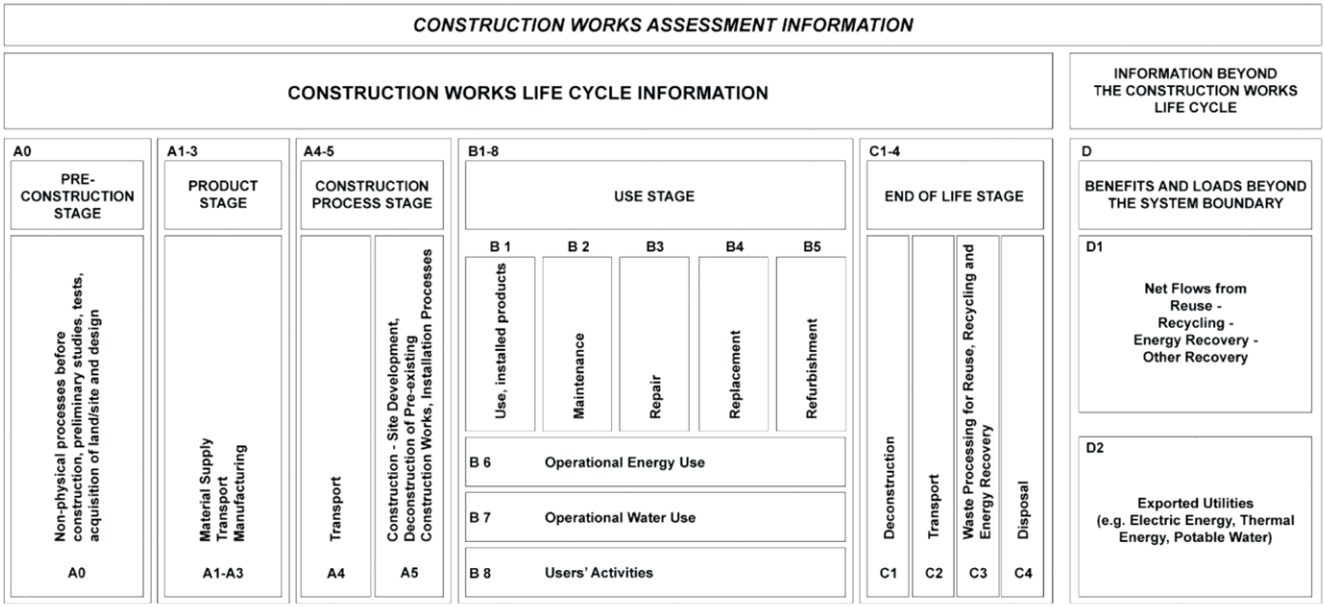

Figure 1 Figure 1 TC350 life cycle stages and modules for construction products (courtesy CEN TC350)

The life cycle stages displayed in Figure 1 which are relevant for construction products are:

- **the production stage (Modules A1-A3)** covering all processes from extraction from nature until the product is ready to leave the factory gate (cradle to gate)
- **the construction stage (Modules A4-A5)** covering transport to site and installation on site
- **the use stage (Modules B1-B7)** covering any emissions from the product in use, and maintenance, repair and replacement over its service life in the building, and any energy or water consumed by the product in use
- **the end of life stage (Modules C1-C4)** covering demolition/deconstruction, transport to waste processing and waste processing and disposal

These stages and modules comprise the **product life cycle** and are described as being within the "System Boundary".

EN 15804, which is the standard for assessing the environmental impact of a construction product (first published in 2012 with an amendment in 2019 as EN 15804:2012+A2:2019) provides two additional modules called Modules D1 and D2, which describe "benefits and loads beyond the system boundary".

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- **Module D1** covers the loads and benefit of any recovery processes from net output flows leaving the system

- **Module D2** is not relevant at product level and covers the benefits of any exported energy from a building

Policy Position of the Construction Products Association

The Construction Products Association, and its European counterpart Construction Products Europe (CPE) supports the formal technical standards of BSI, CEN and ISO. CPA and CPE have supported the long journey since 2005 of technical experts within CEN/TC 350 who have developed the sustainability assessment methodologies and standards, including EN 15804:2012 and its 2019 amendment. These standards provide the assessment methodology by which to assess the environmental impact of construction products through the construction product life cycle and we support such methodology.

Further reading:

- European Standards Body (CEN)
- CEN/TC 350
- EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 (withdrawn 2022)
- EN 15804+A2 2019
- Construction Products Europe
- EN 15978 which provides the calculation methodology for the assessment of the environmental performance of buildings
- EN 17472 which provides the calculation methodology for the assessment of the environmental performance of infrastructure
- ISO 21930:2017 Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services
- A Guide to Understanding the Embodied Impacts of Construction Products by Jane Anderson and Jane Thornback, 2012

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Jane Anderson is Chair of BSI's B/558 Committee which is responsible in the UK for developing and commenting on the CEN TC 350 suite of standards

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How is waste and recovery reported in Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)?

Authored by Jane Anderson, ConstructionLCA Ltd

This Briefing Paper describes how waste and recovery are reported in Environmental Product Declarations (EPD). A separate paper provides a detailed technical description of *How Waste and Recovery* are modelled in EPD.

Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) are now widely used to provide information about the environmental impacts of manufacturing, using and disposing of construction products. EPD assess a range of impacts from embodied carbon to eutrophication to resource use.

The European Standard, EN 15804 sets out Product Category Rules for the development of EPD for construction products, to ensure that all types of construction products are assessed consistently using the same methodology and approaches. EN 15804 was first published in 2012 and amended in 2019. Life cycle assessment experts have refined the concepts and methodology over the years. The UK Standards Committee that contributes to the development and revision of EN 15804 is BSI's B/558 Mirror Committee.

EN 15804 divides the product life cycle into four stages and then into Information Modules:

- **the product stage (Modules A1-A3)** covering all processes from extraction from nature until the product is ready to leave the factory gate (cradle to gate)
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- **the end of life stage (Modules C1-C4)** covering demolition/deconstruction, transport to waste processing and waste processing and disposal

These stages and modules comprise the product life cycle, so explain what is within the "System Boundary". EN 15804 provides an additional module:

- **Benefits and loads beyond the product system boundary (Module D)** covering the benefit of any recovery processes from net output flows leaving the system.

All Modules beyond the factory gate are assessed on the basis of scenarios. Scenarios have to be realistic and representative of one of the most probable alternatives and cannot include processes or procedures

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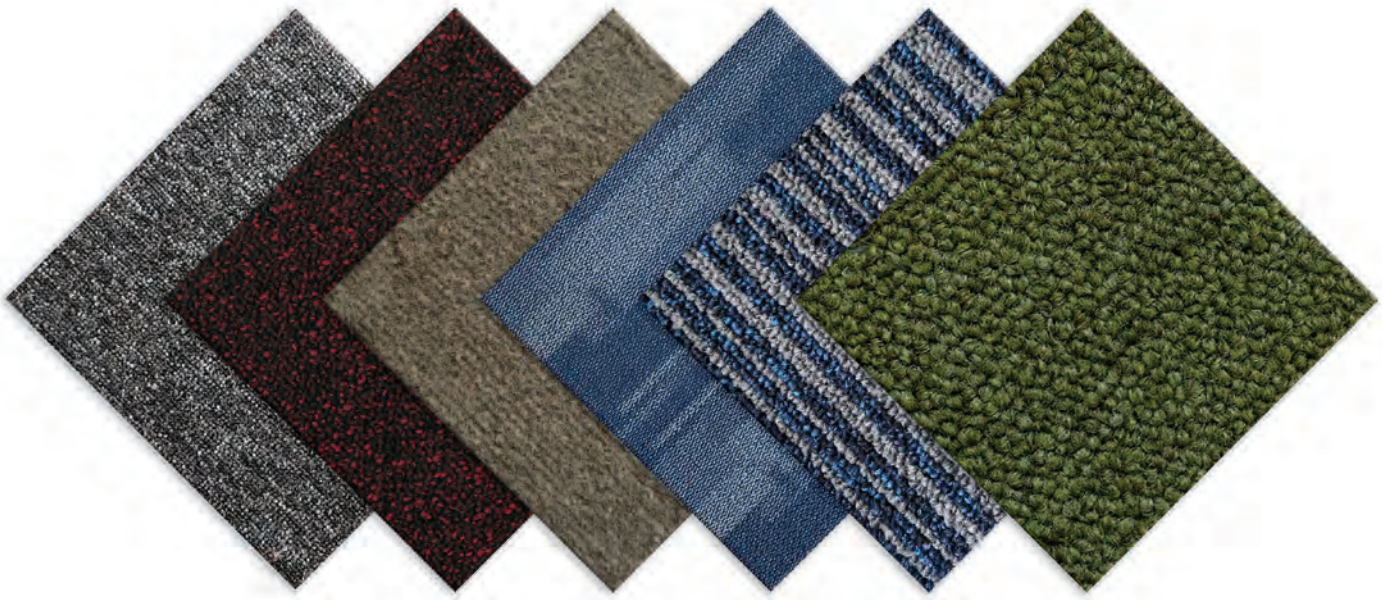

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that are not in current use or which have not been demonstrated to be practical using current processes and approaches.

How is Waste and Recovery reported in an EPD?

Environmental Indicators related to waste and recovery in EPD

EPD include a number of indicators which describe aspects of waste and recovery. These inventory indicators look at the waste resources being used to make a product (the inputs), the emissions to soil, air or water that result (the outputs), and the follow on recovery indicators.

Input indicators: At the input side, three indicators are provided:

- *Use of secondary material* (measured in kg)*
- *Use of renewable secondary fuels (measured in MJ, net calorific value)*
- *Use of non-renewable secondary fuels (measured in MJ, net calorific value)*

These indicators are normally manually calculated just for the foreground system (the system within the manufacturer's control) based on the inputs used (as most generic LCA databases and the International Life Cycle Database (ILCD) nomenclature which EN 15804 requires do not include this information).

**See the separate section at the end of this Briefing Paper on Recycled Content for its relationship to 'Use of secondary material'.*

Output Indicators: On the output side, three indicators are provided in an EPD to report waste disposed, all measured in kg:

- *Hazardous waste disposed (measured in kg)*
- *Non-hazardous waste disposed (measured in kg)*
- *Radioactive waste disposed (measured in kg)*

Based on the definition of waste disposal in the EU Waste Framework Directive, for non-radioactive waste, "waste disposed" means waste which is sent to landfill or to an incinerator which does not have R1 status[1], for simplicity called incineration. As with the input indicators, these indicators are normally manually calculated for Life Cycle Stages A1-A3, just for the foreground system (the system within the manufacturer's control) and for module C4, based on the waste being disposed of in landfill or incineration.

Recovery Indicators: There are additionally four recovery indicators in EPD:

- *Components for re-use (measured in kg)*
- *Materials for recycling (measured in kg)*
- *Materials for energy recovery (measured in kg)*
- *Exported energy (measured in MJ per energy carrier)*

Again for Modules A1-A3 (cradle to gate), these indicators are normally manually calculated just for the foreground system based on the material / fuel or energy leaving the system boundary, and for modules C1-C3.

[1] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-incinerator-plant-apply-for-ri-status. In the UK at the start of 2023, 22 of the 57 operational Energy from Waste (EfW) plants accounting for 23% of capacity did not achieve R1 status (Tolvik, 2023).

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If waste is used for energy recovery or incinerated with energy recovery in a plant with R1 status[1], then only the exported energy is reported using the Exported energy indicator in the module in which the energy leaves the system. If the waste is converted to a secondary fuel before leaving the system, then the flow leaving the system is considered using Materials for energy recovery.

How are Waste and Recovery indicators considered over the life cycle?

Gate to grave modules: All the input, output and recovery indicators are calculated for the gate to grave modules. For the input indicators, any reported indicators for Stages A1-A3 are used for inputs of material or energy into the gate to grave modules. For the output and recovery indicators, these are based on the amount of waste disposed to landfill or incineration in each module and the amount of recovered material, secondary fuel or recovered energy leaving the system in each module.
Some examples are provided below.

- **A1-A3 (product stage)**: the product declared unit is 1 kg and uses 1 kg recycled metal input made of 1.1 kg metal scrap. The *Use of secondary material indicator* is calculated at the system boundary when the scrap reaches the end of waste state. 1.1 kg scrap enters the system so the *Use of secondary material* is 1.1 kg.

- **A5 (construction)**: the product declared unit is 1 kg and the wastage rate is 5%. The waste is non-hazardous and 100% is sent to landfill. Therefore in A5, 0.05 kg will be reported as *Non-hazardous waste disposed*.

- **C3 (End of life recovery)**: the product declared unit is 1 kg, and no waste processing is required in C1 and it reaches the end of waste state when it reaches the recovery process in C3. If 50% is sent to an incinerator with R1 status (for simplicity called energy recovery) and 50% sent to recycling, then in C3, 0.5 kg will be reported as *materials for recycling* and 0.5 kg will be reported as *materials for energy recovery*.

- **C4 (End of life disposal)**: the product declared unit is 1 tonne, and at end of life is non-hazardous waste, 100% of which is sent to an incinerator without R1 status[1] (incineration). In C4, 1 tonne will be reported as material for disposal. Although the incinerator does not have R1 status, it is still able to recover a small amount of energy as both electricity and heat. This is reported in C4 as, say, 800 MJ Exported Energy - Heat and 300 MJ Exported Energy – Electricity.

- **Module D (Benefits of recovery)**: Module D reports the impacts associated with any processing to reach the point of substitution, minus the impacts associated with the production of the substituted product. In particular, if there are net outputs of exported energy, secondary material or secondary fuel leaving the system boundary (rather than looping to input flows in A1-A3) then these are reported in Module D using the indicator, *Use of secondary fuel* (as there is no indicator for Use of exported energy, CEN/TR 16970 recommends to use *Use of secondary fuel*) and Use of secondary material.

Specific Example:

An example (showing only relevant indicators) is provided below for 1 kg of plastic with a net calorific value of 40 MJ/kg and a recycled material content of 20%, which is recycled to substitute virgin plastic at end of life.

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In A1-A3 (product stage), the product reports 32 MJ Use of *non-renewable primary energy resources* used as raw materials (PENRM) as 80% of 40 MJ/kg, 0 MJ *Use of renewable energy resources* used as raw materials (PERM) and 0.2 kg *Use of Secondary material* (SM) which will have 8 MJ energy content.

For recycling, 1 kg waste is generated at end of life and reported in C3 as 1 kg *Materials for recycling* (MFR), but as the product uses 0.2 kg recycled material, the calculated net output of recycled material into Module D is 0.8 kg (1.0-0.2=0.8), so 0.8 kg is reported in *Use of Secondary material* in Module D. This 0.8 kg recycled plastic substitutes 0.8 kg 100% primary plastic which will have 32 MJ PENRM impact, so -32 MJ is reported in Module D.

Indicator	Unit	A1-A3	C3	C4	D
Use of non-renewable primary energy resources used as raw materials (PENRM)	MJ	32			-32
Use of secondary material (SM)	kg	0.2			0.8
Material for Recycling (MFR)	kg		1.0		

Recycled Content

EPD do not have to report the recycled content of products. If they do, it should have been calculated following the requirements of ISO 14021 and checked by the verifier.

The *Use of secondary material indicator* will not be directly translatable to "recycled content". This is because the *Use of secondary material* is measured as recovered material enters the product system. Recycled content would need to take account of, e.g. losses of recovered material through wastage in its further processing and in the manufacturing process. For example the *Use of secondary material* reported in the UK Cares EPD for Carbon Steel Reinforcing Bar (secondary production route –scrap), Sector Average is 1,140 kg for a declared unit of 1 tonne of steel, meaning 1.14 tonnes of steel scrap was used to make 1 tonne of steel, along with primary alloying elements. Its recycled content is reported as 97.8% however, showing that around 162 kg scrap was lost through the scrap processing and manufacturing process.

Further reading:

- EN 15804+A2
- Waste Framework Directive
- ISO 14021
- Tolvik Consulting, 2023. UK Energy from Waste Statistics – 2022.

Contact

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Jane Anderson is Chair of BSI's B/558 Committee which is responsible in the UK for developing and commenting on the CEN TC 350 suite of standards.

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Treatment of biogenic carbon content of construction products in Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)

Authored by Jane Anderson, ConstructionLCA Ltd

"Biogenic" carbon is sequestered through photosynthesis from atmospheric CO2 into biobased carbohydrates, and then incorporated into more complex molecules, for example into cellulose or lignin which are key components of trees or plant material. This biogenic carbon content is therefore sometimes called "sequestered carbon". This Briefing Paper describes how biogenic carbon content is considered within an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

A point to note before we get started is that the carbon content of a construction product is not the same thing as the embodied carbon of that construction product. They are different things measured in different ways; for a discussion of this see separate *CPA Briefing Paper on "Is the carbon content of a construction product the same as its embodied carbon?*

What is Biogenic Carbon?

In an EPD, biogenic carbon tracks the carbon that is incorporated into biobased materials such as timber, hemp, straw, wool, leather etc through the life cycle. More technically, biogenic carbon is sequestered through photosynthesis from atmospheric CO2 into carbohydrates, and then incorporated into more complex molecules, for example into cellulose or lignin which are key components of trees or plant material. This biogenic carbon content is therefore sometimes called "sequestered carbon". Biogenic carbon is then released from the combustion or degradation of sequestered carbon when biomass is used as fuel or at the end of life of biobased products.

Animal products such as wool and leather also incorporate biogenic carbon sourced from the ingestion of plant material containing sequestered biogenic carbon.

Biogenic carbon is different from the "Fossil" carbon within products. Fossil carbon is sourced from natural gas or oil, or from minerals such as carbonates.

What is an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) are now widely used to provide information about the environmental impacts of manufacturing, using and disposing of construction products.

The European Standard, EN 15804 sets out rules, called "Product Category Rules", for the development of EPD for construction products, to ensure that all types of construction products are assessed consistently using the same methodology and approaches. EN 15804 was first published in 2012 and amended in 2019. Life cycle assessment experts have refined the concepts and methodology over the years.

The following describes the approach in EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 to quantifying and reporting the biogenic carbon content of construction products.

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Treatment in EPD of biogenic carbon content in construction products

There are two approaches: one for timber which is not sourced from sustainably managed forests, and the second approach for timber from sustainably managed forests and all other biobased products.

(Note: The treatment in EPD of biogenic carbon content differs from how an EPD considers fossil carbon content. See separate CPA Briefing Paper on this issue).

a) Treatment of biogenic carbon content in timber not sourced from sustainably managed forests

For timber which comes from forests which are not sustainably managed, for example timber logged from primary forests which have no management plan, then no removal of carbon through sequestration is modelled in EPD to EN 15804. At end of life, the carbon in the timber is considered to be emitted to nature or transferred to the next system or to nature and treated as an emission of CO2 in the EPD categories of climate change (GWP), of land use and land use change (GWP-LULUC) in EPD to EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, and as an emission of CO2 in the climate change impact category of EPD to EN 15804:2012+A1:2013.

b) Treatment of biogenic carbon content in timber sourced from sustainably managed forests and other biobased products

This is quite complex. There are three considerations.

Firstly, the sequestered biogenic carbon stored within the product can be considered as part of the assessment. It is modelled as a removal of CO2 from nature and reported as a negative emission of biogenic CO2 within module A1 in EPD to EN 15804.

Secondly, the biogenic carbon content is tracked and reported at the end of life of the product as follows:

a) If the product is recovered for recycling or is reused, then the carbon is considered as a transfer of biogenic CO2 to the next product system, and this is reported, in the same way as an emission, in module C3 in EPD to EN 15804.

b) If the product is used for energy recovery then the resulting biogenic CO2 resulting from combustion is reported as an emission of biogenic CO2 in module C3 in EPD to EN 15804.

c) If the product is used for incineration (or energy recovery in a plant which doesn't have R1 status) then the resulting biogenic CO2 resulting from combustion is reported as an emission of biogenic CO2 in module C4 in EPD to EN 15804.

d) If the product is landfilled, then the resulting CO2 and methane from degradation of the timber or biobased material in the landfill over 100 years, and any subsequent landfill gas capture and combustion is modelled with the resulting emissions of CO2 or methane reported as biogenic carbon emissions in C4 in EPD to EN 15804. In addition, any residual biogenic carbon content remaining in the landfill after 100 years is considered as a transfer of biogenic carbon to nature and reported as an emission of CO2 in C4 in EPD to EN 15804:2012+A2:2019. (For EPD to EN 15804:2012+A1:2013, no transfer to nature is considered for residual biogenic carbon remaining in landfill after 100 years).

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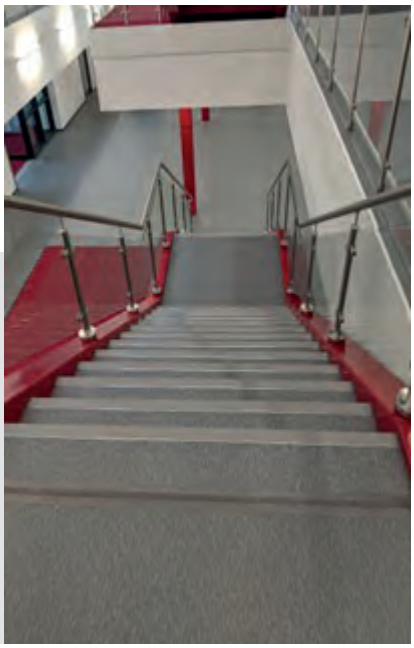

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Thirdly, in EPD to EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, the biogenic carbon content of the product and its packaging must be reported separately in the EPD if the biobased material in the product accounts for more than 5% of the weight of the product or packaging respectively. This is reported in kg Carbon (with 12 kg Carbon equivalent to 44 kg CO2, based on the mass of carbon and oxygen in the CO2 molecule). This information allows end of life modelling for alternative scenarios if the scenarios provided for end of life in the EPD are not suitable at the building level (e.g. if an EPD for structural timber only provides a scenario for energy recovery in Germany rather than in the UK and does not provide recycling or reuse scenarios).

Treatment in EPD of construction products which contain a mix of fossil and biogenic carbon content

There are a number of construction products which contain a mix of fossil and biogenic carbon content, for example composites such as particleboard, orientated strand board (OSB), or glulam which contain both fossil based resins and timber, and some plastics may contain a proportion of biobased content. In these situations, the modelling reflects the specific content of fossil and biobased carbon and follows the respective approaches discussed above for each type of content.

Further reading:

- CPA Briefing Paper: Is the carbon content of a construction product the same as its embodied carbon?
- CPA Briefing Paper: Environmental Product Declarations and Embodied Carbon: How do EPD account for embodied carbon
- CPA Briefing Paper: How is waste and recovery modelled in EPD
- BS EN 15804:2012+A2:2019
- TDUK Technical Paper: Assessing the carbon-related impacts and benefits of timber in construction 2021

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What is Upfront Carbon?

Authored by Jane Anderson of ConstructionLCA Ltd and Jane Thornback, CPA Sustainability Advisor

The term Upfront Carbon has emerged in recent years from various industry coalitions, especially in the design community, as they have started to understand the role of embodied carbon in the pathway to Net Zero buildings and infrastructure.

Upfront Carbon is not the equivalent of Embodied Carbon, it is a subset of it.

This Briefing Paper discusses Upfront Carbon, how it is being used and why it is defined as it is.

Upfront Carbon – is there a definition?

The 2023 2nd edition of the RICS Professional Statement on Whole Life Carbon defines Upfront Carbon as the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions "associated with materials and construction processes up to practical completion (modules A0–A5). Upfront Carbon excludes the Biogenic Carbon sequestered in the installed products at practical completion."

To unpack what this means, we must begin with an understanding of the construction product life cycle.

Construction Product Life Cycle

Within the built environment, a suite of formal standards exist for assessing the sustainability performance of construction works (i.e. buildings and infrastructure) including construction products. These have been developed by the European Standards Body (CEN) under a mandate from the European Commission. To progress the work, CEN established a Technical Committee in 2005 called CEN/TC 350; this Committee is responsible for the development and revision of the standards on this topic. (It should be noted that CEN membership is not confined solely to the Members States of the European Union but includes other nations including the UK, i.e. it is European rather than EU).

Early in the life of CEN/TC 350, it developed a construction works life cycle model divided into stages and modules: Module A0 is the pre-construction stage (not relevant for products). Module A1-A3 is the product stage, Module A4-A5 the construction stage, B1-B8 is the in-use stage, C1-C4 is end of life stage, and Module D shows the potential loads and benefits of recovery beyond the system boundary. This very logical structure is described in Figure 1. See also the CPA Briefing Paper on What is the Construction Life Cycle?

All the sustainability assessment standards for construction products, buildings and infrastructure under CEN/TC 350 are based on this same description of the construction life cycle.

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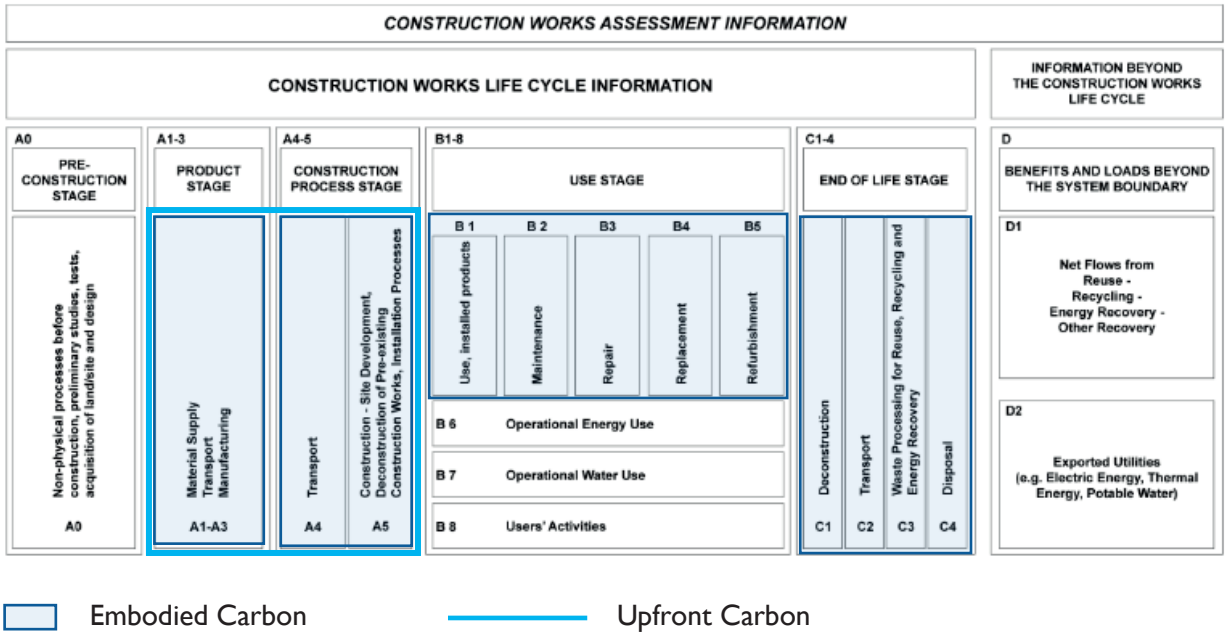

Figure 1 Life cycle stages and modules used in EPD, Building and Infrastructure level assessment (courtesy CEN/TC 350) with Embodied Carbon and Upfront Carbon illustrated

Assessing the sustainability impacts of construction products

The European standard developed by CEN TC/350 to assess the environmental impact of a construction product is EN 15804. EN 15804 assesses the environmental impact of a construction product throughout its life cycle against a range of environmental indicators.

EN 15804 was first published in 2012, and a revision – an amendment - was published in 2019 as EN 15804:2012+A2:2019. EN 15804 follows a life cycle assessment methodology, and the outcome of the assessment is an independently verified document called an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

Embodied Carbon measurement

One of the environmental indicators measured by EN 15804 is the impact on global warming potential, or more popularly referred to as "Embodied Carbon" of a construction product.

As we have noted earlier, EN 15804 divides the product life cycle into four stages and then into Information Modules. Embodied Carbon covers Modules A1-A3, A4-A5, B1-B5 and C1-C4 – these being all the modules in which the impact of construction are reported. Excluded are the impacts from the operation of the building in Information Modules B6, B7 and B8 which are called "Operational Carbon".

"Whole Life Carbon" covers all of the impacts over the life cycle within the system boundary from A1 to C4, i.e. Operational and Embodied Carbon combined.

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Upfront Carbon

Upfront Carbon has emerged as a term used to describe the impacts until handover of the building or infrastructure project, i.e. Modules A1- A5.

Upfront Carbon is therefore a subset of Embodied Carbon (See Figure 1). The term Upfront Carbon (occasionally called Upfront Embodied Carbon) emerged as a term in voluntary industry guidance such as the World Green Building Council's 'Bringing Embodied Carbon Upfront'. The term is now used in the 2nd edition of the RICS Professional Statement on Whole Life Carbon. It is also referred to in a UK industry developed voluntary UK Net Zero Carbon Building Standard due for publication in 2024.

There seems to be some controversy around Upfront Carbon?

What's the issue?

Looking at the impact of a construction product on global warming potential across the product life cycle takes account of burdens and benefits at different stages of the product life cycle. To do otherwise is potentially to favour one aspect of a product but to ignore those aspects that are less favourable. The formal standard EN 15804 covers the whole product life cycle to ensure that all benefits and burdens are considered and therefore that the choice of product can be based on a good understanding of the benefits and the burdens. (Not forgetting that carbon is only one of the parameters to be considered in the choice of products; performance and safety being crucially important).

The controversy around Upfront Carbon has arisen especially in relation to construction products made of timber and other biobased products.

Biogenic Carbon

The carbon which is absorbed into a growing tree or other biomass and which is emitted when the timber or biomass is burnt or decays at end of life is known as "Biogenic Carbon"; and the Biogenic Carbon which remains within a product such as a timber beam is called "Sequestered Carbon". In the context of construction products, Sequestered Carbon is therefore the Biogenic Carbon which is "stored" within timber and other biobased products within the construction works.

Sequestered Carbon is included as a removal in Module A1, and as an emission in the module where it is emitted to nature (through combustion or decay) or transferred to the next product system. When looking at Upfront Carbon (Modules A1-A5 only) it would normally show the benefit of the Sequestered Carbon in timber and other biobased products in Module A1 but would exclude the balancing end of life impacts when the Sequestered Carbon is emitted (theoretically this could be as methane from landfill) or transferred to the next product system with reuse or recycling.

Including the uptake of Sequestered Carbon without the end of life impact when the Sequestered Carbon is released would distort the impact of biobased products, i.e. reporting Upfront Carbon (just Modules A1-A5) for bio-based materials highlights the positives at the start of the construction works life cycle but ignores the negatives at the end. It therefore underrepresents the global warming impact of such products and distorts the comparison with other construction products.

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So, when reporting Upfront Carbon as a single indicator, not including Module C, then the Sequestered Carbon within the product should be excluded from the product or building's GWP impact for A1-A5 impact. (The Sequestered Carbon can be reported separately).

To be super techy: technically EPD to EN 15804:2012+A2 2019 provide this figure as the sum of the GWP-fossil and GWP-luluc indicators for modules A1-A5 (i.e. excluding the GWP-biogenic indicator).

For EPD to the earlier version (2012) of EN 15804+A1 or ISO 21930, then the Sequestered Carbon within the product should be calculated and deducted from the GWP impact (but you probably need to be an LCA expert to understand this !).

Timber Development UK has produced a paper which describes how to calculate the Sequestered Carbon within timber (see further reading list).

The first (2017) edition of the RICS Professional Statement on Whole Life Carbon Assessment in the Built Environment followed the CEN/TC 350 standard EN 15978. To avoid distortion of results, it required that Sequestered Carbon could only be taken into account when the whole life cycle was reported (as Embodied or Whole Life Carbon), so if Upfront Carbon was reported it had to exclude Sequestered Carbon, set out as follows:

> "*Carbon sequestration must only be taken into account when the following criteria are met:*
> *1. The whole life carbon assessment of the project includes the impacts of the EoL stage [C] and*
> *2. The timber originates from sustainable sources (certified by FSC, PEFC or equivalent).*"

The updated second (2023) version of the RICS Professional Statement on Whole Life Carbon Assessment in the Built Environment continues to use the same approach, however RICS within its Standard has now made it mandatory to assess and report Whole Life Carbon across the whole life cycle.

It requires that the following modules (see Figure 2) are reported (grey are optional modules), and the diagram below shows how the various metrics (Upfront Carbon, Sequestered Carbon, Embodied Carbon, Operational Carbon and Whole Life Carbon) are calculated from these modules.

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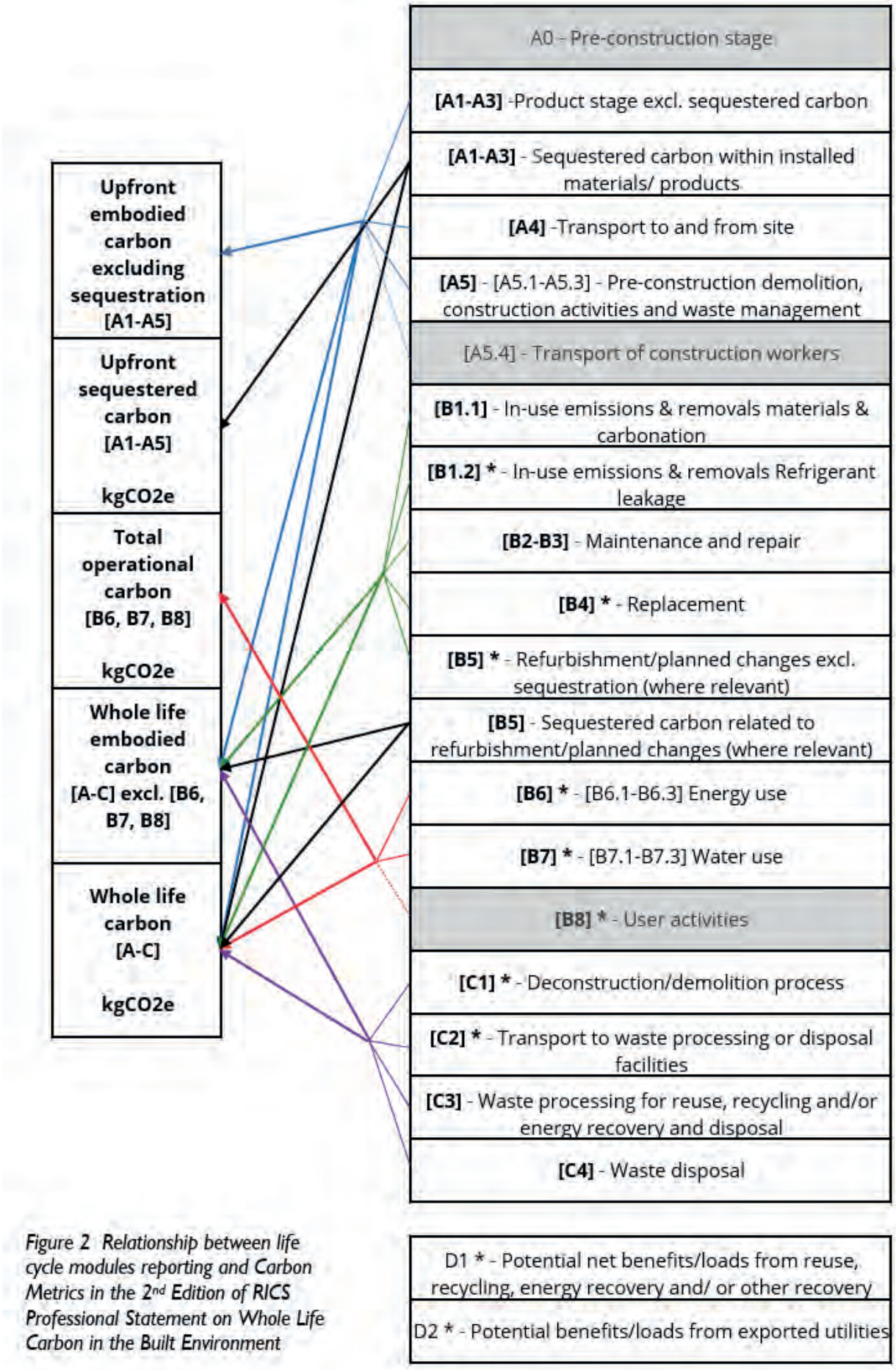

Figure 2 Relationship between life cycle modules reporting and Carbon Metrics in the 2nd Edition of RICS Professional Statement on Whole Life Carbon in the Built Environment

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Policy Position of the Construction Products Association

The Construction Products Association, and its European counterpart Construction Products Europe, supports the formal technical standards of BSI, CEN and ISO. Within Europe the CEN standards are often cited in regulation.

The Construction Products Association (and CPE) have supported the long journey since 2005 of technical experts who have developed the standards within CEN/TC 350, including EN 15804, and it's 2013 and 2019 revisions. These standards provide the assessment methodology by which to assess construction products using EPD, and we support such methodology. We do not support considerations of Upfront Carbon that include Sequestered Carbon whilst not accounting for end of life Biogenic Carbon.

Furthermore, we think the approach should not be focused on Upfront Carbon at all but that the comparison between construction products should be on the basis of an assessment of embodied carbon through the whole life cycle.

Further reading:

- European Standards Body (CEN)
- CEN/TC 350
- EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 (withdrawn)
- EN 15804+A2 2019
- RICS Whole life carbon assessment for the built environment, 2nd edition, v2 November 2023. RICS Professional Standards and Guidance, UK
- Construction Products Europe
- TDUK Technical Paper: Assessing the carbon-related impacts and benefits of timber in construction 2021

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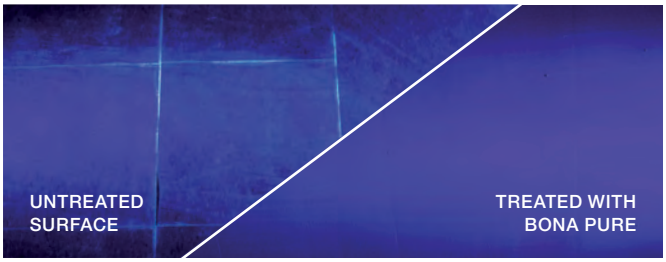
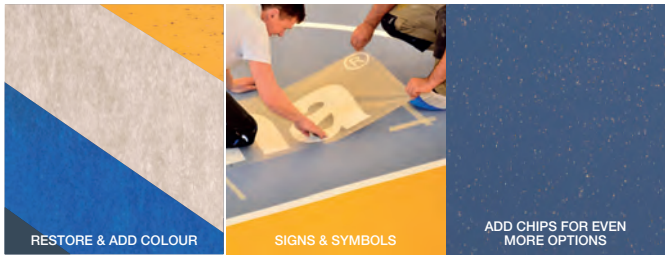
92% LESS CARBON EMISSIONS
41% COST SAVINGS
90% ENERGY SAVINGS





IMPROVED HYGIENE FOR HEALTHIER SURFACES

Bona's unique process along with our coatings creates a monolithic surface that seals against microorganisms thus resulting in a floor with the highest level of hygiene standards as mandated by The Technical Rules of Biological Agents (TRBA).

DESIGN CUSTOMIZATION

The Bona Resilient Solution offers numerous design options from changing the colour and design of a floor, to adding decals, graphics and logos. The possibilities are endless.

WE CALL IT BONA RESILIENT SOLUTIONS, YOU COULD CALL IT A **BRAND-NEW FLOOR.**

Request your free floor evaluation here!

Bona Limited
Tel 01908 525 150
info.uk@bona.com
bona.com

Bona®

So you want to know about Sustainability?

There are plenty of organisations offering good information and advice about sustainability and recycling or for more in-depth consultancy services — should you wish to accurately measure your actions with a view to attaining an environmental accreditation. We've listed a selection of the more high profile ones.

Action Sustainability

Action Sustainability aims to lead and inspire sustainable supply chain management. It provides specialist business advice, training, and practical tools to help deliver your sustainability objectives, including identifying why sustainability is important to your organisation; link your strategic goals to an effective sustainable procurement strategy; implement your strategy throughout your procurement team and supply chain and put in place measurement, evaluation and assurance mechanisms to ensure your approach is embedded in everyday business practices and provides tangible benefits to you organisation.

0207 697 1977 • www.actionsustainability.com

The Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust is an independent, expert partner of leading organisations around the world, helping them contribute to and benefit from a more sustainable future through carbon reduction, resource efficiency strategies and commercialising low carbon technologies.

020 7170 7000 • www.carbontrust.com

Centre for Sustainable Energy

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) helps people and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors meet the twin challenges of rising energy costs and climate change. It shares knowledge and practical experience to empower people and organisations to change the way they think and act about energy. It achieves this by giving advice, managing innovative energy projects, training others to act, and undertaking research and policy analysis.

0117 934 1400 • www.cse.org.uk

Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust is a non-profit organisation, funded both by government and the private sector. It is one of the UK's leading organisations set up to address the damaging effects of climate change and has offices in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Its aim is to cut emissions of carbon dioxide by promoting the sustainable and efficient use of energy.

020 7222 0101 • www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is an executive non-departmental public body responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Its principal aims are to protect and improve the environment, and to promote sustainable development. It is responsible for areas including regulation of major industry, waste regulation, and contaminated land. It also helps small businesses comply with environmental legislation, and provides business sector advice.

0370 850 6506 • www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Green Mark

Green Mark is a tailored environmental certification scheme, which aims to improve the environmental performance of businesses by identifying cost savings and helping them develop an environmental management system. It also helps businesses comply with environmental legislation, gain a competitive advantage, enhance opportunities and work towards international environmental accreditations such as ISO 14001 and EMAS.

0208 1507 231 • www.greenmark.co.uk

Natural Capital Partners

Natural Capital Partners is a consultancy based organisation that design solutions to businesses looking to reduce their environmental impacts. The company offers consultancy about renewable energy, carbon emissions measurement and offsetting, water stewardship, building supply chain resilience and the protection of biodiversity.

020 7833 6000 • www.carbonneutral.com

WRAP

A not-for-profit company that helps businesses recycle more and waste less by driving best practice in resource efficiency; facilitating business-to-business networks to find local markets for waste materials including food, wood and packaging waste, textiles and electrical goods and providing technical, marketing and business support to SME resource management businesses to grow the UK's capacity for recycling priority materials.

01295 819900 • www.wrap.org.uk

Further help can be sought from the following organisations:

Finance and Support for Businesses

Help and advice on finding government-backed support and finance for business, including grants, finance and loans, business support, for example, mentoring, consultancy and funding for small and medium-sized businesses and start-ups.

www.gov.uk/business-finance-support-finder

Department for International Trade

DTI works with UK based businesses to assist in international markets, and encourage the best overseas companies to look to the UK as their global partner of choice.

020 7215 5000
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-trade

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ECO UNDERLAY

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0% LUMPS & BUMPS

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Did you know, the average 3 bedroom house saves 1,000 plastic bottles from landfill using SpringBond!

YOUR NEXT STEP!

01274 905411

springbond.co.uk

ocean GENERATION

FLOORING INNOVATION WINNER

BRE Global Verified EPD

ISO 14001 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

Points of contact

Alliance for Sustainable Building Products (ASBP)
A cross-sector, not-for-profit organisation, comprising building product manufacturers and distributors, specifiers, designers, contractors, public interest and sustainability organisations, academics and other building practitioners. It aims to accelerate the transition to a high performance, healthy, low carbon built environment by championing the increased understanding and use of building products that meet demonstrably high standards of sustainability.

0330 355 6275
www.asbp.org.uk

American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC)
AHEC is the trade association for the US hardwood industry, representing US hardwood exporters and product trade associations. It runs a programme promoting American hardwoods in over 50 export markets. AHEC Europe (in London) provides promotional assistance and technical information on American hardwoods.

020 7626 4111
www.ahec.org

Association for Environment Conscious Building
AECB is a network of individuals and companies with a common aim of promoting sustainable building. It brings together builders, architects, designers, manufacturers, housing associations and local authorities, to develop, share and promote best practice in environmentally sustainable building.

0845 4569773
www.aecb.net

Axion Recycling
Axion Recycling has four divisions and was formed to develop and operate innovative processing solutions to recover value from waste resources. Axion Polymers produces high grade polymer compounds for reuse in new products and equipment. Axion Consulting develops and operates innovative processing solutions for recycling waste materials. Axion Consulting works with a wide range of clients from government agencies such as WRAP and DEFRA, to local authorities and commercial companies.

Axion Engineering's expertise lies in designing and project managing new recycling plants and plant modifications for third parties; while Axion Energy commercialises innovative technologies to convert waste biomass into biofuels.

0161 426 7731
www.axiongroup.co.uk

British Carpet Technical Centre (BCTC)
Provides extensive range of product testing and certification services.

0113 259 1999
www.bttg.co.uk

British Electrical Technical and Allied Manufacturers Association (BEAMA)
BEAMA is the leading trade association representing manufacturers of electrical infrastructure products and systems from transmission through distribution to the environmental systems and services in the built environment. It works with its members to ensure their interests are well-represented in the relevant political, regulatory and standardisation issues at UK, EU and international levels.

020 7793 3000
www.beama.org.uk

BPF Recycling Group
The representative body for UK plastic recyclers. Formerly an independent, but affiliated organisation, the 'BPF Recycling Council' became the BPF Recycling Group in 2011 and is now a stand-alone membership group within the British Plastics Federation.

020 7457 5000
www.bpf.co.uk/recycling

British Standards Institution
BSI is the business standards company that helps organisations all over the world make excellence a habit. For more than a century we have been challenging mediocrity and complacency to help embed excellence into the way people and products work. That means showing businesses how to improve performance, reduce risk and achieve sustainable growth. As a global leader in helping organisations improve, our clients range from high profile brands to small, local companies in 172 countries worldwide.

0345 080 9000
www.bsigroup.com

Build UK
Provides a strong collective voice for the contracting supply chain in construction. We bring together 25 of the industry's largest main contractors and 41 leading trade associations representing more than 11,500 specialist contractors. We also have 6 client members.

Build UK focuses on key industry issues that can deliver change and enable the contracting supply chain to improve the efficiency and delivery of construction projects to the benefit of the industry's clients. Providing influential and dynamic leadership, Build UK ensures a joined up approach from the supply chain, making us the 'go to' representative organisation for industry stakeholders.

Build UK was created as a result of a merger between the National Specialist Contractors' Council (NSCC) and UK Contractors Group (UKCG) in 2015.

0844 249 5351
www.builduk.org

Carpet Foundation
Supported by many of the UK's leading manufacturers, they aim to be the consumer's definitive guide to carpets and carpet retailers.

01562 755568
www.carpetfoundation.com

Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK)

Carpet Recycling UK was set up to address the barriers to recycling carpets. CRUK does not offer carpet recycling services directly, but works to ensure that carpet recycling services are available across the UK. CRUK aims to stimulate end markets for carpet recyclate through technical research and promotion to key industrial sectors, and encourage a competitive carpet recycling industry within which highest environmental value technologies are supported.

0161 440 8325
www.carpetrecyclinguk.com

Centre for Sustainable Design (CfSD)

CfSD was established in 1995 at what is now the University for the Creative Arts (UCA). The Centre has led and participated in a range of high quality research projects and has organised more than a hundred conferences, workshops and training courses focused on sustainable innovation and product sustainability. CfSD is recognised worldwide for its knowledge and expertise, having worked closely with business, policy making and research communities for two decades.

01252 892772
www.cfsd.org.uk

Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM)

Chartered Institution of Waste Management is the professional body that represents waste professionals working in the sustainable waste and resource management sectors worldwide. CIWM sets the professional standards for the industry and has various grades of membership determined by education, qualification and experience.

01604 620426
www.ciwm.co.uk

ConfindustriaCeramica: Tiles of Italy

Formerly known as Assopiastrelle, Confindustria Ceramica is the trade association representing Italian manufacturers and exporters of ceramic tiles. It is a major source of information for this important industrial sector in Italy.

www.confindustriaceramica.it

Construction Products Association (CPA)

Construction Products Association is the umbrella body that represents manufacturers and suppliers of construction products, components and fittings. Everyone who belongs to one of the 43 trade association members, including the CFA, is a member of the CPA. The CPA is working with its members to deliver the products and materials that will deliver a sustainable built environment.

020 7323 3770
www.constructionproducts.org.uk

Contract Flooring Association (CFA)

The CFA's membership consists of a significant proportion of the UK's commercial flooring market and includes companies from across the supply chain including contractors, manufacturers, distributors and consultants.

The objectives of the CFA are to promote the highest standard of professionalism, safety and training while at the same time providing essential services and expert information to ensure the quality and productivity of our members' business.

0115 941 1126
www.cfa.org.uk

Contract Flooring Journal (CFJ)

The official magazine of the Contract Flooring Association, CFJ is the UK's leading flooring title, renowned for its editorial independence, extensive news coverage, in-depth features and authoritative technical articles.

01892 752400
www.contractflooringjournal.co.uk

Cork Industry Federation

Cork Industry Federation is an association of companies involved in the importation, manufacture and distribution of cork products in the UK and for export. The Federation seeks to uphold quality standards within the industry and to promote the use of cork in its many different applications. The CIF has recently created an educational website: www.planetcork.org

07814 919112
www.cork-products.co.uk

Environmental Services Association (ESA)

ESA collects the waste produced by households and businesses across the UK, treats this waste, and turns a large percentage into new resources and energy for the nation. The ESA works on behalf of members to support and promote the waste and resource management industry. ESA works with governments and regulators to bring about a sustainable system of waste and resource management for the UK. Ten years ago, over 75% of Britain's waste went to landfill, compared to well under 50% today.

020 7824 8882
www.esauk.org

European Federation of the Parquet Industry (FEP)

FEP unites Europe's national parquet federations, parquet manufacturers and suppliers to the industry. It represents and defends the interests of the European parquet industries. The primary goal of FEP is to strengthen and improve the position of wood flooring against other floorcovering products, as well as to enhance the prosperity and stature of the European parquet manufacturing industry.

www.parquet.net

European Producers of Laminate Flooring (EPLF)

Representing the major European laminate flooring manufacturers, the EPLF® is an international platform for the exchange of ideas and experience between producers of laminate flooring and their supplier industries. The focus of the Association's work revolves around research, development, the introduction of standards, representation at international trade fairs, evaluation of statistical data and active press office and public relations work. EPLF also runs a consumer-focused site: www.mylaminate.eu/en that promotes the benefits of laminate flooring to homeowners.

www.eplf.com

European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute (ERFMI)

ERFMI represents the interests of the resilient flooring industry in negotiations with governments, public bodies, trade associations, NGOs and similar bodies in the European market; and promotes international standards, specifications and classification systems, and their adoption.

www.erfmi.com

FeRFA (The Resin Flooring Association)

FeRFA, the Resin Flooring Association, represents the major product manufacturers, specialist contractors and surface preparation companies, raw material suppliers and specialist service providers within the UK Resin Flooring Industry. As the association dedicated to seamless resin flooring for over 40 years, FeRFA leads the way in providing advice, guidance and training support.

07484 075254
www.ferfa.org.uk

Flooring Industry Training Association (FITA)

Co-founded by the CFA and the NICF to provide training for the floor covering industry. The Association is an independent, not-for-profit organisation setup by industry, for industry. FITA has two specialist training centres at Loughborough and Kirkaldy with fully equipped practical and lecture areas.

0115 950 6836
www.fita.co.uk

Good Homes Alliance

Good Homes Alliance is a group of housing developers, building professionals and other industry supporters whose aim is to transform the UK housing sector to ensure it creates and maintains good homes for all. We define what makes a good home and help our members build and monitor good homes that are sustainable in the broadest sense.

0203 559 7236
www.goodhomes.org.uk

Kenburn Waste Management

With more than 30 years' track record in the waste management industry, Kenburn says it's built a reputation as one of the UK's leading suppliers of waste compactors and balers. Since 1987 it says it's installed more than 4,000 machines and counts many household names among its customer base. It says it will help you manage your waste and stop wasting money.

01727 844988
www.kenburn.co.uk

Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)

LARAC represents local government recycling officers. It provides an information and networking service and helps to develop and disseminate good practice among members. LARAC are also advocates: making the voice of waste practitioners heard and ensuring these views are taken into account when decisions are taken, regulations made and laws passed.

01982 382 650
www.larac.org.uk

Lucideon

Lucideon is an international, independent materials technology company that applies its materials expertise in ceramics, metals and polymers to a range of sectors including healthcare, construction, ceramics, aerospace, nuclear and power generation. Lucideon is the new name for the companies formerly known as Ceram in the UK and M+P Labs in the US.

01782 764428
www.lucideon.com

Malaysian Timber Council

Established in 1992 to promote the Malaysian timber trade and develop the market for timber products globally.

www.mtc.com.my

National Carpet Cleaners Association (NCCA)

The NCCA is the only nationally recognised trade association dedicated to the cleaning of carpets, hard flooring and soft furnishings. NCCA membership comprises fully insured companies and professionally trained technicians that follow a Code of Practice and are recommended for a full range of services related to the carpet and upholstery cleaning industry.

01562 547754
www.ncca.co.uk

National Institute of Carpet and Floorlayers (NICF)

The NICF is the home of professionals in the domestic flooring trade. It is a highly respected organisation within the domestic flooring industry and is active in promoting the skilled floorlayer. The Institute provides advice and resources to help make running a business as simple, profitable and stress-free as possible.

0115 958 3077
www.nicfltd.org.uk

Recovinyl

Recovinyl is an initiative by the European PVC value-chain aimed at facilitating PVC waste collection and recycling under the Voluntary Commitments of Vinyl 2010 and now VinylPlus®. Established in 2003 by Vinyl 2010, PRE (European recyclers association) and EUPC (European converters association) to advance the sustainable development of the PVC industry by improving production processes, minimise emissions, develop recycling technology and boost the collection and recycling of waste.

www.recovinyl.com

SATRA

SATRA is an independent research and testing organisation established in the UK in 1919. It has technical facilities in Europe and China serving customers throughout the world. As well as testing products and components to European and international standards across a wide range of industry sectors, SATRA develops, manufactures and sells test equipment.

01536 410000
www.satra.co.uk

Ska Rating

Ska rating is an environmental assessment tool for sustainable fit-outs developed by RICS. It helps organisations achieve more sustainable fit-outs and provides a clear benchmark for the performance of fit-outs against each other and the rest of the industry.

024 7686 8555
www.rics.org

Spanish Ceramic Tile Manufacturers' Association (ASCER)

With approximately 135 members, ASCER includes and represents practically all Spain's ceramic tile manufacturers.

ww**w.ascer.es**

Stone Federation of Great Britain

The Stone Federation is the official trade association for the natural stone industry. The Federation coordinates all construction products, aspects of the industry and provides specifiers and users with a first point of contact for information, advice and guidance in sourcing an appropriate material and a reliable service. The Federation represents employers, liaises with government on legal affairs, health and safety, technical standards, craftsmanship, training and education. It aims to provide a one-stop shop for product information, technical guidance and advice on specifying and working with stone.

01303 856123
www.stonefed.org.uk

The Tile Association (TTA)

TTA is an umbrella organisation that represents the whole of the UK wall and floor tile industry. It aims to promote professionalism and technical standards in the tiling industry and to provide technical support to both members and their customers.

0300 3658453
www.tiles.org.uk

Tile and Stone Journal (TSJ)

The official magazine of The Tile Association, TSJ is the UK's leading magazine for the ceramic tile and dimensional stone industry. It is read by retailers, contractors, distributors, manufacturers and agents and has won international awards for its highly respected editorial coverage.

01892 752400
www.tileandstonejournal.com

Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA)

TRADA is an internationally recognised centre of excellence on the specification and use of timber and wood products. Membership encompasses companies and individuals from around the world and across the entire wood supply chain.

01494 840774
www.trada.co.uk

Town and Country Planning Association

Founded by Sir Ebenezer Howard in 1899 to promote the idea of the Garden City, the TCPA is Britain's oldest charity concerned with planning, housing and the environment. It campaigns for the reform of the UK's planning system to make it more responsive to people's needs and aspirations and to promote sustainable development.

020 7930 8903
www.tcpa.org.uk

UK Green Building Council

The UK Green Building Council is a charity and membership organisation which campaigns for a sustainable built environment. UK-GBC has a diverse membership of more than 400 organisations spanning the entire built environment. The majority are from the private sector, but it also has public and third sector members. It works to inspire best practice and leadership, influence government and policy, and impact its members' sustainability performance.

020 7580 0623
www.ukgbc.org

Usable Buildings Trust

The Usable Buildings Trust is a UK educational charity, dedicated to improving the performance of buildings in use. It tries to understand how buildings actually work in practice, and create a feedback loop from in-use performance to improved delivery by the organisations that can make a difference.

www.usablebuildings.co.uk

Wood Recyclers Association (WRA)

The WRA is the official trade association for the wood recycling sector and promotes the UK's wood recycling industry at home and abroad. WRA aims to provide representation to government and other regulatory authorities for the wood recycling sector; provide advice and guidance to the sector; enable member companies to maximise business and commercial opportunities and enable the exchange of information between members.

0330 325 0490
www.woodrecyclers.org

WWF

The mission of WWF is to improve the management of the world's production forests by using the purchasing power and influence of UK businesses.

01483 426444
www.wwf.org.uk

Waste Resources and Action Programme (WRAP)

WRAP works in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to help businesses and individuals reap the benefits of reducing waste, develop sustainable products and use resources in an efficient way.

01295 819900
www.wrap.org.uk

CARPET RECYCLING UK
Repurposing textile flooring

Directory of textile flooring reuse and recycling members

REUSE MEMBERS:

Envirocycle London Ltd

Activity: Carpet tile reuse program.
Acceptance criteria: Dry carpet tiles, no offcuts.
Collection service available: Yes
Volumes accepted: No minimum quantity.
Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume
Area: London, Home Counties and Essex

Address: 54 Leatherhead Road, Ashtead, Surrey KT21 2SY
Contact name: Tony Spreckley, Director
07549 448 123
info@envirocyclelondon.co.uk
www.envirocyclelondon.co.uk
www.envirocyclelondon.com

Salvation Army Trading Company

Offers: Sale of surplus and graded carpet tiles and broadloom carpet rolls from commercial sources.
Delivery: Nationwide

Address: 1-3 Williams Way, Wollaston Wellingborough NN29 7RQ
Contact name: Richard Shea, Service Development Manager
01933 441 807
07780 621 778
Richard.Shea@satcol.org
www.satcol.org

Spruce Carpets

Activity: Reuse of carpet tiles, loose broadloom carpet and domestic vinyl floorcovering.
Acceptance criteria: Dry palletised tiles, loose broadloom and domestic vinyl floorcovering.
Collection service available: Yes
Volumes accepted: 0.86-13 tonnes (2-30 pallets)
Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume
Area: Scotland

Address: 308 Broomloan Road, Glasgow, Scotland G51 2JQ
Contact name: John O'Hagen, Operations Manager
0141 425 1555
07505 602 632
john@sprucecarpets.org.uk
www.sprucecarpets.org.uk

Uplyfted

Activity: Reuse of clean post-manufacture carpet tiles and broadloom carpet
Acceptance criteria: Carpet tiles preferably on pallets. Broadloom to be arranged.
Collection service available: Yes
Volumes accepted: Any amount
Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume
Area: Nationwide

Address: 2 Kelvinside, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 7JY
Contact name: David Catton, Director
0151 792 2539
info@uplyfted.co.uk
www.uplyfted.co.uk

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01892 752400
stuart.bourne@kick-startpublishing.co.uk
www.contractflooringjournal.co.uk

Directory of textile flooring reuse and recycling members

RECYCLING MEMBERS:

Allensway Recycling Ltd

Activity: Recycling post-industrial & post-consumer carpets to produce quality fibres for the equine industry.

Acceptance criteria: Segregated carpets from HWRC and transfer stations and commercial sources, baled, loose and dry. Must be clean/free of other wastes.

Collection service available: at extra cost dependant on collection address

Volumes accepted: all quantities accepted

Pricing: based on quality and volume

Area: Nationwide

Address: Prospect House, Howden Road, Holme-On-Spalding-Moor, York, Yorkshire YO43 4BT

Contact name: Aaron Fox, General Manager

01430 861 812 / 07432 534 442

aaron@allensway.co.uk

www.allensway.co.uk

Anglo Recycling Technology Ltd

Activity: Reprocessing of post-industrial/post-installation carpet and felt underlay waste. This includes roll ends, remnants, wool waste and other textile wastes including synthetics and sample books.

Acceptance criteria: Dry, palletised, baled or bulk bags

Collection service available: Yes

Volumes accepted: 1-20 tonnes.

Pricing: For closed loop product recycling/sales, no gate fee but transportation at cost. For recycling only, £75/t for non-members + transportation at cost, no gate fee for Carpet Recycling UK members.

Area: UK Mainland, N. Ireland, Ireland, Belgium, Holland, Northern France.

Address: Tong Lane, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 8BG

Contact name: Andy Hall, Managing Director

01706 853 513 / 07791 097 274

andy.hall@anglorecycling.com

www.anglorecycling.com

Circom Fibres Ltd (Circom)

Activity: Collection, recycling and recovery of all types of mixed carpet wastes, mattresses, sofas

(POPs) bulky waste, national waste management

Acceptance criteria: Wet or dry ex waste transfer station, ex HWRC, palletised, baled or loose

Collection service available: Yes

Volumes accepted: Min 1 tonne.

Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume

Area: National

Address: 2 Blackburn Road, Coventry, West Midlands CV6 6LQ

Contact name: Richard Allsopp, Director

02476 100189

info@circom.co.uk

www.circom.co.uk

Countrystyle Recycling Ltd

Activity: Collection, recycling and recovery of all types of mixed carpet wastes.

Acceptance criteria: Wet or dry ex waste transfer station, ex HWRC, palletised, baled or loose.

Collection service available: Yes

Volumes accepted: 1-25 tonnes.

Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume

Area: London and South-East England

Address: Ridham Dock Road, Iwade, Kent ME9 8SR

Contact name: George Moore, Commercial Manager

03448 807 700

george.moore@countrystylegroup.com

www.countrystylerecycling.co.uk

Eco2 Enterprises Ltd

Activity: Recycling post-industrial & post-consumer carpets to produce quality fibres for the equine industry.

Acceptance criteria: Segregated carpets from HWRC and transfer stations as well as commercial sources, baled, loose and dry. Must be clean/free of other wastes. End of Waste status for our equine fibre products ISO9001:2015 UKAS accredited.

Collection service available: yes

Volumes accepted: Any quantity by agreement.

Pricing: Please call for quote

Area: Nationwide

Address: Phoenix Works, Smallshaw Industrial Estate, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 5SX

Contact name: Dominic Harper / Rob Harper

Dom: 07969 250 351 / **Rob:** 07801 226 448

Dom@ec02.co.uk / Rob@ec02.co.uk

www.equestriansurfaces.co.uk

Hamilton Waste and Recycling Ltd

Activity: Processing all carpet waste including broadloom and carpet tiles.

Acceptance criteria: Dry, wet, ex waste transfer station, ex HWRC, palletised, baled or loose- minimal surface moisture and no heavy soiling.

Collection service available: Collection available although it is preferred to work on a delivered basis.

Volumes accepted: No upper limit/huge capacity.

Pricing: Yes, price is volume linked.

Area: Scotland/Nationwide

Address: Smeaton Recycling Centre, Carberry, Musselburgh, East Lothian, Scotland EH21 8PZ

Contact name: Ken Chrystal

0131 665 2173 / 07917 116 537

kenchrystal@hamiltonwaste.com

www.hamiltonwaste.com

John Cotton Group Ltd

Activity: Collection and recycling of clean, post-manufacture TUFTED PP only carpet offcuts.
Acceptance criteria: Clean, dry, sorted in bales only.
Collection service available: Yes
Volumes accepted: 2,000 to 20,000 kg.
Pricing: Pricing based on quality, distance and volume.
Area: UK Mainland

Address: Nunbrook Mills, Huddersfield Road
Mirfield, West Yorkshire, WF14 0EH
Contact name: Robin Gillard
01924 496 571
07795 126 706
rgillard@johncotton.co.uk
www.johncotton-nonwovens.co.uk

Melrose Interiors Ltd

Activity: Reuse and repurposing of sorted pre-consumer carpet rolls and roll ends for retail.
Acceptance criteria: Sorted, clean and dry, loose rolls. Must be pre-consumer.
Collection service available: Yes
Volumes accepted: By agreement.
Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume
Area: Nationwide

Address: Park View Mills, Wibsey Park Avenue, Wibsey, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD6 3QA
Contact name: Andy Murphy, Managing Director
01274 491 277
sales@melroseinteriors.co.uk
www.melroseinteriors.co.uk

Tarkett Ltd

Activity: ReStart programme offers collection and recycling of bitumen backed tiles for fibre reprocessing and bitumen for roadstone/roofing.
Acceptance criteria: Dry palletised tiles, any manufacturer, part or full tiles
Collection service available: Yes
Volumes accepted: No minimum or maximum.
Pricing: On request
Area: Nationwide

Address: Tarkett Ltd, 4th Floor, Connect 38,
1 Dover Place, Ashford, TN23 1FB
Contact: James Bagdadi, Technical Services
01233 746 020
07341 565 472
james.bagdadi@tarkett.com
www.tarkett.com

Usel

Activity: Broadloom carpet reuse and recycling, carpet tile reuse.
Acceptance criteria: Segregated carpet must be dry, ex transfer station and HWRC, carpet accepted loose and baled. Dry palletised carpet tiles.
Collection service available: Yes
Volumes accepted: 1-50 tonnes.
Pricing: Based on quality, volume and distance travelled
Area: Nationwide

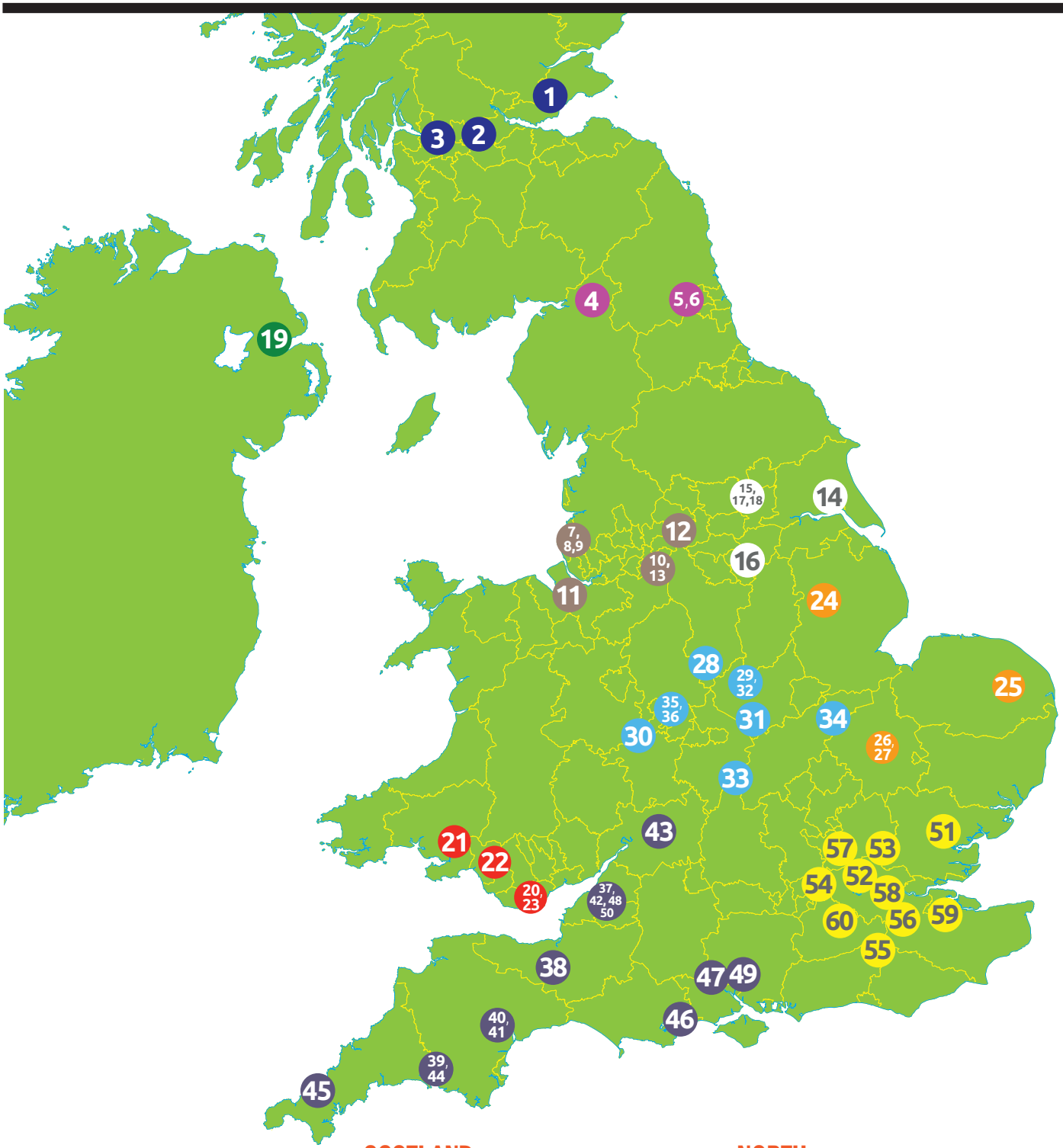
Address: 182-188 Cambrai Street, Belfast BT13 3JH
Contact name: Scott Jackson, Circular Economy Manager
02890 356 600
07733 096 224
info@usel.co.uk
www.usel.co.uk

Waste to Energy b.v.

Activity: Collecting and processing carpet waste (post consumer and production).
Acceptance criteria: Wet and dry, ex waste transfer station, ex HWRC, palletised, baled and loose.
Collection service available: Yes - collect on walking floor loose or curtain side trailers baled.
Volumes accepted: 15-10,000 tonnes.
Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume
Area: Nationwide including Ireland
Address: Riddererf 10, 3861 PT NIJKERK, Netherlands
Contact name: Peter van Verseveld, Managing Director
+31 342 462 824
+31 653 926 992
peter@waste-to-energy.nl
www.waste-to-energy.nl

Recofloor™
Vinyl Take-Back Scheme

DROP-OFF POINTS
FOR WASTE VINYL FLOORING



Recofloor, the national vinyl take-back scheme, founded by leading flooring manufacturers Altro and Polyflor, have 60 drop-off site locations in the UK.

Find the closest one to you on the maps on the following pages.

SCOTLAND

1. **SASGO Ltd**
   Unit 14, Faraday Rd, Glenrothes, Fife KY6 2RU
2. **Headlam Scotland**
   McNeil Drive, Eurocentral, North Lanarkshire ML1 4YF
3. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
   231 Maclellan Street, Kinning Parkway Estate, Glasgow G41 1RR

NORTH

4. **Headlam Carlisle**
   Unit 1 Chapel Place, Denton Holme Trade Center, Carlisle CA2 5DF
5. **Headlam Gateshead**
   Unit 7, Second Avenue, Team Valley Trading Est, Gateshead NE11 0ND
6. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
   Unit 6, Queensway North, Team Valley Industrial Estate, Gateshead NE11 0SZ

NORTH WEST

7. **Alvin Morris**
   Unit 4 The Grain Industrial Estate, Harlow Street, Toxteth, Liverpool L8 4UG

8. **Flooring Supply Centre**
   Unit 1, Dunningsbridge Rd, Netherton, Liverpool L30 6TA

9. **Lee Floorstok**
   24-32 Greenland Street, Liverpool L1 0BS

10. **Lee Floorstok**
    Unit B1 The Dresser Centre, Whitworth Street, Manchester, M11 2NE

11. **Pennine Flooring Supplies**
    Unit 6 Rector's Lane Industrial Estate, Sandycroft, Chester CH5 2DH

12. **Pennine Flooring Supplies**
    Unit 1, Junction 19 Business Park, Green Lane, Heywood OL10 1NB

13. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
    James Nasmyth Way, Green Lane, Eccles, Manchester M30 0SF

YORKSHIRE

14. **Birch Distribution**
    Rotterdam Road, Sutton Fields Industrial Estate, Hull HU7 0XD

15. **Birch Distribution**
    Unit 11 South Leeds Business Park, Hudswell Road, Leeds LS10 1AG

16. **Birch Distribution**
    318 Coleford Road, Darnall, Sheffield S9 5PH

17. **Mercado**
    Thornes Farm Way, Thornes Farm Business Park, Leeds LS9 0PS

18. **Wilkies All Floors**
    Treefield Industrial Estate, Gelderd Road, Gilderstone, Morley, Leeds LS27 7JU

IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

19. **Provincial Floorcoverings Ltd**
    Unit 1 York Retail Park, 1 York Road, Belfast BT15 3GU

WALES

20. **3D Flooring Supplies**
    Units 8-10 Llandough Trading Estate, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8RR

21. **3D Flooring Supplies**
    Unit 6 Viking Way, Winch Wen Industrial Estate, Winch Wen, Swansea SA1 7DA

22. **MCD Wales**
    Horsefair Road, Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend CF31 3YN

23. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
    Unit 6 Charnwood Park, Clos Marion, Cardiff CF10 4LJ

EAST

24. **Cheshires of Lincoln**
    2 Turnstone Road, Vincent Court, Teal Park, Lincoln LN6 3AD

25. **Mytton Flooring**
    Unit 43, Hall Road White Lodge Business Park, Norwich NR4 6DG

26. **STS Flooring**
    Unit 4 Links Industrial Park, Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB23 8UD

27. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
    Unit 14, Bar Hill Trading Estate, Trafalgar Way, Cambridge CB23 8SQ

MIDLANDS

28. **Concept Flooring Supplies**
    1 Dartmouth Road, Junction Industrial Estate, Smethwick B66 1AX

29. **Floormart**
    39 Carlisle Street, Leicester, Leicester LE3 6AH

30. **MCD Kidderminster**
    Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 7RA

31. **Garrard Waters**
    Unit 7, Kingfield Road Trade Park Coventry CV1 4DW

32. **Garrard Waters**
    94 Freemens Common Rd Leicester LE2 7SQ

33. **Garrard Waters**
    3 Weddell Way, Brackmills Ind Estate Northampton NN4 7HS

34. **Garrard Waters**
    Unit A2, Hampton Business Park, Club Way, Peterborough PE7 8JA

35. **HFD Ltd**
    Gorsey Lane, Coleshill, Birmingham B46 1JU

36. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
    Emerald Point, Bell Heath Way, Birmingham B32 3BZ

SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST

37. **3D Flooring Supplies**
    Unit 2 Newbridge Trading Estate, St Phillips, Bristol BS4 4AX

38. **3D Flooring Supplies**
    Unit 14 Crown Close Way, Crown Ind Estate, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8RX

39. **Bailey Carpets**
    North Road, Lee Mill Industrial Estate, Ivybridge, Plymouth PL21 9GN

40. **Baileys**
    Hennock Trade Park, Unit 4 Marsh Barton Rd, Marsh Barton, Exeter, Devon EX2 8YX

41. **Beach Bros**
    Western Road, St. Thomas, Exeter EX4 1EQ

42. **BL Flooring Supplies**
    Unit 5A Gatton Road, St. Werburghs, Bristol BS2 9SH

43. **BL Flooring Supplies**
    Unit 1, Centurian Industrial Centre, Empire Way, Gloucester GL2 5HY

44. **Christal Supplies**
    Laira Bridge Boatyard, The Ride, Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 7JD

45. **Fitwell Flooring**
    Unit 16 Cardrew Industrial Estate, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1SS

46. **Nutland Carpets**
    39 Cowley Road, Nuffield Trading Estate, Poole, Dorset BH17 0UJ

47. **Nutland Carpets**
    Renown Close Industrial Estate, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire SO53 4HZ

48. **Richards**
    Richards Building, Lysander Road, Cribbs Causeway, Bristol BS10 7UB

49. **Richards**
    Units 10-11, M3 Trade Park, Manor Way, Eastleigh, Southampton, Hampshire S050 9YA

50. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
    Units D-E Riverside Business Park, St. Annes Road, St Annes Park, Bristol BS4 4ED

SOUTH EAST AND LONDON

51. **Anderson Grant**
    Unit 9, Atholl Road, Dukes Park Industrial Estate, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6TB

52. **Ashmount Flooring Supplies**
    77-79 Garman Road, Tottenham, London N17 0UN

53. **Courtney Flooring Supplies Ltd**
    Unit 11, Optima Business Park, Pindar Rd, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 0DY

54. **SASGO Ltd**
    Sutton Court, Sutton Lane, Nr Heathrow, Langley SL3 8AR

55. **Signature Me Ltd**
    Unit C, Charlwoods Business Centre, East Grinstead RH19 2HH

56. **STS Flooring**
    Units 5-6 Orpington Trade Centre, Murray Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 3SS

57. **STS Flooring**
    6 Spring Park, Spring Way, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7ER

58. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
    Stanhope Road, Camberley GU15 3BW

59. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
    Unit 7/8, Revenge Road, Lordswood Industrial Estate, Chatham, Kent ME5 8UD

60. **Volante**
    50 Cox Lane, Chessington KT9 1TW

BUYERS' GUIDE

How the flooring industry is embracing sustainability

Flooring enterprises, encompassing contractors, manufacturers, and distributors, are now actively implementing fresh sustainable endeavours

BAL ADHESIVES

Building tomorrow with the ARDEX Group

AS a leading company in the construction chemicals industry, ARDEX is strongly committed to sustainable building solutions and a more responsible world.

From reducing our CO^2 emissions and replacing finite raw materials with circular solutions over diversity and equality to ethical business practices and local sourcing – sustainability at ARDEX means tackling environmental, social and corporate governance issues.

The Group, through its UK brands including BAL and ARDEX, has a core objective to reduce its impact on the environment in an evolving marketplace through sustainable sourcing of materials, recycling, and waste reduction.

Ultimately, the Group's aim is to be Carbon Neutral by 2045 through a series of initiatives. (Carbon Neutral for Scope-1 & 2 by 2030.)

Read what they have done so far:

Manufacturing

- 100% of electricity used on site comes from renewable sources thanks to a partnership with a leading energy supplier
- Solar panels installed at both ARDEX and Building Adhesives in Haverhill and Stoke-on-Trent – producing approximately 421800kw per annum 24% of AUK's electricity requirement and 160000 kw per annum 9.5% of BAL's electricity requirement.
- They have installed Electric Vehicle Charging Points at both their UK manufacturing plants and are introducing electric or renewable fuel company vehicles
- All diesel forklift trucks converted to electric by end of 2024
- Energy efficient LED lighting installed in warehouses – saving more than 45,500kwh per year.
- Leading waste management systems accredited by CS Certified Sustainable.

Products

- All ARDEX Group products come with a 10-Year Group Warranty – this reduces lifetime build costs due to longer guaranteed product lifetime
- They aim to reduce product waste for end users through longer working times
- High-yield and lower cement consumption materials are a core part of its new product development programme.
- The ARDEX Group UK have increased the use of recycled raw materials – including 6.7% of all raw materials used by BAL.
- New products developed with high content of recycled materials – including new BAL Micromax3 ECO Grout with more than 25% recycled raw material.
- 100% of all cement used in its products are sourced from the UK or EU.

Packaging

- ARDEX Group have made a conscious effort to reduce the use of 'virgin' plastics in its products.
- 62% of all plastic buckets and bottles across the UK group are now produced using PCR (Post-Consumer Recycled plastics). 62% buckets by volume at BAL and 100% by volume bottles at ARDEX UK.
- 99% of pallets used in deliveries are recycled second-hand pallets.
- Operate a close loop pallet return policy with key customer. Equates to 17% of total pallet requirements for BAL.

Certification

- The ARDEX Group UK hold EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) on all its products – to report on the environmental impacts of its products in an ultra-transparent way.
- The Group are working towards full EN standard approval with BREEAM with products previously tested to LEED protocols.


Buggingham Pallets

- Its core products have EMICODE Approval with remaining products in the process of EMICODE Approval. This allows consumers and installers to compare and evaluate the emission characteristics of our products.
- New products reaching EC1 Plus designation – the best rating for low emissions

Accreditation

The ARDEX Group in the UK is accredited with internationally recognised environmental standards including:

- BSI ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management – this is a standard that the ARDEX Group uses to enhance its environmental management programme. Building Adhesives recently completed a recertification audit and didn't receive any non-conformances - successfully retained their accreditation for a further three years.
- BSI ISO 14064-1: 2006 Greenhouse Gas Verification. ARDEX is one of the first manufacturers in the industry to achieve ISO 14064:1 (otherwise known as CEMARS) for the quantifying and reporting of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and removals. To achieve this internationally recognised standard, ARDEX UK worked with Achilles (an independent consultancy) to accurately measure its GHG emissions and create positive strategies to manage and continually reduce impacts.
- Both sites plan to be carbon neutral Scope 1 & 2 by 2030. We have already reduced $C0^2$ emissions Scope 1 & 2 by 40% to date based on market based reporting.

Biodiversity

- A biodiversity study has been completed at Building Adhesives Ltd to see where improvements can be made around site
- New 'Buggingham Pallets' insect hotel built on grass outside their reception
- Further site improvements planned including planting a wildflower meadow, planting native shrubs and bushes, installing bird feeders and bird boxes.

Carbon Neutral 2045

The ARDEX Group UK have a number of initiatives that we are looking to implement as we look to hit our target of being Carbon Neutral by 2045.

This includes:

- Working with logistics partners on zero $C0^2$ emissions for in bound and out bound freight
- Formulation adjustments to reduce share of $C0^2$ intensive raw materials
- Replacing all virgin plastic materials by 2035 and potentially introducing bio-degradable packaging
- New product development with carbon neutral alternatives
- Introducing bulk deliveries for contractors

Phil Wright, ARDEX Group UK Sustainability Lead said: 'We have made massive progress this year towards our goal of being Carbon Neutral (Scope 1 and 2) by 2030 with the installation of solar panels at both sites and other initiatives including the use of electric forklift trucks.

'However there is still much to be done to reduce our Carbon Emissions and put us on a path for total Carbon Neutrality by 2045.

'The key to our reduction commitment must be honesty and transparency, which is why it is important to achieve independent and impartial verification through established and recognised accreditations such as BSI ISO 14064-1: 2006 Greenhouse Gas Verification.

'The standard and its tools have become an integral aspect in us delivering upon our promises to reduce emissions and meeting our targets.'

In addition to its in-house sustainability program, the UK group also supports external environmental groups with BAL's charitable partnership with Cool Earth – a charity which works alongside rainforest communities to halt deforestation and its impacts on climate change.

Cool Earth supports local and indigenous knowledge to develop innovative ways to address threats to the forest while making communities stronger and more resilient.

Building Adhesives, through its BAL brand, is committed to saving over 80 acres of endangered rainforest in the Peruvian Amazon every year.

www.bal-adhesives.co.uk

BIRCH DISTRIBUTION

Why it's fitting we're focused on our future

AS a family business celebrating its centenary year, it's fitting we should focus firmly on our future as a business and, by extension, on the impact that our business has on the environment, as the world navigates a deepening climate crisis.

We've been ISO14001:2015 registered for several years, and now we're carrying out a GHG compliant Carbon Footprint assessment to calculate and quantify our Scope 1-3 impacts, with a view to formalising and tracking our efforts to reduce negative impacts as part of our journey to Net Zero.

Driving sustainably and improving our fleet

Regular replacement of our HGV and LGV vehicles means they are fitted with the newest and most fuel efficient versions of Euro 6 engines and, with our vehicle supplier, we are currently looking at the possibility of swapping out regular diesel for HVO renewable diesel which, in tandem with onboarding more sophisticated stock, demand and route planning software, would reduce the average mileage per delivery, and the emissions per mile pending new developments and technologies.

For staff cars, the process has been more straightforward. All our company cars are now EV or hybrid, and we've recently installed our fourth on site EV charging point.

100% renewable energy across all our sites

At our three sites all light and heat now comes from 100% certified renewable energy and a project to replace all lighting across our sites with LEDs will be complete by the middle of this year. In addition, we have a 44.5kWp Solar installation planned for later this year for our Sheffield HQ which we anticipate having a four-to-five payback period.

Award-winning recyclers of flooring waste

We are long standing members of Carpet Recycling UK and Recofloor, winning many awards with the latter for our recycling initiatives, and in partnership with a local plastics and polymer specialist we are developing a strategy for aggregating our packaging waste for processing as a raw material.

Making our way to Net Zero

By taking these actions now and working with an independent climate platform to fund high quality climate projects we plan to reduce emissions, reduce waste, and offset negative impacts to set a course towards a more sustainable future.

www.birchdistribution.co.uk

Before

BONA

Transforming spaces with eco-friendly flooring innovations

IT's a prevalent issue in healthcare settings, where floors endure not just cosmetic wear but also functional degradation due to heavy foot traffic and the demands of a busy environment. This wear complicates cleaning efforts significantly and usually culminates in the decision to replace the flooring altogether.

Yet, a groundbreaking innovation in the realm of floor maintenance now offers an alternative to this inevitable replacement, marking a pivotal shift in how we approach the longevity and sustainability of flooring in healthcare institutions.

The method underlying this is renovation; something we are familiar with, especially regarding wooden floors in our living spaces. In healthcare settings, the preference often leans towards elastic flooring materials such as linoleum, rubber, PVC, and the like.

It's here that the Bona Resilient System presents a significant advantage, offering healthcare facilities the chance to treat this type of floor, thereby considerably extending its lifespan. The process involves an initial sanding, followed by the application of a water-based 2K polyurethane coating.

Renovate instead of floors replace has different advantages

Sustainability

Attention for sustainability is clearly a critical concern in our society, and Bona has therefore commissioned the Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL) to investigate the environmental benefits of renovating floors as opposed to replacing them.

The findings were remarkable, showcasing a 90% savings in energy consumption and a 90% reduction in CO^2 emissions. Opting to renovate floors also means time and energy are saved, which would otherwise be spent on removing and disposing of the old flooring—often through environmentally damaging processes such as landfilling or incineration.

For a floor area of 500sq m, this approach corresponds to an approximate saving of 5 tonnes of CO^2 compared to traditional floor replacement strategies. This is a significant difference, and it's proof of the positive impact that renovating floors can have on the environment.

Economic savings

Choosing to renovate rather than replace the flooring is a highly cost-effective solution, leading to savings of at least 50%. The secondary benefit comes in the form of time efficiency. For instance, replacing flooring in a functioning area such as an operating room could take up to a week, whereas renovation can be completed in just two days, reducing downtime by 60%.

To illustrate, at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, shutting down an operating room could cost up to €150,000 per day. Therefore, time savings translate directly into significant economic savings. Beyond these immediate advantages, floor renovation eliminates future recurring maintenance expenses such as stripping, polishing, and waxing, thereby considerably reducing Life Cycle Cost analysis (LCC) in the long term. Overall, floor renovation offers a comprehensive and sustainable economic solution for facilities looking to optimise their expenses.

So, it's not just about the initial cost savings but also the long-term financial benefits that make floor renovation a wise choice for any organisation. Renovating floors can have a significant impact on improving overall financial management and should be considered.

Design

In addition to the myriad functional benefits, the interaction between a floor and a room is also significantly visual. As design trends evolve over the years, flooring can adapt to keep up with the times, offering endless possibilities for changing colours, incorporating logos, and utilising creative flakes. This approach transforms spaces not just superficially but adds a layer of customisation and modernity without the need for the extra investment of installing new flooring.

With such options at hand, renovating floors becomes an exercise in practicality and aesthetic enhancement, allowing spaces to remain relevant and visually appealing.

Proof of concept

The advantages of floor renovation extend to the opportunity for periodic, radical maintenance changes. In European healthcare institutions, it's estimated about 80% of floors treated with polymers are stripped and reapplied at least once, if not more, each year.

An increasing number of hospitals have calculated the cost savings over a 10-year maintenance period and discovered an average of 60% in cost savings when opting for the Bona Resilient system. By merely repeating the process every three-to-five years, there's significantly less disruption caused by the work.

Notable examples of this practice can be observed with our Eastern neighbours, where the Bona Resilient system has been used for several years. Calculations from these instances show that 2 litres of water per square meter are saved when there's no longer a need to strip the floor.

This elimination of wastewater from entering the sewer contributes further to the sustainable benefits of choosing to renovate rather than replace. This adds to the positive impact such decisions can have on the environment, making it a clear choice for healthcare facilities.

Ultimately, with the Bona Resilient System, renovating floors is not just an investment in longevity and functionality but also presents itself as a sustainable and responsible approach towards flooring that aligns with our society's needs.

After

01908 525150
www.bona.com/en-gb/facility-solutions

R-Tek

Manufacturing | a Gerflor company

Sustainability Throughout The R-Tile Loose Lay Range

RECYCLED CONTENT RECYCLED CONTENT

Produced from recycled material 100% recyclable & reusable

Returned/rejected end of life tiles are processed at our recycling plant.

Granulated tile pellets are stored and ready to be turned into new tiles.

The recycled PVC granules are processed into new 100% recycled tiles.

Recycled tiles are then installed in their new environment as a sustainable flooring system.

R-Tek Manufacturing | a Gerflor company

Telephone: 0800 028 4722
r-tekmanufacturingltd.com
uksales@r-tekmanufacturingltd.com

CONDOR GROUP

The Condor Group accelerates to a sustainable future

BY reducing emissions, reusing materials, and recycling products for circular development, the Condor Group is right on track in achieving their sustainability vision 'On a Roll to Zero Emission'. With all eyes on conserving the planet and making the world a better place for today's and future generations. With that in mind, Condor Group connects with stakeholders for circular developments and optimises their production facilities to continue 'Covering the world' in a sustainable manner.

A closer step towards circularity with ALLOA
Our sustainable production is a huge step towards a sustainable future, but in the end, the products have to be more sustainable as well. That is why the Condor Group commissioned its R&D department years ago to develop circular products. With the arrival of our ALLOA (All Over Again) brand, this dream has become reality. Artificial grass expert Condor Grass was the first with ALLOA Pura 100, a fully recyclable artificial grass.

But Condor Cartex, the automotive supplier of the Condor Group, soon followed with their fully recyclable car mats. Today, Condor Cartex is already able to use up to 50% recycled content in its ALLOA car mats and a 100% recycled product is under development. That product will fully close the loop, which is a major step towards circular development in the automotive industry.

On the way to 100% circular carpets
The next step? Use all this knowledge and developments towards circularity for the benefit of residential carpets. And last year, with the introduction of the Alloa Carpets collection from our member Edel Carpets the time was ripe. Our first fully recyclable carpets were born. It follows a long line of sustainable products, starting over a decade ago with our collaboration with Econyl to numerous steps with recycled raw materials to this fully recyclable product. It brings us ever closer to producing a recyclable carpet from 100% recycled raw materials. Our ultimate goal!

#tide: Recycled content with extra social impact
Our latest collaboration is with the Swiss company #tide, which collects, recycles and granulates ocean-bound plastic. This partnership ensures not only cleaner coastlines and oceans, but also a lot of local impact. For instance, collectors, often local fishermen, get a fair wage for the plastic collected, the waste is recycled locally and #tide helps local communities collect normal waste. So we prevent new plastic pollution. And it all combines into a fantastic end product: a Condor Carpet.

Continuing in covering the world, circular
In short, the Condor Group is right on track in becoming even more sustainable. Striving to achieve 'Zero Emission' with tens of thousands of solar panels, its eco-brand ALLOA and continuous optimization of their facilities. Condor Group speeds to a circular future to make the world better and healthier for current and future generations. That is how Condor Group will keep 'Covering the world', but in a sustainable and more circular way.

www.condor-group.eu


Condor Group Green


Saffron


Condor Group

At **V4 Wood Flooring®** we specialise in supplying quality engineered oak flooring, made with sustainably sourced timber, harvested from well managed European forests.

Find out more at **v4woodflooring.co.uk**

Peran

CPG/TREMCO

Lowering emissions, maintaining performance

RAW material resource availability crisis and undisputable climate changes prompted the construction sector to review its mode of action and long-term goals alike. One of the results is choosing, more frequently, a Green Building approach in which sustainability serves as a guiding factor when developing a new construction.

Informative certifications for assessing construction materials and building structures further support this green revolution.

Green architecture, a comprehensive concept, acknowledges the substantial impact that the built environment can have on its inanimate surroundings and people who live there every day, both positively and negatively.

With a keen understanding of the potential positive and negative influences, green construction endeavours to maximise the former and minimise the latter throughout a building's entire life cycle.

While the term 'Green Building' encompasses various definitions, a consensus prevails that it involves planning, design, construction, and operation that prioritise the reduction of energy and water usage, improvement of indoor air quality, selection of sustainable building materials, and overall consideration of a building's impact on its surroundings.

The essence of the green building movement lies in benefiting both people and society while safeguarding the environment and ecosystem. This entails a holistic consideration of how people, the built environment, and the ecology are evolving. The goal is to leave behind a world that is unharmed and suitable for future generations to live in.

Sustainability, as the guiding principle, should ideally permeate every stage of a building's life cycle, from conceptualisation and planning to assembly, use, upkeep, and disassembly.

'Green' buildings distinguish themselves through superior ecological design and resource efficiency in energy, water, and materials, resulting in minimal negative consequences on the environment or human health.

www.tremco-europe.com

WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

www.carpenter.com

People
Health & Safety

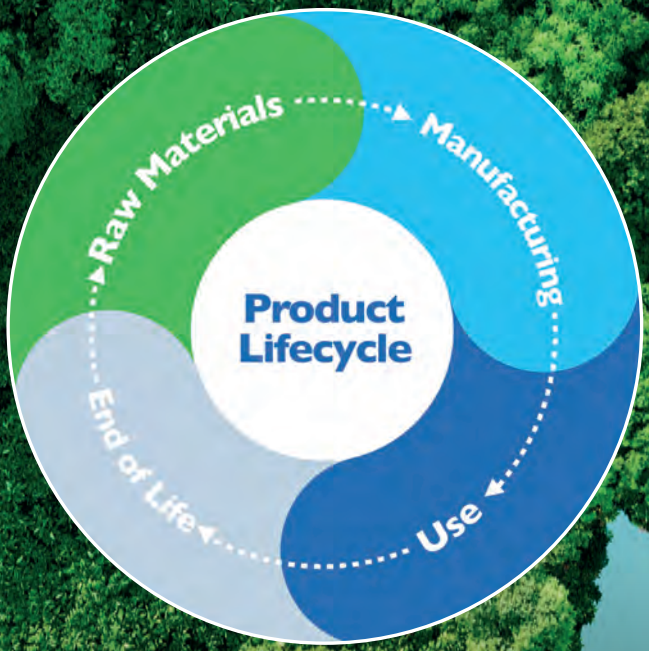
Carpenter are committed to providing a safe environment for employees and visitors. We view safety as a core value.

Planet
Circular Economy

We collect and re-use thousands of tonnes of post-consumer cushioning and foam trim from our own factories and from our customers to make carpet underlay and bonded foam.

Purpose
Steward of Resources

We continuously pursue innovation to reduce our impact on the planet. We invest in new technology and machinery to consume less energy and increase efficiencies.



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UNDERLAY®

100% Recyclable - **Proudly Made in the United Kingdom**

With 22 superior underlay products to choose from, Carpenter focuses on quality and comfort while creating a product that lasts.
Request a sample and discover the Carpenter difference. **Call us on 01457 861141**

CRUK

The power of collaboration in the carpet and textile flooring sector

At a time marked by unique challenges and complexities, the importance of collaboration cannot be overstated. Nowhere is this truer than in the realm of sustainability, where concerted efforts are required to address pressing environmental issues.

In the UK, the carpet and textile flooring industry stands at a pivotal juncture, tasked with transforming its operations towards a circular model. As we navigate through these challenging times, what we are noticing more is that collaboration between our members is a vital ingredient to successfully develop a pathway towards becoming more sustainable.

The concept of circularity, particularly in the context of carpet and textile floor recycling, revolves around the idea of minimising waste and maximizing the lifespan of products through reuse, remanufacturing, and recycling. Achieving circularity demands a fundamental shift in the way we design, produce, and dispose of carpets and textile flooring. It requires the active participation and cooperation of various stakeholders across the industry's supply chain.

At the heart of this transformation lies the need for collaboration among members. By working together, and through CRUK stakeholders can leverage their collective expertise, resources, and networks to overcome challenges and drive innovation.

By sharing best practices and experiences will allow the key players in the sector to learn from one another to create standards leading to the development of more efficient recycling processes, novel technologies, and sustainable materials.

CRUK works extensively to expand its learning and understanding from other similar trade associations that are facing the same challenges and is now part of the British Furniture Confederation which allows us to understand and share what other sectors are doing and facing, as well as being part of an active lobby group which meets regularly with MPS and Parliamentary Groups.

In addition, CRUK is also forging alliances with academia, research institutions, and government agencies, so our members can access cutting-edge research, funding opportunities, and regulatory support. These partnerships not only accelerate progress but also enhance the credibility and legitimacy of sustainability initiatives within the industry.

CRUK members understand the power of collaboration in driving sustainable change. As a voluntary association of raw material suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, contract flooring companies, retailers, and reuse and recycling companies, CRUK is pivotal in promoting and guiding circularity within the sector. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, CRUK creates dialogue, facilitates collaboration, and leads discussions.

Furthermore, collaboration enables us to address systemic barriers to circularity, such as logistical challenges, market fragmentation, data gaps and schemes promoting take-back options.

However, CRUK cannot do this alone, especially as the challenges are getting bigger and we will need our members to play a bigger and more active role within our organisation so we can be heard and looked upon as being a high-performing sector that is capable of measuring its performance.

Data sharing and management is a key aspect that needs to improve, especially if we want to be taken seriously by Defra and other government agencies. We are also missing out on coming together as a single voice on certain local and central government consultations where we need to show solidarity to ensure that our opinions are considered, acknowledged and acted upon.

In conclusion, collaboration is the linchpin of success as we strive to transition towards creating circularity within the carpet and textile flooring sector. By fostering partnerships, sharing knowledge, and pooling resources, stakeholders can overcome challenges, drive innovation, and accelerate progress towards sustainability goals.

The case of CRUK exemplifies the transformative potential of collaboration within the industry, serving as a model for collective action in pursuit of a more sustainable future. As we navigate through complicated and challenging times, let us come together to harness the power of collaboration to create a sector that can be proud of how it is transitioning to becoming more circular and sustainable.

Collaboration will be a key discussion point at our next annual conference to be held in Solihull on 10-11 July.

www.carpetrecyclinguk.com

F BALL AND CO

Getting stuck into recycling

F BALL and Co has made it easier for flooring contractors to do their bit for the environment by further increasing the number of locations where contractors can deposit empty recyclable F Ball buckets and bottles for recycling, free of charge.

The number of F Ball recycling points at wholesaler partners across the UK now stands at 40 and counting.

The expansion of the company's scheme, first introduced in 2019, is a response to a positive reception from flooring contractors to the initial pilot, with bin-loads of empty containers that would have otherwise been destined for landfill being taken back for reprocessing.

Last year, 13 tonnes of plastic buckets, equating to 23,000 buckets, and 1,560kg of bottles (about 12,000), were collected and recycled through the scheme.

F Ball plastic buckets and the company's five and 20 litre plastic bottles used for liquids, primers and tackifiers can be recycled via the scheme, with much of the packaging itself manufactured from recycled materials.

Environmental savings

Flooring professionals are not just saving the Earth, but also saving money by using the F Ball Recycling Scheme, with one contractor, Fineweave Carpets in Reading, cutting waste disposal costs by more than £8,000.

They have returned a total of 8,200 plastic bottles for reprocessing that would have otherwise been destined for landfill, equating to over 1,000kg of plastic. It is estimated that this would cost over £8,200 to dispose of through commercially available channels.

Lee Withers, director of Fineweave Carpets, said: 'We pride ourselves on doing what we can for the environment, and the F Ball Recycling Scheme gives us another opportunity to do this while also cutting our costs.'

Flooring contractors will also find recycling points at select distributors. Nutlands Carpets, which has branches in Poole and Chandlers Ford, has sent over 3,700 plastic bottles for recycling through the scheme, the equivalent of 481kg of plastic, saving customers more than £3,700 to date.

On the importance of being involved in the initiative, James Smith, managing director of Nutlands Carpets, said: 'As a family run distributor, we place great importance on doing our part to reduce the environmental impact of our operations, including being a part of innovative recycling schemes like this.

'Customer service is paramount to us, and by providing the recycling bins we are saving them time and money spent visiting local recycling centres. As a result, we know some choose to buy F Ball products from us rather than other wholesalers. We hope that more manufacturers follow F Ball's lead in this area.'

Commenting on the figures, F Ball managing director Darren Kenyon said: 'With continuing high inflation, it's invaluable to know how to cut costs without compromising on installation quality, and it's never been more urgent to curb our environmental impact.

'The F Ball Recycling Scheme provides an effortless way to do both. We're delighted by some of the numbers around savings by those benefitting from the scheme, and I encourage more to do the same.'

More information about participating wholesalers is available on the F Ball website.

www.f-ball.co.uk

FORBO FLOORING SYSTEMS

Connect with modern nature: the new Marmoleum Solid collection

BUILDING on the success of its climate positive Marmoleum flooring, Forbo Flooring Systems continues to push forward, updating the Marmoleum Solid collection to support the enduring trend for contemporary interiors that connect with modern nature.

Refreshed and contemporary, the new colour palette features muted and neutral tones, providing architects and designers with a high-end flooring option made using 98% natural raw materials – independently certified Climate Positive cradle to gate and importantly, without offsetting.

Marmoleum Cocoa (Chia seeds)

Arranged intuitively in four go-to collections, the plastic-free Marmoleum Solid collection comprises 72 colourways, 26 of which are new – all future orientated and modern in character.

Combining the liveliness of cocoa husks with the calmness of mineral tones, the Cocoa range adds subtle texture to a scheme. Now, there are 16 versatile colourways, including six new ones, such as the earthy ivory Pannacotta or the rooted warmth of turmeric inspired Curcuma. Plus, a selection of anchoring greys such as, Hummus, Stracciatella, Black Tea and Chia Seeds.

The use of cocoa husks, a waste product from the cocoa industry, included within the manufacturing process results in a modern flooring solution that meets the interior design trends and sustainable building requirements of today and the future.

Fully committed to closing the loop, Forbo's 'Back to the Floor' program ensures upcycled end-of-life Marmoleum is also reused in its production. The Concrete palette offers subtle concrete aesthetics with the warmth and naturalness of Marmoleum.

The refined 30-strong collection features 15 new colourways, from Neptune that suits mix and matching applications to options that stylishly meet the coloured concrete look.

For a soft and natural appearance, the Walton collection provides a plain visual with a subtle texture, while the Piano palette gives a soft, subtle fibre feel combined with a plain background to create a semi-plain design, ideal for areas where light dirt hiding properties are required.

Commenting on the launch of the new Marmoleum Solid range, Donna Hannaway, head of marketing at Forbo Flooring Systems, said: 'It reflects our commitment to creating flooring that goes beyond the conventional, fostering a blend of luxury design, sustainability, and wellbeing. Marmoleum Solid is designed to be the 'new face' of linoleum – we want the latest collection to demonstrate linoleum's capabilities as a modern-day floor finish. It is the most sustainable offering on the market and is ideal for architects and designers who are working towards a more circular economy approach.

'We've vastly updated the colour offering, steering to more muted and neutral tones, which offer longevity in terms of timeless style. This new colour shift is actually part of a wider update, which will see the new colourways coincide with our other ranges, enabling architects and specifiers to create an integrated design scheme across all floor finishes.'

Offering three times better protection in terms of wear resistance, stain resistance and cleaning and maintenance compared to the previous surface coating, Marmoleum Solid is finished with Forbo's highly durable and award-winning Topshield pro surface finish. The longer the floor can be used, the more circular it is.

Other categories in Forbo's flagship Marmoleum range include Marmoleum Marbled, a natural and colourful collection that blends properties for perfect soil-hiding characteristics and Marmoleum Linear, an accessible, warm and connective option with a directional pattern to create a feel-at-home atmosphere.

Circular ready, Marmoleum forms the foundation of healthy indoor spaces and now Forbo invites those in the architectural and interior design world to create sustainable places that have a positive impact on everyone and everything.

www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/marmoleumsolid

'Garden of Inspiration'

HANSON PLYWOOD

A fit-for-purpose and guaranteed plywood panel

THE growing use of resilient floorcoverings such as luxury vinyl tile (LVT) has emphasised the need for a much higher quality plywood than the general-purpose panels which have commonly been used in flooring applications. In order to achieve a fully compliant and reliable installation, a plywood panel needs to be carefully engineered to meet the specific demands required.

Following extensive technical consultation with relevant bodies, Hanson Plywood has developed a product which for the first time provides the industry with a fit-for-purpose and guaranteed plywood panel.

Manufactured to flooring industry standards as defined by BS 8203:2017- Plywood Annex A. SP101 Flooring Plywood is a fully reliable component for use in the subfloor base construction for all floorcoverings.

The supply and quality of general commercial hardwood plywood continues to be compromised by the acute short supply of legal and sustainable high-quality hardwood logs. Plywood is an integral component of the subfloor and its ability to perform is of paramount importance.

SP101 Flooring Plywood is developed specifically for the flooring industry and is manufactured with an acute attention to detail which underpins its performance and reliability. Strictly controlled and monitored production processes guarantee that SP101 provides the ultimate assurance for flooring applications.

Hanson Plywood were pleased to be involved in the technical consultation process initiated by the CFA which enabled the inclusion of a plywood specification reference within this standard.

This was seen as a significant development for the industry, as it now gives manufacturers and installers a clear reference on the specification of plywood that should be used for a successful and reliable installation.

Trained fitters that are working to BS 8203 now need to ensure they're using the correct specification of plywood. Manufacturers of LVT, adhesives and all other allied products have acknowledged and welcomed this addition to BS 8203 standard.

Plywood which is BS 8203 compliant is naturally demonstrated at most floor-fitting training schools throughout the UK.

SP101 and the environment

The UK timber industry has comprehensive systems in place to ensure legality and sustainability of timber products. Products have to be technically sound and fit-for-purpose and have to comply with all relevant environmental criteria.

The timber in SP101 Flooring Plywood is sourced from Indonesia a country comprised of well over 13,000 islands with over 91 million hectares of forest cover.

Indonesia is the first country in the world to complete the process of a voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) with the European Union (EU), legally obligating the country to implement a licensing scheme to regulate trade in timber and timber products.

Currently, this means all timber exported from Indonesia has to be fully traceable and certified under Indonesia's countrywide timber legality assurance scheme, SVLK. SVLK (Sistem Verifi kasi Legalitas Kayu) was developed through multi-stakeholder consultations and, by process of further modification, became a nation-wide scheme which now offers market incentives for legal compliance (timber cannot be exported without supplying evidence that it complies with SVLK).

Alongside this, the Indonesian Ministry of Environment & Forestry has developed an online system (SIPUHH Online) which tracks logs all the way back to the concession using a QR barcode-scanning system.

SVLK is now the first timber legality assurance scheme to be recognised by the UK Timber Regulation (UKTR) as a framework that assures the legality of timber sourced in Indonesia.

All timber products certified under SVLK and exported from Indonesia are now FLEGT licenced as of November 2016. A FLEGT licence is currently the only licence that ensures full, verifiable compliance with the EU Timber Regulation.

SP101 Flooring Plywood was the first flooring plywood to be imported into the UK with a FLEGT licence. SP101 Flooring Plywood is constructed with environmental sustainability at its core. Every sheet is comprised of legally verifiable timber from well-managed forests.

Virtual showroom

Our virtual showroom is intended to be an ideal environment for architects, designers, specifiers, or anyone with an interest in wood-based panels, to view a detailed and comprehensive range of products and services without the need to travel to a physical showroom or event. In March 2024, we launched the next phase of our virtual showroom.

At the centre of this latest development is the 'Garden of Inspiration' which features our company environmental presentations and initiatives. The entry to the garden is situated to the left of the reception desk and we hope it will provide visitors with a tranquil and relaxing break whilst taking a tour around the showroom.

www.hanson-plywood-showroom.co.uk

SP101

INTERFACE

Prepare to be floored

INTERFACE is a global flooring manufacturer helping to create a more beautiful and sustainable built environment. This history of innovation began 50 years ago, when Interface founder Ray Anderson led a revolution in commercial flooring to create America's first modular carpet tile.

Since then, Interface has pushed the boundaries of what can be achieved with flooring to create spaces that support both people and the planet. The business has always been at the forefront of sustainable flooring design, most recently developing the world's first carbon-negative carpet tiles with bio-based and recycled materials that store, rather than release, carbon.

By giving customers the support they need to take full advantage of products, make installation as easy as possible and recognise their contribution to sustainability goals, Interface makes true impact at scale.

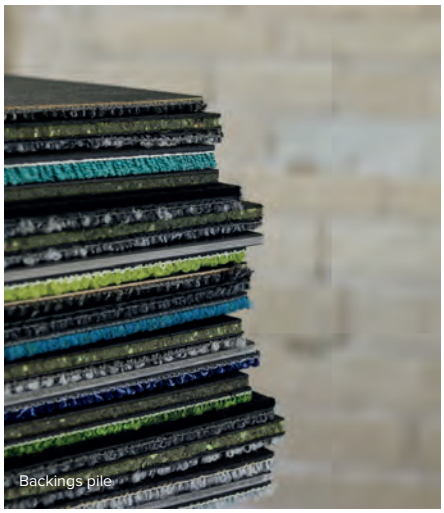
Sustainability as standard

In a traditionally carbon-intensive sector, creating a business that had no negative impact on the environment was no easy feat, but that was the mission that Ray Anderson set out following a mid-80s epiphany on what his company was doing for the environment. Fast forward to 2024 and Interface has achieved a 97% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, becoming the first flooring manufacturer to have its goals ratified by the Science Based Targets initiative.

The company has achieved this by moving away from the use of petrochemicals, and by using recycled and bio-based materials in its products. By doing so, Interface has strived to ensure that both its manufacturing and collections have minimal impacts on the environment, whilst also directly contributing to decarbonisation efforts.

Externally, Interface works to educate built environment professionals on the impact sustainable flooring can make – account managers and concept designers work directly with specifiers to find solutions that support carbon reduction goals. In the UK, this effort is led by regional sustainability manager Becky Gordon.

Interface has delivered its RIBA and RIAI-accredited CPD course on Carbon in the Built Environment to both customers and suppliers. By the end of 2023, the CPD had been delivered to over 200 architect practices, contractors, end-users, and local government organisations, reaching more than 2,000 attendees.


Backings pile

Interface is also helping its suppliers, customers, and industry peers to decarbonise by providing accessible end-of-life options for its products. Through its ReEntry programme, Interface takes back used carpet tiles and via partners supplies to small businesses, charities and community groups. The impact this has on large-scale projects can't be understated.

For example, Interface worked with a ReEntry partner on a social housing project in Newport to provide more than 25,000sq ft of flooring that they'd otherwise be unable to access.

The manufacturer leads the way in engaging the wider industry, too. In 2023, Interface contributed to the work of manufacturing and industry bodies including the Materials Climate Action Network, CLG Materials taskforce, Aldersgate, UKGBC and EAUC.

The company also collaborates with suppliers to create more innovative, sustainable products, including the development of 100% recycled yarn, and innovative partnerships such as Net-Works.

Tough stuff

Commercial spaces need robust flooring solutions that create a safe and pleasant environment for users, and Interface's carpet collections all come with Heavy Contract Wear Classifications. They're also designed to reduce noise from footfall and furniture, a particularly valuable attribute in workplace designs where acoustics are paramount for focused work and supporting the sensory needs of users.

Where safety and durability are top priorities, Interface's resilient flooring provides added protection against trips and slips and can be used everywhere from tea points in offices to robotics labs and healthcare environments. With options including nora rubber flooring and luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) in a range of colours and styes, designers never have to compromise on style for the sake of performance.

Interface flooring is also engineered for simple installation. The modular design cuts waste to a minimum – an average of just 2-5% compared to roll carpet's average of 15%. This also means that it's perfect for raised access flooring, and last-minute changes can be made without having to pull up whole sections. Many products are also optimised for glue-free installation with using Interface's TacTiles, which contain almost zero volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Style without limits

The modular flooring system that Interface first brought to commercial interiors was made to put designers in the driving seat, unleashing their creativity and enabling them to push the boundaries on their projects. In-built flexibility also allows specifiers to take advantage of the whole product portfolio as carpet tiles can work together with resilient flooring in beautiful and practical spaces. Now the company is taking that even further, with unique styles that break the mould of commercial interior design.

Past Forward is Interface's latest carpet tile collection, celebrating 50 years of iconic design. Fourteen retro styles have been brought to life for today's commercial spaces through cutting-edge manufacturing technology. The collection comes at the perfect moment, when 'resimercial' and maximalism trends are leading commercial interior design, and styles from the '60s and '70s are making a return.


CQuest Bio Ingredients stack

Interface's environmental connection extends to its design philosophy, where the natural world has long had a crucial role. Collections such as Connected Ethos are the latest examples of how the company is leading the biophilic movement, with subtle colours and textures such as waterways, sandbanks and stony paths creating new connections to nature.

Project-wide support

For designers, contractors and even facilities managers, a member of the Interface team will be on hand to support at any stage of the project. Customers are given a dedicated Interface account manager who advises on how to best use the product portfolio on a specific project, considering the vision for the space, not only in terms of aesthetics, but performance and sustainability requirements, too.

On a striking office fit out for law firm Kingsley Napley LLP, Interface advised designers KKS Savills on a flooring solution that supported the client's industry-leading sustainability goals. Darren Jesse, chief finance and operations officer at Kingsley Napley, described the result: 'The products selected by our designers all contribute towards the building's sustainability credentials that meet BREEAM Excellent standards, which is a fantastic achievement for us. We're thrilled with the new office that Interface and KKS Savills have helped us create – and the fact that it has a positive impact on the planet is a very welcome bonus.'

Once a project begins, the account manager ensures that the product arrives at the site on time and that contractors have all they need get it on the floor. They're also on hand to overcome any challenges, such as last-minute changes in project design or timings.

Futureproof flooring

Interface makes flooring for the commercial spaces of today and tomorrow, and is helping contractors, architects and designers to contribute to the circular economy. These flooring solutions are built to last, often used by multiple occupants and then recycled or reused through the ReEntry programme to avoid ending up in landfill.

Powered by half a century of experience and innovation, carpet tiles and resilient flooring from Interface are making the built environment stronger, greener, and more spectacular.

www.interface.com

Sports flooring system at Oriam

JUNCKERS

Where sustainability really counts – sports and activity floors for schools

IN the last few years, the education sector has become a front-runner in sustainable, low carbon design and build. The Department for Education has strict criteria which needs to be fulfilled in order to receive funding to build or refurbish schools. Councils all over the country are following suit and publicly funded buildings now must adhere to sustainability guidelines.

As one of the UK's leading suppliers of solid hardwood floors to the education sector, Junckers has a long history of manufacturing long-lasting, safe, high performing and sustainable flooring systems. In the past ten years, the company has supplied flooring to over 800 schools, colleges, and universities in the UK with new, high-performance sports flooring.

Longevity
A solid hardwood floor from Junckers has a longer lifespan than most other flooring options. It can be sanded and refinished up to ten times without affecting its quality or performance. With an interval of approximately twelve years between refurbishments, a design life of 60+ years is easily exceeded. Therefore, the life cycle cost of a Junckers floor is unmatched.

Sustainability
It goes without saying that a floor with a long lifespan is also beneficial to the environment. As well as being naturally low in embodied carbon, Junckers' solid wood floors have full environmental credentials including EPDs, FSC, PEFC, and Indoor Climate certification.

Performance
All Junckers' sports floors perform with unique area-elastic characteristics providing the ultimate freedom of movement, protection against injury and enables the athlete to perform to the best of their abilities. Our sports floor solutions are tested and approved in accordance with the European standard EN 14904. Junckers' activity floor systems fulfil the requirements of classes A3 and A4 under the standard, which means they meet the Department for Education's design rules for area elastic floors in schools.

Flexibility
A Junckers sports floor is designed for multi-purpose use. It can easily be adapted for flexible use as a classroom, for example, without the need for any additional protection provided a few simple measures are followed. The floor is hard-wearing and very resistant to scratches, scuffs, and indentations – the same Junckers lacquer finish is used in high-traffic commercial and public buildings. If the floor has become damaged, it is very easy to renovate by sanding and sealing, the cost of which is usually far less than a temporary covering. Junckers floors can also be used together with retractable seating systems.

UK-based technical support
Experienced and knowledgeable technical support is available for all projects, large or small. Junckers manufactures its own floors rather than buy from a wholesaler and are therefore able to offer insight and information needed for complex projects.

01376 534700
sales@junckers.co.uk
www.junckers.co.uk

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Sports flooring at Kirkmichael Primary School

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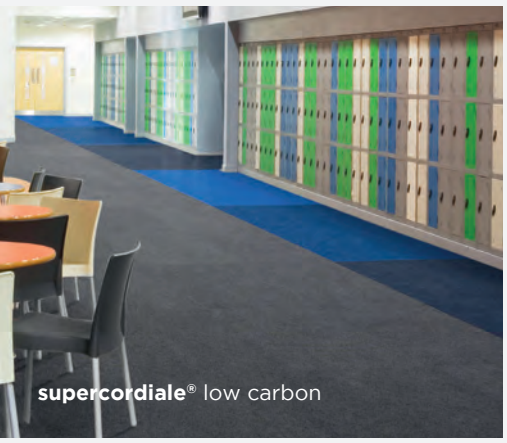

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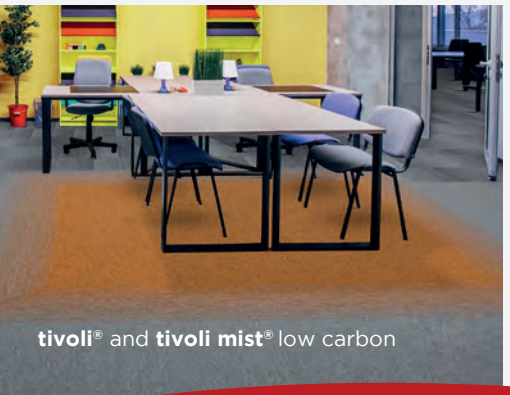

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KARNDEAN DESIGNFLOORING

Looking ahead to a greener flooring industry

AS the construction industry gears up for the challenges of meeting net zero targets and a transition to a more sustainable future, Fleur Carson, managing director at Karndean Designflooring, tells us how this market leader is innovating and why transparency is more important than ever.

With the built environment accounting for a quarter of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions and a legally binding UK target to reach net zero by 2050, government's Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener calls on the construction industry to quantify emissions through whole lifecycle assessment and to rapidly decarbonise.

Karndean Designflooring has always been inspired by the beauty of nature, combining an authentic look of natural materials with cutting edge technology to create flooring that is both attractive and durable. Founded fifty years ago on innovation, bold action and a pioneering spirit, these ideals still guide our business because the future demands that we make courageous changes to ensure that the natural world is protected for future generations.

The Karndean Evolve Strategy starts our journey towards a greener business with a promise to think differently, act decisively, and create real change through meaningful steps. The strategy embeds the notion of continual improvement and sets out how the principles of sustainability are being integrated across our global operations in six key focus areas: confronting climate change, sustainable resource use, supply chain transparency, individual health and wellbeing, inclusion and diversity, and education.

The Sustainability Report 2023 establishes our baseline for greenhouse emissions from all sources, including those controlled directly, indirectly and via third parties, and sets out an ambitious plan to reduce these by at least 50% by 2030. Science-based targets established in line with the Business Ambition for 1.5deg C campaign will evidence our progress year by year.

Confronting climate change through increased energy efficiency and renewable energy, our action plan includes a commitment to invest further in locally sourced biomass and solar power across our property portfolio. A new UK warehouse is currently in construction and is expected to meet requirements for BREEAM Excellent accreditation.

The strategy also looks at how increased recycling will support a circular economy. Currently, the backing layer of our products contains up to 50% recycled material from production waste, while up to 300 tonnes of unused product offcuts each year are recycled into street furniture such as traffic cones.

As the industry comes to understand the intricacies and challenges of the transition we need to make towards a more sustainable future, transparency will be key to retaining customers' trust. This is why Karndean is proud to be the first flooring manufacturer to sign up to the Anti-Greenwash Charter, demonstrating our commitment to honesty, accountability and responsible marketing practices.

Fleur Carson

These are still early days in our transformation but we know that great things can be achieved when we take a collaborative approach so we are calling on others to join us as we pioneer a more sustainable, open and transparent flooring industry.

www.karndean.com/en-gb/commercial-flooring/about-us/karndeanevolve/

Evolve House

KERAKOLL

Building better places to live with Kerakoll

THE Kerakoll Group is a multinational company working in the construction industry, offering an integrated range of products and services for building better places to live.

Kerakoll was established in 1968, in the heart of the Sassuolo ceramic district, and began by producing ceramic tile adhesives. Today, the Group is divided into three Business Units focusing on the needs of Laying, Building and Design surfaces.

The Group achieved a turnover of 744 million euros in 2022 – 62% of which came from Italy and 38% from exports – and currently provides work for around 2200 people including employees and freelancers. We have a direct presence in 12 countries and operate 17 production plants.

Kerakoll is a Benefit Corporation. We also obtained B Corp certification in 2023, confirmation of our journey towards a new ESG business model generating economic, social and environmental value.

Building better places to live

Sustainability has been at the core of Kerakoll's philosophy since 1984 when Romano Sghedoni declared that 'there is no value in industrial success if it is not linked to sustainable development.' And this approach has widened and deepened over the years to include a comprehensive commitment to ESG issues, with the Italian company becoming a Benefit Company in 2021, and the Group, including the UK, gaining B Corp certification in 2023.

For the product offering, this is shown by a commitment to developing the best possible products for the construction industry to enable the construction of safe, healthy and beautiful buildings. This means researching materials and processes to reduce the impact on the environment, with a built-in respect for natural resources and the circular economy.

The company uses life cycle analysis and the GreenBuilding Rating to guide its choice of classification system and product design principles. The GreenBuilding Rating was developed by Kerakoll, and certified by SGS, as a transparent measure of the product's most relevant sustainability characteristics, allowing the installer to see at a glance how environmentally friendly a product is.

All Kerakoll products have passed the strictest lab tests and obtained various certifications which include:

- EMICODE EC1 PLUS for ultra-low emissions of volatile organic compounds, awarded by the German GEV Institute
- A+ labelling, required by French 'Emissions dans l'air intérieur' legislation for building and decoration products according to ISO 16000
- EPD according to EN 15804 and ISO 14025
- Carbon Footprint surveys according to ISO 14067 and ISO 14040-44
- ISO 14021 certification of products containing recycled and recyclable materials at the end of their life cycle.

Kerakoll Green Lab

Innovative technologies for sustainability and performance

The focus on natural resources has led to the development of some very innovative new technologies, including Gel-Technology, which is used in the company's tiling ranges, in particular H40 Gel-Adhesives, an award-winning range of tiling adhesives. These use a geo-binder containing natural polymers with a low environmental impact combined with a mineral that is extracted without the use of chemicals, solvents or synthetic post treatment agents. When the adhesives are mixed, the technology's variable rheology and thixotropicity gives them a unique consistency that is both easy to apply and able to hold its shape at the same time.

Another example is Fugabella Color, the company's resin-cement hybrid grout range. This uses similar technology and is produced without the addition of chemical and synthetic additives and biocides which are present in many of its competitors' products.

Kerakoll in the UK

The Kerakoll Group has had a subsidiary in the UK since 2006, and in 2017 they acquired Tilemaster Adhesives, one of the top ten UK companies producing products for the flooring and tiling industry, and merged the two firms.

The Group has been investing heavily in the UK company since they entered the market, and particularly in the last few years, with improvements to the existing Leyland based factory and logistics facilities, and an increase in the number of staff working for the company. The company sales have seen a corresponding increase with strong organic growth throughout the challenges represented by the pandemic, Brexit and the global economic outlook.

In 2023, the British company gained ISO 9001 certification, and set up a Sustainability and Quality department dedicated to enhancing its approach to quality and sustainability by bringing quality assurance, product compliance and sustainability practices into a single area. The Sustainability and Quality Manager will also lead the B-Team, dedicated to meeting local and corporate objectives in relation to the Kerakoll Group's B Corp certification.

Quality and reliability with a sustainable edge

Immediately after the merger, the UK subsidiary focused on enhancing both Tilemaster and Kerakoll brands within the competitive UK flooring and tiling sector. In early 2024 the process of moving all of the products to the Kerakoll brand began. The move will allow the company to dedicate itself to delivering superior customer service, an exceptional product offering, and an enriched brand experience.

The company's flooring offering consists of a full range of products from substrate and surface preparation to adhesives for resilient and wood flooring. The Tilemaster brand has always been known for its smoothing and levelling compounds, and in June 2024, a new range of Kerakoll smoothing compounds will be launched which will build on this reputation for quality and reliability, and introduce innovative new products to the industry.

The best of the old range is being retained, re-engineered to be more environmentally friendly and safer for installers, for example by minimising volatile organic compounds (VOC) in line with the Kerakoll aim of building better places to live. Another distinctive feature is the inclusion of the Kerakoll Green Building Rating on the product packaging. In addition, new products using cutting-edge technology are being developed, improving both performance and sustainability, and keeping the range at the forefront of the market.

For more information on Kerakoll, its products and services please visit the website or contact us on the details below.

Green Lab

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www.kerakoll.com

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The Barrettine Group, committed to promoting sustainability & reducing our carbon footprint.

The Barrettine Group is committed to promoting sustainability as well as implementing specific actions that are tangibly sustainable and contribute to reducing our carbon footprint.

Concern for the environment and promoting a broader sustainability agenda are integral to the Barrettine Groups professional activities and the management of all Trading Divisions.

We aim to follow and to promote good sustainability practice, to reduce the environmental impacts of all our activities and to help our clients and partners to do the same.

The Barrettine Group recognises the importance of environmental protection and we are committed to operating our business responsibly and in compliance with all environmental regulations, legislation and approved codes of practice specifically relating to the Scope of the certification but incorporating our overall business activities.

Barrettine are engaged in a number of ongoing activities, which include.

Gold rating of the Ecovadis accreditation body.

The Ecovadis mission is to provide reliable, globally recognized sustainability ratings and insights, enabling all companies to reduce risk, drive improvement and accelerate positive impact on our planet and society. Following our Ecovadis audit The Barrettine Group achieved Gold status in Sustainability rating. Our understanding is that only 5% of Businesses achieve the Gold status.

British Manufacturer.

The Barrettine Group is based in Bristol, UK and one of a few independent manufacturers left in the UK. As such the Distribution and availability of our manufactured Products have a significantly reduced carbon footprint compared to similar imported products.

Natural & Sustainable raw materials.

A large majority of our wood care protection products contain natural oils & resins. Oils such as Linseed oil, Sunflower oil, Soya, Tung oil, along with natural waxes such as carnuba and beeswax, with natural sealers such as shellac.

Dangerous for the Environment de-classification.

As part of sustainable product programme following extensive technical formulation work, we have switched all products that contain Aliphatic, Cycloparaffinic, Aromatic Hydrocarbons to Dearomatised Chemicals.

This means that all products have been reclassified and are not classified as Chronic aquatic toxicant: Category 2.
This removes the classification as Dangerous to the Environment (DFE's). This is fantastic achievement and demonstrates our continued commitment to reducing our impact on the environment and our forward thinking into producing sustainable ethical products.

Upcycling, Repair, Restoration & Maintenance.

Encouraging, embracing and educating a culture of upcycling, repair, restoration and maintenance is an important part of sustainability. Protecting wooden articles whether structural or aesthetical means they will last considerably longer and as such reducing the demand on new Timber

Members of the British Coatings Federation (BCF) and commitment to the Carbon Neutral target 2050

BCF member

Net Zero refers to the balance between the amount of GHG that is produced and the amount that is removed from the atmosphere. It can be achieved through a combination of emission reduction, from activities such as industrial processes and transport, and emission removal, for example by capturing carbon or by planting more trees. When what is added is no more than what is taken away, Net Zero is achieved.

For more information on Barrettine visit:
www.barrettinePro.co.uk

LIONBOARD

The lower impact alternative to plywood

LION Floor is the lower impact alternative for plywood used in resilient flooring installation.

Made from by-product of the wood processing industry, LION Floor has been proven to have an environmental impact considerably lower than other European made particleboard or plywood. So, if you're looking to reduce the footprint of your resilient flooring installations, then making the switch to LION Floor is a no brainer.

Because LION Floor uses wood by-products (a CO^2 store that would have otherwise gone to incineration and have released carbon back into the atmosphere) they lock-in more carbon throughout their lifetime than products using virgin wood.

Manufacturer of LION Floor, Finnish Fibreboard, has carried out a lifecycle analysis of its LION Boards range and the results are now available in a third-party verified EPD. The EPD looks at the cradle to gate lifecycle of LION Boards and provides calculations across material composition, manufacturing and packaging. It is verified by EPD Hub, which internally reviews manufacturer data before publication.

For material composition, LION Boards record a 98.4% secondary material input (wood industry by-product) and a 0% secondary material output, meaning that no material is wasted in the production of boards. For every cubic metre of LION Boards produced (weighing 980kg), the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of LION Floor's lifecycle is -1,771kgCO^2, significantly less than European made particleboard at -618kgCO^{2*} or European made plywood at -888kgCO^{2*}.

Peter Jones, Finnish Fibreboard said: 'Using by-products from wood processing and with the raw material coming from Finland's PEFC certified forests, we've always had a 'local is best' approach to material use. All of our wood can also be traced from forest to finished board and what we can't process, we turn to biofuel as a production energy source.

'With local sourcing and full traceability, as well as efficient production, we know our boards are made with consideration for the environment. Our commitment to independently verifying LION Floor's environmental impact with an EPD will let specifiers, contractors, retailers and independent installers make a better choice with confidence.'

*Average carbon footprint based on values from multiple manufacturers. NB Reported figures exclude transport and installation, product use and maintenance and product end of life. For more details, https://manage.epdhub.com

sales@finfib.fi

Making the switch to LION Floor

puretree cork

puretreecork.com

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Black Porcelain patio

LTP

Why good surface maintenance makes sense

THERE are lots of very valid reasons to support good surface protection and maintenance. Retaining a tile's aesthetic is top of many lists. Ongoing easy maintenance is also a good motive - keeping a surface clean and preventing a build-up of dirt and residue makes ongoing maintenance much easier and less time consuming.

There are also performance characteristics; a correct regime will also ensure that a tile retains its slip resistance. But have you ever considered the benefits that specifically relate to the environment?

Refurbishing and deep cleaning

When a tile or stone surface isn't properly protected and maintained, the build-up of dirt and organic residue greatly affects the aesthetic, safety and ease of maintenance. In many cases, neglected surfaces are then treated with toxic chemicals.

While this may have the desired effect of removing residue, these types of interventions are damaging to the environment and often costly and time consuming. If solutions are unsuitable, they can also damage the tile, grout joint and any sealer that's been applied, creating more issues that will need to be addressed.

If a tile needs to be renovated or deep cleaned, choose a safe, non-caustic specialist treatment like alkaline-based intensive cleaner, ECOPROTEC Stone & Tile Intensive Cleaner. Specific residue can also be safely tackled by using a specialist remover. For example, ECOPROTEC Cement, Grout & Salt Residue Remover; ECOPROTEC Rust Stain Remover, ECOPROTEC Black Spot & Algae Remover and ECOPROTEC Joint Residue Remover.

Surface protection

Protecting a tile pays real dividends. It retains the surface aesthetic and makes maintenance easier, which is turn safeguards performance. Stone and polished porcelain should ideally be sealed with a water-based treatment before and after grouting, to protect the tiles from grout residue, stains and ongoing wear and tear.

Textured matt porcelain tiles, whilst not requiring treatment with a sealer, will benefit from application of a water-based barrier treatment before grouting – like ECOPROTEC Pre Grout Protection. A further coat after installation will also make ongoing maintenance easier. Tiles that have been intensively cleaned should also be resealed, to protect them going forwards.

Sealing a tile, once again, offers long term eco-benefits. In protecting the tile, the sealer makes maintenance easier, reduces associated waste and water consumption and eliminates the need for more drastic intervention with harsh chemicals.

A close look at water-based sealers

There are still some that question whether a water-based product can provide the same level of performance as a solvent. Solvent-based sealers - sometimes referred to as oil-based or spirit-based - contain a significantly higher level of organic solvents than water-based treatments. These solvents create the strong odour that's evident when a surface has been freshly sealed.

If incorrectly used, they can also be potentially hazardous for both human health and for the environment, which is why concerted efforts are being made to reduce or remove their presence in sealing solutions, without negatively impacting on performance.

In essence, solvents facilitate the sealer's application, its drying and the formation of an even seal below the surface of the tile or stone. During application and drying, the solvent evaporates. A fully cured sealed floor no longer contains solvent. However, when they evaporate, these solvents release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the atmosphere, with a negative, toxic impact on the environment.

Advances in technology have resulted in a new breed of impregnating water-based sealers that are equal to or superior to their solvent-based equivalents. They offer excellent durability, quick drying times and the emission of less odour.

Not all water-based sealers contain zero solvents. Many contain 'co-solvents' - solvents present in lower concentrations that are meant to help push the rest of the water out of the coating as it dries. But since water-based solutions have either no solvents, or considerably less solvents, both provide a safer alternative to a traditional sealer.

Once applied and cured, water and solvent-based sealers function in a similar fashion. They are both tough, durable and they provide stain protection, so various spillages can be removed before permanent staining occurs. They are each typically available in fully formulated, ready-to-apply liquids and are easy to apply.

But one key difference between them is their appearance: solvent-based sealers tend to be clear as the sealer polymer and the solvent form a continuous clear solution, whereas water-based sealers appear milky white. This is because the polymers are present as separate particles and scatter visible light differently than the water in which they are dispersed.

The benefits of a water-based sealer

There are many benefits offered by an impregnating water-based sealer. They include:

Low VOCs. Water-based sealers are much safer. They are less toxic and much less harmful to the environment and human health.

Low odour. As well as providing a safer, more comfortable application, there is no risk of odour tainting carpets and soft fabrics.

UV resistance. Water-based sealers are fully transparent to UV light, so they don't undergo the photochemical breakdown experienced by some more UV-absorbent solvent-based sealers. This UV resistance can lead to greater longevity and protection.

Handling/safety. Water-based sealers are non-hazardous for transport and shipping and are non-flammable.

Storage. There are far less stringent rules for the storage of water-based sealers, which saves time and money. (There is a vast amount of administration involved in the storage of hazardous products, including completion of comprehensive paperwork and the requirement for secure fireproof locked containers.)

Coverage. As a general rule, water-based sealers tend to go further than solvent-based sealers, with a typical extra coverage of between 10 and 20% on most surfaces.

Recommendations for ongoing maintenance

Maintenance requirements will differ depending on the type of stone or tile, its location and traffic. In general, we recommend day-to-day cleaning with a quality pH-neutral solution. This is particularly important with natural stone, which can be acid sensitive; everyday surface cleaners, even popular eco-brands, are often acidic and can damage the stone, grout joint and any sealer applied.

Likewise, natural cleaning hacks made from ingredients like lemon and soda should also be avoided for the same reason. For stone walls and floors, we recommend ECOPROTEC Natural Stone & Porcelain Aftercare Cleaner and ECOPROTEC Multi-purpose Cleaner.

Tiles should be cleaned on a regular basis to avoid an accumulation of dirt and residue. In general, floors in commercial settings should be cleaned daily and domestic floors on a weekly basis. All ECOPROTEC cleaning solutions are suitable for scrubber/dryer machines used in commercial environments.

Externally, paths and patios will benefit from a thorough clean every couple of months or so with ECOPROTEC Intensive Cleaner – ideally, twice during the winter and three times during late spring/summer. Regular cleaning of inside-to-outside surfaces, like those that run through bifold doors, will also help maintain a seamless aesthetic.

Others ways to promote sustainable maintenance

In addition to the eco-benefits provided by a good regime - and by switching to water-based solutions - choosing products that are manufactured and packaged sustainably is also vital. At ECOPROTEC, our own initiatives include:

- Minimising waste disposal throughout production and reusing pallets.
- Sourcing cardboard packaging from FSC accredited suppliers.
- Using recyclable bottles made from recycled materials.

And, over the next five years, our own goal at ECOPROTEC is for 75% of our production to be of water-based, non-hydrocarbon formulations. The tile and stone industry still needs encouragement to support this strategy but the environmental benefits are irrefutable.

For more advice, browse ECOPROTEC TV on YouTube, or contact the ECOPROTEC team direct on the below contact details.

01823 666213
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BOB BAY
IATSE 59 Stagehand
Clifton, NJ, USA

"The price is amazing when it comes to something that you won't have to replace for about 5 to 10 years. Then all you do is buy a rebuild kit. Excellent investment. I will live by these for the rest of my career."

JACOB WALLACE
United Roofers & Waterproofers
Union Local 44 | Cleveland, OH, USA

"Been wearing Pro Knee for over 22 years. Only knee pads I'll ever purchase... Couldn't live without them. This pair has had two replacement kits."

SANDY MCDANIEL MEYER
Journeyman Flooring Installer for Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters | Cincinnati, OH, USA

"Before I got these my knees hurt every day with the cheap kneepads. Decided to go ahead and get ProKnee. What a difference. Wish I would've done it years ago."

DANIEL CHATFIELD
Save-A-Floor | St. Louis, MO, USA

"ProKnee is the best thing you can buy for yourself if you're in the flooring business! I discovered Proknee about 11 years ago! I still have the same pair and they didn't tear, rip or break. Nothing. My knees don't hurt thanks to ProKnee. I've been doing flooring going on 18 years and prior to ProKnee, my knees did hurt, but not a day since! Highly, highly recommend this product."

PASHA DIDOK
Floor Expert LLC | Kailua Kona, HI, USA

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UltraCare range

MAPEI

Mapei's commitment to building a present designed for the future

SUSTAINABILITY is one of Mapei's cornerstones. As a pioneer in the world of construction, it is making a concrete contribution to building a sustainability future, creating increasingly durable products with high quality and low environmental impact. Since publishing its first Sustainability Report in 2016, it has been laying foundations to ensure a future for people and the planet.

Initially referencing only the Parent Company, its current 2022 report now encompasses a global scope - including all 57 countries in which it operates – illustrating its work to implement sustainability both environmentally and socially.

Mapei's commitment to sustainability started with the optimization of its formulations. Over a decade ago, it launched Keraflex Maxi S1 Zero – now one of the best-selling cementitious adhesives in the world.

In 2022, it introduced the first carbon neutral system for tile installations, with its iconic Ultracolor Plus grout among the products fully offsetting CO^2 emissions over their entire life cycle. Since then, Mapei's Zero Line has grown to include surface installation, construction and maintenance products.

Mapei UK's Zero Line*

Alongside Ultracolor Plus, Mapei UK's Zero Line includes a variety of mortars for the building sector, as well as surface maintenance treatments and a finishing sealant from the UltraCare range. The latest products to join the Zero Line include Mapelastic Zero elastic cementitious waterproofing membrane and Keraquick S1 Zero quick-setting deformable cementitious adhesive, with further introductions to follow throughout the year.

For more details on how emissions are calculated and on climate mitigation projects financed through certified carbon credits, visit zero.mapei.com.

Today, 235 Mapei products are certified with environmental declaration according to international standards - including LEED, BREEAM and WELL - promoting sustainable buildings, safeguarding installers' health and safety and end users' comfort and wellbeing,

Investment in production

In 2022, Mapei carried out numerous energy efficiency upgrades globally - from Europe to China and the United Arab Emirates. This included the installation of further photovoltaic panels that will enable the self-production of electricity from renewable sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated at the sites.

This investment has resulted in a reduction of emissions of about 880 tonnes. In addition, 93% of its purchased goods, in weight, are sourced from local supplies.

Putting people first

Alongside investment in workplace health and safety, training and agile working practices, Mapei has introduced numerous other company welfare initiatives, including solidarity leave and ethical hours deposit schemes. Its investment in people is reflected in numerous accolades, including listing among the world's best employers in 2022, according to the rankings compiled by Forbes in cooperation with Statista.

As well as investment in its own team, Mapei Academy organises events, seminars, webinars and training courses at its premises, at the client's premises and in collaboration with trade associations. In the sharing of knowledge, skills and tools, Mapei also raises further awareness of sustainability issues. It also contributes about €36m to sport, cultural and social initiatives, promoting growth, development and wellbeing throughout the regions in which it operates.

Made in the UK

In 2021, Mapei (UK) Limited was Carbon Reduce certified. Measured emissions of scopes 1, 2 and 3 are to ISO 14064-1: 2018. Annual Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report (SECR) is continually provided on the year-end financial reports as required by law for businesses of that size.

In addition, innovative flooring solutions manufactured in the UK at the Halesowen plant include: Ultrabond Eco TX3 adhesive for textile and linoleum floorings, Ultrabond Eco V4 Evolution – an all-in-one universal adhesive for resilient and textile floor and wall-coverings, and Ultrabond Eco Tack TX+ carpet tile tackifier.

All part of the Ultrabond Eco range, the adhesives are solvent-free and certified Emicode EC1 Plus (very low emissions of VOC). In 2023 Mapei also opened a new manufacturing site in Speke, Liverpool for the local production of admixtures for concrete.

To read Mapei's Seventh Sustainability Report, please visit https://www.mapei.com/it/en/about-us/sustainability-menu/sustainability-report

*CO^2 emissions measured throughout the lifecycle of products from the Zero line in 2024 using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology, verified and certified with EPDs, have been offset through the acquisition of certified carbon credits in support of forestry protection projects. A commitment to the planet, to people and to biodiversity.

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MILLIKEN

Milliken's sustainability initiatives

CLIMATE change is one of the greatest threats facing our planet. Milliken is committed to enabling customers to make more sustainable flooring choices. All Milliken floorcoverings are already carbon neutral thanks to the Company's M/PACT Programme. Milliken's sustainability journey continues with ambitious goals to reduce further any environmental impact.

M/PACT Carbon neutral programme

In the fight against climate change, Milliken's M/PACT Programme ensures that Milliken carpet, LVT, woven and entrance tile products are now carbon neutral, everywhere in the world.

While off-setting the full cradle-to-gate carbon footprint of all their floorcoverings, Milliken continue to innovate in product design and to invest in new technologies that will accelerate the shift to renewable energy.

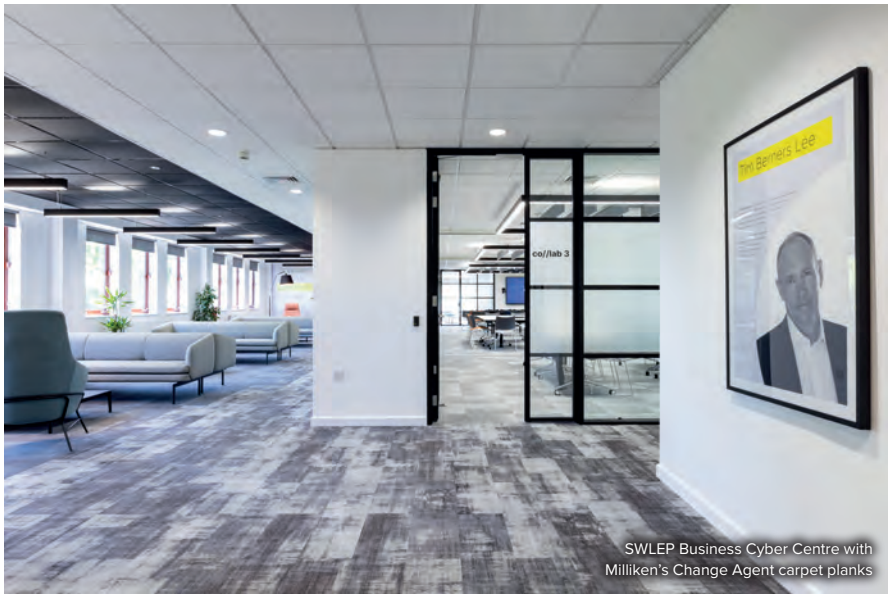
Product sustainability

Milliken supports the advancement of a circular economy - one that uses less raw materials and creates less waste.

Recycled content

Wherever possible, Milliken develops products with recycled content and locally sourced raw materials. Through a partnership with Healthy Seas, discarded fishing nets are recovered to make the high-quality Econyl yarn used in Milliken carpet tiles.

Milliken's innovative WellBAC Comfort and Comfort Plus carpet cushion backings are manufactured with 90% recycled polyurethane, while their primary backing materials are made from recycled materials such as PET bottles.



SWLEP Business Cyber Centre with Milliken's Change Agent carpet planks

Minimising waste

Ensuring products are not wastefully over-engineered, Milliken floor coverings are designed with face weights that optimise budgetary and performance requirements. For carpet, Milliken's innovative TractionBack 2.0 adhesive-free coating enables more cost and time efficient installation while eliminating unnecessary material waste.

Maximising product life

While light in weight, Milliken's renowned carpet cushion backings are engineered to maximise the useful life of carpet tiles allowing customers to benefit from 12- and 15-year wear warranties.

Responsible manufacturing

Reducing resource consumption is a vital component in Milliken's sustainability journey. With production processes that surpass regulatory compliance requirements, Milliken continues to drive down all forms of emissions, waste and pollution.

Milliken purchases electricity from 100% certified renewable sources and recycles their production waste. These efficiencies are reflected in Milliken floorcoverings' BRE Ratings which show a continual reduction in environmental impact. Milliken's operational successes now mean their facilities are benchmarked by thousands of companies worldwide.

Recyclability

Keeping unnecessary waste out of landfill is a key part of Milliken's environmental commitment. The Milliken Carpet Take Back Programme provides a non-landfill disposal solution and ensures that used carpet is recovered and managed in the most environmentally, socially and financially responsible way. Wherever possible, carpet is reused to capture its full value.

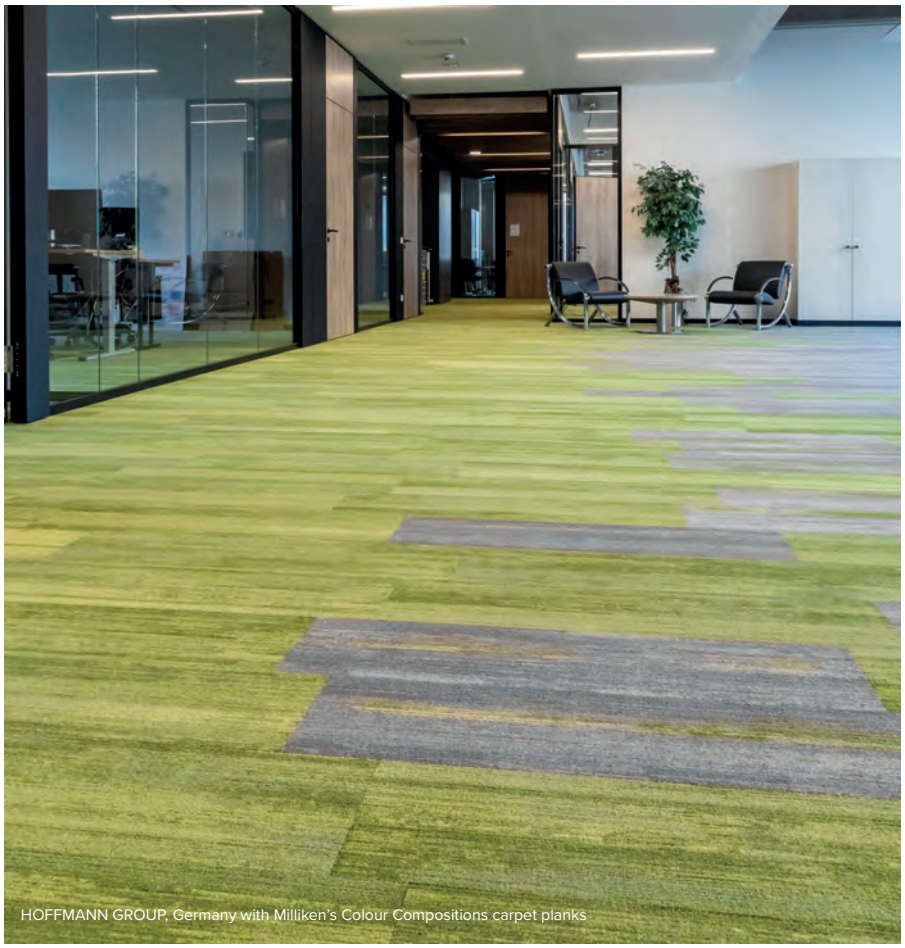
As a founder member of Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK), Milliken works with partners and other organisations across Europe to refurbish returned carpet tiles for use by voluntary sector organisations, small businesses and schools.

Milliken carpet is also downcycled into construction products and plastic composites. To further reduce global fossil fuel consumption, it can also be converted into a fuel source for use in other industries.

Third party certifications

Milliken has demonstrated a commitment to transparency by disclosing the ingredients of their floor coverings through Declare, a voluntary labelling program and database operated by the International Living Future Institute. Milliken's products comply with the Red List Imperative of the Living Building Challenge. Milliken uses Life Cycle Assessment methodologies, including BRE Environmental Profiles and EPDs, to design products that not only minimise their environmental impact but also help improve well-being and productivity by making the workplace healthier, happier and safer.

www.milliken.com


HOFFMANN GROUP, Germany with Milliken's Colour Compositions carpet planks

Sample books

MYTPLAST

The importance of first impressions in sustainability

IN today's world, where environmental consciousness is continually growing, sustainability has become a fundamental criterion in the selection of products and brands.

Product presentation must align with the sustainability standards sought by environmentally conscious companies and consumers. The flooring industry in particular requires both visually appealing and eco-conscious product presentations, reflecting the values of the brand and the production process.

Mytplast understands that first impressions matter, and in the context of sustainability, every detail counts. The materials used in the manufacture of sample books, folders and displays play a crucial role in their sustainability. Opting for recycled, renewable and eco-labelled source materials not only reduces environmental impact but also communicates a clear commitment to environmental protection.

In this context, Mytplast has emerged as a leader in sustainable sample display manufacturing. With a strong focus on eco-responsibility, our company has developed innovative solutions using certified materials and environmentally friendly production processes. Our efforts are reflected in the numerous sustainability certifications we have obtained, such as ISO 9001, as well as the sustainability labels offered. These labels are designed to display your company's environmental standards by identifying ecologically friendly materials and processes when creating your sample books.

According to Ramón Paricio, general manager of Mytplast, 'We recognise the importance of adopting sustainable practices in our industry. We are proud to contribute to the sustainability of the brands we collaborate with, offering product presentation solutions that are visually impactful all the while being respectful of the planet.'

Mytplast continues to lead the way towards a more sustainable future in the swatches, sample books and display cases industry, demonstrating that sustainability and product presentation can go hand in hand.

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Total contrast

PARAGON CARPET TILES

Paragon Carpet Tiles boosts design capacity and uses more recycled content

PARAGON Carpet Tiles, a leading UK manufacturer, announces a significant investment in a new machine to enhance its design capabilities. This investment coincides with the launch of their 'Elemental' collection, a line of four multi-level loop carpet tile designs inspired by the natural beauty of Yorkshire.

Demonstrating their commitment to sustainability, Paragon uses recycled material in the products wherever possible. Some of the company's ranges use 100% recycled yarn such as Total Contrast, which is manufactured using 'ECONYL' yarn, from its partner, Aquafil.

ECONYL is the brand name for Aquafil's recycled fishing nets or similar products, which the company rescues from oceans and landfill sites across the world. The ECONYL yarn is incredibly sustainable as it recovers waste which would otherwise end up in landfills or oceans, causing serious damage to the entire ecosystem. It also enables real savings in terms of emissions, compared to common Nylon 6, ECONYL fibre has almost 50% reduction in CO^2 per kilogram of yarn.

Specifying Paragon Carpet Tiles can be done with confidence, knowing that each one has been produced to the highest environmental standards and with intrinsic environmental qualities built-in.

Over 80% of Paragon Carpet Tiles' products are manufactured using recycled yarn. Alongside this, the company's specialised 'Envirobase' backing used on all its ranges is manufactured from a minimum of 75% recycled contents. The latex pre-coat backing also contains at least 75% of recycled material.

The company further reduces environmental impact through a robust take-back service for unopened boxes of tiles, encouraging reuse and recycling within their distribution network.

All of Paragon's commercial carpet tiles are designed with longevity and ease of maintenance in mind. Maximum through-life costings can be achieved by laying the tiles with F41 adhesive. This allows flooring contractors to replace tiles without damaging the subfloor, saving on material costs and reducing environmental waste associated with full floor replacements. This installation method also eliminates the 24-hour curing time required by traditional latexing, leading to faster project completion.

'At Paragon Carpet Tiles, we're passionate about combining innovative designs with a deep commitment to sustainability and efficiency,' said David Rhodes, MD at Paragon Carpet Tiles. 'Our Elemental collection embodies this approach, showcasing the beauty of our local environment while ensuring our products minimise their footprint.'

We showcased our latest product developments at Clerkenwell Design Week, (21-23 May 2024), where visitors to our showroom were invited to provide feedback on our latest product developments.

Earlier this year, Paragon were awarded Indoor Air Comfort Gold Certification, which is the best assurance that its products fulfil low product emissions requirements across Europe and comply with requirements for sustainable buildings such as LEED, BREEAM New Construction, DGNB, WELL Building and Italian CAM Edilizia. This prestigious product certification therefore demonstrates Paragon's unwavering commitment to providing high-quality carpet tiles that contribute to healthy indoor environments.

Paragon are committed to minimizing waste throughout the entire carpet life-cycle. That's why they offer a take-back service for any carpet that is replaced with Paragon Carpet Tiles. While a transport cost is associated with this service, it allows Paragon to responsibly collect and manage used carpet tiles. This helps divert waste from landfills and presents potential opportunities for future recycling initiatives.

For more information on the upcoming Elemental Collection, Paragon's sustainability efforts and EPD certificates, visit the website below.

www.paragon-carpets.co.uk

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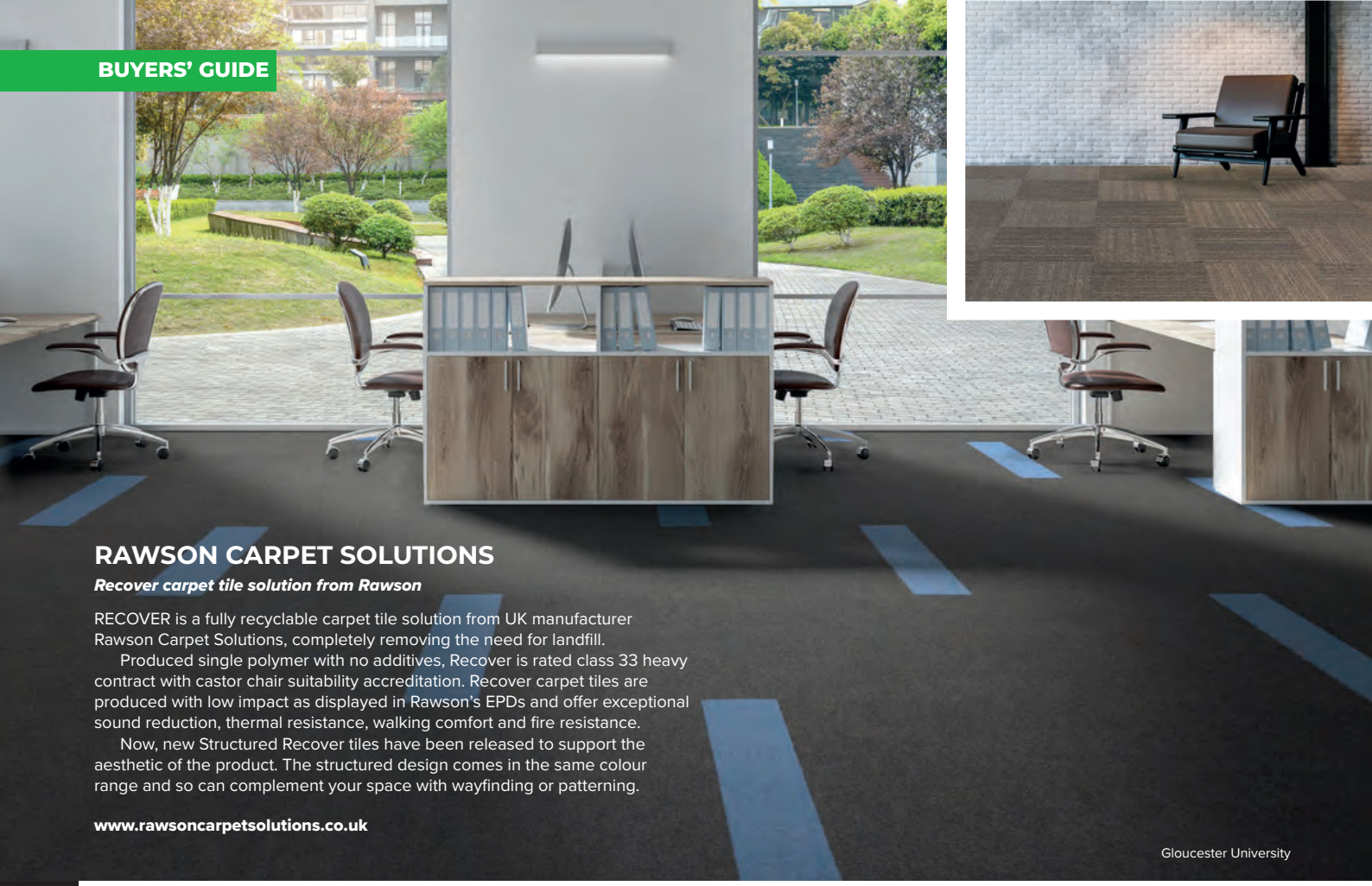

RAWSON CARPET SOLUTIONS

Recover carpet tile solution from Rawson

RECOVER is a fully recyclable carpet tile solution from UK manufacturer Rawson Carpet Solutions, completely removing the need for landfill.

Produced single polymer with no additives, Recover is rated class 33 heavy contract with castor chair suitability accreditation. Recover carpet tiles are produced with low impact as displayed in Rawson's EPDs and offer exceptional sound reduction, thermal resistance, walking comfort and fire resistance.

Now, new Structured Recover tiles have been released to support the aesthetic of the product. The structured design comes in the same colour range and so can complement your space with wayfinding or patterning.

www.rawsoncarpetsolutions.co.uk

Gloucester University

SHAW CONTRACT

Neutral is not enough

WHILE most of the interior and flooring industry has various solutions to meet the sustainability demands in the market, it's often so difficult to understand what companies are saying!

That is because the subject of sustainability is now so complex. Historically an environmental certification, some recycled content and a confident sustainability presentation or brochure from a manufacturer would suffice. Thankfully this position has evolved but now various companies and project teams have different priorities when it comes to sustainability criteria.

Carbon neutral, carbon negative, carbon positive, embodied carbon, operational carbon! Carbon has been driven hard as the key criteria to managing client's goal to meet Net Zero. This is understandable, but it can be confusing and is not the only measure.

Shaw Contract relaunched EcoWorx S carpet tile platform in June 2023 (a 20-year-old closed loop recycled innovation which is now made in the UK). All our carpet tiles utilise our own manufactured 100% recycled yarn which in turn reduces the GWP carbon impact, we then purchase a small amount of carbon offset to make the overall product carbon neutral.

Thankfully the evolution of EPDs (environmental product declarations) has ensured that what we say we do is third party verified.

Neutral is not enough though. Although it is a key demand the data associated to the recycled content of all aspects of the raw materials in our products are constantly being requested from us by designers and project teams.

Managing product data has huge responsibility because it can often be subject to change. How does the data remain updated? Who is responsible for its accuracy? Data management will continue to be one of the biggest challenges as a manufacturer we face.

Montage

EcoWorx S backing is Silver Cradle-to-Cradle certified and scores well across the various Cradle to Cradle ambitions. Luckily being an early adopter of Cradle-to-Cradle certification has meant that we also focus on the other key areas of the sustainability mix when developing products such as the EcoWorx S backing. Material Health, product circularity, social fairness, water & soil stewardship, clean air and climate protection are all C2C ambitions, that we are scored on.

EcoWorx S is taken back at the end of its life FREE of CHARGE and turned back in to carpet tile. Still most carpet tiles cannot be closed loop recycled like this, so the questions from clients and project teams is what do you do with other products? Can they be reused, what is the risk of this? How does it work?

Shaw Contract aim to launch a new version of our re[TURN] takeback scheme in the forthcoming months that answers some of these questions.

Then there is LVT. One of the fastest growing flooring platforms globally! Where the carpet tile market is used to takeback and despite LVT takeback schemes existing, surely managing a closed loop non-PVC LVT lifecycle is the only real way to ensure that we continue to drive innovation in the flooring market.

Sustainability demands, standards and products are evolving so quickly. With most clients driving to reach net zero it is important that we can communicate not just carbon but a more total picture. Showcasing examples of the day-to-day practical sustainability in action: the success stories and where possible back up all claims with independent third-party accreditation.

In the medium-term legislation will dictate that manufacturers are required to manage environmental, and sustainability claims more responsibly, and carbon credits potentially will be removed form use. Before long legislation might also dictate used flooring is taken back by all manufacturers.

Sustainability is now a key specification criteria and demand. We all have the responsibility to communicate the most comprehensive sustainability position.

Visit Shaw Contract showroom, 33 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DX or contact us on the below.

020 79614120
infouk@shawcontractgroup.com
www.shawcontract.com/en-gb

50 years of Ucrete

Aloysius College Hilversum

SIKA

Sustainable solutions without compromising performance

THERE's no concern more crucial today than the need to prevent climate change because, as Professor Mike Berners-Lee puts it, 'There is no Planet B'. Globally, Sika is among the growing number of businesses striving to make meaningful changes to its product portfolio and manufacturing operations before it is too late.

Sustainability is fast becoming a key factor in the purchasing process. Even those who aren't driven to operate sustainably because it's 'the right thing to do' may be forced to change their procurement policy or manufacturing practices to avoid missing out on business opportunities. Increasingly, specifiers and contractors may find customers demand sustainable products are used for their projects to help them meet their own sustainability commitments.

Doing the right thing

It's said we're often judged by the company we keep and when you choose a Sika product, you can be reassured you're partnering with a business that has always been a pioneer in supplying solutions that meet the highest environmental standards.

Sika actively aligns itself to the most rigorous green building certification standards including LEED and BREEAM. We have been rated Silver by EcoVadis in recognition of our business approach to sustainability and have committed to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

To get there we're focusing on education and capacity-building to improve material efficiency and circularity – the reuse of materials. We're accelerating the use of alternative low-carbon supplies, continuing to make operational efficiencies and partnering with key suppliers who support our goal. Building on their 118 new inventions in 2023, our teams of researchers at 104 technology centres worldwide continue to develop yet more innovative solutions for construction and industry.

Challenging targets

Far from being empty words, we've set ourselves some challenging targets. By 2028, we will make a 15% reduction in waste created and water discharged for every ton of product sold, measured against a 2023 baseline.

We've also set a goal to reduce absolute scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 20% compared to 2022 and to align Scope 3 emissions with our net zero pledge by 2050. Sika supports the Science Based Target initiative (SBTi) and following our official commitment in September 2022, we have developed and submitted our emissions reductions targets in line with the latest SBTi criteria in October 2023, with the validation process taking place in the first semester of 2024.

Going forward, as the first company in the speciality chemicals and building materials sector to develop and implement the Sustainability Portfolio Management (SPM) concept, all new products will be scientifically evaluated against 12 sustainability and six performance criteria.

As part of our drive to deliver more value with less impact on the environment, we're harnessing technology innovations to great effect. For instance, our cleanroom flooring systems release 1,000 times fewer harmful VOC emissions and particulates than standard low volatile organic compounds (VOC) systems.

Informed choices

To help customers, specifiers and contractors make informed choices, Sika has been publishing Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for our products since 2012. EPDs are third-party verified documents used to communicate the potential environmental impacts and benefits of products throughout their lifecycles based on quantitative Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) analysis. Our extensive EPD portfolio covers all our construction target markets, from roof to basement.

Sika is not just a supplier: we don't sell our products and walk away but advise on the best products for the job then remain on-hand to give technical advice to contractors on their application.

Reduced environmental impact

Wherever possible, we use a high proportion of renewable raw materials in our flooring systems to ensure low emissions and improve indoor air quality. Throughout the production process we continuously optimise our use of energy and proactively look for ways to reduce water consumption. Furthermore, unlike many competitor products, those in Sika's product range do not require any added solvents.

However, it's the durability and low VOC content of Sika products that makes the biggest contribution to limiting their impact.

For example, a Sika Ucrete floor is serviceable for the life of the building, needing only periodic refurbishment. It will never have to be removed or replaced. This has huge appeal for contractors who don't need to break out the old floor. It can simply be retopped after 10 years to maintain its finish – with less waste going to landfill and lower disposal costs as a result.

It's also a big win for the facility owner who never needs to halt around-the-clock production to install replacement flooring.

Ucrete's endurance is demonstrated by Magor Brewery in Monmouthshire, Wales, which produces popular global brands including Becks and Stella Artois. One of the UK's biggest breweries, producing some 8% of British beer, it is still benefiting from the original flooring installed in 1984!

With such a track record, it's perhaps unsurprising that we confidently back our own products, rather than use insurance-backed warranties.

Through all our products, systems and solutions, Sika strives to create long-term benefits and added value for all our stakeholders, while reducing resource consumption and the impacts associated with production processes.
Join us on the journey.

www.sika.com/en/fundamentals/sika-sustainability-strategy/way-to-net-zero.html

www.sika.com

CASA Aton FX Umbra Grey Hipster Restaurant

SNICKERS WORKWEAR

The anatomy of sustainable workwear

By BEN STACEY, Snickers Workwear product specialist

WITH the global economy producing over 100 billion garments a year, it's little wonder the clothing industry has had such a debilitating effect on the environment for so long. Experts estimate that the industry's climate impact ranges from 4% to 10% of overall global carbon emissions, so there's no getting away from the fact that it has been a major contributor to climate change and biodiversity loss through production processes and the use of fossil-based synthetics. That's why the sustainability efforts of clothing manufacturers and their supply chains are crucial to our planet's wellbeing.

While consumers are increasingly demanding an emphasis on sustainability from fashion brands, short-life throwaway clothing is very much under the environmental spotlight. The retail clothing industry is becoming increasingly immersed in the effects on our climate through the actions of high-intensity fashion buyers and the leading workwear manufacturers are also focussing on the problems caused by poor quality, eco-unfriendly workwear.

Poor quality fabrics produce a short lifecycle with these garments heading for landfill rather than being part of the drive towards circular business models and climate-friendly user satisfaction.

Mintel's report on the Sustainable Fashion Market Outlook has observed that the cost of living crisis has played a part in helping consumers adopt more sustainable buying choices. Inflationary pressures have led people to buy fewer clothing items, shopping less frequently as well as choosing more durable, better quality pieces.

As a result, 52% of consumers claim that rising prices have made them more aware of sustainable clothing, while sales of pre-loved clothing in charity outlets and through online retailers are increasing.

When it comes to workwear however, pre-loved Jackets and Work Trousers are not always an option, thus well-informed, sustainable buying choices by individuals and businesses alike are increasingly important.

Trousers

What is sustainable clothing? In short, it's a catch-all term for clothes that are manufactured in a way that can be 'sustained'. That is, by using processes which safeguard not only the environment but also those people that work in the manufacturing industries. Says British Vogue, 'That's why cutting CO^2 emissions, addressing overproduction, reducing pollution and waste, supporting biodiversity, and ensuring that garment workers are paid a fair wage and have safe working conditions, are all crucial to the sustainability matrix'.

'Buy less and buy better' are its watchwords. Which is why Eco-Age's chief strategy officer Harriet Vocking advises that before making a purchase, you ask yourself three all-important questions: 'What are you buying and why? What do you really need? Will you wear it at least 30 times?'

Durability means sustainability

Multiple use workwear pieces should therefore rely on durable good quality fabrics to ensure a sustainable lifecycle. While durability has always been part of the Snickers Workwear DNA, refinements in its fabric technologies are now at the heart of the brand's sustainability philosophy.

In essence, the brand believes that the longer Snickers Workwear clothing lasts, the less environmental impact it has.

This fundamental insight has become the cornerstone of the brand's sustainability efforts to uphold both social and environmental accountability, while the less durable, poorer quality clothing peddled by other brands in the name of 'value' continues to contribute to our climate issues.

Durability means sustainability
The longer our clothes last, the less impact they have.

Committed to the UN Paris Agreement, Snickers Workwear's sustainability planning is focussed on continuous improvement in two key areas – Materials Technology; Standards and Targets

The brand makes no apologies for using the highest quality materials in ensuring its clothing lasts as long as possible. Its policy is to replace conventional fabrics with better and more sustainable alternatives to reduce its environmental footprint.

The brand is replacing conventional materials with more sustainable alternatives such as Preferred Fibres like REPREVE and SORONA. As well as recycling man-made nylon and polyester fabrics to create new Preferred Fibres as well as supporting the 'Better Cotton initiative' to improve cotton farming globally.

Snickers Workwear is committed to sourcing 40% of all garment fibres as Preferred Fibres by 2023, and as much as 70% by 2030. Business decision making is based on established methods and standards, calculating company emissions using the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, while ongoing Life Cycle Assessments on every product help identify areas of improvement.

As part of the Hultafors Group, corporate climate targets have been set in line with the 1.5deg C pathway of the Paris Agreement and high standards have been implemented for the brand's supply chain to ensure that every single item of Snickers Workwear clothing is produced responsibly. Partners and suppliers are carefully selected, and each must have processes in place for environmental due diligence and transparency.

Suppliers are required to adhere to the group's Code of Conduct (CoC). It's based on accepted international standards to ensure fair, safe, and healthy working conditions, as well as maintaining eco responsibility across its entire business network. It therefore fosters cooperation with a single purpose in a rapidly changing environmental landscape - gaining new insights, sharing learnings, and encouraging the industry as a whole to commit to the pathway of the Paris Agreement to creating positive energy in sustaining a better world for all.

www.snickersworkwear.com

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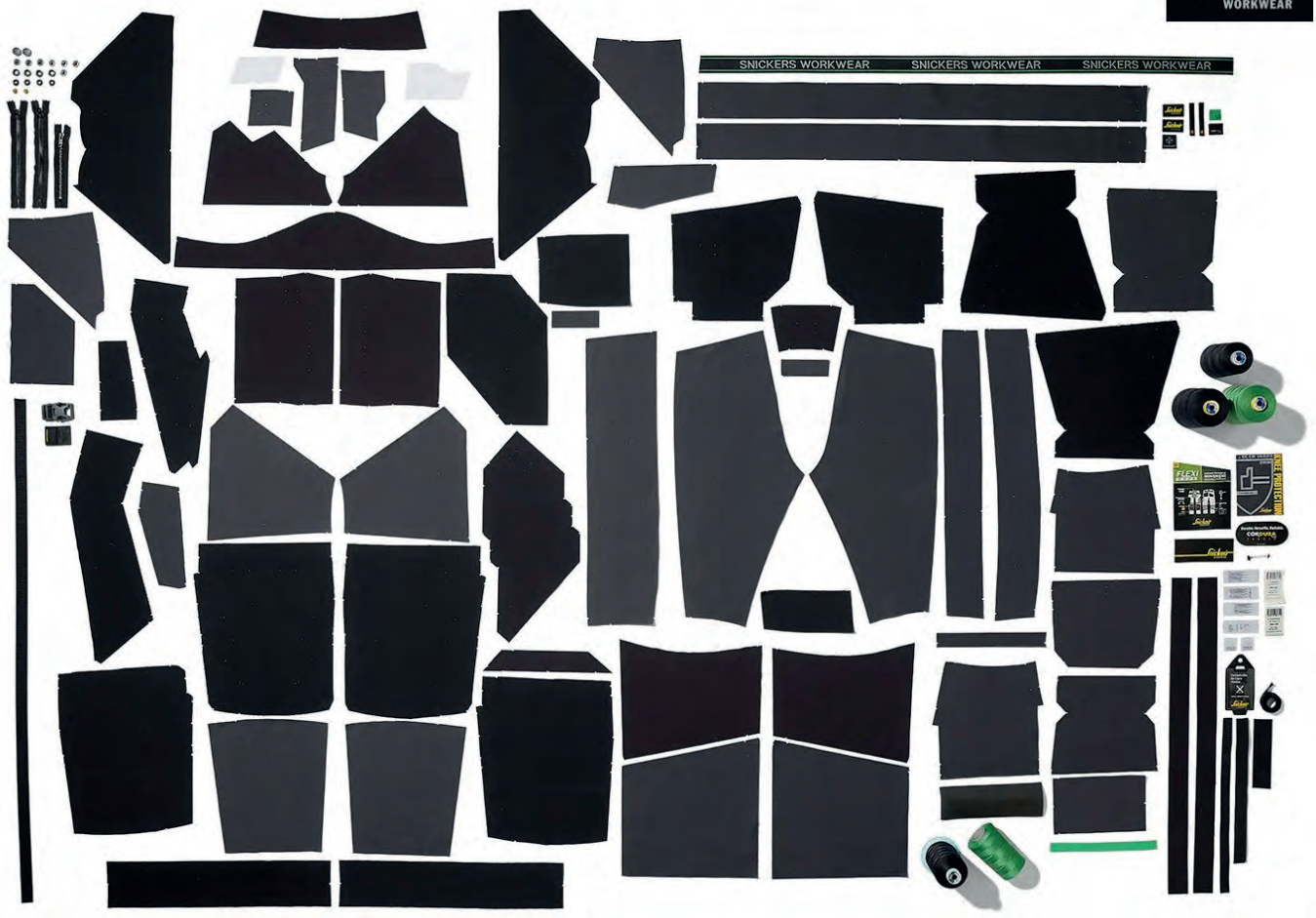


SNICKERS WORKWEAR

The DNA of sustainable Snickers Workwear work trousers

By MARGARITA KLEINHOFA, Snickers Workwear, senior product developer

HERE I'll outline how one of Snickers Workwear's most iconic products – the FlexiWork Work Trousers – are made for long-lasting durability.

The physical makeup of sustainable Work Trousers benefits from processes of continuous improvement at Snickers Workwear with a focus on fabric durability to ensure it is maximising product performance, user satisfaction and a sustainable product lifecycle.

In just one pair of long-lasting FlexiWork Trousers there are 64 individual pieces of fabric from 6 different types, plus 46 additional components like buttons, buckles and labels. It's a complex process combining it all through 184 production steps over 122 production minutes with 59.19 meters of cutting perimeter and 40 000 stitches.

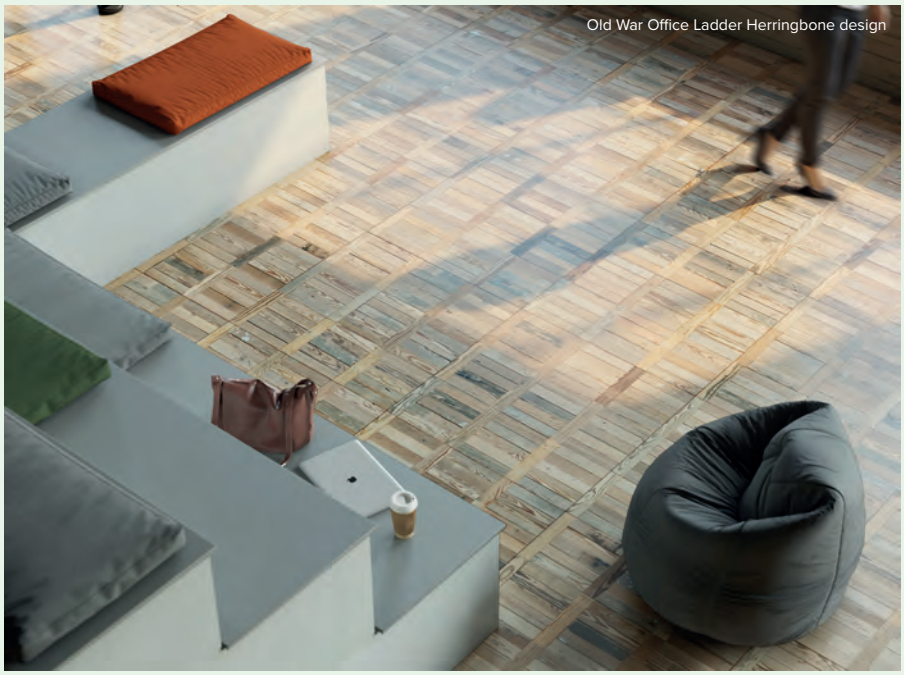
64 pieces of fabric in one pair of trousers, why so many?
The human body is complex and to be able to offer the wearer maximum comfort and mobility, we need to construct a shape that follows the body's contours, whatever an individual's size. We also want to maximize the ergonomics and durability of the trousers to ensure longevity. If you want them to last, it's important to wear the right size and style that fits your body shape. A pair of properly fitting trousers will work with you, following your every move, no matter your working position.

What about the choice of fabric, thread and seams?
In building a pair of Work Trousers, fabric has a major impact on product performance and lifecycle as well as comfort and durability. We always consider several options of fabrics and test them both individually and in combination before starting the production process. The fabrics we choose influence the choice of thread use and we also have specifications for every seam in every garment, as well as rules for stitching to ensure the Trousers last.

So, what's 'the secret' behind a good pair of sustainable Work Trousers?
It's so much more than simply sewing pieces of fabric together. 50 years' experience of positive energy in workwear development drives us to embrace sustainability. It brings together the best in market-leading design capabilities with a clear understanding of how new fabric technologies and sustainable raw materials can be combined to produce durable, ergonomic Work Trousers tailored to suit every working environment and weather condition.

Check out the video at https://www.snickersworkwear.com/list/stories/how-sww-trousers-are-made

www.snickersworkwear.com


Old War Office Ladder Herringbone design

TED TODD

Karta: The plastic-free flooring revolution

SUSTAINABILITY is no longer a choice; it's a necessity. Low impact, zero waste projects are a goal we all should be aiming to achieve. However, with budget limitations, shortening installation timelines and more discerning clients than ever, we understand that sometimes all these expectations can feel hard to reach...

Introducing: Karta. From the creators of world renown wood flooring manufacturers Ted Todd and Woodworks, their latest flooring innovation has been expertly developed to push the boundaries of both environmental impact and design.

Karta floors are a brand new, one-of-a-kind solution. Created from 100% natural material, Karta is the latest addition to the Ted Todd family. Unlike Ted Todd Fine Wood Floors and Woodworks, Karta's floors are not engineered or solid wood, but a pioneering combination of biodegradable material that would otherwise become waste.

This latest innovation combines layers of wood fibre, cork and even leather (a byproduct of the shoe industry that otherwise would be waste) to deliver a floor that is warm underfoot, hard wearing and, quick and easy to install. The designs of the floors are all inspired by the real wood archives of its big brothers at Ted Tood and Woodworks. This means Karta floors are in an unparalleled position to offer hyper-realistic wood-looking floors, created entirely sustainably, at a more accessible price point.

Previously, only LVT and plastic-produced floors could offer a similar – albeit inferior – solution. Now, there's no need to compromise on sustainability or design when seeking a floor to match your project's budget.

Hello Karta, goodbye plastic

As the flooring industry undergoes a transformative revolution, Karta leads the charge, waving goodbye to plastics with its aesthetically appealing and eco-friendly flooring solutions.

This is the natural next step for Ted Todd, whose family of sustainable flooring brands are set to rival the price points and easy installation only previously seen in man-made, plastic based floors.

Ted Todd are on a mission to create a greener future. At the core of their ethos, they believe in complete sustainability. Every step of the production process is carefully planned to ensure that every aspect of Karta flooring contributes to a greener world.

'At Karta, our mission is to provide a sustainable, innovative, and effortlessly installed flooring solution that transcends traditional norms' says founder and CEO, Robert Walsh. 'This year we celebrate 30 years of innovation, and Karta is the natural next step for us. Karta goes beyond the limitations of traditional vinyl flooring, offering a renewable alternative that champions durability, comfort, and environmental consciousness.'


Locoworks Wide Plank


Vodka Oak Ladder Herringbone design

This diverse collection of eco-conscious designs reflects the Ted Todd family's commitment to authenticity and innovation, ensuring that every customer finds a flooring solution that aligns with their unique style and values. From reclaimed woods steeped in history to photo-realistic natural designs, Karta offers more than just flooring; it offers a promise of a greener, more sustainable tomorrow.

Bid farewell to plastics and embark on a revolutionary journey towards a greener future with these brand-new floors made especially for responsible interiors. Karta showcases a brand where innovation and eco-responsibility grow in unison. Through their commitment to environmental responsibility and their dedication to pushing the boundaries of technology, they ask you to join them in shaping a world where sustainability isn't just a choice but a way of life, for a healthier life.

0808 5017321
info@kartafloors.com
www.kartafloors.com

TEXFELT

Why we're proud of our sustainability story

ECO-CREDENTIALS are moving much further up the thought process with all decision makers but so are performance expectations. 'The overall trend is that people are looking for products that are better for the environment but critically must perform to the same or better standard as previous options,' says Danny Shortall, sales director at Texfelt.

'The company had a record year in 2023 with their flagship Springbond underlay, 85% of which is made up from recycled polyester including plastic bottles. It's sustainable, chemical free and virtually VOC free which has earned an endorsement by Allergy UK and winning several flooring innovation awards.'

But what about performance? Springbond is not only super consistent (no lumps or bumps) but up to five times stronger than typical PU underlays. 'We are proud of our sustainability story but the starting point for us is we make a fantastic product that outperforms equivalent PU underlays over the medium and longer term.

'We are moving aggressively into the commercial sector and will be increasing our focus on export opportunities around the world. Our partnership with The Royal Atlantis in Dubai where we supplied Springbond to all 1,500 plus bedrooms has stimulated other opportunities as brands look to partner with highly sustainable and high performance products.'

Danny concludes: 'Springbond is well on track to deliver another record year despite some softening in the market. We are seeing an increase in our product being specified for commercial opportunities in the UK and internationally. Having ISO14001 and having a BRE Global Verified EPD certainly gives us an advantage and we will be looking to build on these achievements and become the clear market leader for a high performance, highly sustainable underlay.'

www.texfelt.co.uk

Instarmac transport

ULTRAFLOOR

Leading the way for green manufacturing

LEVELS of carbon dioxide are at a worryingly all-time high. While CO^2 is an essential element to the survival of plants and animals, too much CO^2 has a catastrophic impact on the environment.

In March 2023, CO^2 levels were recorded at 420.74 parts per million – scarily, the highest average ever recorded.

As a manufacturer, UltraFloor know they have responsibility to be as sustainable as possible. Sustainability and environmental impact has always been a high priority for everyone at UltraFloor and with that in mind, they have introduced several environmental initiatives, all with the aim of reducing their environmental impact.

UltraFloor pride themselves on their sustainability practices and all of their high-performance subfloor preparation materials are produced at their world-class manufacturing facilities in Tamworth, Staffordshire.

'Having as little impact on the environment as possible is behind every decision I make about the running of our production facility. In the last year alone, I am proud to say that we have introduced further initiatives which includes installing 3 new compressors and a new X8i Compressor System Controller which constantly monitors the system and manages them to only produce the air required,' says Paul Evans, works director at Instarmac Group.

The environmental improvements to UltraFloor's manufacturing and office facilities do not end there. In recent years, UltraFloor have invested over £420,000 to install 3,771sq m of solar panels at their Tamworth-based premises. The power generated by the high specification solar panels is converted into electricity for use at their site saves at least 36,000 kw per month.

UltraFloor is helping its customers reduce its own carbon footprint with the introduction of Level IT Hydra Bond and Level IT Multi Pro. The first of their kind, these unrivalled smoothing underlayments utilise UltraFloor's unique EnviroBead Technology in their formulation which means every bag of Level IT Hydra Bond and Level IT Multi Pro contains 20% recycled material.


Sustainable practices

What's more, all UltraFloor plastic bottles are now made from 100% recycled material, which can also be recycled – a huge step forward for UltraFloor and the flooring industry as a whole.

UltraFloor's subfloor preparation products are delivered to customers on their 37 strong, privately owned fleet which now includes seven CNG lorries. The introduction of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles has resulted in a reduction of CO^2 emissions by 100 tonnes per truck. UltraFloor are fully committed to using fuel alternatives and have a further 10 CNG lorries on order, and due to be delivered during 2024.

UltraFloor acknowledge that diesel isn't great for the environment and that's why every diesel vehicle in their fleet features AdBlue. AdBlue is an additive which is used alongside diesel to reduce mono-nitrogen oxide emissions produced by the exhausts of vehicles. AdBlue transforms the harmful mono-nitrogen toxins in diesel into nitrogen and water vapour reducing the negative impact vehicle emissions have on the environment.

Are pallets taking up space in your yard? UltraFloor can take them back. Their experienced drivers can collect your unwanted pallets and return them to UltraFloor to be recycled or reused. Since 2021, UltraFloor Drivers collected approximately 28,466 pallets. That's 366 tonnes of wood which has saved around 3,558 trees.

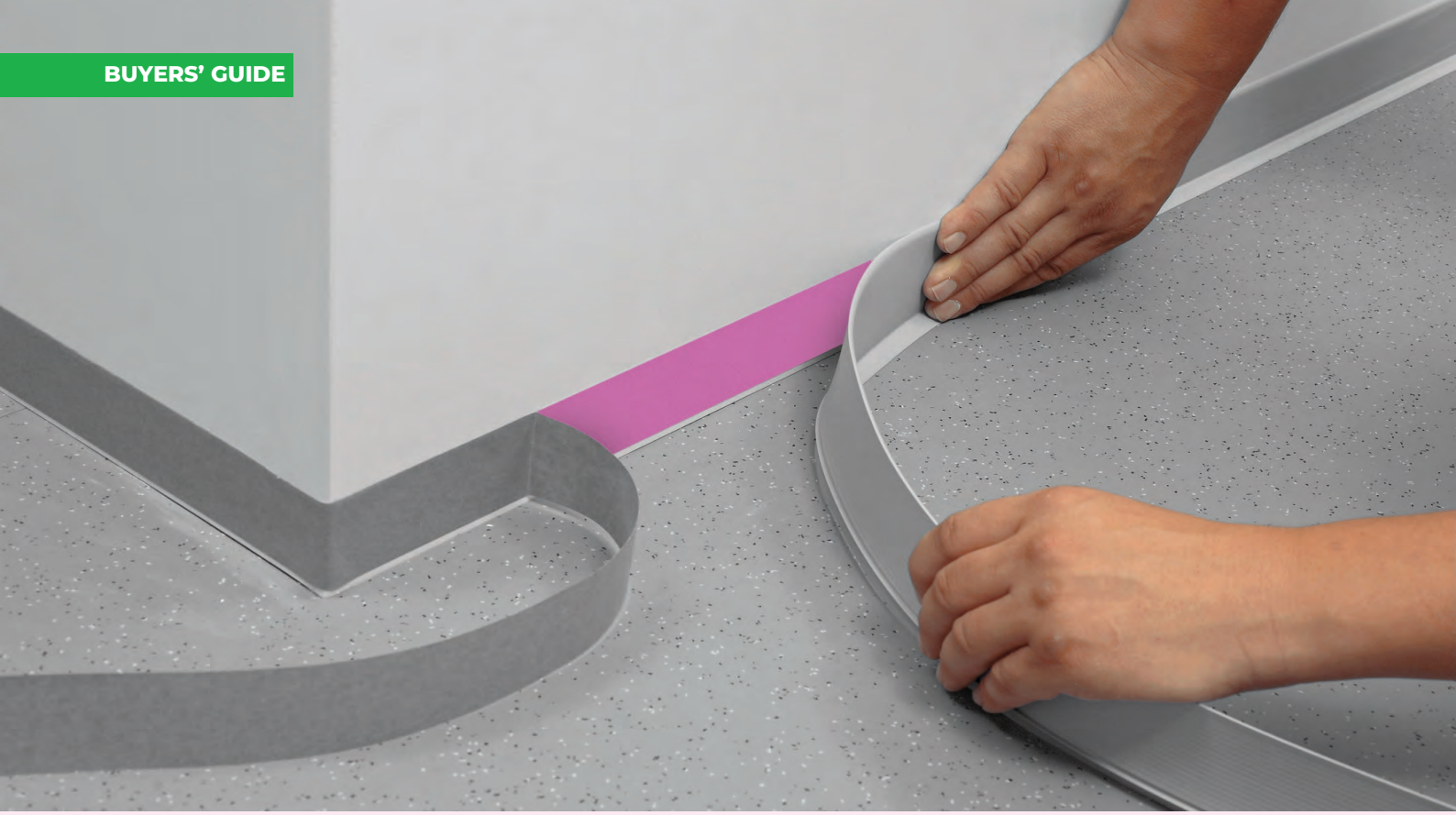
Other initiatives successfully implemented at UltraFloor include intelligent lighting, a grey water system and climate control. They have also proudly been zero waste to landfill since 2014 – this means 100% of manufacturing waste is recycled and not send to landfill.

UltraFloor's environmental practices have been acknowledged by ISO 14001 – an independent accreditation which UltraFloor have been awarded for the past 15 years. The ISO standard allow UltraFloor to reflect a good level of professionalism and demonstrates best practice.

This accreditation is a great accomplishment for UltraFloor as it shows their customers, the supply chain, and the flooring industry as a whole, their intent to continually improve all aspects of their business and how committed they are to providing sustainable solutions.

Find out more about UltraFloor's environmental commitments for the future by visiting www.instarmac.co.uk to download a copy of their environmental and social responsibility report.

www.ultra-floor.co.uk



UZIN

Sustainability tips for flooring contractors

SUSTAINABILITY has been an important topic at UZIN since the 1980s when we launched our first solvent-free adhesive. Creating healthier and more environmentally friendly products has been a priority ever since. We have also developed and embraced sustainable initiatives throughout our business. There are many ways to help improve sustainability in the flooring industry, and we've put together six top tips.

Use solvent-free products
Solvent-based products pollute the air with volatile organic compounds and can harm the user unless suitable PPE (personal protective equipment) is worn. Products with EMICODE EC1 Plus are solvent-free, very low emission, and guarantee excellent indoor air quality.

They also provide the highest possible protection against emissions. However, solvent adhesives are still often used to install skirting. A safer and easier method to install skirting, capping and coving is with UZIN Remur tape, which provides a durable bond, preventing shrinkage and gapping.

Use gypsum-based smoothing compounds
Gypsum smoothing compounds have a naturally better carbon footprint than cementitious smoothing compounds, as the gypsum binder creates less CO^2 when produced. Reducing the carbon footprint of cementitious smoothing compounds without affecting their technical performance is also a significant challenge. If possible, use a gypsum smoothing compound rather than a cement-based smoothing compound.

Choose products with recycled packaging
Cardboard packaging is an alternative to plastic bottles and is considerably better for the environment. Cube It Simple boxes are made from recycled cardboard and are recyclable. A box uses 85% less plastic waste than a plastic bottle, as only the inner liner and cap are plastic. It also uses 77% less CO^2 because more weight and units are on a pallet. As a result, transportation is reduced, and less CO^2 is discharged.

Choose products which produce less CO^2
Use UZIN products with the ECO2 CHOICE logo. UZIN has increased the proportion of raw materials from bio-based origins in some of its products without altering the quality. The combination of renewable resources and fossil fuels, compared to fossil fuels alone, significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Your CO^2 footprint would, therefore, be lower than if you were to use similar products.

UZIN is committed to sustainability

Install PVC-free floorcoverings
Making PVC through a chemical reaction between chlorine, carbon, and ethylene releases harmful chemicals and environmental pollutants. PVC-free flooring is, therefore, better for the environment, and many manufacturers include recycled materials within their PVC-free floors. UZIN KE 2000 S pressure-sensitive adhesive can be used to install PVC-free floors.

Install underfloor heating
The proportion of underfloor heating systems used in flooring installations has risen sharply. Buildings can be heated without gas when underfloor heating is combined with solar panels and air-source heat pumps. It helps reduce CO^2 emissions and saves energy. UZIN works closely with various manufacturers of underfloor heating systems and offers tailored product systems.

https://uk.uzin.com/

And taking the gold...

Hardwood flooring is probably the flooring industry's champion choice in the face of global warming, says Richard Aylen, technical manager, Junckers

TAKE a look at the construction press and you will see a constant drive to improve sustainability. We have already made substantial gains in reducing energy use and the operational carbon associated with it and attention is now falling upon embodied carbon, which is present in every building material we use.

For anyone new to the term, embodied carbon is the carbon that is bound up in the building material itself; both naturally occurring and from the energy and resources needed for manufacture and transport. We can measure the effect of energy use on global warming, and we can similarly measure the effect of embodied carbon.

Hardwood floors, and sustainably sourced timber generally are among the best choices you can make to reduce embodied carbon in buildings. This is why you will also see steel and concrete structures being replaced by timber, and cross laminated timber being used for floor slabs and similar applications.

But what is it about timber that is so special? The answer lies in the fact that trees collect carbon when they are growing and store it up for the lifespan of the wood. The process of removing carbon from the atmosphere reduces global warming.

Any timber product including wooden floors, has a finite life span of course, but the longer the product's life the greater the benefit to global warming. A solid wood floor can last 60 to 100 years. Engineered wood floors have a thinner top layer and a far shorter lifespan, but still provide 'carbon capture' for their lives. But what happens to the carbon when the floor reaches the end of its life?

Normally the timber will either decompose or be incinerated, which releases the carbon that the tree had stored up.

On this basis timber is 'carbon neutral', in the long term neither increasing nor decreasing the total amount of carbon in the environment. Not all materials are neutral in this way, and I'll come onto that later.

But we can often do better than simply saying that timber is carbon neutral because there are ways that the carbon from redundant hardwood floors can still be retained after the floor has been taken up. Repurposing a reclaimed floor for use in another building is one way this can happen. If the floor is completely life-expired it may decompose and in fact a lot of recycled timber is used for wood chips for external landscaping.

When the chips eventually decompose the carbon continues to be stored in the soil, which does not increase global warming. In this context you can say that using timber will actually reduce global warming - a claim that few building products can make.

Using waste wood for biofuel in a wood burning power station will release the carbon back into the environment but will not increase the overall amount of carbon in the environment because the amount of released carbon will be no greater that the tree originally stored - so a 'carbon neutral' situation arises.

End of life carbon accounting for timber is in fact a highly complex issue for environmental consultants, with different outcomes depending upon the eventual fate of the wood waste. The bottom line though is that timber is one of the most sustainable choices you can make.

The most detrimental effect upon global warming happens when we take carbon from sources that otherwise would remain locked up and release it into the environment. This is why we are focusing upon breaking free from our long reliance upon oil, gas and coal, and all their derivatives.

We're looking for alternative energy sources of course, but global warming can still increase if we use fossil oil based products such as plastics.

By extracting oil, turning it into plastics and then disposing of those plastics by incineration or by long term degradation we are putting 'new' carbon into the environment that would otherwise remain benign. In the flooring industry this is an issue for manufacturers of synthetic products such as carpets and vinyl. The limited ability to recycle plastics more than once relegates recycling to being only a short term strategy for this part of our industry.

Simply planting more trees to offset our use of fossil derived materials is not a viable option as this would need to happen on an unimaginable scale.

Tree planting schemes are often used for carbon offsetting because of the way that growing trees collect and store carbon. Manufacturers who are unable to reduce their effect on global warming can use carbon offsetting schemes to balance the environmental damage they are causing.

It's important to remember though, that it is generally accepted that offsetting can only really be used as a temporary strategy to allow companies to reduce their environmental impact whilst they adopt less environmentally damaging processes and materials.

Timber and tree planting, and by association, timber floors, when they are sustainably sourced, are very much seen as a solution to global warming rather than a cause.

www.junckers.co.uk

> *Hardwood floors, and sustainably sourced timber generally are among the best choices you can make to reduce embodied carbon in buildings*

GLOSSARY

HELPING YOU NAVIGATE THE SUSTAINABILITY JUNGLE

We know from feedback received after publication of last year's Guide that the Glossary of terminology used around the sustainability topic was much appreciated. It is undoubtedly true that, while the fundamentals of climate change may be relatively straightforward, the science behind it is not, and the acronyms and jargon associated with our efforts to deal with it can confuse further. We've pulled together some of the terminology and organisations that you are likely to come across, as you try to bring into effect environmental improvements in your own business.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – regulations to create and improve natural habitats by which developers must deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10%. From April 2024 this now affects small sites and will affect nationally significant infrastructure projects from November 2025. There is a 'biodiversity net gain hierarchy' which outlines three ways to improve biodiversity on-site, off-site and through statutory biodiversity credits.

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain

BREEAM – the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method is the world's first sustainability rating scheme for the built environment and has contributed much to the strong focus in the UK on sustainability in building design, construction and use. A BREEAM assessment is voluntary but may be required for some planning approvals.

https://www.breeam.com

Carbon neutral – carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. This matters because carbon dioxide (CO_2) is the major greenhouse gas (causes global warming). Deforestation and any burning of fossil fuels (as in transport or manufacturing) releases CO_2 into the atmosphere. The UN's main climate goal is to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, in order to limit temperature rise to 1.5C.

https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/articles/2020-12-11/carbon-neutrality-2050-the-world's-most-urgent-mission

Circular economy – the concept of keeping materials within the economy at the highest level of value for the longest time possible. Although recycling is part of the circular economy, it also aims to reuse products as much as possible, which is why design of flooring products for reuse is important in our sector.

https://cfa.org.uk/userfiles/files/Zero%20Avoidable%20Waste%20in%20Flooring%20-%20A%20Scoping%20Study.pdf

CISUFLO (Circular Sustainable Floorcoverings) – A collaborative European project which is working on new technologies and products to improve materials' recovery and drive the flooring sector in Europe towards a circular economy. The overall goal is to minimise the environmental impact of the flooring sector, by setting up a systemic framework for circular and sustainable floor coverings taking into account both technical feasibility and socio-economic factors. The CFA is one of four trade association partners.

https://www.cisuflo.eu

Climate Change Act – the UK passed its Climate Change Act in 2008, and was the first country to do so. The Act aspired to an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. In 2019 this was changed to 100% reduction by 2050, compared to 1990.

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents

Co2nstruct Zero – the Construction Leadership Council's response to the Government's Green Industrial Revolution proposals set out in November 2020. The Co2nstruct Zero programme includes nine priorities, covering Transport, Buildings and Construction Activity.

https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/workstream/co2nstructzero/

COP29 – the 29th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024. COP27 was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022 and COP28 was held in Expo City, Dubai in December 2023.

https://unfccc.int/cop29

Cradle to cradle – cradle to cradle (C2C) certification is the global standard for products that are safe, circular and responsibly made. Certification is carried out by the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute.

https://c2ccertified.org

Cradle to grave – the principle that the originator of a product is responsible for a product right the way from its creation through to its disposal. This is therefore the principle that underlies end of life recovery schemes which exist in other industries (such as the vehicle industry) but are yet to become established in flooring.

https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Cradle-to-grave

Embodied carbon – the CO_2 emissions associated with materials and construction processes throughout the whole lifecycle of a product or building. It includes any CO_2 created during the manufacturing of building materials (material extraction, transport to manufacturer, manufacturing), the transport of those materials to the job site, and the construction practices used.

https://www.carboncure.com/concrete-corner/what-is-embodied-carbon/

EPD – an Environmental Product Declaration is a report which provides a 'life cycle' description of a product, focussing on its environmental impact. EPDs fit within an international EPD system which itself operates within ISO and EN standards. EPDs are logged on an international website.

https://www.environdec.com

EPR for Packaging – Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (EPR) will be phased in from 2024 and will move the full cost of dealing with packaging waste on to the packaging producers, applying a 'polluter pays principle' and making producers responsible for the costs of their packaging throughout its life cycle. This will encourage producers to reduce their use of packaging and use types of packaging which are easier to recycle. Packaging producers will pay more for less sustainable packaging, incentivising types that use less material and are easier to recycle. Producers will also be expected to meet ambitious new recycling targets and use clear unambiguous labelling of recyclability to assist consumers.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1063589/epr-consultation-government-response.pdf

EPR for Construction Products – there has been discussion regarding the suitability of Extended Producer Responsibility for construction products. The goal would be to incentivise manufacturers to consider durability, reparability and end of life as part of the product design. The topic features in one of the CPA's Sustainability Discussion Papers.

https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/resource-efficiency-zero-avoidable-waste-and-the-circular-economy/applying-epr-in-the-construction-products-sector-discussion-paper/

ESG – Environmental, Social, and Governance refers to a set of factors considered when taking a holistic view to sustainability. It is used as a framework to account for the impacts of companies on people, business and the environment, and provides a way to measure business risks and opportunities in those areas.

https://commercial.allianz.com/news-and-insights/expert-risk-articles/esg-construction-industry.html

Future Homes Standard – a UK Government initiative which involves changes to Part L (energy conservation) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations as they apply to new buildings. The new regs are designed to ensure that new homes produce 75–80% less carbon emissions than current regulations permit. Currently, almost a quarter of UK carbon emissions come from buildings, the vast majority from residential homes. The target will be achieved mainly by making the insulation standards more rigorous. It involves a 'fabric first' approach, which means that poor building insulation cannot be compensated for by the addition of heat pumps etc. The first change, a 31% carbon reduction, came into effect June 2022, with the full Future Homes Standard coming into effect in 2025.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings

Future Homes Hub – an industry-driven response to the Future Homes Standard which provides resources for housebuilders to enable the sector to become environmentally positive.

https://www.futurehomes.org.uk

Greenwashing – advertising or marketing which is deceptively used to persuade the public that an organisation's products, aims and policies are more environmentally friendly than is the case.

https://nbs.net/how-to-avoid-greenwashing/

Heat & Buildings Strategy – the Heat and Buildings strategy came out in October 2021, one of many strategies published by the Government prior to COP26. It forms part of the Government's plan to deliver net zero by 2050 by gradually reducing the carbon emissions of the UK's 30 million homes and workplaces.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-and-buildings-strategy

ISO Net Zero Guidelines – published at COP27, these Guidelines from the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) are designed for all organisations working to deliver net zero pledges and are intended to improve international alignment and combat greenwashing.

https://www.iso.org/netzero

ISO 50005:2021 – an ISO Standard which provides guidelines to support and simplify the implementation of an energy management system for SMEs.

https://www.iso.org/standard/76428.html

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is the most widely used green building rating system in the world.

https://www.usgbc.org/leed

Low Emission or Clean Air Zones – Low Emission Zones (LEZs), also known as Clean Air Zones (CAZs), are areas in major cities where drivers of more polluting vehicles must pay to drive through to encourage more environmentally friendly transportation. There are 4 tiers – Class A, B, C and D – with different levels of restrictions. Class B, C and D include heavy goods vehicles and Class C and D include vans

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/driving-in-a-clean-air-zone

Net zero – achieving net zero would mean that the amount of greenhouse gas emitted to the atmosphere is balanced by the amount removed.

www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition

Net Zero Review – published in January 2023, this report led by MP Chris Skidmore sought to make the link between opportunities for economic growth and net zero aspirations. It took evidence from the construction sector, including input from the CFA.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/net-zero-review-uk-could-do-more-to-reap-economic-benefits-of-green-growth

Paris Agreement – COP 21, held in Paris in 2015, agreed the target of limiting global warming to 1.5C compared to pre-industrial levels. This is a United Nations agreement and is legally binding. It is hoped to achieve this goal by attaining Net Zero by 2050.

https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement

Part L and Part F – parts of the UK Building Regulations which relate to energy efficiency (Part L) and ventilation (Part F). A new 'Interim Part L' and 'Interim Part F' came into effect in England in June 2022, which state that the average home will need to produce 75–80% less carbon emissions than one built under the previous regulations.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057372/ADL1.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/61deba42d3bf7f054fcc243d/ADF1.pdf

Phthalates – a type of plasticiser used in a number of different products, including vinyl flooring, and potentially linked to health issues. Their use is increasingly restricted and banned in certain products.

Plastic Packaging Tax – this came into force on 1 April 2022. Companies need to register for the tax if they have manufactured or imported ten or more tonnes of finished plastic packaging components within the last 12 months. The tax has to be paid at the rate of £200 per tonne if the packaging contains less than 30% recycled plastic.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-need-to-register-for-plastic-packaging-tax

Scope 1, 2 & 3 – these refer to different types of emissions caused by industrial processes, categorised according to the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

Scope 1 are emissions directly caused by a company's business, such as fuel combustion, company vehicles and emissions caused by manufacturing.

Scope 2 are emissions caused by power generators from whom a company acquires its energy.

Scope 3 emissions include all those caused further down the supply chain. For many companies in our sector this is where the majority of their emissions come from, since it includes emissions caused by raw material extraction and the fabrication of bought-in components. These are also the most difficult emissions to monitor and to minimise, since they are not within the company's direct control.

www.carbontrust.com/resources/briefing-what-are-scope-3-emissions

SKA rating – SKA rating helps in the assessment of fit-out projects against a set of sustainability good practice criteria.

https://skarating.org

Sustainability – as far back as 1987 the United Nations defined sustainability as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It is about more than just the environment, covering the full range of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. A definition put forward in the recent 2022 NBS Sustainability Report is the "Ability to sustain a comfortable human life without compromising the environment".

http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf

https://www.thenbs.com/sustainable-futures-report-2022/

Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) – the ULEZ in London requires that petrol cars and vans must be Euro 4 and diesel cars and vans must be Euro 6 to avoid the £12.50 daily charge. Larger vehicles over 3.5 tonnes (including some vans, lorries and specialist vehicles) do not need to pay the ULEZ charge but will need to pay a LEZ charge if they are not ULEZ affected drivers who do not pay will face a fine of up to £160.

https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/

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