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CFA Guide to Sustainability 2026–2027

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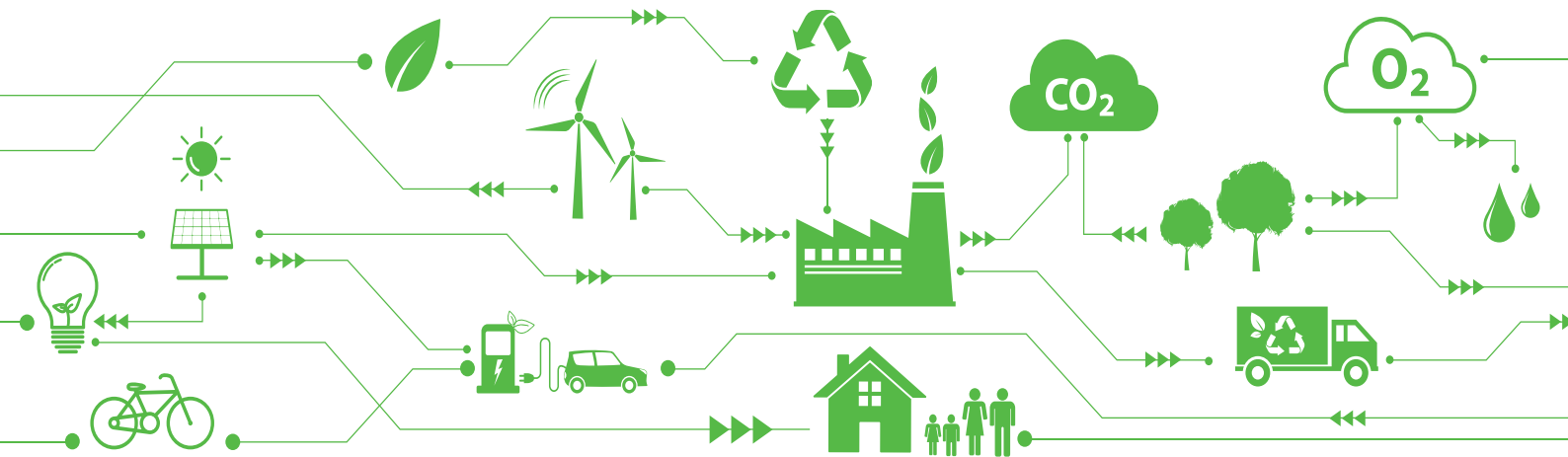
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Key PRIORITIES

Richard Catt, CEO of the Contract Flooring Association, introduces this year's Guide to Sustainability, highlighting key themes and priorities for the industry's future.

Each year our industry demonstrates a growing commitment to addressing the challenges of climate change and resource efficiency. Encouragingly, the response from across the flooring sector continues to strengthen, with manufacturers, contractors, distributors and recyclers all taking meaningful steps forward.

However, we also recognise that the journey towards a truly sustainable and circular flooring industry is far from complete. That is why this Guide remains such an important resource for sharing ideas, highlighting best practice and, hopefully, inspiring further action.

Last year we captured the mood of the industry with the theme of **Collaboration**. Feedback from across the sector was clear: no single organisation can achieve the level of change required on its own. Effective waste collection, reuse, take-back and recycling schemes all depend on collective effort. The same is true of emerging initiatives such as product passports, which will allow recyclers to identify materials and process them appropriately at end of life.

For this year's Guide we build on that thinking with a new theme: **Scaling Sustainability**. Collaboration has helped establish many promising initiatives; the challenge now is to move from pilots and isolated successes to solutions that operate at scale. For sustainability to become the industry norm, those solutions must be practical, measurable and commercially viable.

As in previous editions, the Guide brings together thought leadership, industry insight and contributions from across the supply chain. We are also pleased to feature more case studies and updates from the **UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance**, whose work on take-back schemes, stewardship models and the TakeMyFlooring initiative is helping the industry move towards more circular outcomes.

Ultimately, scaling sustainability is our shared challenge and our shared opportunity.



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“As in previous editions, the Guide brings together thought leadership, industry insight and contributions from across the supply chain.”



Richard Catt, CEO



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From exceptional to everyday

*CFA immediate past-president and F. Ball and Co. Ltd. technical representative **Alan McEwan**, speaks about how the Association is taking a proactive role in driving industry change and ensuring sustainable practices become the norm.*



As we launch the **2026 CFA Guide to Sustainability**, I am encouraged by how far our sector has come.

In last year's Guide, I emphasised that sustainability is everyone's responsibility and that change requires a collective effort. I highlighted how contractors and manufacturers were beginning to find that green practices were not just the right thing to do, but also made clear business sense. We've since seen remarkable progress as manufacturers have designed for circularity and contractors have begun integrating effective waste management into their daily operations and investing in electric and hybrid vehicles.

While previous years were defined by innovation and pilot projects, our theme for 2026 is 'Scaling Sustainability'. We are no longer just asking "Can we do this?", but how we can do it at a scale that transforms the entire sector.

Key developments

To achieve this, the CFA and Council are not simply observing industry change but are actively helping drive it.

We have put our shoulder firmly behind the growing importance of the UK Flooring Sustainability Alliance (UKSFA), formerly Carpet

Recycling UK (CRUK), and the CFA is playing a key role in supporting and strengthening that organisation.

Our backing of the UKSFA through membership support, close collaboration and Richard Catt joining the Board as a non-executive director demonstrates a much stronger strategic partnership between our two organisations. This represents a significant commitment from the CFA, allowing us to bring our valuable CISUFLO experience and our members along with us as we guide the whole flooring supply chain towards a more circular future.

Highlighting this shared ambition, you'll find a number of articles from the UKSFA in this year's Sustainability Guide.

For our members, scaling means moving from simple product labelling to fully traceable material lifecycles that allow for guaranteed recyclability, and ensuring that sustainable installation systems and advanced adhesive technologies become the everyday standard. Scaling also requires that these developments are not only environmentally sound but also commercially viable and profitable for businesses of all sizes.

Regulation and leadership

The legislative landscape is shifting rapidly. With Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the Future

Homes and Buildings Standard now in effect, the societal pressure I mentioned last year has become a legal reality.

For those who heeded the call to be proactive, these changes represent an opportunity rather than a burden.

We are also scaling through education. By embedding green skills into our apprenticeship standards, we have already begun building a workforce that views sustainable waste disposal and carbon management as fundamental to the future of the trade.

The path ahead

The CFA also has an important role in sharing best practice with regard to sustainability and the environment, as well as highlighting forthcoming legislation and what it means for members, so they can prepare well in advance of it coming into effect. In this guide, you will find more examples of how leading companies are scaling their operations to meet these new demands.

We are moving towards a future where a circular economy is the only economy. It is only by scaling our collective efforts that we can ensure the contract flooring industry remains a leader in the transition to Net Zero. Let's make the sustainable choice the standard choice.



The CFA also has an important role in sharing best practice with regard to sustainability and the environment





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“It’s a marathon, not a sprint”

Bob Peoples on 25 years of building a market for recycled carpet

*Richard Catt, CFA CEO and non-executive director of the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance, talks to **Dr Robert (Bob) Peoples**, executive director of the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), about what a quarter-century of US carpet recycling can teach the UK*

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About Bob Peoples

Dr Robert (Bob) Peoples is CEO and executive director of the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), where he has led the organisation's growth into a \$45 million operational enterprise focused on reuse and recycling solutions for post-consumer carpet across North America. He is internationally recognised for his work in carpet recycling, sustainability, green chemistry and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). With decades of experience spanning industry, science and policy, he has played a major role in developing internationally recognised sustainability standards and is regarded as one of the flooring industry's leading voices on circular economy and resource recovery.

Introduction

I first heard Bob Peoples speak at the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance's Annual Conference in Solihull this summer, where he gave a frank account of what a quarter-century running America's carpet stewardship scheme has taught him. There was clearly more to

unpack than a single conference slot allowed, so I asked if he'd talk it through properly for CFA's Sustainability Guide. What follows is that conversation, less a recap of the presentation than an attempt to work out what, if anything, of the American experience genuinely travels to the UK market.

Peoples runs the Carpet America Recovery Effort, the independent, non-profit organisation created in January 2002 under a Memorandum of Understanding between the US carpet industry, a group of US states and the federal Environmental Protection Agency, to agree recycling targets, publish annual progress reports, and provide independent oversight organisation for the whole scheme. As it approaches its 25th anniversary in January 2027, I wanted to know what that experience really looks like once you strip away the achievement narrative.

“Every time you peel one layer, there are five more underneath”

Peoples' answer to almost every question circled back to the same idea: nothing in this work happens

in isolation. “I always like to start at 50,000 feet,” he told me, running through a list that would not look out of place on a risk register for the planet, rising CO₂, water scarcity, pollution, population growth, global instability, and, newest of all, the energy and water demands of AI data centres. “Nothing on that list would surprise anyone in this industry, but together they set the conditions everything else has to work within.”

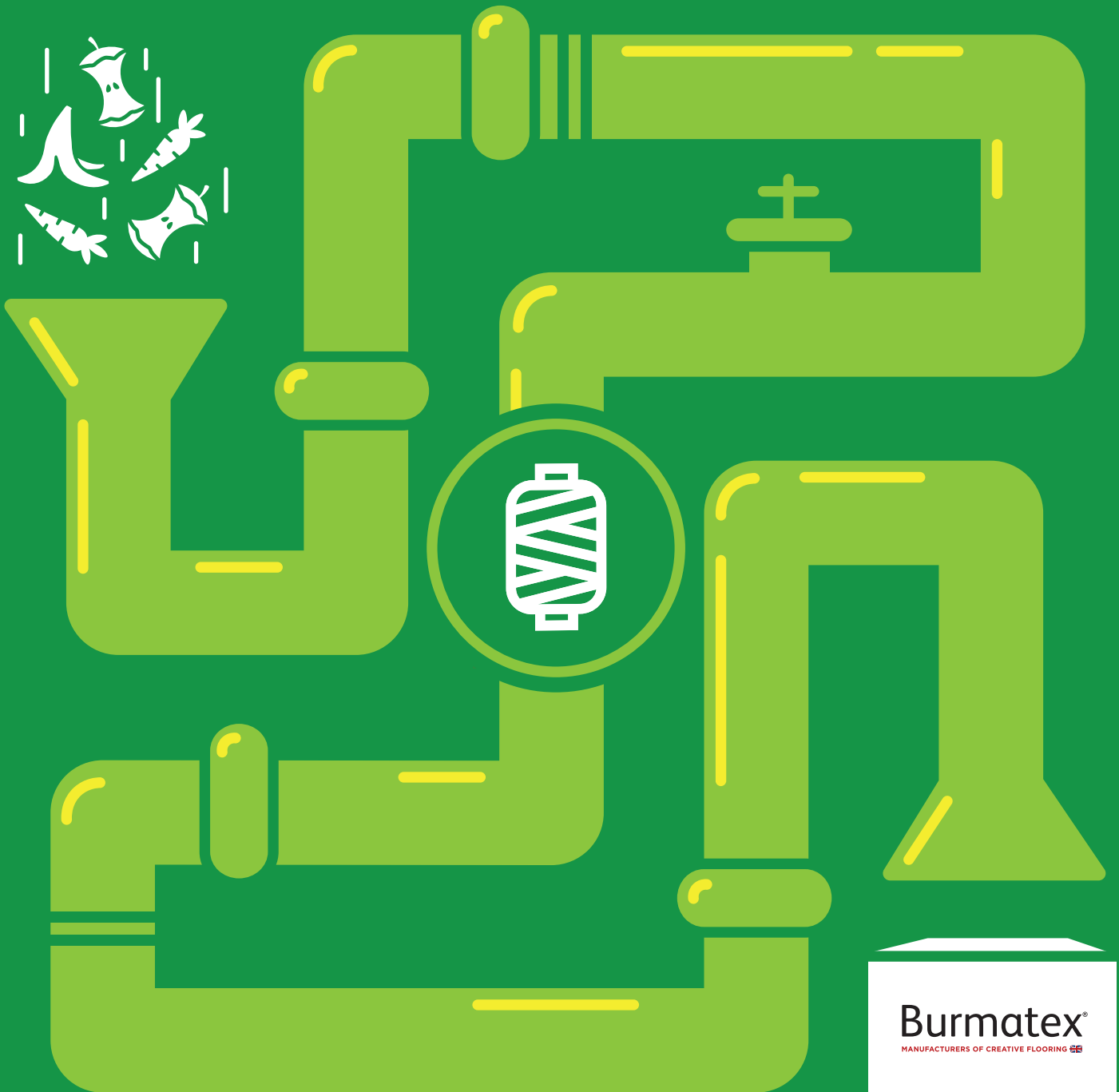
It's why he reaches for the metaphor of an onion when people ask him how the work is going: “Every time you think you've figured something out, you realise you've got five more layers to peel before you really understand what you're dealing with.” I asked whether that ever became discouraging; he didn't think so, more a reason to keep the scale of the problem honestly in view. He pointed to the plastics numbers: global virgin plastic production topped 445 million metric tonnes in 2025, roughly 54kg for every person alive, projected to reach 590 million tonnes (83kg per person) by 2050, while global plastics recycling rates stay under

Carpet America Recovery Effort

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Metric	United States (incl. California)	California
Discards	3,029 million lbs.	184.5 million lbs.
Gross Collection	122.2 million lbs.	78.5 million lbs. (64%)
Recycled Output	74.1 million lbs.	67.9 million lbs. (92%)
Yield (Output/Collection)	60.6%	86.5%
Recycling Rate (Output/Discards)	2.5%	36.8%

"California is 64% of all the gross collection in the country, 92% of all the recycled output, and we're getting an 86.5% yield versus about 60% everywhere else," Peoples summarised. "That's 25 years of policy, funding and infrastructure, concentrated in one place." Even so, he was careful not to oversell it: California's own 2026 recycling-rate target of 41% is proving a stretch, with year-to-date performance at 37.8%, and several of the scheme's 13 statutory performance goals, including gross collection and disposal reduction, are currently rated "in process (challenging)" rather than on track.

5%. "We're competing for investment against an oil-backed production base that dwarfs us, and that's true whether you're in California or the UK."

The gap between what regulators write and what industry can build

If there was one theme Peoples kept returning to unprompted, it was education, or rather, the lack of it, on the regulatory side. He told me about a conversation he'd once had with a US legislator: "I said, I'll give you \$10 million right now, in cash. Go build a recycling plant with it. But understand: it's going to take you two years before you're even at the point where you might turn the switch on. And when you do, it's not going to run the way you expect. You'll be reconfiguring it, buying new equipment, for another six to twenty-four months after that."

His frustration isn't with lawmakers themselves so much as the process behind them. "It's the staff that write the law, not really the legislator," he said, staff who are rarely given the time or technical grounding to grasp subjects like the difference between chemical and mechanical recycling, certification, or mass balance accounting before a bill has to be drafted. He illustrated it with a diagram he uses often: a line representing how fast human understanding can absorb new information, running alongside a much steeper line representing the pace of technological and regulatory change. "We've crossed those lines. Talk to anybody, anywhere, and they'll tell you they're overwhelmed, with too much information coming in too fast to keep up with."

I asked what that means practically for a trade body like CFA. His answer was blunt: get in early, and stay in. "You've got to recommit to helping decision-makers understand, continuously, not just once. It saves time, money, frustration, delays and reputations. It's what enables progress."

Post-consumer content: a target that's easier to legislate than to deliver

We spent a good part of the conversation on California's post-consumer content requirement, a legal minimum of 5% recycled

carpet content in new carpet sold in the state from January 2028, with New York setting a higher 10% bar on a longer timeline, and California expected to eventually align with it. On paper it reads as a straightforward market-shaping mechanism. In practice, Peoples said, it's one of the hardest things his industry has been asked to do. "It's one thing to take a bottle, grind it up, and make another bottle, a relatively clean, homogeneous polymer stream. Carpet has three, four, five components, sometimes more, designed to survive millions of footsteps for years. Taking it apart again and getting the purity you need to remake a product, is a heavy lift." Geography doesn't help, either: most US carpet manufacturing sits on the East Coast, while most of the collected material, thanks to California's programme, sits on the West Coast. "You've got to think about the cost of just getting that material across the country before you can do anything useful with it."

Alongside the content mandate, California and New York have introduced mandatory "back-stamping", codes printed on the back of carpet identifying manufacturer, production date, face fibre and backing composition, to help recyclers sort material correctly. CARE and the Carpet and Rug Institute jointly built the protocol, and Peoples doesn't pretend it's finished business. "A lot of the people doing the sorting either struggle with English or don't speak it as a first language, and they've got to memorise these codes and then find them on the back of the carpet," he said. Durability is an open question too, as nobody yet knows how legible a stamp remains after twenty years glued to a subfloor. The whole exercise nearly ran into a wall in 2024, when a task force investigating contamination complaints discovered that far more manufacturers than realised were using PET in carpet backing, something the industry had simply assumed wasn't happening. "Almost everybody was doing it," Peoples said. "And we only found that out by accident." And it is important to recognise we have a huge legacy inventory of carpet in use today. That means to back stamped product will only begin to show up for recycling in the future, maybe 3-10 years from when back stamping begins. I asked

whether that meant the UK should think twice before adopting similar labelling mandates.

"Not think twice, pilot it first, with the people who'll actually be using it, before you write it into law. And don't assume you know what's really in the product. Go and check."

What a mature scheme actually delivers, by the numbers

CARE completed its first comprehensive national survey since 2019 earlier this year, drawing on 13 responding organisations and data through Q1 2026. I asked Peoples what a genuinely mature, well-resourced recycling scheme looks like once the data is in.

(SEE TABLE ABOVE)

How quickly the ground can shift underneath you

The part of the conversation that stayed with me most was about how fragile even a long-established scheme can be. California's recycling rate had been climbing steadily, running above 40% for the first half of 2025, when demand for recycled material collapsed in the third and fourth quarters: buyers disappeared or wanted steep discounts, recycled output plummeted, and the year closed at 36.8%. "We had cash in the bank, we thought we were in good shape, and then Q3 and Q4 happened," he said.

Underlying carpet sales in California have also been in decline for over a decade, down more than 50% since 2013, which Peoples attributes largely to cheap luxury vinyl tile, and and adversely impacted by the per-yard recycling fee and increasingly competitive on price and appearance, especially for large commercial buyers. However, now that the recycling fee averages over \$1.05 per square year, it is impact buying decisions. A less obvious pressure has come from an adjacent industry: as mattress recycling has scaled up in the US, recovered polyurethane foam from mattresses has flooded the same padding-foam market carpet recyclers rely on for revenue. "That's really hurt the recyclers, who count on that foam to generate the cash that funds the rest of their business."

None of this happens without significant public investment. California's programme has

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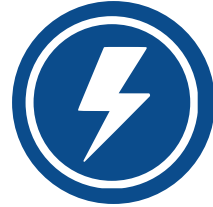
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paid out more than \$215 million in cumulative subsidies to recyclers since 2011, funded by a consumer fee that has risen from 5 cents per square yard at launch to \$1.05 today for broadloom carpet and \$1.49 for carpet tile. “That scale of funding is what’s built the infrastructure,” Peoples said, “but it also tells you the economics of recycling still depend on subsidy. It isn’t standing on its own yet.”

What Peoples would tell the UK

I closed by asking what he’d want a UK trade body like CFA, and the wider UKSFA membership, to take from all this. He didn’t offer a single soundbite, but typically gave me a list:

- Invest in policymaker education early and continuously. “Legislation is going to keep outpacing us,” he said. “The only answer is to be in the room, over and over, before the rules get written, not after.”
- Don’t let “circular” become a straitjacket. “A circular economy doesn’t mean carpet has to go back into carpet. If you write that into law, you’ve handcuffed industry’s ability to solve the problem. Let recovered material go wherever it can be used well.”
- Pilot labelling and identification requirements with the workforce who’ll use them, before mandating anything. “It looks simple on a slide. It isn’t simple on a warehouse floor.”
- Verify material composition assumptions independently, rather than making assumptions, as the PET-in-backing discovery showed.



- Build funding and infrastructure that can absorb market shocks, not just hit growth targets. “We had a good scheme running for years, and two bad quarters still knocked us backwards,” he said.
- Keep an eye on competitive substitutes, not just recycling metrics. Materials like textiles and packaging, or recovered foam from other industries, can quietly erode a scheme’s economics even while the headline numbers look fine.
- Be aware the impact of other EPR materials coming online for packaging and textiles. They will mean steep competition and impact supply/demand balances.
- Treat independent, third-party certification as the foundation of credibility. “Trust, but verify,” as Peoples put it, CARE’s own approach to checking recyclers’ certification claims rather than simply accepting them.

Towards the end of our conversation,

Peoples returned to an image he’d shown at the conference, “Earthrise,” the 1968 Apollo 8 photograph that gave humanity its first view of Earth from space, which he uses as a symbol of new beginnings and possibility. He’d paired it, in Solihull, with a newer image, “Earthset,” captured during the 2026 Artemis II flyby of the Moon. That’s a different context for the energy and the renewal associated with Earthrise. “I hope that’s not where we’re metaphorically headed,” he said. It struck me as a fitting note to end on. For a UK industry gathering its own data, refining its own standards and building its own collaborative structures under this year’s “Scaling Sustainability” theme, Peoples’ twenty-five years offer both encouragement and a clear-eyed warning: market-based recycling solutions can work at real scale, but only with sustained investment, rigorous verification, and patient, continuous education of the people writing the rules.

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Exciting new partnerships enable scaling up the business

Back in 2024 we spoke with Innovate Recycle about one of the most exciting recycling developments ongoing at that time – an industrial facility built and operated specifically to deal with the problem of more than half a million tonnes of waste polypropylene carpet.



Joseph Eccleston

In the two years since we last spoke to them, Innovate Recycle, led by Joseph Eccleston, founder & CEO, has scaled up its production, is well on the way to opening new facilities throughout the UK and has forged important new partnerships with manufacturers in other sectors. These manufacturers in the automotive, construction and horticulture sectors are increasingly keen to take the recycled material for the manufacture of new products and to complete the circularity of the sector.

In excess of 500,000 tonnes of waste polypropylene carpet is produced by the flooring industry each year. Currently only 2% of that is getting recycled. The challenge for Innovate Recycle therefore is to scale their business model so that it really makes a difference. Joseph Eccleston agrees that two years ago, the business was in a pilot stage during which they wanted to test the

concept, as it had never been tried before. What has been achieved since then, both in terms of the business model and the recycling machinery itself, has been pioneering, groundbreaking work.

"We've now arrived at a point where we have a really nice revenue-generating business, which has proved the basic concept that polypropylene carpet has a potential for recyclability, not just in theory, but in practice as well," he says. "2025 was a successful revenue-generating year for us, enabling us to prove that polypropylene carpet can be recycled not just through theory, but in practice and at scale as well."

A key developmental stage in the company's success so far has been the creation of a commercial market for the output from its Northamptonshire recycling plant. 'Carpet to Car Parts', developed over a five-year period with partner Mitsui, is exciting because it demonstrates very clearly the

huge potential that exists for the recycled pellets in the marketplace. The automotive sector in total needs about 600,000 tonnes of polypropylene pellet annually to meet its own legislative requirements. Innovate Recycle plans to provide about 90,000 tonnes of that, taking waste polypropylene carpet from waste management companies and also direct from manufacturers, contractors, distributors and retailers. From a technical point of view, the recycling or deconstruction of a carpet is relatively easy to do. The difficult part is making it a commercial success and Innovate Recycle believes it is well on the way to achieving that. It is also now in discussions with other automotive manufacturers.

This has enabled the company to put in a two-shift system, working from 7 in the morning to 11:30 at night, Monday to Friday. Now they are looking to ramp up further. Of the estimated half a million tonnes of carpet waste material that is produced each year in



"Our partnership with Innovate Recycle is incredibly important to us. As a trusted recycling partner they help us to achieve our sustainability goals through collaboration, reliability and shared commitment to environmental responsibility."

Louise Walters, commercial director, Designer Contracts

"I look at people like Joseph Eccleston from Innovate Recycle. I've watched him dedicate his life to carpet recycling, and I take my hat off to him every day. He's the only person I know who has genuinely gone all in on finding a way to recycle carpets. Nobody else has done it. Joe deserves an MBE. He's given up his life to solve this problem, and it's inspiring."

Helen Holland, managing director, New Homes Flooring

the UK, Innovate Recycle currently has the capacity for processing 250 tonnes per week, with the aim of raising this to 20,000 tonnes annually at its plant. As the business is rolled out, with processing taking place in Scotland and Wales as well, the aim is to work towards taking in 120,000 tonnes of material and producing 90,000 tonnes of pellet annually, all destined for injection moulding.

Taking on board all that has been learnt at the Northampton factory, Dave Robertson, Project Manager, is now working on a fully automated facility, which is set to be implemented at new sites in Wales and Scotland, each with a capacity of 40,000 tonnes annually.



The carpet industry will benefit as it becomes clear there is a huge marketplace to sell the pellets into, which means it becomes a profitable business for all concerned. This symbiotic relationship with other businesses helps the industry meet relevant legislation, makes any Extended Producer Responsibility scheme (EPR) cheaper to obtain and waste management companies are more likely to collect, sort and deliver material into an Innovate facility, because of the better economics it can provide, with a zero gate fee.

“We now believe that the relationship with Mitsui in the automotive sector is the catalyst and the missing jigsaw piece for a circular economy within the carpet industry,” says Joe Eccleston.

However, the company does now have a request for the industry. “Our biggest ask is that it’s now time for you to support us. We’ve done the hard work. We’ve created a system that gives manufacturers the ability to produce products that can be fully recycled with full traceability and accountability. And we’re looking to scale it upwards. It’s now time for the carpet industry to put the money on the line, and start committing to take back schemes, creating the necessary

infrastructure, collection hubs, whatever it might be - preferably collectively, because it would be cheaper, but if it can’t be a collective effort, it’s definitely got to be an individual effort regarding the materials they place on the market, and now is not the time for empty gestures. It’s now about really setting a deadline for the whole industry to work towards and drive this thing forward.

“There’s a historical element to this as well. The current market share for polypropylene carpet is around 80%. However, much of the material currently being uplifted was laid a number of years ago, when the proportion of

polypropylene carpet was much lower. What this means is that the amount and proportion of material that we are able to pelletise in our facilities is only going to increase in the coming years.”

In a new and potentially exciting development, Eccleston says that his team have held initial discussions with a chemical recycling facility that is looking at the possibility of taking the company’s pelletised material and turning it back into carpet, which would be a game changer as it means real circularity.

“But we need the industry to commit to a take back scheme, not in three years time, we need actionable dates now, because if we don’t, the Government is going

to start looking hard at what we’re doing. They’re going to see us, that we’ve got a huge target on our back because of the tonnes of waste that we generate each year, and there is a risk that they will implement an expensive EPR. We need a system where, if your products can’t be recycled, not just through Innovate, but through other recyclers, you have to pay a higher EPR because you are polluting. So it’s basically a ‘polluter pays’ type of situation, where we can incentivise the good work and disincentivise the bad work.”

There’s been a lot of interest in the past on product passports, and while they would be useful to recyclers in helping identify what materials are being dealt with here, Joseph remains sceptical: “My personal and professional opinion on product passports is that they are fantastic in theory. But in reality, if you break down what that’s going to look like, if they were introduced next month, all we would be doing is adding a level of cost and complication to manufacturing that’s not needed right now, to tell people that this material can’t be recycled, when we already know that, because if it could be recycled, it would be. I think that as an industry we need to come together and get a hierarchy in place, regarding what deliverables we need to do



for the industry to make a real big impact. And for me, I think digital product passports are going to be a little way down that list.”

When it comes to scaling up the work, there is a need for manufacturers to play their part as well with takeback schemes, along with fitters and retail shops. “We need an EPR system, possibly eco-modulated, that’s sympathetic to manufacturers,” says Joseph Eccleston. “We have always advocated for a five pence per square metre EPR charge to be put on all carpets, regardless of whether they can be recycled or not. If the whole industry buys in, this money could be used to set up hub and spoke sorting, collecting and segregating facilities around the UK. So this hub and spoke could consist of a number of facilities that will take the material, giving a very clear message that this industry is taking responsibility for its own waste, which will put us in a much stronger position if we have to negotiate with Government regarding a potential EPR scheme.

“We want to put the industry in the strongest position possible. Until we’re mandated to do so by wider industry, we will take our own pathway forward, armed with the knowledge and understanding that we’ve gleaned over the last 14 years, and the £15,000,000 that we’ve spent on the plant in Northampton, and the learnings that we’ve taken away from it. It’s been a very expensive educational journey, but we’re willing to share it with the industry if they want to listen. In return, what we’re needing in the short term is their support to get polypropylene material to us, so we can carry on fighting the good fight and keep proving the concept over the next few years, developing that circular economy. All the industry has to do is support us with a good supply of carpet!”

“Thank you to all our partners and developing partners, we appreciate all your collaboration and support. If you would like to explore how to get involved, please reach out. We accept as little as one pallet up to a truck load of 40 bales! Local fitters can book to come with material on their vans. Please note we accept remnants on or off poles.”

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We can achieve the circular economy

despite all the challenges

Chris Hines MBE, co-founder of Surfers Against Sewage, former sustainability director at the Eden Project and an increasingly popular figure on the conference and speaker circuit, is nowadays the owner of environmental consultancy A Grain of Sand. He believes we need to face up to the fact that we are dealing with a crisis – despite our best efforts so far. We caught up with him, appropriately enough, in the offices of a London construction firm.

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Chris Hines knows the construction industry well, having delivered the keynote address at the NBS Construction Leaders' Summit in 2024 and having hosted the Recofloor Awards in 2025.

He is therefore well aware of the efforts that the construction and flooring industries are making to raise their game on sustainability and applauds these, saying we need more of them. However his key message is that, however good our efforts so far, there is more to do – and it needs doing urgently. In fact a better understanding of the big picture and an increased sense of urgency are the key requirements for scaling sustainability to the level it needs to be.

"We need to make big changes," he says. "Unfortunately for all the good work that we are doing, the climate crisis is accelerating at a speed that is overtaking us. We've really got our work cut out. We can't just come at this at normal pace. We need to be addressing this as if it was a crisis, which it is – an escalating crisis."

"The construction industry, and the flooring sector in particular, are on quite a steep improvement curve. But it's nothing to match what's actually coming our way, and what's already hitting us. We need a shift of culture."

Chris Hines is however encouraged by some examples of good practice.

"Laing O'Rourke made an announcement that they were switching to low-carbon concrete for all of their projects globally. And it wasn't that they were going to do it in a year's time. It was an immediate commitment, as of the day they made the announcement. They also had more than 65 sustainability leads within the organisation, whose mission it was to spread the word via the project managers, designers and construction leads. So that's a cultural shift, and one that needs to come."

"Looking at what is going on in businesses like this and the technical solutions that are possible, I am optimistic that there will be an awakening, that we will see some really strong leaders pushing into that space. With young blood coming through, I think we can hope to meet the challenge of driving

the scaling of sustainability that is required."

The construction industry recognises the need for retrofit, and this is the default activity in London, and it has a 60% carbon saving compared to new build.

"That's great and we do need to see those kind of big shifts, from new build to retrofit. But if you look at places like the centre of Birmingham or Manchester, there's a lot of concrete being poured, and there's potentially a lot of waste in that. That's not to say that every new infrastructure project is bad. While I really don't think we need another runway at Heathrow, we can build better in such a way that these types of major construction projects don't necessarily conflict with sustainability goals. We can build amazing things really well."

"If Laing O'Rourke are saying they can produce low energy concrete, then you can see that we can also get low energy, low carbon steel. We can be far more efficient in the way that we do these things. It's just a question of whether we are reacting quickly enough. I don't believe it's the technology



With young blood coming through, I think we can hope to meet the challenge of driving the scaling of sustainability that is required



that's holding us back. If I look at the computing power of the phone I have in my pocket and compare it with the technology of the early '90s, you can see the pace of change and what is possible.

"These are the kind of examples that we need to bring into the systems that we use in the built environment and in flooring. There are plenty of examples of good work being done, as I have seen for example when I did an awards event last year for Recofloor.

"What's more I also think that the public are just wanting us to get on with it. They want things to be done. What makes me say that is for example the 89 Percent Project, in which they surveyed 130,000 people from over 100 countries worldwide. 89% of those people thought that the climate crisis was the number one priority for world governments, and that they should do everything they could to address it. But interestingly all of those people also thought that they were in the minority."

Controversially perhaps, Chris Hines believes that if ever there was a long-term driver of delivering Net Zero, war in the Middle East may be one of those things, because it will force us, to consider energy security more seriously than ever before, leading to increased focus on renewables.

"The carbon footprint of one of those oil depots going off is just shocking and deeply negative. But maybe it can make us realise we can do this in another way, where we don't need to have these fights over energy. I would recommend a book by Mike Berners-Lee, *The Carbon Footprint of Everything*. It covers everything from the carbon footprint of an email to a war."

Chris Hines believes there are still too many examples of missed opportunities, and he cites the example of Rolls-Royce as a classic example of where we fail. The UK is the second windiest nation in the whole of Europe. We're also the home of one of the best turbine manufacturers in the world - Rolls-Royce. But the turbines they make are put in warplanes for BAE Systems.

"With our excellent wind resource, our superb turbine manufacturer and our port infrastructure, we should have developed a homegrown wind turbine industry, which could have supplied the world. But we didn't do that. Fortunately it is not too late. We're going to



need wind turbines for generations to come, and we should be manufacturing our own.

"We need large scale turbines and micro-renewables. In some European countries they have micro-solar. It's like a roll-out mat that they literally hang out of the window, and it drives your kettle and your fridge. So you don't just need to have massive complex things. If every house has its own micro-wind turbine and solar panels on the roof, it would make an enormous difference. We can build pretty much Net Zero houses already.

"There is a surfing project in Bristol called The Wave. They achieved a 12% reduction in their carbon footprint by changing the structure of the retaining walls. By backfilling with soil, it meant that the retaining wall could be a lot thinner, and they also used recycled plastic in the concrete as well. That's a project pushing against the norm. If everybody moves into that kind of approach, we then start to see real steep scalability of solutions coming through.

"We should always build that way. And if developers say: 'That's our profit margin gone', well really we can't dilly-dally around some of that anymore. We need to drop some positive action. And it's the same with flooring. You know, we need to incentivise the circular economy, and we need people to take the lead. Business tends to outpace Government. That's because companies have to invest for the longterm, not just a four or five year electoral cycle. If a company's making an investment in, for instance, EV production, to meet published Government targets, it will only start to pay back after a number of years. So you can't suddenly cancel it because of changing views on Net Zero. The same principle applies to products and materials for flooring."

With regard to positive action required by Government at this time, Chris Hines believes

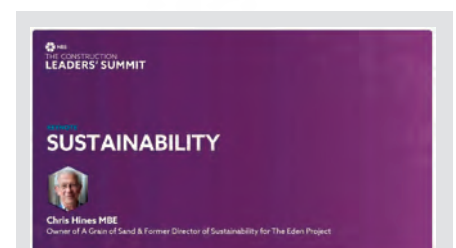
the most helpful action would be to cut the subsidies that currently exist in the fossil fuel sector. This would produce a level playing field for renewables, creating a massive change.

"We need a long-term vision here. We need to shake up the system and stop rewarding the companies that pollute our planet for profit. We all subsidise that, because our government chooses the economic instruments which work in that way. The system should be geared to incentivise the circular economy instead.

"It's about reorganising things – and you don't always need a stick. Sometimes it's just obvious there's a better way of doing things. For example I know of a small data centre in South Devon, which they built next to a community swimming pool. So the water from the swimming pool is used to cool the data centre, and the community swimming pool gets warm water. That is not rocket science. It's one of the most obvious things that you could do. So, when we look around, that's what we need to do. If someone wants to build a data centre, we need to tell them it needs to be next to a hospital or a community centre, so that the heat can be used.

"In Vancouver, they extract heat from the sewers and, through heat exchangers, they use that to heat the district. We just need to be more innovative. We need to get our heads around the concept of Spaceship Earth and how 8.2 billion people place quite a lot of a drain on the finite resources that we have.

"It's about being cleverer – and I am optimistic we can do that, because we have demonstrated in so many ways how innovative we can be, starting with the design of products and the materials used to make them. With incentives, with encouragement from Government, we can get there – we can achieve the circular economy."



In 2025 Chris gave the keynote address at the NBS Leaders' Summit on the topic of Navigating a Sustainable Future.

Click here to see this on [Youtube](#) or alternatively on Chris' website: www.agos.co

Sustainability and the future of flooring installation training

Shaun Wadsworth, deputy CEO of the CFA, describes the importance of embedding good sustainability practice into our industry training in order to ensure that sustainable working becomes the default setting for current and future generations of floor layers.



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The UK flooring industry continues to be reshaped by sustainability as a defining force.

The Net Zero Strategy, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, and an ever-tightening framework of building regulations are driving demand for sustainable flooring solutions, and the industry must keep rethinking how it trains the next generation of installers to meet it. This guide has tracked that shift since 2011, but the pace of change within the Contract Flooring Association (CFA) and its membership has rarely been greater than it is today.

Nowhere is that clearer than in the recent publication of the Future Homes and Buildings Standards. In the original consultation draft, proposed thermal resistance limits would have effectively ruled out common floor coverings such as carpet and timber in new build homes, with real consequences for installer workloads across the supply chain. Following sustained engagement between CFA, industry partners and Government, the final Approved Document L instead adopts a far more balanced, performance-based approach.

It now confirms that underfloor heating (UFH) systems must be designed with full consideration of the thermal resistance of the floor covering above them. It explicitly directs professionals to CFA's own Beyond Installation guidance on UFH (available at www.cfa.org.uk), alongside supporting material from BEAMA. Specifiers can continue to choose from a full range of materials for new-build projects, provided they are integrated into a well-designed heating system.

It's a landmark recognition for the Association and for CFA guidance within national regulation, but it also signals something important for training: installers will now need a working understanding of how floor coverings, heating systems and heat sources perform together, not simply how to fit a floor over a heat source.

Beyond UFH, the wider sustainability agenda continues to demand new technical knowledge: subfloor preparation suited to loose-lay and floating floor systems, clean-release adhesives and adhesive-free flooring, and the lifecycle thinking that should sit behind every specification, from material selection through to maintenance and end-of-life disposal. But circularity is yet to be fully embedded across our sector, and training, whether delivered through apprenticeships, private courses, or manufacturer-led programmes, is where that work must start.

This all matters more given the scale of workforce change ahead. With half the world's population under thirty, and green jobs forecast to grow sharply across construction, the next generation of floorlayers will carry this transition

for decades. The revised Floorlaying Apprenticeship Standard and National Occupational Standards already embed green skills, sustainable waste disposal and climate literacy into apprentice-level training and assessment. This is a foundation CFA and its training arm FITA helped build and will keep developing, alongside further guidance on flooring over UFH already underway for members.

None of this can be delivered by training providers alone. Manufacturers, suppliers, training bodies, and associations must collaborate, sharing product knowledge so that installation methods evolve in step with material innovation, without losing the common ground that keeps installation practical and cost-effective. CFA, through FITA and its ongoing engagement with Government, from the Future Homes and Buildings Standards win to its long-running Future Fitters campaign, will keep pushing this agenda forward. Look for the CFA logo when appointing your supply chain partners, it's your assurance that training, and the people delivering it, are evolving in step with where this industry is heading.



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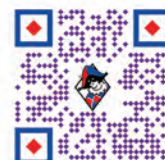
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Commercial flooring contractors scale up sustainability work in the drive to Net Zero

The construction industry is under increasing pressure to reduce its environmental impact, given that around 40% of CO2 emissions are said to come from creating and operating buildings. Flooring contractors are playing an increasingly important role in helping the sector scale its sustainability efforts in order to achieve ambitious Net-Zero targets.

Collaboration and co-operation with industry colleagues – both external and internal – are essential for achieving sustainability goals.

Once viewed as more or less passive installers of flooring products specified in distant offices, today's contract flooring professionals are key contributors to sustainable building practices, embracing new technologies, materials and working methods that significantly reduce carbon emissions across the entire project lifecycle.

As Government, developers and clients place greater emphasis on environmental performance, flooring contractors are responding by integrating sustainability into every aspect of their operations, from procurement and logistics to installation techniques and waste management.

As **Louise Walters, commercial director at Designer Contracts** says: "Meeting the challenge of making sustainable practices the default setting in the flooring sector requires a coordinated shift - where sustainability is embedded into specification, procurement, installation and lifecycle management, rather than treated as individual and optional add-ons. This needs everyone involved, from design to installation to end of life, to be invested."

As sustainability becomes a business priority, the drive towards Net Zero has accelerated across the built environment. Buildings account for a significant proportion of global carbon emissions, so attention has increasingly turned to the embodied carbon associated with construction materials and installation processes – scope 2 and 3.

This means that for flooring contractors, sustainability is far from a box-ticking exercise. Clients are increasingly requesting evidence of environmental credentials during tender processes, while major developers are setting strict sustainability requirements for supply chain partners.

As a result, many contractors have developed comprehensive environmental strategies that align with wider corporate net-zero commitments. These initiatives may include reducing operational emissions, improving energy efficiency, transitioning to low-carbon vehicles, and measuring carbon footprints across projects.

Material selection is one of the most significant ways flooring contractors can contribute to sustainability goals.



Louise Walters



Carl Harper

Manufacturers have responded to market demand by developing products with lower embodied carbon, increased recycled content, and improved recyclability. Although the specification process can still often be removed from the daily experience of contractors, they are increasingly seeking to work alongside architects and specifiers to implement sustainable flooring solutions such as:

- Carpet tiles manufactured using recycled fibres
- Luxury vinyl tiles with reduced carbon footprints
- Bio-based flooring materials
- Sustainably sourced timber products
- Rubber flooring produced from recycled materials
- Products supported by Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)

Flooring contractors have a role in helping clients to understand the environmental performance of different flooring systems, and therefore become trusted advisors in sustainable construction projects.

Not everything is positive however and waste remains a major challenge across our sector. According to Louise Walters, site waste reduction and tracking form one of the big areas where we still have a lot to do to embed sustainable practices into everyday working operations.

"I feel like the industry is making real progress, but it's not doing enough yet to make sustainable flooring the true default," she says.

Flooring contractors are now using more sophisticated planning and installation methods to minimise material waste. Digital measuring technologies, advanced project modelling, and precision cutting techniques allow installers to optimise material usage and reduce offcuts. Many contractors are also participating in manufacturer take-back schemes, where surplus materials and old flooring can be collected for recycling or reuse.

Rather than sending waste to landfill, contractors are increasingly able to separate materials on-site and work with specialist recycling partners to recover valuable resources from carpets, vinyl flooring, timber products and packaging.

This circular approach is critical to scaling sustainability, reducing environmental impact, lowering disposal costs and improving overall project efficiency.

For **Carl Harper, managing director at Westcotes Flooring Company Ltd**, scaling of sustainability is really the key challenge now.

"The conversation around sustainability has evolved considerably over recent years," he says. "The focus is no longer simply on individual initiatives or isolated environmental achievements, the challenge now is how we scale sustainable practices across the entire supply chain and make them the standard way of operating, rather than the exception."

Transport emissions are an area where flooring contractors are making meaningful progress. Fleet electrification is becoming more common as businesses replace diesel-powered vans with electric alternatives.

Although challenges remain around charging infrastructure and vehicle range, improvements in battery technology are

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making electric commercial vehicles increasingly viable for contractors, particularly those operating locally in urban environments.

There is also scope to improve logistics planning by reducing unnecessary journeys and consolidating deliveries to minimise fuel consumption. Combined with local sourcing strategies, these measures can significantly reduce the carbon footprint associated with business operation.

Contractors also recognise that manufacturers are upping their game and introducing more environmentally friendly product ranges.

"Manufacturers are increasingly taking steps to make improvements such as reducing embodied carbon, increasing recycled content and designing with sustainability in mind," says Louise Walters.

Carl Harper agrees: "The industry has undoubtedly made significant progress, particularly in product development. Manufacturers have invested heavily in recycled content, take back schemes, reduced embodied carbon, and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). However, there remains a gap between what is possible and what is consistently delivered on projects. Sustainability is often discussed at tender stage but can become secondary when programmes tighten, budgets come under pressure or project priorities shift."

As Louise Walters says: "Adoption is still uneven and not yet embedded across the whole market. There's also still much confusion and inconsistency due to different standards, labels and claims. Not all manufacturers provide transparent or comparable data. The technical capability to deliver sustainable flooring already exists at scale but things are far from simple enough to make sustainability automatic."

This is maybe the central difficulty. Achieving net zero cannot be accomplished by contractors working in isolation. Success depends on close collaboration between manufacturers, distributors, contractors, designers, clients and Government.

"We could do so much better if the Government engaged properly," says **Helen Holland, managing director of New Homes Flooring**. "If initiatives like Joe's carpet recycling [Innovate Recycle] had proper sponsorship, it could have transformed the industry. Policies could be stricter. Packaging should be reduced and penalties should exist if companies don't comply."

As was established in the previous edition of this Guide, the flooring sector is increasingly adopting a partnership approach, with stakeholders sharing environmental data, supporting recycling initiatives and working together to develop lower-carbon products and installation methods.

However to embed sustainable practice, it needs to be made more simple and more obviously viable, in the sense that it is not going to cost businesses money, and is hopefully going to open up new revenue streams.

Speaking about scaling sustainability, Carl Harper says: "From our perspective, the key to achieving this lies in making sustainability commercially viable, operationally practical, and easily measurable. Businesses are far more likely to adopt sustainable practices when they can clearly see both the environmental and business benefits. This includes reducing waste, improving logistics efficiency, minimising rework, selecting lower carbon products, and extending the life cycle of flooring installations through better specification and maintenance planning."

"One of the biggest opportunities for

improvement lies in project planning and early engagement. Many of the environmental impacts associated with flooring installations do not just stem from the products themselves but from inefficiencies such as programme delays, abortive visits, excessive material movements, last minute design changes, and unnecessary waste. Better coordination between clients, designers, principal contractors, manufacturers and installers would deliver substantial sustainability benefits whilst also improving project outcomes (and margins!).

"Another area where more can be done is data. Increasingly, clients are seeking evidence-based sustainability performance, rather than broad commitments. The industry needs to continue developing consistent methods for measuring and reporting carbon impacts, waste reduction, recycling rates and responsible sourcing. What gets measured gets managed!

"Within our own business at Westcotes, sustainability continues to become more deeply embedded in day-to-day operations and not just a buzz word. We are seeing increased demand from clients for sustainable product solutions, responsible waste management, and environmental reporting. As a result, environmental considerations now form part of our planning, procurement, logistics and project delivery processes rather than being treated as a separate initiative."

Beyond materials and transport, flooring contractors are increasingly introducing greener site practices designed to reduce energy use and improve environmental performance during installation.

"Encouragingly, we are also seeing more clients and supply chain partners placing sustainability higher on their agendas," says Carl. "What was once viewed as a

differentiator is increasingly becoming an expectation. This is a positive development because meaningful progress towards Net Zero can only be achieved through collective action rather than isolated efforts by individual businesses.

“Ultimately, I believe that scaling sustainability requires a shift from aspiration to implementation. The industry has already demonstrated that sustainable practices can be successfully integrated into project delivery. The next challenge is ensuring those practices become embedded across every project, every supply chain, and every organisation as standard operating procedure.”

It is significant that Carl Harper identifies measurement and reporting as a key pillar of scaling sustainability, since it is certainly true that an important development of recent years has been an increased emphasis on carbon measurement and reporting. Contractors are increasingly expected to provide data that demonstrates environmental performance and supports clients’ sustainability objectives.

Many flooring businesses are now tracking:

- **Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions**
- **Fuel and energy consumption**
- **Waste diversion rates**
- **Recycling performance**
- **Supply chain carbon impacts**
- **Product lifecycle data**

The use of carbon accounting software and environmental reporting platforms is helping them to establish baseline emissions and

identify opportunities for further reductions. Making this reporting transparent also helps to strengthen relationships with clients, investors and regulatory bodies since it demonstrates a genuine commitment to sustainability.

Industry certifications and sustainability frameworks are helping create common standards, allowing contractors to benchmark performance and demonstrate compliance with evolving environmental requirements.

The transition to a Net Zero economy represents both a challenge and an opportunity for flooring contractors. While achieving ambitious carbon reduction targets will require ongoing investment and innovation, the businesses that embrace sustainability are likely to gain a significant competitive advantage.

For Helen Holland it is simply the right thing to do: “Ultimately, I care about recycling because it matters. It’s about protecting our environment, reducing waste, and making sure future generations inherit a world that hasn’t been neglected.”

As environmental considerations become a defining factor in procurement decisions, flooring contractors are positioning themselves at the forefront of sustainable construction. Through smarter material choices, waste reduction initiatives, cleaner transport solutions, and improved carbon reporting, the industry is demonstrating that sustainability is no longer an optional extra - it is becoming a fundamental and integral part of modern flooring installation.

The journey to net zero is far from complete, but flooring contractors are proving that meaningful progress can be achieved through practical action, collaboration and a long-term commitment to environmental responsibility.

Whether that commitment continues to be reflected in Government circles is an increasingly open question, with messaging on the Net Zero agenda appearing increasingly mixed. On the one hand, regulatory requirements in some areas seem to be stringent, while on the other, we hear questioning from certain quarters of the cost of pursuing Net Zero and the implications for the nation’s energy security.

“Yes I have heard this as well,” says Louise Walters. “There does seem to be some political softening. Which could result in some companies and manufacturers taking their foot off the gas and may deprioritise certain things. I think this will be where the UKSFA can make a difference to try and keep the momentum going.”

So this is where the responsibility comes back to the industry itself and its two leading trade associations, the CFA and the UKSFA, to develop and maintain their leadership roles in educating, coordinating and lobbying on behalf of the contract flooring sector as a whole.



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Scaling sustainability – how the contract flooring supply chain is rising to the challenge

Sustainability is a key driver of new product development and customer requirements in our sector today. While performance, aesthetics and cost remain critical purchasing factors, sustainability has rapidly become a defining measure of product value. From raw material sourcing and manufacturing to logistics, installation and end-of-life recovery, suppliers and manufacturers are rethinking every stage of the product lifecycle as they work towards ambitious Net Zero commitments.

The challenge is considerable. Flooring products are manufactured using complex combinations of polymers, minerals, textiles, adhesives and coatings, often sourced globally. Yet across the industry, companies are seeking to demonstrate that scalable carbon reductions are achievable through innovation, collaboration and long-term investment.

Gone are the days when carbon offsetting was the name of the game. Now companies are actively looking to reduce their operational emissions. Manufacturers prioritise emission reductions through cleaner production methods, renewable energy generation and improved manufacturing efficiency. Increased investment in solar installations, renewable electricity procurement, electrified production equipment, as well as heat and emission recovery installations, is helping to lower Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions across manufacturing facilities.

Broad improvement in these areas means attention has also turned to Scope 3 emissions – those generated further down the supply chain – and which often represent the largest proportion of a flooring manufacturer's carbon footprint. These include emissions from raw materials, transport, packaging, installation

and product disposal, and addressing them requires close cooperation between manufacturers, suppliers and customers alike.

As **Jenny Barnett, safety, health, environmental and quality manager at adhesive manufacturer F. Ball and Co. Ltd**, says: "F. Ball evaluates its activities on-site at our Staffordshire headquarters, as well as the entire lifecycle of all our products when looking for ways to be more sustainable. This includes considering the materials used to make our products, and how the products can be recycled or disposed of responsibly following use. This is aided by compliance with ISO 14001 standards and F. Ball's own ethical sourcing and environmental policies.

"For sustainability to truly scale, manufacturers must lead from the front and, going back to last year's theme, work together for the benefit of the wider industry.

"For us, this includes actively participating in environmental working groups, with the CFA and the British Adhesives and Sealants Association (BASA), which I currently chair, to give the industry a voice in future legislation. Sustainability is a key priority in my role as BASA chair because I believe that leadership requires active participation; if we want to change how things are done across the sector,

we must lead from the front rather than waiting for others to act."

Product design with circularity in mind has become a key strategy for reducing environmental impact. Manufacturers are increasing the proportion of recycled content in their products, while ensuring that they maintain the durability required in demanding commercial environments. Some flooring ranges now incorporate significant volumes of post-consumer and post-industrial recycled materials, reducing demand for virgin resources.

For **Toby Castle, head of operations at Instarmac Group plc**: "Sustainability is becoming an increasingly important driver of product development across the flooring industry, and at UltraFloor we believe meaningful progress comes from considering the entire product lifecycle, not just the finished product. While innovation in flooring continues to evolve, equal attention must be given to reducing environmental impact through responsible sourcing, manufacturing, packaging and logistics."

Another adhesive manufacturer, Uzin Utz, places a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability in its philosophy, focusing on solvent-free, low-emission and low-carbon products throughout its flooring systems. The company says most of its products are EC1 Plus-certified and feature Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for lifecycle analysis.

It has now ceased supplying high-solvent contact adhesives in the UK and is promoting tape systems and other low-emission alternatives. This decision removes what it describes as an unsustainable option from the market and replaces it with a safer, more scalable solution.

Digital supply chain management across the sector is improving transparency. Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) and product-specific carbon footprint calculations are becoming increasingly common, providing architects, specifiers and contractors with robust environmental data to inform purchasing decisions. Greater transparency enables manufacturers to identify carbon hotspots throughout their supply chains and target investment where it will deliver the greatest emissions reductions.



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

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UZIN Plastic Packaging

Daniel Leeson, marketing manager at Uzin Utz UK Ltd, says: "Our goal is for sustainable options to be no longer viewed as 'alternatives.' As we demonstrate the commercial viability of low-emission and low-carbon systems, they have increasingly become the standard choice for our customers. A practical example of this commitment is our decision to stop supplying high-solvent-based contact adhesives. We are guiding our customers toward modern tape systems and low-emission alternatives, which are cleaner, safer and often faster to install, making the sustainable choice also commercially sensible."

Equally important is designing products that can themselves be recycled at the end of their service life. Modular flooring systems, particularly carpet tiles and loose-lay products, make selective replacement easier, extending the life of installations while reducing waste.

"Adhesive-free flooring is an interesting development for the industry and is likely to become increasingly popular in applications where speed of installation and ease of replacement are key considerations," says Toby Castle. "However, it is not a solution for every project. In many commercial environments, high-performance adhesives remain essential to achieve the long-term bond strength, durability and reliability that customers expect."

"As sustainability expectations continue to increase, the focus should be on making complete flooring systems easier to recover and recycle at the end of their service life. This will require closer collaboration between manufacturers and the wider supply chain to develop products that balance performance with improved end-of-life recyclability. Common standards, continued investment in recycling infrastructure and ongoing innovation will all be essential if meaningful progress is to be achieved at scale."

Many manufacturers have also introduced take-back schemes that recover used flooring

for recycling into new products or alternative applications, helping to divert significant quantities of material from landfill.

Packaging is a major focus, driven in part by EPR on packaging, which is now in place. Single-use plastics are being reduced or eliminated, with recycled and recyclable alternatives becoming increasingly common across product ranges. F. Ball has introduced recyclable packaging for a number of products, with much of the packaging itself manufactured from recycled materials, allowing it to be reprocessed multiple times.

These include fully recyclable versions of five and 20 litre plastic bottles used for liquids, primers and tackifiers. The bottles are manufactured from 30% recycled high-density polyethylene (rHDPE), with the material being able to be recycled up to ten times.

"The F. Ball Recycling Scheme was introduced to provide contractors with a convenient means of disposing of recyclable packaging," says Jenny Barnett. "The initiative provides branded receptacles at participating distributors across the UK where contractors can effortlessly place empty recyclable F. Ball buckets and bottles, for free, which then get recycled. This limits what goes into landfill as well as reducing the raw materials required to make new ones."



"The number of F. Ball recycling points across the UK has been steadily increased in response to a positive reception from the flooring industry and now includes 28 located with wholesalers and 52 in total."

Meanwhile work to improve efficiency and sustainability at manufacturing sites continues. Jenny Barnett says: "The company has recently doubled the amount of energy it generates from renewable sources following further investments in solar panels at our Staffordshire headquarters. We now have over 1,700 solar panels generating over 500kw peak. This makes F. Ball's headquarters largely self-sufficient in terms of energy supply. It is estimated that this will prevent 59 tonnes of CO₂ entering the atmosphere each year."

"If this were replicated across the industry, you can easily see how it would have a transformative effect. While some manufacturers may be restricted by location and cost, there is a clear financial and operational benefit to these investments, proving that sustainability and profitability are not mutually exclusive. We aim to act before we are forced to, as the voluntary initiatives of today often become the mandatory legislation of tomorrow."

"The factories benefit from state-of-the-art equipment, including high-efficiency motors and boilers to minimise energy consumption. The buildings incorporate the latest energy efficient technologies, including energy efficient LED lighting, which is either connected to proximity sensors or programmed to turn off when not required. The company's powder plant facility is gravity fed which reduces the energy required for production. There are also now 17 electric vehicle charging points on site for company vehicles."

Material innovation continues to shape the contract flooring market, and one of the oldest materials is perhaps one that holds the best opportunity for future sustainability - wood. It has been said that wooden flooring is the ultimate sustainable choice, since it can be regrown more or less indefinitely.

Longer-lasting products, like wood, play an important role in sustainability. Extending replacement cycles can significantly reduce lifetime emissions by lowering demand for new materials and reducing installation waste. Junckers promotes solid hardwood, which, perhaps counterintuitively, the company maintains is the truly sustainable choice, on account of its longevity and durability.



"It is true that hardwood has been on a bit of journey," says **David Papworth, general manager of Junckers Ltd.** "Although it did lose market share to engineered wood and other options such as laminate and LVT, what we are now seeing is that customers are recognising the sustainability credentials of solid hardwood, compared to alternatives and are moving back in our direction.

"We believe hardwood is a hero building product, mainly because it has a 60-year design life which fits exactly with the standard design life that architects use when developing new buildings. This exceptional durability and longevity, especially in a commercial setting also means that a hardwood solution is cheaper over the longterm.

"From a sustainability point of view, in the UK we only supply products which have a verifiable chain of custody, either FSC or PEFC. And we have an EPD on most of our products."

Interestingly, although the EPD assumes that the product will be incinerated at the end of its 60-year life, Junckers in Denmark is currently running a closed loop renovation scheme, which may enable the lifespan of the product to be extended even further. Within the 60-year period, there are examples of re-use, such as the uplifting of a wooden sports floor at the University of Birmingham and its relocation to East Kilbride.

Although Junckers has an on-site power plant in Denmark for incinerating off-cuts, one of the benefits of hardwood is that there is very little waste.

"The reason for that is that, when they lay a hardwood floor, they stagger the joints," says David Papworth. "So typically what happens is that when they start laying the floor, they will put in a third of a floorboard, followed by a floorboard that's two-thirds length, then one that's full length. So any offcuts get used within the floor as part of the process. Therefore it's not like other materials, such as ceramic tiles, where you cut the tile and then throw away the bit you cut off. With LVT or carpet for example, you get large amounts of off-cut, which you can't use because you don't want little bits of carpet. Contractors will obviously work to avoid that, but in a lot of cases, it's unavoidable to some extent. So that is another benefit of hardwood flooring."

While FSC and PEFC are important in the timber market, environmental certifications, third-party audits and internationally recognised standards help provide confidence

that manufacturers' environmental claims are credible and measurable.

Increasingly, public sector projects and major commercial developments require evidence of carbon performance, recycled content and responsible sourcing as part of procurement processes. Manufacturers that can demonstrate independently verified progress are often better positioned to compete for these projects.

Digital product passports are also beginning to gain traction. By storing detailed information about material composition, recycled content and recycling pathways, they can support future reuse and circular economy initiatives while improving transparency throughout the supply chain.

So despite significant progress, achieving Net Zero remains a complex undertaking. Some low-carbon raw materials remain expensive or are available only in limited quantities. Recycling infrastructure varies considerably between regions, while accurately measuring Scope 3 emissions continues to present technical challenges.

Balancing environmental improvements with commercial competitiveness is an ongoing consideration. Customers increasingly expect sustainable products, but they also require performance, durability and value for money.

Durability is a key consideration when it comes to one of the most significant developments currently underway in the contract flooring sector, namely reuse of flooring products. Liverpool-based Renuvo Flooring is a strong advocate of the benefits of product reuse – and the concept is definitely gaining traction.

"Reuse is no longer a niche sustainability idea," says **David Catton, founder & director, Renuvo Flooring.** "It's rapidly becoming a practical route for the industry to reduce waste, lower embodied carbon and extract more value from materials already in circulation.

"At Renuvo Flooring, our role is to make carpet tile takeback and reuse simple enough for contractors, manufacturers, specifiers and clients to engage with. That starts by understanding the practical mechanics, working with teams in an easy to engage with, repeatable and realistic process.

"Once received, carpet tiles are assessed, processed and prepared into coherent, saleable batches. The aim is to give reuse customers confidence similar to buying new: clear quantities, honest expectations, traceability and evidence of reuse outcomes.

"The secondary market includes commercial refurbishments, blended new-and-reused projects, helping to lower the total embodied carbon. Social housing, charities and community-led projects are highly receptive where the right offer is matched to the right need, creating additional social value.

"The challenges are ease, perception and confidence. Landfill is familiar. Reuse needs earlier planning, better coordination and operators who can connect takeback, preparation and resale.

That is where Renuvo Flooring is focused: making reuse practical, scalable and commercially credible."

Scaling sustainability will also depend on continued collaboration between manufacturers, suppliers, contractors, designers and clients, supported by ongoing investment in research and innovation.

Net Zero remains a strategic business objective shaping product development, manufacturing investment and procurement decisions throughout the contract flooring industry.

Manufacturers that successfully integrate sustainability into every aspect of their operations are likely to gain competitive advantage as environmental performance becomes an increasingly influential factor in specification decisions.

While the journey is far from complete, the direction of travel within our sector is clear. By embracing circular design, cleaner manufacturing, responsible sourcing and transparent reporting, the contract flooring supply chain is steadily transforming itself into a lower-carbon, more resource-efficient industry capable of meeting both commercial expectations and environmental responsibilities.

As Toby Castle puts it: "While there is still considerable progress to be made, the direction the industry is heading is encouraging. The businesses that will lead the flooring industry are those that continue to innovate, measure their impact and embed sustainability into every aspect of their operations, rather than treating it as a standalone initiative."

Ultimately, the transition to Net Zero should be seen as more than a compliance exercise (although it is that as well). It is an opportunity to redefine how flooring products are designed, manufactured and managed throughout their lifecycle - creating lasting value for manufacturers, contractors, clients and the environment alike.



What does the circular economy actually mean for the flooring industry?

Cathie Clarke, CEO of the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA), explains what the circular economy means in practice - why it matters and how UKSFA is actively addressing the challenges to help develop practical, scalable solutions.



Cathie Clarke

The term 'circular economy' is increasingly used across most industries, from fashion to flooring. At its simplest, the circular economy is a shift away from the traditional 'take-make-waste' model. Instead of extracting raw materials, turning them into products and discarding them at the end of their life, a circular approach keeps materials in use for as long as possible. That means designing products to be reused, repaired or recycled, and treating them as valuable resources rather than disposable items.

The UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) describes the circular economy as an approach that prioritises reuse and reduces the amount of valuable material sent to landfill. Circular economy charity, The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, puts it even more bluntly - design out waste, keep materials circulating at their highest value, and regenerate nature rather than deplete it.

For the flooring industry, these ideas are not abstract. For example, it's estimated that more than 400,000 tonnes of flooring waste - such as carpets, rugs & mats, are generated

each year in the UK. Resilient flooring waste such as vinyl, Luxury Vinyl Tiles and linoleum will add significantly to this tonnage. Reducing waste is essential if the sector is to cut its environmental impact and support the UK's net-zero ambitions.

Flooring circularity in practice

In a circular economy, flooring products are designed to be lifted, reused, repaired or recycled into new materials at the end of their first service life. Some manufacturers have already redesigned traditional products to



use a single polymer throughout, or ones that can be more easily separated into component parts to facilitate recycling. Some also offer their own take-back schemes. These schemes allow certain flooring products to be returned after uplift, where they can be either reused directly or reprocessed into new products.

While natural materials such as wood and stone are more easily suited to circular models – as they are single-material products that can be reused directly or broken down for reuse - textile and resilient flooring products present a particular challenge.

These types of flooring are often complex composites, designed to be durable and long-lasting, with multiple layers bonded together. While this improves performance, it can make separation difficult and recycling more challenging.

Installation methods also play a role. Traditional adhesive-based installations can damage products during uplift, limiting opportunities for reuse. In response, some manufacturers are exploring alternative installation techniques that allow easier

removal with minimal damage, while others are redesigning products to improve material separation and increase recycled content.

Smarter design is key. By considering the full life cycle of a product - from raw material extraction through to end-of-life recovery - the industry can significantly improve circular outcomes.

Jargon busting

Like many sustainability movements, the circular economy comes with its own terminology. Fortunately, most of it is more straightforward than it sounds.

- Circular economy: Keeping materials in use for as long as possible through reuse, repair, recycling and better design.
- Closed loop: Waste is recycled back into new products within the same sector, without loss of quality.
- Open loop: Waste is recycled into products for a different industry or application.

- Reuse: Using products or components again for the same purpose.
- Repurpose: Using a product for a different function without major alteration.
- Recycle: Processing used materials into new resources.

Government policy

Alongside industry-led innovation, the Government is also accelerating the shift. Through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA's) Circular Economy Taskforce, the UK Government is encouraging businesses to keep resources in circulation, cut emissions and create green jobs by adopting more circular business models.

For a sector like flooring, where large volumes of material are manufactured, installed and removed each year, this shift presents both environmental and economic opportunities. Reducing waste lowers disposal costs, while durable, modular

and reusable products can deliver long-term savings for customers and manufacturers alike.

Importantly, the circular economy is not a future aspiration. It is already reshaping how flooring products are designed, specified, installed and recovered across the built environment. It challenges us to think differently about materials - not as single-use items, but as assets that should deliver value again and again.

Taking action

By adopting reuse models, selecting low-impact materials, designing for longevity, implementing take-back schemes and engaging with national policy, flooring manufacturers, contractors and specifiers can all play a role in accelerating the UK's transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient future.

As regulations tighten and demand for low-waste, low-carbon solutions continues to grow, the UKSFA is working closely with its members, the Government and industry stakeholders to support the sector's journey toward greater sustainability and circularity.

Through our TakeBack, Back Stamping and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Working Groups, UKSFA is actively addressing these challenges and helping to develop practical, scalable solutions. Embracing circularity isn't just good for the planet - it is rapidly becoming essential for future-proofing the flooring industry.

Being part of a trusted trade body community, such as UKSFA, is a clear next step on any sustainability journey, as it demonstrates a commitment to collaboration, innovation and positive action. Closing the loop is no longer optional - and together, the industry can lead the way.





Flooring reuse and recycling - what contractors need to know

Cathie Clarke, CEO of the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA), outlines why reuse and recycling in flooring is gaining momentum, and what that means for contractors.

Reuse sits at the top of the waste hierarchy. Keeping products in use longer, reducing waste, and cutting demand for new raw materials - it should be straightforward.

Recycling - breaking materials down and turning them into something new - while still important, comes next. In other sectors such as furniture and furnishings, achieving a more sustainable reuse practice is relatively easy. Flooring, however, can bring distinct obstacles.

Why is flooring more challenging?

Flooring isn't generally designed with end-of-life in mind, it's made to last.

Most products are manufactured from multiple bonded materials, making them difficult to separate and recycle. When you also add adhesives into the flooring build-up, uplift becomes more complex, with a higher risk of contamination.

For contractors, this creates real challenges on site; slower, more labour-intensive uplift, limited recycling options, and higher disposal volumes.

Loose-lay flooring systems can avoid some of these issues, but across the board, the industry is under pressure to move towards simpler, more recyclable product designs.

Recycling and reuse options

Some manufacturers offer takeback schemes, and a number of suppliers will take old flooring for recycling. There are also a small number of specialist recyclers, that are turning flooring waste into products for other sectors.

The challenge however is consistency, both in type and amount of flooring. Availability of options varies by region, and options aren't always clear or easy to access when you're working to tight deadlines.

Waste is becoming a bigger issue across all sectors. The textiles industry for example is already feeling the strain. With rising costs and fewer export options for waste materials, the same pressures are coming for construction - and flooring won't be exempt.

Government intervention, including taxes or stricter regulations, is likely to be introduced, if industries don't act first. For flooring contractors, that could mean tighter controls on waste handling and higher disposal costs.

A joined-up approach

To tackle this, the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA) is working with industry partners to build a more practical, nationwide solution.

community and charity projects.

In addition to this, reuse doesn't compete with new sales as it serves a different market.

The flooring identification problem

One of the biggest barriers to recycling is knowing what the flooring itself is made up of. Most flooring products aren't clearly marked, making it difficult to identify materials once they're lifted. That limits what can be recycled and where it can go. Future solutions like Digital Product Passports (DPP) will help - but they're not here yet.

In the meantime, the industry is exploring better marking systems and simpler ways to capture product data.

What happens at the end of life for flooring is heavily influenced by what happens on site. Competency is a key issue in our sector right now, and improved installation and uplift practices can reduce contamination, improve recyclability, and retain more value in waste materials.

New guidance for installers and strip-out contractors is currently being developed by the UKSFA to support this and will complement technical guidance already available through UKSFA partners, the Contract Flooring Association.

The cost of recycling

Developing a fully sustainable takeback and recycling network will, of course, cost money. An Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme - where manufacturers (therefore realistically the supply chain) help fund waste management - is one option already being discussed within Government. However, the industry is aiming to get ahead by developing its own approach before regulation forces the issue.

The bottom line for contractors

Change is coming - and contractors are right in the middle of the reuse and recycling dilemma.

In practical terms, this means the sector is closely looking at how flooring is uplifted, and greater visibility of waste routes with potential new requirements around sorting and disposal. Those who adapt early will be better placed as expectations, and regulations, tighten.

To find out more or access available schemes, visit www.uk-sfa.com.



A key step is TakeMyFlooring, a new online portal that will bring together existing takeback and recycling schemes and help contractors quickly find available options. The initiative will also highlight gaps in the current provision with the longer-term aim to develop regional collection and sorting hubs, making it easier to move material at scale and improve recycling viability.

Flooring reuse is often the missed opportunity. There is demand for good-quality, second-hand flooring, but logistics get in the way. Flooring is bulky, difficult to store, and isn't easy to redistribute. But with the right infrastructure, such as local hubs, contractors could divert usable flooring from waste, reduce disposal costs, and support



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We can visit your site and assess the types and volumes of flooring waste streams you generate.

We can then put a no obligation proposal together

showing the cost savings available and how the materials are collected and recycled.

There are now numerous outlets throughout the UK who concentrate solely on recycling carpet and underlay waste.

If reducing your ever-increasing waste management costs and becoming an "eco warrior" is something you're considering, please contact Kenburn for more information.



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

www.kenburn.co.uk



Crucial updates to the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for the flooring sector

A new market update for the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) has been announced, bringing important implications for high-carbon materials, which includes flooring waste.

The update earlier this year (January 2026) signals higher disposal costs, increased energy pressures and greater scrutiny of end-of-life carbon impacts - all of which will shape decision-making across the supply chain in the coming years.

The UK ETS is a market-based system designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's legally binding commitment to reach net zero by 2050.

Key points from the update include:

- Higher Energy from Waste (EfW) and residual waste gate fees, meaning the cost of sending flooring waste to Energy from Waste facilities will increase
- End-of-life carbon impacts feeding directly into LCAs and EPDs, with products sent to EfW performing worse than those reused or recycled
- Rising energy costs passed through from ETS, as higher carbon prices increase operating costs for waste facilities. In more detail - ETS creates a market for carbon allowances, which can influence the cost of energy for businesses. As carbon prices increase, the cost of carbon allowances rises, leading to higher operating costs for waste facilities and other sectors that rely on these allowances. This mechanism incentivises companies to invest in lower-carbon technologies, which can indirectly affect waste facilities' operational costs.

Together, these changes will impact how flooring products are designed, specified and disposed of will matter more than ever.

Cathie Clarke, CEO of the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance, explains how, under the scheme, the UK Government sets an annual cap on total emissions.

She said: "The UK ETS Authority currently intends Energy from Waste Facilities to enter the UK ETS from 2028, following the ongoing Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) period which commenced in January 2026. While 2028 remains the stated implementation date, the final design and supporting measures continue to be

developed by Government."

"The flooring industry has both a duty of care and a commercial incentive to reduce reliance on fossil-based materials and improve waste management. Treating waste as a resource rather than simply a cost can unlock opportunities for efficiency, innovation and compliance."

The background

Launched in 2021, the UK ETS currently applies to energy-intensive industries, the power sector and aviation. However, from 2028, it will expand to include waste incineration and Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities - a major turning point for the flooring industry.

Each year in the UK, more than 200,000 tonnes of carpet and textile flooring waste are sent to EfW facilities. The inclusion of resilient flooring waste is expected to add a further

50,000 tonnes

Once EfW facilities fall under the UK ETS, operators will be required to monitor, report and verify their carbon emissions. Crucially, they will also need to purchase and surrender ETS allowances for every tonne of fossil-based CO₂ emitted.

In simple terms, the more fossil-derived material incinerated - such as many flooring products - the higher the cost of treatment. These costs will be directly linked to carbon market prices rather than remaining fixed.

The cost impact

Waste Management industry modelling suggests ETS could increase residual waste treatment costs by between £40 and £90 per tonne initially, with significantly higher impacts possible if carbon allowance prices continue to rise.

Local authorities are already preparing for



this shift. At a household recycling conference hosted by the CLAIRE Group in Wales in 2024, UKSFA highlighted the urgent need to reduce synthetic, fossil-based waste entering disposal sites to avoid unsustainable costs. In Wales, councils may also face financial and regulatory pressures linked to national carbon reduction targets.

Under the ETS, allowance prices are set through auctions and secondary market trading and are influenced by supply, demand and the Cost Containment Mechanism (CCM). The CCM allows the UK ETS Authority to intervene if prices rise sharply for a sustained period, helping stabilise the market. However, once EfW facilities are included, disposal costs for fossil-derived flooring waste will inevitably fluctuate in line with carbon market conditions.

Cathie Clark continued: "From a commercial perspective, the UK ETS will also feed directly into Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). Both account for carbon impacts at a product's end of life, meaning flooring products sent to EfW are likely to score worse than those designed for reuse or recycling. This will become an increasingly important consideration for manufacturers, specifiers and clients, both in the UK and internationally."

"The carbon content of flooring products is becoming a commercial cost that will increasingly influence specification, procurement, EPD performance, take-back schemes and future producer responsibility obligations."

"Products containing high levels of PVC, bitumen, polyurethane, synthetic latex and other fossil-derived materials will attract higher end-of-life carbon burdens than products containing recycled, bio-based or recyclable materials. Policy interventions such as ETS therefore strengthens the business case for eco-design, recycled content, design for disassembly and closed-loop recycling systems."

Taking action

Below are some of the ways businesses can take action now.

- **Regular waste audits** - Understand what materials are being discarded, in what volumes and from which sources. This can highlight opportunities for prevention, reuse and recycling.
- **On-site segregation** - Where space allows, separating materials such as carpet, underlay, vinyl, LVT and wood-based products makes recovery easier and more cost-effective.
- **Using take-back schemes** - Many manufacturers now offer take-back schemes for their own products, and some accept other brands. These are particularly effective for packaging and clean off-cuts.
- **Partnering with reuse and recycling specialists** - Segregated materials, especially by fibre type such as polypropylene, nylon or wool, are increasingly in demand. UKSFA's reuse and recycling directory can be found at www.uk-sfa.com/reuse-and-recycle

- **Thinking circular** - Choosing recyclable materials, modular systems and alternatives to traditional backings and adhesives can significantly reduce future disposal costs. Products designed for disassembly and recovery will perform better under the ETS.

Industry support

Cathie Clarke explains: "Adapting to the UK ETS, alongside wider sustainability requirements, can be complex. UKSFA is here to support members through this transition."

"We provide guidance on waste audits, take-back schemes, circular product design, LCAs, EPDs and sustainability reporting. We also connect members with trusted partners in recycling, reuse and material innovation."

"UKSFA actively tracks UK ETS developments and waste-sector consultations to keep members informed of future scope changes and cost risks. By acting early, businesses can reduce costs, minimise environmental impact and futureproof against rising carbon-related charges."

Collaboration is key

The impact of the UK ETS will be felt across the entire flooring supply chain, particularly by businesses operating zero-waste-to-landfill contracts. This includes manufacturers, distributors, contractors and retailers, as well as others involved at end of life.

There is a strong case for proactive collaboration to minimise financial pressures while advancing sustainability.

Bigger and better – UKSFA Conference & Awards 2026 were a huge success

Our Conference & Awards this year was a huge success, bringing together professionals from across the flooring supply chain for a day of discussion, practical insights, and industry collaboration, with this year's event attracting even greater attendance and engagement than ever before.

With expert speakers from across the world, including the USA and Europe, as well as the UK, delegates explored the key issues shaping the future of sustainable flooring, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Digital Product Passports (DPP's), takeback schemes, circularity, sustainability and the commercial realities facing businesses today.

Cathie Clarke, CEO of UKSFA, said: "This year's conference was bigger and better, with a real energy in the room. The discussions have moved the agenda forward and given us valuable direction as we build UKSFA's future work programme. Sustainability remains



Speakers and discussions were outstanding

as important as ever, and events like this demonstrate the value of bringing the industry together to tackle shared challenges."

One of the strongest messages throughout the day was the importance of collaboration.

Charlie Martin, CEO of the Anti-Greenwash Charter, praised the event's practical approach: "What I particularly liked was that it was really grounded. There's a genuine

intent in the room, but also a strong commercial focus on how we make sustainability work in practice...let's keep the discussion going."

Headline speaker **Dr Robert Peoples, Executive Director of Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE)**, highlighted the value of learning from different perspectives across international markets. He said: "Every journey starts with the first step. Get started, learn from your mistakes and continue to partner and build together. Don't let perfect be the enemy of good enough."

For many delegates, the conference reinforced the urgency of preparing for future legislation.



Inga Morris-Blincoo, Buying Transformation Programme Director at Headlam plc, commented: "The quality of the speakers and discussions was outstanding. My biggest takeaway was we need to start preparing now. EPR is coming, and the sooner we organise ourselves as an industry, the better placed we'll be to manage the challenges and opportunities ahead."

A huge thank you to all our speakers, panellists, sponsors and delegates for making this year's event such a success.

Missed a presentation or want to revisit the discussions?

Presentation slides and event photographs are now available exclusively to UKSFA members in the [Members' Area](#).

Congratulations to the UKSFA Award winners!

We celebrated the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations at the UKSFA Conference & Awards 2026 (July), recognising innovation, collaboration and commitment to driving sustainability across the flooring sector.



The prestigious awards, held at the Voco St John's Hotel in Solihull on 1 July 2026 during our two-day conference, highlighted the people, projects and initiatives helping to shape a more circular and responsible flooring industry, showcasing best practice and demonstrating that the sector continues to evolve, innovate and raise standards.

Congratulations to all our winners;

- Outstanding Commitment and Contribution to UKSFA - Robert Barker
- Sustainability Champion of the Year - James Bagdadi
- Circular Economy Initiative of the Year - Object Carpet
- Takeback Project of the Year - Designer Contracts
- Reuse / Recycling Project of the Year - Envirocycle London Ltd
- Collaborative Sustainability Project of the Year - MJs Event Services Ltd

A special recognition award was presented to Robert Barker, who received the Outstanding Commitment and Contribution to UKSFA Award in recognition of his incredible support and dedication over the past 14 years. Robert's knowledge, commitment and passion have played a significant role in shaping UKSFA into the organisation it is today. While Robert is stepping down from the Board, he will remain an important part of the UKSFA community.

Cathie Clakre, CEO of UKSFA, said: "Congratulations to all this year's winners and finalists for their achievements and continued commitment to sustainability.

"The awards demonstrate the strength, creativity and collaboration within the flooring industry; from developing new circular economy solutions and improving reuse and recycling, to creating partnerships that deliver meaningful environmental impact. By recognising those leading the way, UKSFA

continues to highlight the innovation and best practice that is helping to build a more sustainable future for flooring."

Is it time to consider UKSFA membership?

There has never been a more important time to be part of the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA). The decisions businesses make today will shape how prepared they are for tomorrow, but are you ready for what is coming?

Our Conference & Awards highlighted some key challenges ahead, including topics such as Digital Product Passports (DPPs) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which is no longer a future consideration – it is coming!

By joining UKSFA, you'll become part of a growing network working collaboratively to tackle the challenges and opportunities ahead.

- Members gain access to the latest industry developments, expert insight, practical guidance
- Have the opportunity to help shape the future of sustainable flooring
- Network and knowledge share with key individuals and companies
- Obtain guidance and support for you and your business as the industry changes
- Work with us to minimise costs, influence policy and develop effective takeback and recycling solutions.

If you're not already a member, now is the time to get involved and ensure your business is ready for the changes ahead. Contact cathie@uk-sfa.com for more information.

Click here to view the recent UKSFA Conference online



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Re-use constitutes the most ecological utility in product end of life, as the lowest carbon flooring option is one that already exists. Not only does this option eliminate the need for disposal of the tiles but also prevents the need for a virgin product where they are used next.

We accept offcuts, just put them on the top of your pallet.

Any tiles that are unable to be reused are repurposed as filler in equestrian surfaces ensuring they don't go to waste.

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Contact either your area sales representative or the sales office directly. Let us know the quantity of tiles and the address to collect from.



Collection Quote

We will organise a quote to collect the tiles (this only takes a few minutes).



Prepare for collection

Once approved, palletise the tiles and we will collect them from site.



Receive certificate

You will be issued a carbon avoidance certificate, letting you know how much co2 has been avoided by the re-use of your tiles.

01

02

03

04

A view from another industry

THE FINISHES & INTERIORS SECTOR

The FIS is the UK trade association for the fit-out sector, representing over 600 members from manufacturers, contractors, specialist contractors and distributors.

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It has been well reported that the construction sector is responsible for a large impact: it is the largest contributor to waste in the UK, with 60 million tonnes annually from construction and demolition combined, and a 25% contribution to UK carbon emissions.

However the focus for sustainability has historically been on new build. Certification schemes such as BREEAM, LEED and WELL have helped create a framework to understand how a building performs on a number of metrics including operational energy consumption, waste, health and wellbeing and material choices. Some of these standards are mentioned in the UK Government green public procurement and are seen as a mark of quality by real estate owners. Some studies have shown that certified buildings can yield a higher rent and are more desirable.

However, the drive for sustainability in fit-out projects has not been so focused. This is partly because the projects are smaller and they have very short timelines.

The FIS's CEO, Iain McIlwee is passionate about sustainability and in 2020 he started to put together a group of members to address the issue. In 2021, he recruited a dedicated FIS sustainability champion, Flavie Lowres, to lead the group, which by then comprised 20 professionals. This group, the FIS Sustainability Leadership Group, now has 90 members with different expertise and representing the wide range of stakeholders in the membership. The group meets roughly three times a year to identify areas where collaboration can accelerate a transition to a more sustainable fit-out sector. The collaboration is not just within the membership but extends to other organisations, such as the Supply Chain Sustainability School which enables FIS members to accept some of their great resources.

Examples of the group's activities include the development of a series of webinars and a

campaign on modern slavery with the Supply Chain Sustainability School throughout the year. A group has been looking to quantify the impact of the transition from a Cat A fit-out (speculative finishes that are typically carried out to enable rental of the space) to a Cat B fit-out (final finishes contracted by the tenant to make the space suitable for their needs). The aim of this project is to understand the scale of the issue, the products most at risk of being taken down and the carbon/cost/waste associated with this transition. This will help to make the business case for a better approach to Cat A.



The FIS believes in the need to have a structured approach to defining a fit-out project as sustainable. As such, Iain McIlwee sits on the board of SKARating, which is a scheme that has been specifically developed for fit-out projects. More details on SKARating can be found here: [SKARating](https://www.skarating.co.uk).

In the last four years, the FIS has also been concerned about how to accelerate the reuse of construction products back into commercial offices. The FIS had a call for participation from members and non-members and put together a partnership including contractors, demolition contractors, installers, manufacturers, architects and consultants to try and resolve the issue. This project has now been running for two years and has been learning by doing. The project recruited a project manager for two days a week, Hattie Emmerson, and identified some storage space with storage company CAMA.

The project has since been focusing on

suspended metal ceiling tiles and luminaires and identifying products for reuse. FIS has been using its learning to raise the profile of reuse with its members, but also to support initiatives such as the UK Government Circular Economy Task force. The aim of the project is not to create a business but to understand the process and the business case for reuse with the hope that organisations will come forward and set up businesses.

One challenge that has been identified is the lack of consistency when talking about reused products. This might apply to costs, testing or warranty discussions. Some say that reused products are more expensive and others that they are cheaper. There is also no consistent message around testing requirements. The FIS believes that the issue stems from the fact that reusing can mean different things to different people. It can mean reusing surplus products brought to site but not used, products that are retained in place, products moved to storage for use in another building or products brought back to the manufacturer for remanufacturing (such as painting, testing or repair). All these scenarios incur different costs but also testing regimes. FIS has therefore created a categorisation process to describe accurately the various scenarios. Discussions are on-going to ensure a clear pathway towards an appropriate testing regime is established.

The FIS is also providing support for their members on EPD and has been collaborating with an organisation called [Recolight](https://www.recolight.co.uk) to create a one-day face-to-face training on EPD. This training will soon also be available online and is opened to members and non-members.

Bringing professionals from different parts of the supply chain has been very helpful to encourage collaborative approaches to sustainability and constructive conversations on what would really make a difference in the sector.

www.thefis.org

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CPA Sustainability Briefing Documents

Sustainability briefing documents and other resources

The Construction Products Association (CPA) continues to carry out great work on sustainability, and their website at www.constructionproducts.org.uk contains a treasure trove of useful resources to help you as you scale the sustainability performance of your own businesses.

As Jane Thornback, the CPA's Sustainability Policy Advisor, says when speaking about scaling sustainability: "This is key, there are always lots of small niche examples, or the same example trotted out repeatedly – floor tiles reused for instance. The issue is how do we scale up change. This is what government is trying to do to scale up solar and heat pumps for new homes and for retrofit."

The CPA is particularly concerned to stress the importance of EPDs and the amount of work that is going on in this area currently. They say the demand for EPDs continues to grow and there were probably in excess of 200,000 verified EPDs globally at the start of this year.

EPDs are the foundation for product information for building level Whole Life Carbon Assessment. The 2024 EU Construction Products Regulation has the new mandatory requirement of the reporting of various LCA characteristics with the relevant information being incorporated ultimately in Digital Product Passports. In addition, the UK Government, in a white paper consultation on a new regulatory framework for construction products, has stated it wishes to continue to be consistent with the EU CPR.

There is a very useful section on EPDs on the CPA website at:

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/environmental-product-declarations/>

As well as a general overview, this page links to a large number of Briefing Documents produced by the CPA such as:

[I'm a Manufacturer - how do I go about getting an EPD?](#)

and

[Types of Environmental Product Declaration and their advantages and disadvantages](#)



SELECTED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The BSI has produced a 'Little Book of LCA' (20 pages). This will be useful to those new to the topic of lifecycle assessment. It gives a very short introduction and a pointer to the BS ISO standards as the basic rules. It can be downloaded from: <https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/insights-and-media/insights/whitepapers/life-cycle-assessment-a-guide-for-sustainable-manufacturing/>
- In May 2026 the European Commission convened an online [Training Session on Environmental Sustainability of construction products under the Construction Products Regulation](#). This represents the cutting edge of current thinking from the Commission and is relevant to those with an understanding of LCA and EPD.
- [ECO Platform](#) is the organisation that represents EPD programme operators. From their website you can sign up to receive monthly copies of their newsletter.
- Construction News have a podcast on the fast-emerging world of digital product passports and their implications for transparency, accountability and sustainability across the construction supply chain. Learn how this technology could reshape regulation, procurement and data management with Peter Caplehorn, chief executive of the Construction Products Association; Dr Stephen Hamil, innovation director at NBS; and Matt Brinklow, sustainability lead at Mace. The podcast can be accessed here: <https://www.podbean.com/ep/pb-m8ux9-19bcf95>

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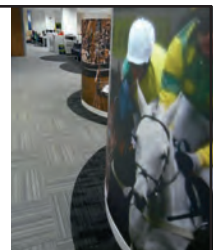


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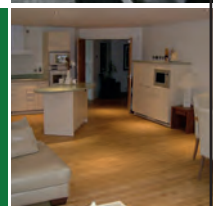
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So you want to know about Sustainability?

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 your 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.

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.

01865 591000 • 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 584100 • 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



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.

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.

020 8194 2770
www.builduk.org



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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.

rcarruthers@uca.ac.uk
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)

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.

02 788 31 68
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 NICEF 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.

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.

01785 331874
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 (NICEF)

The NICEF 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.

0964 727 200
www.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.

020 3744 6311
www.stonefed.org.uk

The Stocklists

The Stocklists is often referred to as the 'bible' of the flooring business, aimed at wholesalers and retailers. We're proud to have built a busy publication that keeps the industry informed every day online and each month in print with all the innovations, product launches, industry news and appointments.

01892 752400
www.thestocklists.com

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.

www.bmtrada.com

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 Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA)

The UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA) is a trade body and former Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK) that focuses on promoting sustainability and circular economy principles within the UK flooring industry. They work with members, industry stakeholders, and government to drive positive change and reduce the environmental impact of flooring.

0161 440 8325
www.carpetrecyclinguk.com

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.

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 584100
www.wrap.org.uk



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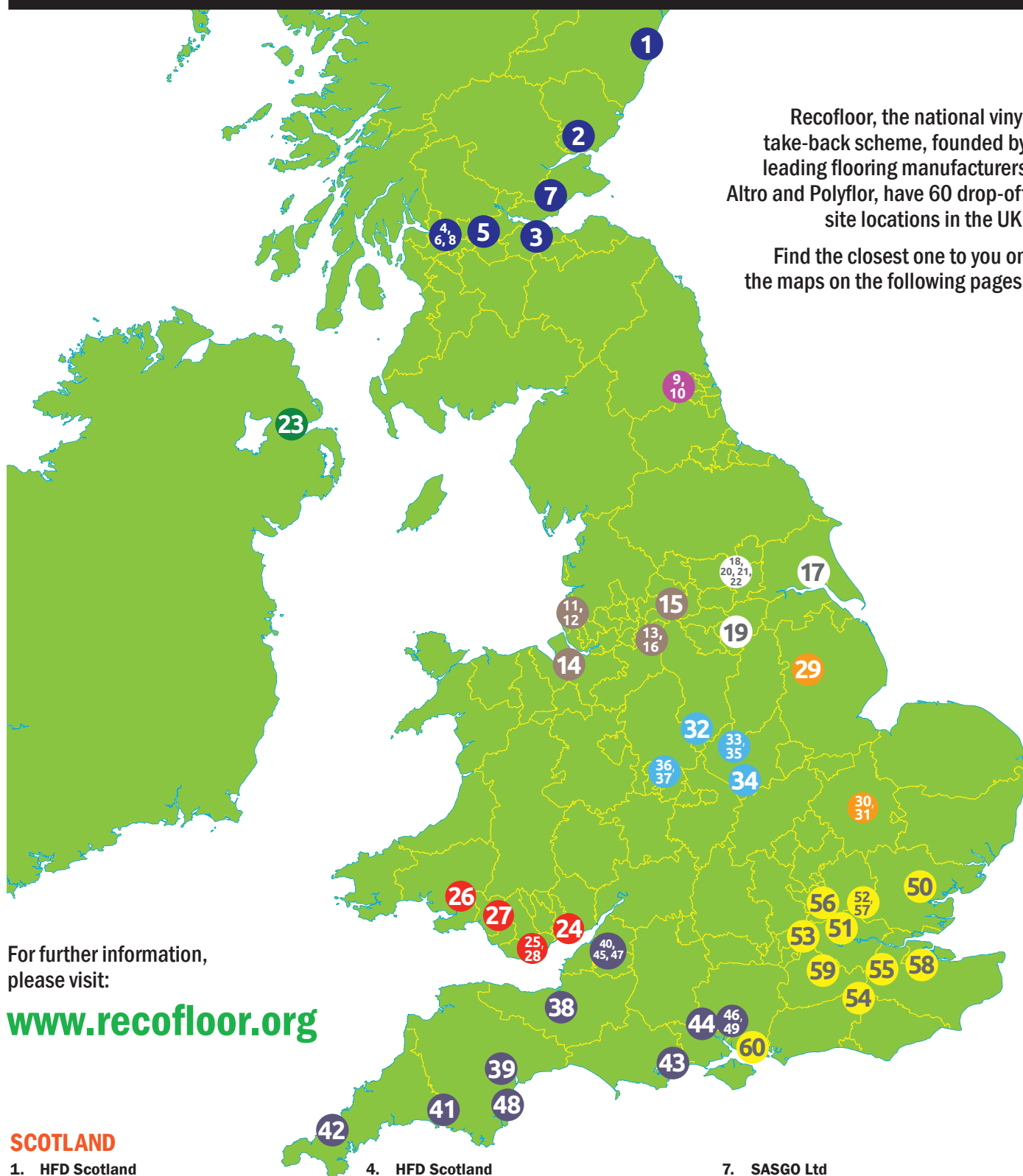


Recofloor[™]
Vinyl Take-Back Scheme

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.



For further information,
please visit:

www.recofloor.org

SCOTLAND

- HFD Scotland**
Denmore Place, Denmore Industrial Estate, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8JS
- HFD Scotland**
Unit 1c, Dunsinane Industrial Estate, Kilspindie Road, Dundee DD2 3JP
- HFD Scotland**
Unit 12, A1 Industrial Estate, 230-232 Sir Harry Lauder Road Edinburgh EH15 2QA
- HFD Scotland**
Unit 209, 1 Baird Avenue, Hillington West, Hillington Industrial Estate, Glasgow G52 4JG
- HFD Scotland**
McNeil Drive, Eurocentral, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow ML1 4YF
- Jeden Ltd**
84 Fifty Pitches Road, Cardonald Business Park Glasgow G51 4EB
- SASGO Ltd**
Unit 14, Faraday Rd, Glenrothes, Fife KY6 2RU
- TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
231 Maclellan Street, Kinning Parkway Estate, Glasgow G41 1RR

NORTH

- 9. Mercado**
Unit 7, Second Avenue, Team Valley
Trading Est, Gateshead NE11 0ND
- 10. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Unit 6, Queensway North, Team Valley
Industrial Estate, Gateshead NE11 0SZ

NORTH WEST

- 11. Flooring Supply Centre**
Unit 1, Dunningbridge Rd,
Netherton, Liverpool L30 6TA
- 12. Lee Floorstok**
24-32 Greenland Street,
Liverpool L1 0BS
- 13. Lee Floorstok**
Unit B1 The Dresser Centre, Whitworth
Street, Manchester, M11 2NE
- 14. Pennine Flooring Supplies**
Unit 6 Rector's Lane Industrial Estate,
Sandycroft, Chester CH5 2DH
- 15. Pennine Flooring Supplies**
Unit 1, Junction 19 Business Park,
Green Lane, Heywood OL10 1NB
- 16. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
James Nasmyth Way, Green Lane,
Eccles, Manchester M30 0SF

YORKSHIRE

- 17. Birch Distribution**
Rotterdam Road, Sutton Fields
Industrial Estate, Hull HU7 0XD
- 18. Birch Distribution**
Unit 11 South Leeds Business Park,
Hudswell Road, Leeds LS10 1AG
- 19. Birch Distribution**
318 Coleford Road, Darnall,
Sheffield S9 5PH
- 20. Mercado**
Thornes Farm Way, Thornes Farm
Business Park, Leeds LS9 0PS
- 21. Mercado**
Treefield Industrial Estate, Gelderd
Road, Gildersome, Morley,
Leeds LS27 7JU
- 22. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Unit 4, Logic Way, Skelton Moor Way,
Leeds LS15 0BF

IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

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

WALES

- 24. Likewise**
Unit 10, Maesglas Retail Park
Newport NP20 2NS
- 25. Mercado**
Units 8-10 Llandough Trading Estate,
Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8RR

- 26. Mercado**
Unit 6 Viking Way, Winch Wen
Industrial Estate, Winch Wen,
Swansea SA1 7DA
- 27. Mercado**
Horsefair Road, Waterton Industrial
Estate, Bridgend CF31 3YN
- 28. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Unit 6 Charnwood Park, Clos Marion,
Cardiff CF10 4LJ

EAST

- 29. Mercado**
2 Turnstone Road, Vincent Court, Teal
Park, Lincoln LN6 3AD
- 30. STS Flooring**
Unit 4 Links Industrial Park, Trafalgar
Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB23 8UD
- 31. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Unit 14, Bar Hill Trading Estate,
Trafalgar Way, Cambridge CB23 8SQ

MIDLANDS

- 32. Concept Flooring Supplies**
1 Dartmouth Road, Junction Industrial
Estate, Smethwick B66 1AX
- 33. Floormart**
Unit 1, 7 Craven Street, Leicester LE1 4BX
- 34. Mercado**
Unit 7, Kingfield Road Trade Park
Coventry CV1 4DW
- 35. Mercado**
Unit 7, 1 Chiswick Road, Freemans
Common Industrial Estate,
Leicester LE2 7SX
- 36. Mercado**
Gorsey Lane, Coleshill,
Birmingham B46 1JU
- 37. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Emerald Point, Bell Heath Way,
Birmingham B32 3BZ

SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST

- 38. Mercado**
Unit 14 Crown Close Way, Crown Ind
Estate, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8RX
- 39. Beach Bros**
Western Road, St. Thomas,
Exeter EX4 1EQ
- 40. BL Flooring Supplies**
Unit 5A Gatton Road, St. Werburghs,
Bristol BS2 9SH
- 41. Christal Supplies**
Laira Bridge Boatyard, The Ride,
Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 7JD
- 42. Fitwell Flooring**
Unit 16 Cardew Industrial Estate,
Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1SS
- 43. Nutland Carpets**
39 Cowley Road, Nuffield Trading
Estate, Poole, Dorset BH17 0UJ

- 44. Nutland Carpets**
Renown Close Industrial Estate,
Chandlers Ford, Hampshire SO53 4HZ
- 45. Mercado**
Lysander Road, Cribbs Causeway,
Bristol BS10 7UB
- 46. Mercado**
Units 10 & 11, M3 Trade Park,
Manor Way, Eastleigh, Southampton,
Hampshire SO50 9YA
- 47. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Units D-E Riverside Business Park,
St. Annes Road, St Annes Park,
Bristol BS4 4ED
- 48. Mercado**
Unit C1B, Kingsteignton Trading Estate,
Pottery Rd, Newton Abbott
TQ12 3BN
- 49. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
18 Oriana Way,
Southampton SO16 0YU

SOUTH EAST AND LONDON

- 50. Mercado**
Unit 9, Atholl Road, Dukes Park
Industrial Estate, Chelmsford,
Essex CM2 6TB
- 51. Mercado**
77-79 Garman Road, Tottenham,
London N17 0UN
- 52. Courtney Flooring Supplies Ltd**
Unit 11, Optima Business Park,
Pindar Rd, Hoddesdon,
Hertfordshire EN11 0DY
- 53. SASGO Ltd**
Sutton Court, Sutton Lane,
Nr Heathrow, Langley SL3 8AR
- 54. Signature Me Ltd**
Unit C, Charlwoods Business Centre,
East Grinstead RH19 2HH
- 55. STS Flooring**
Units 5-6 Orpington Trade Centre,
Murray Road, Orpington,
Kent BR5 3SS
- 56. STS Flooring**
6 Spring Park, Spring Way,
Hemel Hempstead HP2 7ER
- 57. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
1 Alban Park, Hatfield Rd,
St Albans AL4 0JJ
- 58. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Unit 7/8, Revenge Road, Lordswood
Industrial Estate, Chatham,
Kent ME5 8UD
- 59. Volante**
50 Cox Lane, Chessington
KT9 1TW
- 60. John Palmer Carpets Ltd**
1 Standard Way, Fareham
PO16 8XJ

BUYERS' GUIDE

How the flooring industry is embracing sustainability

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

** The following information is provided by players in the flooring industry as part of our paid-for editorial strategy. As such, information may be superficially harmonised to fit our style guide but the essential information has not been changed. Companies have been asked to provide the most accurate information with respect to facts, figures, and sustainable initiatives.*

CONDOR GROUP

On a Roll to Zero Emission: how Condor Group builds a circular future

SUSTAINABILITY at Condor Group is not a single project, but the common thread running through energy, product and production. As one of Europe's top carpet manufacturers — with over 100 years of experience, an annual production of 200m sq m and customers in more than 100 countries — the Group carries a responsibility that matches its scale. Its vision, On a Roll to Zero Emission, translates that responsibility into three concrete pillars: clean energy, circular products and intelligent production.

Pillar 1: Clean energy, around the clock

The foundation of zero-emission production is renewable energy. With more than 20,000 solar panels on its own sites and a participation in one of the largest solar parks in the Netherlands — 328,000 panels across 85.5 hectares — the Condor Group already covers more than half of its energy demand with renewable sources. The objective is 100% renewable energy by 2030.

The next step addresses a structural challenge: solar energy is generated when the sun shines, not necessarily when production requires it. Condor Group is therefore currently installing an 8 MW battery system. This large-scale storage facility captures surplus solar energy during peak hours and releases it during evening and night shifts. The result is a production environment that increasingly runs on its own clean energy, with reduced

grid dependency and lower peak loads — a meaningful contribution to grid stability in the region as well. In addition, the first steps have been taken towards a hydrogen connection, although this is not expected to be realized until the next decade at the earliest.

Pillar 2: Products designed for many lives
Sustainable production only delivers its full value when the products themselves are sustainable. Under the ALLOA (All Over Again) brand, the Group's R&D efforts have resulted in a growing range of products made from recycled materials and designed to be recycled again. For instance, Edel Carpets has been supplying fully recyclable ALLOA carpets to the UK for years, Condor Grass produces the fully recyclable ALLOA Pura, and Condor Cartex supplies major car manufacturers with ALLOA car mats that contain up to 50% recycled content and are themselves fully recyclable.

The most recent innovation is our PineCore Backing, a new sustainable backing for carpet tiles. Built around pine — a naturally strong and renewable material — PineCore offers a substantially lower environmental footprint than conventional backing constructions, without concessions to dimensional stability or performance. It demonstrates the Group's conviction that circularity must extend beyond the visible surface of a product into its very core.

In addition, the Group is increasingly working with recycled materials in residential carpets. Building on more than a decade of experience with recycled yarns such as Econyl

and on its accelerating partnership with #tide, it has now developed a complete range of qualities made from ocean-bound plastic.

Pillar 3: Intelligent, efficient production

The third pillar is the production environment itself. Condor Group invests continuously in robotization and automation: automated production lines, robotized handling and smart internal logistics reduce energy consumption per square meter, minimize material waste and safeguard consistent quality. Automation also relieves employees of heavy, repetitive work, enabling them to focus on innovation and process improvement.

The Group's facilities reflect the same ambition. Sites operate largely gas-free, and the ultra-modern production facility of group member VEBE — now fully operational — was designed to meet BREEAM Excellent, the second-highest attainable sustainability certification.

From ambition to impact

With clean energy stored and available around the clock, products engineered for multiple lifecycles — preferably from recycled raw materials — and production facilities that set the standard for efficiency, Condor Group is systematically converting ambition into results. The direction is clear: we are on a roll to zero emission. That is how Condor Group will continue covering the world — sustainably, and for generations to come.

www.condorgroup.com





Superior luxury for all around your home

High-quality carpet for the finest homes, offices and hotels, made by craftsmen in our state-of-the-art factories. As a fully family-owned company, we have been creating, producing and supplying innovative top quality Dutch products worldwide since 1992, offered at internationally competitive prices and short lead times.

Reliable. Innovative. Affordable.

member of the
 **CONDOR**group

F. BALL AND CO. LTD.

Getting stuck into sustainability

F BALL and Co. Ltd. is demonstrating a commitment to environmental responsibility through a sustainability strategy that extends beyond compliance, with two key pillars being its increasingly popular recycling scheme and significant efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.

The F. Ball Recycling Scheme provides receptacles at wholesalers around the country where empty recyclable F. Ball buckets and bottles can be conveniently deposited by flooring contractors for recycling, completely free of charge.

The initiative, first introduced in 2019, has been steadily expanded in response to a positive reception from flooring contractors, and there are now more than 40 recycling points at wholesaler partners across the UK. Last year, 23,000 buckets and 1,560kg of bottles (approximately 12,000) were collected and recycled through the scheme, avoiding 13 tonnes of plastic being sent to landfill.

This follows F. Ball introducing recyclable packaging for its instantly recognisable yellow bucket adhesives, as well as its five and 20 litre plastic bottles used for liquids, primers and tackifiers, with a minimum 30% of the new packaging itself manufactured from recycled materials.

Wider strategy

The sustainability strategy of F. Ball goes beyond the minimum required by law to limit its environmental impact. It revolves around reviewing the resources the company uses and its outputs, as well as making efforts to conserve the immediate natural environment.

At its Staffordshire headquarters, F. Ball evaluates the entire life cycle of its products when looking for ways to be more sustainable. This includes considering the materials used to

make its products, manufacturing processes and how the products can be recycled or disposed of responsibly following use and is aided by complying with ISO 14001 standards.

Carbon footprint reduction

Another major objective of F. Ball's sustainability strategy is to reduce the carbon footprint of the business by implementing measures to both consume less energy and increase the proportion of the energy that it uses that comes from renewables. This is being achieved in large part by installing solar panels to generate a significant amount of the electricity supply.

The company has recently doubled the amount of energy it generates from renewable sources following further investments in solar panels and now has over 1,700 solar panels generating over a 500kw peak across its main building and powder plant facility. It is estimated that this prevents 59 tonnes of CO2 entering the atmosphere each year.

Factory and offices

F. Ball's commitment to sustainability extends to the design and operation of its buildings. The facilities incorporate the latest energy-efficient technologies, including energy efficient LED lighting, which is either connected to proximity sensors or programmed to turn off when not required.

Factories are also equipped with state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment, including high-efficiency motors and boilers to minimise energy consumption. The company's powder plant facility is gravity fed so that the only power required for production is that of delivery trucks conveying raw materials to the top of the facility.

Furthermore, F. Ball has installed 17 electric vehicle charging points, both for company cars and employee vehicles on-site.

The development of the site at F. Ball's

headquarters, which is situated on the edge of the Peak District National Park, has been carefully planned to harmonise with the surrounding landscape, preserve the character of the natural environment and protect wildlife. The powder plant facility is constructed on stilts on a flood plain to reduce the risk of flooding.

Commitment to improvement

F. Ball's sustainability strategy involves not standing still, but continually striving to achieve ever-more challenging goals through continuous change, including looking for more ways to reduce consumption of finite raw materials and further reducing the business's carbon footprint.

This will involve formulating products with the aim of using fewer raw materials and making them easier to recycle, as well as looking at emerging renewables technology to find new ways of minimising the company's energy consumption.

Consultations with every person in the company have taken place through a series of workshops in order to get their ideas on how to achieve sustainability in each of their departments. The results of this will shape the future direction of the F. Ball sustainability strategy, in line with employee suggestions and expectations.

F. Ball Safety Health Environmental and Quality (SHEQ) Manager Jenny Barnett says: 'We have an ethical duty to do as much as we can to ensure that our business activities do not adversely affect the environment. This requires a constant and dedicated effort to identify and implement new ways to be more sustainable, ensuring we are always striving for improvement. It is also good business, driving efficiency and safeguarding our long-term viability.'

www.f-ball.co.uk



Recycling Scheme

RECYCLE TODAY FOR A CLEANER TOMORROW



F. Ball Recycling Units can be found at wholesalers throughout the UK, making sure we can all help to reduce plastic waste and do our bit to protect the environment.

Find your nearest F. Ball Recycling point at:
www.f-ball.com/recycling





FILA SOLUTIONS

Solvent-free surface protection: where formulation meets performance

In flooring and surface care, solvent-free, water-based technologies are becoming an increasingly important part of product specification. For contractors, specifiers and surface care professionals, their relevance comes from both the formulation itself and how effectively it performs once applied.

A protective treatment still has to work with the material, suit the installation process and support the surface through the conditions it may face before, during and after laying.

With absorbent materials, some risks begin beneath the finished surface. Moisture movement, substrate conditions and installation method can all influence how the material performs over time. For projects where appearance, adhesion and long-term performance all matter, water-based pre-laying protection can become an important part of the specification process.

Here, technical information becomes more than background detail. Formulation and test data help connect the product category to real site use.

Solvent-free products in practice

Water-based treatments can support more straightforward storage, transport and handling than solvent-based alternatives, particularly where odour and VOC content are part of the specification discussion.

Application requirements can vary depending on the selected solvent-free product. In pre-laying treatments, timing, application method and drying period all need



to be planned before the material is bonded.

This makes protection part of the installation process rather than a later remedial step. It also shows how the practical benefits of a water-based formulation can sit alongside the specific demands of the material, substrate and site conditions.

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FILA's PW10 provides a practical example of this approach, with a pre-laying role designed for absorbent materials before installation.

PW10: A technical example

A water-based pre-laying treatment against efflorescence, PW10 is designed for use on the back and sides of absorbent materials before installation. Suitable materials include natural stone, granite, marble, agglomerates, terracotta

and other absorbent surfaces. Its role is to block contaminants, such as salts, tannins and ferrous substances, from rising from the substrate to the surface of the material, helping to prevent the formation of streaks or stains.

The treatment has a water-repellent and consolidating action, helping to protect the material and improve cohesion without substantially altering the adhesion characteristics of the adhesive. It can also be applied to the material using a flat brush, wax applicator or airless sprayer, with tools cleaned using water after application.

For complex or high-value installations, this pre-laying stage can be particularly useful. When applied on all six sides, PW10 functions as a treatment that protects the material during the construction phase, while also simplifying installation and subsequent cleaning operations. It can also limit the development of oxidation in materials subject to rising damp.

Looking at the evidence

PW10 is an odourless, water-based treatment with a VOC content of 0 g/l under Directive 1999/13/EC. It also has Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold certification and conforms to compulsory national standards including French A+, CAM Edilizia, Belgian Regulation and AgBB, as well as criteria associated with LEED, BREEAM and WELL. For specifiers, these provide recognised points of reference when product emissions and building standards form part of the selection process.

Likewise, performance testing gives further evidence of how the treatment behaves once applied. Its efflorescence-blocking action

has been verified according to an internal standard, with treated material retaining its original appearance and colour variation assessed under UNI EN 15886:2010. Adhesive compatibility has also been assessed under UNI EN 1348-2009 and ASTM C482-02 R-2009.

In addition, water repellency has been tested using the Karsten tube method under UNI EN 16302:2013, with absorption reduced by up to 85%. Moreover, breathability is supported by ASTM E96M testing, with treated materials maintaining breathability above 90% compared with untreated materials. PW10 also withstands UV radiation without yellowing and does not alter the surface's original coefficient of friction.

What this means for specification

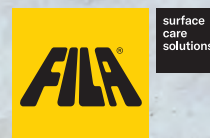
This information gives specifiers a clearer picture of how the treatment performs before the material is even installed. It links PW10's water-based formulation to measurable characteristics such as emissions, breathability, water repellency, adhesive compatibility and visual stability.

For solvent-free, water-based technologies, this evidence-led approach is important. It moves the discussion beyond product category alone and towards how the treatment works in practice, from pre-laying application planning through to the protection of the installed surface. In this way, technical data becomes central to a more informed specification.

www.filasolutions.com

Stop Stains Before They Start.

Protect the Back with PW10!



UNPROTECTED

PROTECTED

SOLVENT FREE ANTI-CONTAMINANT PROTECTION

Stop efflorescence before it starts. PW10 is a consolidating, water-repellent pre-laying treatment that blocks rising substrate moisture and contaminants to prevent unsightly surface stains and streaks.

Contact filauk@filasolutions.com for more information.

HANSON PLYWOOD

SP101 delivers a fit-for-purpose panel

SP101 flooring plywood is widely recognised as a reliable solution for subfloor preparation, combining consistent performance with responsible sourcing. Designed specifically for flooring applications, SP101 delivers a fit-for-purpose panel, backed by environmental and technical assurance.

SP101 - Environmental and Technical Assurance

A key advantage of SP101 is the use of responsibly sourced timber. The plywood is typically manufactured using material from well managed forests, where harvesting is controlled and prioritised to support long term regeneration and maintain biodiversity. This approach supports a consistent and reliable supply while minimising the wider impact on forest resources.

By specifying SP101, contractors and specifiers are selecting a product aligned with recognised sustainable forestry practices across the supply chain.

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 used to produce SP101 is verified under the Indonesian Ministry of Environment & Forestry online system (SIPUHH Online) which tracks logs all the way back to the concession using a QR barcode-scanning system.

SVLK (Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas dan Kelestarian) is Indonesia's mandatory Timber Legality and Sustainability Assurance System. It is 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 FLEGT licenced.

A FLEGT licence is a document that confirms that a shipment of timber or timber products has been legally produced, in accordance with the relevant laws of the country of harvest. FLEGT-licensed timber and timber products are considered to comply with the requirements of the EU Timber Regulation



SP101 section

(EUTR) and also the UK Timber Regulation (UKTR). 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.

Helping to maintain healthy ecosystems

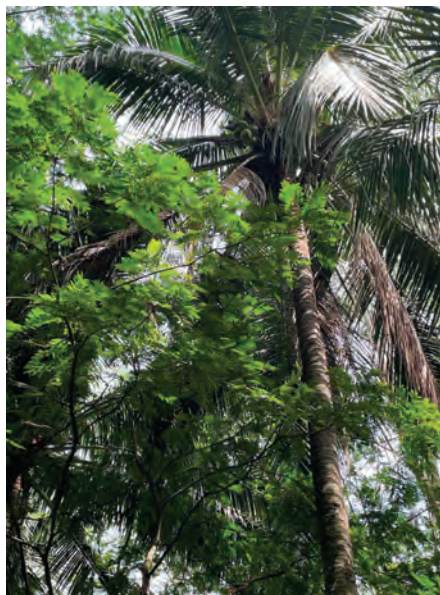
Wood-based products such as SP101 store carbon throughout their service life. Timber absorbs carbon dioxide during growth, which remains captured within the panel following manufacture and installation. As a result, SP101 offers a lower carbon alternative, contributing

to a reduced overall carbon impact when used within flooring systems.

SP101 offering a balanced solution, aligning performance with environmental responsibility

SP101 Flooring Plywood is designed with environmental and technical assurance at its core. As the UK's first FLEGT-licensed flooring plywood, every sheet is manufactured using legally verifiable timber from well-managed forests, giving contractors and specifiers the ultimate confidence when using the product.

www.hanson-plywood.co.uk



Benchmark plywood for the flooring industry

BS 8203:2017 compliant,
FLEGT licenced - Environmental
and technical assurance

SP101
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-  Accurate Dimensions
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-  Superior Core Composition
-  Ease of Use
-  TFT Woodexperts
Diamond Mark Certified

SP101 Flooring Plywood

Adhesive

Finished Surface (LVT)

Base Floor Deck

www.SP101.co.uk





58

Communique Wines

JUNCKERS

Making recycling and reusing the norm

ONE of Junckers' key messages, as well as one of the core strengths of the company's products, is longevity. Junckers' floors will last for decades if not centuries – the perfect starting point for reclaiming and reusing. A couple of years ago, Junckers set up a Reuse Scheme to facilitate the process and make it easier and more commonplace to salvage a floor when it is no longer needed.

The aim of the Reuse Scheme is to give as much flooring as possible a new lease of life. The scheme is two-pronged. Acting as liaison, with no financial benefit, Junckers connects reclaimed flooring specialists with contractors replacing a Junckers floor. The floor is then expertly lifted, ready for the contractor to lay a new floor.

The reclaimed floor is removed from site and readied for re-sale. On the other

side of the scheme, the company connects customers looking for a reclaimed floor with specialist companies holding stock. As a result, thousands of square meters of flooring has now been reclaimed, reused and repurposed instead of ending up on landfill sites.

At Junckers' Danish head office and factory where all the floors are made, more initiatives to work towards a more circular economy are in place. Junckers Denmark offers the facility to lift floors from site, have them refinished in the factory (from where they come out as new) and then reinstalled. A local Council recently took advantage of the service for a large-scale refurbishment project of a housing development, saving not just money but the environment as well.

This has proved a very popular scheme, and flooring is now being sourced outside of Denmark to keep up with demand.

Working towards a circular economy and committing to act more sustainably means choosing renewable materials. Solid hardwood floors are well-known for their long lifespan. They can be sanded and refinished many times and restored to as-new condition. They are also usually very straightforward to lift and salvage, which makes them a great resource.

Reclaimed solid wood floors are in high demand for both residential and commercial projects as more and more people look for ways to recycle honest, natural materials. When the floor is installed in its new setting, it can be sanded and refinished with either an oil or a lacquer and there's a wide choice of colours and finishes available.

01376 534700
sales@junckers.co.uk
www.junckers.com

SOLID WOOD FLOORS FOR EVERY PROJECT

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- ✓ FSC® + PEFC CERTIFIED
- ✓ LONGEVITY 60+ YEARS
- ✓ RECYCLABLE
- ✓ LOW EMBODIED CARBON
- ✓ INDOOR AIR QUALITY
- ✓ IDEAL FOR USE OVER UNDERFLOOR HEATING



JUNKERS

Walking on Danish design

Junkers Ltd
01376 534700 sales@junkers.co.uk
www.junkers.co.uk

KERAKOLL

Kerakoll UK aiming for Sustainable Growth

KERAKOLL UK is a subsidiary of the Kerakoll Group, a multinational company working in the construction industry, offering an integrated range of products and services for building better places to live.

Sustainability has been at the core of Kerakoll's philosophy since 1984 when Romano Sghedoni, the founder, 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.

Kerakoll UK is one of the few companies operating in the UK flooring sector that is investing in growth in the current tough economic climate. In the view of the management, that growth should be sustainable, and that sustainability should include the people who work for, buy from and supply the company, the surrounding community and the buildings that the company operates from. When the company decided to expand its operations, the team thought long and hard about where to place the new premises, with sustainability as a key driver.

The decision was taken to build as close to the old factory as possible where the company is a key local employer, and to continue to use the old premises which occupy most of a small industrial estate. This avoids hollowing out the area, supports the local community, and keeps commutes to a minimum for those that live close to the Leyland plant.

The new site is a short drive away on the outskirts of Preston, again keeping the business in the local community and allowing people to continue working for the company without having to relocate.

Phase 1 is due to be handed over at the end of Q4 2026 so that the company can move in in Q1 2027. It will include a warehouse, high bay storage area, SHS office area, and three-storey office building. This investment, in the region of £20 million, will allow the company to consolidate and expand its UK operations and better serve the market.

"Our new site will set the baseline for the next step in improved levels of service for our customers, and the second phase in two-to-three years will incorporate a production tower



to allow more volume for new initiatives," says Carl Gardner.

As you would expect, the new buildings are being constructed to BREEAM Very Good standards. 2360sq m of photovoltaic panels has already been installed on the roof. These should generate an estimated 340 MWh per year, and save 65 tonnes per year in CO2 emissions.

Rainwater harvesting with a capacity of 30,000cu m will serve the toilets in the main offices, giving an estimated water saving of 3000 l/day. The carpark will feature EV charging, dedicated bicycle parking and car share parking spaces.

A pre-build eco-system evaluation has allowed planning for noise, existing plant retention and replanting, a wildlife migration strategy, the creation of an attenuation pond, and compensation for nesting and roosting habitats. An external living wall is being installed on the main office façade.

The offices have been designed with the health and well-being of staff in mind. Natural light and air quality have been made priorities. Moss walls will feature on each floor of the reception areas, with plants and greenery throughout the offices. There will be an internal canteen, and relaxation areas on all floors.



The new site will also feature a fully equipped R&D lab of 230sq m separate from the quality control laboratory for the development of sustainable, innovative products for the UK market.

The company's approach to product development fits with the overall approach to sustainability, that is, to make products that perform excellently and do the least possible harm to the environment, so as 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's flooring offering includes the Proflow range of smoothing compound. This features 5 different products, covering all possible site, substrate and covering requirements. They include Proflow Smooth, the best-selling product in the range which gives a free-flowing smooth finish, and Proflow MVS, a revolutionary new product which has a built in moisture vapour suppressant barrier that is effective up to 95% RH, removing the need for a DPM, and thus condensing a potential three product applications into one single application. The double component product is free flowing, with excellent self-smoothing properties giving a flawless surface finish.

Technical help

Kerakoll's dedicated technical team is available to help with any product queries and is happy to get involved in putting together specifications. For more information on Kerakoll, its products and services please visit the website or contact the company using the details below.

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LTP

LTP 'at the forefront of change with PFAS-free formulations'

DEVELOPED for the contract flooring and landscape sectors, LTP's specialist ECOPROTEC range includes sustainable surface care products for all types of natural and engineered stone, in internal and external settings.

Treatments are made in the UK and benefit from the most advanced research in water-based technology, combining 'high performance with low odour and low VOC formulations.

'In addition, two protectors feature PFAS-free formulations – ECOPROTEC Porcelain Paving Enhancer and ECOPROTEC Black Stone Colour Restorer.'

PFAS-free formulations

The first formulation, ECOPROTEC Porcelain Paving Enhancer is a water-based self-shine solution that gives tiles an enhanced appearance. It also provides practical benefits, being highly resistant to foot traffic, general wear and stains, and it promotes easier maintenance.

The treatment is UV-resistant and, while glossy in nature, causes minimal change to a tile's slip resistance properties.

The second protector, ECOPROTEC Black Stone Colour Restorer is a water-based treatment that contains a permanent colour-intensifying pigment. It's applied in multiple coats until the desired colour effect is achieved

– from dark grey to ebony – to restore the appearance of pavers faded by UV rays, humidity and rainwater, and to protect them from the elements going forward.

ECOPROTEC is currently working towards a complete range of PFAS-free sealers that contain no perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, with further reformulations scheduled for introduction later this year.

Water-based solutions for seasonal projects

To protect tiles and stone laid outdoors, as part of spring landscaping projects, the ECOPROTEC range includes Pre-Grout Protection – a water-based 'pre-and-post-grout' solution designed for external porcelain – and three stone sealers.

ECOPROTEC Pre-Grout Protection is formulated to protect pavers from staining, while allowing easy removal of residues from cement-based grouts and two-part resin-based jointing compounds, as well as stubborn organic matter.

Creating a barrier, without forming a film or altering appearance, the protector helps to improve and increase the working time of grouts and jointing compounds while greatly reducing the risk of cement and resin staining. It also assists with future cleaning and aftercare.

The three additional protective treatments are ECOPROTEC Ultimate Sealer, Patio Sealer and Colour Enhancing Sealer. Each treatment is designed to protect all types of natural and engineered stone in outdoor settings, including smooth, honed and rough-cut surfaces.

Featuring a water-based impregnating formulation, the protectors strongly repel water, oil, dirt and grease, help reduce efflorescence and allow the surface to breathe. Each provides a different finish: Ultimate Sealer leaves pavers virtually unchanged in appearance; Patio Sealer provides a delicately enhanced natural finish and Colour Enhancing Sealer creates a more pronounced enhancement, bringing out the natural warmth, tone and colour pigment of the stone.

ECOPROTEC water-based treatments offer equal performance to their spirit-based solvent equivalents. 'The water or spirit elements within a sealer don't play a part in the actual protection,' explained LTP's Mark Atkins. 'They just facilitate application and evaporate as the treatment dries.'

As well as providing a fast, safe and easy application, the treatments' water-based formulations also make transportation, shipping and storage easier, and typically provide up to 50% greater coverage than spirit-based solvents.

ECOPROTEC external sealers are offered alongside a comprehensive range of maintenance products developed for the contractor and landscaper. The ECOPROTEC range also includes a comprehensive range of protection and maintenance solutions for interiors.

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MAPEI

Mapei publishes its Sustainability Report 2024

Mapei has published its ninth Sustainability Report, including for the third year all 59 countries in which it operates, and continues to follow the path of responsible growth. In an ever-changing world, companies face an increasing number of challenges related to climate, energy and social responsibility. The Mapei Group responds to these challenges by taking real actions and promoting a culture of sustainability in its business model that considers environmental, social and economic factors.

"Sustainability for us is a real commitment that crosses every sphere of our activity: from social initiatives to culture, from sport to research, and training. We believe in the value of people, the power of knowledge and the beauty of sharing. That is why we invest in projects that have a positive impact on communities, promote responsible innovation and support initiatives that improve the quality of life. This is our approach to business: we work with passion and expertise, always looking to the future," says Veronica Squinzi, Mapei CEO.

"The building sector, among the most environmentally impactful, is responsible for a significant share of global CO₂ emissions. At Mapei we are firmly committed to transforming the way we build by promoting a culture of sustainability based on responsibility, innovation and quality. We invest in research and development to offer low impact, durable and cutting-edge solutions. For us, innovation means improving the quality of construction, respecting the environment and actively contributing to the environmental transition of the sector," concludes Marco Squinzi, Mapei CEO.

In 2024, Mapei invested €39.8m (£33.26m) in cultural, sports and solidarity initiatives.

Reducing emissions

One of the most significant examples is the expansion of the CO₂e offset line. Residual Greenhouse Gas emissions measured throughout the life cycle of these products using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology, verified and certified with EPDs, have been offset for the year 2024 through the acquisition of carbon credits in support of forestry protection projects.

A key role is played by Mapei's Corporate Environmental Sustainability team which, based within the Corporate Research Centre in Milan, is entirely dedicated to the environmental sustainability of products and processes. The team measures the environmental impact of the products throughout their life cycle, through the life cycle assessment (LCA) methodology, the results of which are reported in Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). More than 500 product-specific EPDs for Mapei products and 650 Model EPDs were issued by the end of 2025, worldwide. The team also stimulates the laboratories to create products with an increasingly low environmental impact by searching for solutions to reduce the consumption of raw materials and increase the use of recycled materials from the formulation stage.

New for 2026 – CO₂e offset resilient flooring installation range

Products from the CO₂e offset line feature throughout Mapei UK's own range. Latest introductions for 2026 include the addition



of five best-selling resilient products, four of which are manufactured in the UK. The new series provides a full resilient system – featuring established, core products - now with CO₂e fully offset in the entire life cycle. Each of the products also benefits from a very low VOC EMICODE: EC1 PLUS certified formulation, providing a safe, high-performance solution for contractors and specifiers.

The range includes Ultrabond Eco V4 Evolution all-in-one adhesive, fibre-reinforced adhesive Ultrabond Eco 4 LVT, Eco Prim T Plus universal acrylic primer, ultra-fast hardening self-levelling compound Ultraplan Eco 3215 and fast-track patching compound Planipatch Xtra, each developed to provide a safe and sustainable low-odour solution.

However, Mapei's environmental initiatives do not stop with the product. In 2024, the Group continued its efforts through various projects such as the installation of new photovoltaic systems in several

countries, producing more than 3,000 MWh of renewable electricity per year. These are complemented by energy efficiency measures, such as the adoption of LED lighting and heat recovery in production processes, resulting in total savings of about 840 MWh per year; a step towards increasingly efficient and low-impact production.

SUBHEAD: A shared commitment

The group closed 2024 with a consolidated turnover of €4.4bn, a result made possible by the dedication of over 13,000 people worldwide who make up the Mapei team, always at the heart of the company's strategy. In addition to offering training programmes, professional development and welfare initiatives, Mapei fosters a fair, inclusive and merit-based work environment. This is reflected in the updated Code of Ethics, which reinforces the principles of respect, inclusion and appreciation of diversity, fundamental pillars of the company culture.

It is from this vision that the 'A Day for

others' initiative was born, the first corporate volunteering project for employees of the Milan offices, which invites them to dedicate part of their working hours to social initiatives. The programme offers employees the opportunity to take two half-days of paid leave per year to actively and voluntarily devote themselves to the activities of charitable associations in Milan, including: Pane Quotidiano, Opera San Francesco and RECUP.

Investing in research

Sustainable innovation also involves collaboration with the academic world. For example, Mapei has collaborated with the University of Brescia, to study new solutions for low-emission concrete, testing geopolymers and hybrid reinforcements which guarantee high mechanical performance and a CO₂ reduction of up to 66%. With the Federico II University of Naples Mapegrout Easy Flow mortar was tested to improve the durability of structures subjected to dynamic loads. The results, also confirmed by tests carried out in

Australia with the University of Queensland, show how research and innovation can make building more sustainable.

Close to communities

Sustainability also means the ability to create authentic links with communities and generate positive impact in people's daily lives, all over the world. In Italy, Mapei continues to support Fondazione AIRC, the country's leading non-profit organisation for funding independent cancer research. Mapei Romania backed the Ascendis Association, which works to improve education through career guidance programmes, workshops for teachers, scholarships and training sessions. The Sopro subsidiary in Germany has long been involved in the 'TuWaS' initiative - 'Technik und Naturwissenschaften an Schulen' (Technology and Natural Science in Schools) - a programme that supports teachers with the aim of introducing young students to science and technology topics in a playful and stimulating way. On National Heroes' Day, Mapei Indonesia Construction Products (Indonesia) partnered

with a local foundation to donate wheelchairs to people with disabilities. During the UCI (International Cycling Union) Road Cycling World Championships in Zurich, Mapei Suisse (Switzerland) organised an event for children with cancer in collaboration with the Greenhope Foundation.

Passion for sport

Mapei continues to invest in sport, with passion, determination and team spirit: the principles that drive the company's growth and which can be found in the stories of athletes and teams of all nationalities. In football, Mapei is alongside Sassuolo Calcio in Italy, Club Atlético Lanús in Argentina and the Grazer Athletiksport-Klub in Austria. The bond with cycling also continues to grow: Mapei is the main partner of the 2024 UCI Cycling and Para-cycling Road World Championships, in Zurich. In the UK it supports the Halesowen Cycling Club, in Australia the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race, and in Singapore it participated in the OCBC Cycle 2024, involving over 50 customers, employees and their families. From bicycle racing to car racing, Mapei's commitment to the world of motorsport is growing; as well as supporting the driver Rachele Somaschini, Mapei is one of the new official sponsors of Toyota Gazoo Racing Italy in the Italian Absolute Rally Championship. Meanwhile, the ocean navigation project with Ambrogio Beccaria, a world-famous Milanese sailor, continues.

Love for culture

"Mapei for culture" is more than a slogan: it is the group's long-standing commitment to enhancing the architectural and artistic heritage. This project is underpinned by a spirit of restitution and an attention to the common good, which leads Mapei to continue to enhance the architectural and artistic heritage, by intervening in the restoration of masterpieces such as the Cathedral of Notre-Dame and by collaborating with important cultural organisations such as the Teatro alla Scala in Milan or the Mosaic Association Australia and New Zealand (MAANZ) supported by Mapei Oceania.

Many exhibitions were supported all over the world: Mapei Hellas supported the exhibition of posters and rare ceramics dedicated to the artist Pablo Picasso hosted by the European Cultural Centre in Delphi; the Vinavil subsidiary sponsored an exhibition dedicated to the famous Milanese artist Enrico Baj who used Vinavil glue in his works, held at the Palazzo Reale in Milan; finally, for the ninth year running, Mapei renewed its collaboration with the San Domenico Museum in Forlì, Central Italy.

Training for the future

Spreading a culture of sustainability in the building sector also means investing in training, sharing knowledge, techniques and technologies with professionals and stakeholders. Mapei carries out this commitment through its Mapei Academy, which in 2024 provided around 59,639 hours of technical training to about 332,000 participants. To this must be added more than 272,000 hours of training dedicated to employees, equating around 21 hours per person, confirming a strategy that focuses on professional growth and skills enhancement for a more informed and responsible building industry.

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A prestigious accolade for Protec

66

PROTEC

Protec awarded King's Award for Enterprise 2026 in sustainable development

PROTEC has been awarded a King's Award for Enterprise 2026 in the Sustainable Development category, following approval by His Majesty The King.

This prestigious accolade is the highest official recognition for UK businesses and is globally regarded as a mark of excellence. It celebrates organisations that demonstrate outstanding innovation, strong commercial performance and a clear commitment to sustainable practices.

This year also marks a significant milestone for the awards, as they celebrate 60 years since the first honours were conferred in 1966.

Receiving this award is a significant achievement for Protec and reflects our long-standing commitment to sustainability and responsible manufacturing. We have

consistently invested in developing innovative protection solutions that not only perform to the highest standards but also reduce environmental impact across the construction and marine sectors.

A key part of this approach is our ClosedLoop remanufacturing scheme - the UK's only system of its kind for temporary protection and site signage. This initiative enables used materials to be recovered, remanufactured and returned to market, significantly reducing waste and supporting a circular economy. To date we have recycled over 8,000,000kgs of waste that would have otherwise been sent to landfill.

Our focus on sustainability goes hand in hand with our commitment to quality, service and innovation. By working closely with our customers, we help deliver practical, compliant and environmentally responsible solutions on projects of all sizes.

This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, as well as the trust and collaboration of our customers and

partners. It strengthens our position as a market leader in sustainable temporary protection and reinforces our ambition to continue driving positive change across the industry.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on this success, further developing our sustainable product range and supporting our customers in meeting their own environmental goals.

Says James Harrison, CEO: 'Winning a King's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development is a very proud moment. It recognises the consistent work we have done to put sustainability at the centre of our business, from product innovation through to our ClosedLoop remanufacturing scheme. This is not a one-off achievement, it reflects a long-term commitment to reducing environmental impact while delivering high quality solutions our customers can rely on.'

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RECOFLOOR

Supporting sustainability in the vinyl flooring sector

RECOFLOOR, the UK's industry leading vinyl flooring take-back scheme founded by Polyflor and Altro, continues to play a vital role in supporting sustainability for commercial vinyl flooring waste.

Established in 2009, the scheme provides a practical, sustainable and cost effective solution for collecting and recycling waste vinyl flooring generated from refurbishment and new-build projects across the UK. By making it simple for contractors, distributors and fitters to divert waste from landfill, Recofloor supports the sector in reducing its environmental impact while improving resource efficiency.

Recofloor accepts a wide range of materials, including Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT), smooth, safety and loose lay vinyl offcuts, roll ends, and selected smooth uplifted flooring. These materials are recycled into new flooring or other useful products, helping to keep valuable resources in use for longer and reduce reliance on virgin materials.

Since its launch, Recofloor has grown into a nationwide network, supporting hundreds of members and diverting more than 8,300 tonnes of waste vinyl from landfill — a powerful demonstration of the flooring sector's commitment to sustainability.

Participation in Recofloor enables construction companies and flooring contractors to clearly demonstrate their environmental credentials. Suited to any project site, the scheme supports compliance with sustainability frameworks, including BREEAM, and contributes towards waste reduction targets on major projects.

By recycling vinyl waste and embedding circular practices, members not only reduce environmental impact but also strengthen their position in competitive tender processes, where proof of responsible waste management is increasingly required. Members benefit from significantly reduced disposal costs — often saving up to 45% compared with landfill or skips. They also receive a Membership

Certificate as evidence of their participation in the scheme, and they can request a statement letter as proof of how much material has been collected, either for a particular project or period of time to evidence their achievements.

Continued growth and industry impact

Recofloor continues to go from strength to strength, with recent years highlighting steady growth in both participation and material volumes.

In 2025, members collected 563 tonnes of vinyl flooring for recycling — a 6% increase year on year — alongside a further 21 tonnes diverted for reuse. These figures underline a growing shift within the supply chain toward circular approaches that reduce waste while improving project outcomes.

The scheme also welcomed new members, expanded its geographic reach, and strengthened collaboration across the industry. Milestones such as surpassing 8,000 tonnes collected highlight Recofloor's increasing role in helping contractors meet sustainability goals and manage waste more effectively.

Recognising commitment and driving change

Recofloor's annual Awards continue to celebrate the businesses and individuals leading the way in sustainable flooring

practices. These awards recognise not just the quantities collected, but also the day to day practices that prevent contamination, improve quality, and embed recycling into routine operations across the sector.

Winners benefit from increased visibility and a credible sustainability story they can share with clients and partners — reinforcing the commercial value of adopting circular approaches.

Looking ahead

As demand for sustainable construction continues to grow, more organisations are recognising the value of embedding circular practices into their day to day operations. Recofloor makes it easy for flooring contractors, distributors and fitters to take that next step by providing a simple, flexible route to recycle vinyl flooring waste responsibly. Carla Eslava, Recofloor Project Manager, adds "Recofloor is much more than just a collection scheme; it forms a core part of many companies' sustainability commitments. We're proud to support the industry in reducing its environmental impact and advancing circularity in flooring."

Joining the scheme is straightforward and free. Members can choose between convenient collection services for larger volumes of material or drop off smaller quantities at participating distributors across the UK. With nationwide coverage, ongoing support, and clear guidance on how to segregate and return material, Recofloor helps businesses integrate recycling seamlessly into their existing workflows.

www.recofloor.org



Recofloor Best Newcomer: Donnelly Watson Flooring Limited
Pictured: Scott Watson, Director / Louis Dawson, Store Manager / Daniel Donnelly - Director



Recofloor Contractor of the Year: Fineweave
Pictured: Mark Whiteman, Warehouse Manager / Martin Wiggall, Assistant Warehouse Manager



Recofloor Greatest Improver 1st Place: Hicks Flooring Ltd
Pictured: Neil Brockett, Managing Director



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SHAW CONTRACT

Closing the loop with EcoWorx - why we want our flooring back

SHAW Contract EMEA, a leading manufacturer of commercial carpet tile and resilient flooring, is helping to redefine circularity in commercial flooring through its EcoWorx platform and complimentary re[TURN] Reclamation Programme. Together, they represent a step change in keeping valuable materials in use and closing the loop.

With the construction industry responsible for 30% of waste sent to landfill and 50% of raw material usage every year¹, Shaw Contract is committed to minimising the impact of our products on people and planet, conserving valuable resources wherever possible.

For more than 20 years, we have committed to Cradle to Cradle design principles in flooring, with nearly 90% of our products achieving Cradle to Cradle Certified status. This framework is built on five sustainability ambitions, from material health to product circularity, clean air and climate protection to water and soil stewardship and social fairness.

At its core, the certification requires us to design every product with its next life in mind. By considering end-of-life from the outset, our products are designed to be disassembled and recycled back into new flooring wherever possible.

Closing the loop

Closed-loop recycling involves materials being recycled into new products of the same type. For example, old carpet tiles are recycled into new flooring. This approach keeps materials within the same product cycle, reducing the need for additional virgin resources.

In contrast, open-loop recycling converts recycled materials into different types of products. For instance, recycled vinyl flooring might be used to produce plastic pipes or road barriers. Whilst this approach diverts waste from landfill, it does not eliminate the demand for new raw materials in flooring production.

A history of sustainable innovation

Shaw Contract has been pioneering closed-loop flooring for more than two decades, with a strong

legacy of sustainable innovation through our EcoWorx platform.

In 1999, EcoWorx became the world's first fully recyclable, PVC- and bitumen-free carpet tile backing, setting a new benchmark for circularity and demonstrating that carpet tile can be PVC-free without sacrificing performance. It was also the first flooring product globally to achieve Cradle to Cradle Certified status.

Today, EcoWorx products have been used in more than 500,000 projects across 80 countries worldwide.

The platform expanded further in 2023 with EcoWorx S, a closed-loop recyclable carpet tile made in the UK. Leveraging the same proven chemistry, our latest product in the platform, EcoWorx Resilient, extends the principles of circularity into resilient flooring.

Designed for closed-loop recycling, EcoWorx Resilient is one of the first PVC-free resilient flooring products, combining the functional benefits of Luxury Vinyl Tile with much improved material health and circularity credentials.

We want it back!

EcoWorx backed products, both carpet tile and resilient flooring, come with an environmental guarantee for free reclamation and recycling via our re[TURN] Reclamation Programme.

Every EcoWorx S or EcoWorx Resilient product can be returned at the end of its useful life at no cost to the customer. To date, the programme has enabled Shaw Contract to recover and recycle more than 450,000 tonnes of post-consumer material.

Once received at our recycling facility, the products are placed into a larger shredder and chopped into small pieces. During the initial shredding process, any metal detected is removed. The material then undergoes additional shredding before being pushed through extruders and compressed into pellets, creating raw materials for the next generation of EcoWorx products.

This fully closed-loop process diverts waste from landfill and reduces reliance on virgin materials.

Giving flooring a second life

In June 2024, we expanded our re[TURN]

Reclamation Programme through a new partnership with the Salvation Army Trading Company (SATCoL), driving the largest reuse network for carpet tile flooring in the UK.

With over 40 donation centres across the UK, SATCoL ensures that used carpet tiles are sorted, graded and given a second life via Housing Associations and Local Authorities, providing much-needed flooring to vulnerable communities.

The partnership also extends beyond Shaw Contract products - offering a route for any brand* of carpet tile to be reused, creating a cost-effective and sustainable alternative to landfill disposal.

Designing for disassembly

To further facilitate reuse and recycling, we support modern methods of installation such as IOBAC adhesive-free flooring installation tabs from Circular Building Solutions and Sigan double-sided tapes.

These reversible fixings minimise contamination and damage during uplift, preserving both the flooring and subfloor and making materials easier to reuse or recycle.

Shaw Contract has also introduced an industry-first second location warranty, giving customers confidence that products installed using IOBAC adhesive-free systems will continue to perform after being lifted and reinstalled.

Coming a full circle

By combining closed-loop recyclable products with our re[TURN] Reclamation Programme, we keep valuable materials in circulation, reducing landfill waste and reducing reliance on virgin raw materials.

Through responsible design, innovative materials and practical end-of-life solutions, we aim to set new standards for commercial flooring circularity - ensuring that today's flooring becomes tomorrow's resource.

Shaw Contract products are available to view in the Shaw Contract showroom, 33 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DX.

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¹ Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute – Global Data * Not including carpet tiles with a PVC backing





Closing the Loop with EcoWorx®

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Our free re[TURN]® Reclamation Programme gives every EcoWorx S® carpet tile and EcoWorx™ Resilient floor a second life.

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ShawContract®



ULTRAFLOOR

UltraFloor strengthens commitment to sustainable manufacturing

WITH sustainability firmly at the top of the construction agenda, UltraFloor continues to lead by example through a comprehensive and evolving approach to environmentally responsible manufacturing.

As the flooring industry responds to growing pressure to reduce carbon emissions and adopt greener practices, UltraFloor is demonstrating that high-performance products and sustainability can go hand in hand.

Recent data highlights the urgency of the climate crisis, with atmospheric CO2 levels reaching record highs in 2025. Against this

backdrop, UltraFloor remains committed to minimising its environmental impact through continuous investment, innovation and operational improvements.

Manufactured at Instarmac's state-of-the-art facility in Tamworth, Staffordshire, UltraFloor's subfloor preparation products are developed with sustainability embedded at every stage of production. From energy-efficient systems to waste reduction strategies, the company has implemented a series of initiatives designed to lower its carbon footprint while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

Paul Evans, works director at Instarmac Group, explains: 'Having as little impact on the environment as possible is behind every decision we make in production. Over the past year we've introduced new compressor technology, including an advanced system controller that ensures energy is only used when required. It's about working smarter and more efficiently to reduce unnecessary consumption.'

A key part of UltraFloor's strategy is its significant investment in renewable energy. The installation of 3,771sq m of high-specification solar panels at its Tamworth site represents an investment of over £420,000 and generates about 36,000 kWh per month. This renewable energy supply supports manufacturing operations and reduces reliance on non-renewable sources.

Innovation also plays a crucial role in helping customers meet their own sustainability goals. UltraFloor's Level IT Hydra Bond and Level IT Multi Pro smoothing underlayments feature pioneering Envirobead Technology, incorporating 20% recycled material in every bag. This industry-first development allows contractors to specify products that actively contribute to reducing environmental impact

without compromising on performance.

Beyond manufacturing, UltraFloor has taken significant steps to improve the sustainability of its logistics operations. Its fleet includes Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles, each reducing CO2 emissions by approximately 100 tonnes compared to traditional diesel alternatives.

UltraFloor's commitment extends to circular economy practices, including its pallet return scheme. Since 2021, drivers have collected over 28,000 pallets for reuse or recycling saving approximately 366 tonnes of wood and an estimated 3,500 trees.

Internally, the company has adopted a range of additional measures, including intelligent lighting systems, grey water recycling and climate control technologies. These efforts have been consistently recognised through ISO 14001 accreditation, which UltraFloor has maintained for over 15 years. This certification reflects long-standing commitment to environmental management and continuous improvement, reinforcing confidence across the supply chain and wider industry.

As sustainability becomes an increasingly critical factor in product specification and project delivery, UltraFloor remains focused on driving progress through innovation, investment and accountability. By embedding environmental responsibility into every aspect of its operations, the company is helping to shape a more sustainable future for the flooring sector.

For more information on UltraFloor's environmental initiatives, visit Instarmac.co.uk to download the latest Environmental, Sustainability and Social Responsibility Report.

www.instarmac.co.uk



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UZIN

Go green with UZIN FusionTec Smoothing Compounds

THE environment is at the centre of UZIN's corporate philosophy. Over the last 30 years, the majority of UZIN's product developments have focused on making our products solvent-free, low-emission and more sustainable. A product should not endanger the health of the user or contaminate the environment.

UZIN NC 570 and UZIN NC 560 FusionTec Smoothing Compounds are the latest innovations from UZIN, combining gypsum and cement-binder technology to deliver exceptional performance for contractors, flooring installers and specifiers seeking sustainable flooring installations. UZIN FusionTec achieves up to a 25% reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to conventional smoothing compounds, helping lower the carbon footprint for flooring installations. They also offer outstanding flow and surface finish, streamline workflows on busy job sites, and ensure reliable compatibility with a wide range of floor coverings and subfloors.

UZIN NC 570 & UZIN NC 560 FusionTec smoothing compounds are part of the UZIN

ECO2 CHOICE range. With these products, UZIN has increased the proportion of raw materials from bio-based sources without compromising quality. The combination of renewable resources and fossil fuels, compared to fossil fuels alone, significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The CO₂ footprint is lower than that of similar smoothing compounds.



UZIN FusionTec products are also EMICODE EC1 Plus certified for being solvent-free and very low-emission, guaranteeing excellent indoor air quality. They also provide the highest possible protection against emissions. Both products have Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), which are suitable for clients and customers who require a SKA rating or require products to meet ISO 14025 (Environmental labels and declarations).

The FusionTec Smoothing Compounds create a super smooth, even substrate that reduces preparation time before installing final floor coverings. The contractor-friendly formulation is easy to apply by hand or pump, speeding up installation and ensuring consistent results across large areas. Engineered for robust performance on all types of subfloors, including those with underfloor heating, its low-stress chemistry limits shrinkage, preserving the integrity of the finished floor. Fast drying times support quick project turnarounds whilst meeting sustainable building accreditations such as BREEAM & LEED.

www.uzin.co.uk



FusionTec Smoothing Compounds



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CASE STUDIES

Examples of sustainable and innovative flooring solutions for future-ready spaces

STRATFORD CAMPUS - ARDEN UNIVERSITY

LOUGHTON Contracts delivered the supply and installation of floor finishes at Arden University's Stratford campus, spanning from the ground floor through to Level 6 and transforming a range of teaching, breakout, and communal spaces within a live educational environment.

The project comprised about 3,000sq m of luxury vinyl tile (LVT), 5,000sq m of carpet tiles, and 800sq m of sheet vinyl, alongside vinyl finishes to staircases and the installation of entrance matting systems.

A key element of the design was the use of varied flooring finishes to define tea points, breakout areas, and open-plan workspaces, enabling clear zoning while maintaining an open and cohesive layout.

Careful coordination and sequencing of works across multiple levels ensured

minimal disruption to the campus, with the team working efficiently to meet programme requirements while maintaining high quality standards throughout. The selection and installation of materials were aligned with the client's vision for a modern, flexible learning environment, balancing durability, acoustics, and aesthetics.

The finished scheme delivers a clean, contemporary space that supports both collaborative and independent working, with flooring playing a central role in shaping the functionality and user experience of the campus.

Why was this project considered sustainable?

Sustainability was a key consideration throughout the project, from product selection

through to installation methods and material management. Loughton Contracts worked closely with the design team to ensure all specified materials met performance and environmental standards suitable for a high-use educational environment.

FSC-certified plywood was utilised in the subfloor build-up, ensuring that timber materials were sourced from responsibly managed forests. In addition, carefully selected flooring products, including Roots 55 LVT from IVC Group, sheet vinyl from Tarkett, and carpet tiles from Milliken, were chosen not only for their durability and aesthetic qualities but also for their contribution to long-term sustainability through extended lifecycle performance.

The use of high-quality, durable materials reduces the need for premature replacement, minimising waste and ongoing environmental impact. Temporary floor protection from Protec International was also implemented throughout the installation process, preventing damage and eliminating unnecessary material replacement.

Additionally, efficient logistics planning, including controlled deliveries and reduced on-site waste, contributed to a more sustainable installation process.

Overall, the project balanced environmental responsibility with performance, delivering a durable and maintainable flooring solution designed for long-term use.

The sustainability of the products used in the installation

The project incorporated a range of carefully selected flooring products that contribute to sustainability through responsible sourcing, low environmental impact, and long-term performance.

The use of FSC-certified plywood, supplied by PERI, ensured that all timber materials were sourced from responsibly managed forests, supporting sustainable forestry practices.

Carpet tiles from Milliken were specified for their strong environmental credentials, including high levels of recycled content and the potential for future reuse or recycling through manufacturer-led take-back schemes. Their modular format also allows for selective replacement, reducing waste over the building's lifecycle.

Sheet vinyl from Tarkett was chosen for its durability, low maintenance requirements, and low VOC emissions, contributing to improved indoor air quality. Similarly, Roots 55 LVT from IVC Group offers a robust, long-life flooring solution, reducing the need for frequent replacement and associated material waste.

In addition, temporary protection from Protec International was used throughout the installation to safeguard finished surfaces, preventing damage and avoiding unnecessary material replacement. Collectively, these product choices support a sustainable approach by reducing environmental impact, improving longevity, and promoting responsible material use throughout the project lifecycle.



Arden University's Stratford campus



Sustainable flooring, built on 30 years of experience.

Loughton Contracts are the UK's number one flooring contractor, and founder members of the Flooring Sustainability Partnership. We specialise in major commercial flooring contracts within office fit-out, luxury residential, hospitality and public space projects, with environmental responsibility built into every stage.

We're FSC and PEFC certified, Gold members of the Supply Chain Sustainability School, and provide full chain of custody documentation to support our clients' BREEAM, LEED and SKA certifications. From responsibly sourced materials to low-VOC ancillaries, our sales, estimating and site teams are trained to give clients the sustainable option as standard.

Thirty years of experience has taught us the greenest floor is one that lasts. Our impartial advice and product comparison reports help clients cut through competing manufacturer claims, and our strategy to reach net carbon zero keeps us moving forward.

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Romilly School in Barry, Wales

ROMILLY SCHOOL – BARRY, WALES

ROMILLY School in Barry, Wales, underwent a transformative sports hall refurbishment to create a durable, high-performance surface that enhances safety and comfort for younger users while meeting modern standards. Gerflor supported the project by supplying 458sq m of Taraflex Evolution SL (Sustainable Looselay) Olympic pedigree sports flooring, comprising Taraflex Evolution SL vinyl with an area-elastic undercarriage system. The floor was installed in London Light Blue with a contrasting red border.

The project was delivered by Cardiff-based contractor Trefoil Interiors as part of an upgrade to the Sport Barn at Romilly School for the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The refurbishment presented on-site challenges, particularly with the existing floor levels, which varied by up to 90mm.

Trefoil Interiors' experience in refurbishment and project delivery, combined with close collaboration with Gerflor, ensured the right flooring solution was selected to overcome these challenges and deliver a successful outcome for the school.

A key driver for the project was completing the refurbishment within a tight timeframe. Taraflex Evolution SL was specified as its

looselay installation allows for fast-track installation while accommodating uneven subfloors.

This approach enabled the facility to be upgraded without compromising performance, durability or visual appeal for the school and wider users.

Why was this project considered sustainable?

The use of Taraflex in this project also delivers strong sustainability credentials. The flooring features an eco-designed composition made up of 81% bio-sourced, mineral, and recyclable materials, significantly reducing reliance on fossil-based components. Through responsible material selection and continuous product development, the latest generation of Taraflex achieves a 43% reduction in carbon footprint compared to previous versions.

In addition, the durability and long service life of the surface contribute to reduced lifecycle impact, minimising the need for premature replacement and lowering maintenance demands over time. At the end of life, the material is designed to be recyclable, supporting circular-economy principles and aligning with wider environmental objectives in the education sector. It can also be reused and repurposed for other local community projects.

The sustainability of the products used in the installation

Crafted with sustainability at its core, Taraflex Evolution SL incorporates textile reinforcement fibres made from recycled plastic bottles, helping divert waste from landfill while reducing demand for virgin raw materials. This responsible material selection supports circular-economy principles without compromising performance or durability.

The system is designed for flexibility and environmental efficiency. Installed using Taraflex SL holding strips rather than permanent adhesives, the flooring can be removed, repositioned or reused with minimal disruption. This not only simplifies installation but also allows for future adaptability of the space, extending the product's usable life and reducing overall material waste.

Manufactured in Europe, Taraflex Evolution SL benefits from a controlled production process that helps maintain a low CO2 footprint. It meets stringent environmental and health standards, including 100% REACH compliance and a formaldehyde-free composition, ensuring high indoor air quality and a safe environment for pupils, staff and visitors alike.

THE O2 - LONDON

VEATU Flooring was appointed to undertake a comprehensive flooring upgrade within the O2, covering the VIP corridor, back-of-house corridors, level 2 and level 3 as well as the associated restroom facilities. The works incorporated a combination of sheet vinyl, luxury vinyl tile (LVT), and an epoxy resin coating across an area of about 1,400sq m.

The project involved a full uplift of the existing floor finishes, followed by extensive subfloor preparation and the installation of new, high-performance flooring systems, delivered to meet the demanding requirements of a high-profile, high-traffic venue.

Why was this project considered sustainable?

This project was delivered with sustainability at its core, through responsible material selection, efficient resource management, and a clear focus on long-term performance within a high-traffic environment.

Veatu Flooring adopted a value-engineering approach that prioritised durability and whole-life performance, selecting flooring systems designed to reduce the frequency of replacement and ongoing maintenance requirements. By recommending alternative materials that exceeded the specified performance criteria, the project achieved improved lifecycle value while reducing overall material impact.

Sustainability was further supported through detailed planning and phased working, which minimised disruption within a live venue and helped to reduce waste through accurate material ordering and efficient installation.

Careful setting-out ensured design intent was maintained while limiting unnecessary offcuts.

Robust waste management procedures were adhered to throughout the project. Materials including cardboard, plastics, metals, and used replacement blades were segregated where possible and disposed of via the appropriate recycling channels. In addition, early identification and remediation of subfloor issues created a stable, long-lasting base for the new flooring, helping prevent premature failure and extending the service life of the installation.

The sustainability of the products used in the installation

The sustainability of the installation was supported through the careful selection of products with strong environmental credentials, long service life, and proven performance within demanding commercial environments.

Karndean Opus was specified for its durability and long lifecycle, making it well suited to high-footfall areas. The product is designed for longevity, helping to reduce the need for premature replacement and associated material waste. Karndean flooring is manufactured with a strong focus on responsible sourcing and compliance with UK and European environmental standards, supporting lower environmental impact across its lifecycle.

Polyflor Apex 55 was selected for back-of-house areas due to its robust construction, high slip resistance, and low maintenance requirements. Its durability contributes to

extended service life, reducing replacement frequency and material consumption over time. Polyflor products are manufactured in the UK, helping to reduce transportation-related carbon emissions, and the Apex range contains recycled content and is 100% recyclable at end of life.

Subfloor preparation products were chosen to ensure a stable, long-lasting foundation, which is critical to the sustainability of the overall flooring system. Ardex P4 and P51 primers, Ardex K 40 Flow, and Ardex Feather Finish were used to create a sound, SR1-standard subfloor, minimising the risk of failure and extending the lifespan of the finished flooring.

Ardex compounds are formulated for high performance and longevity, helping to prevent rework, reduce waste, and avoid unnecessary future interventions.

AF 145 adhesive was specified for its strong bond strength and reliability, ensuring the flooring performs as intended throughout its lifecycle. Secure installation reduces the likelihood of remedial works and contributes to long-term sustainability by protecting the integrity of the finished floor.

Collectively, these products supported a sustainable installation by prioritising durability, reduced maintenance, extended service life, and responsible manufacturing practices, ensuring the flooring solution delivers long-term value while minimising environmental impact.



The O2



WEST LAKES ACADEMY - EGREMONT, CUMBRIA

DURING the school summer holidays 2024, the renovation of 1100sq m of PVC was undertaken by Bona Certified Contractors, Stainbusters Cleaning & Hygiene Services. The flooring, within reception area, corridors and science labs, was badly deteriorated in places due to wear, but also had numerous small holes, splits and tears to the PVC. There were multiple areas where the surface had become discoloured, due to wear and surface staining from ink and other chemicals. In effect, the floor area was a patchwork of different coloured PVC and one of the main factors that the school wished to address.

The school was initially looking at replacing the floor, but when presented with the benefits of refurbishment as an alternative, it decided on this instead.

Why was this project considered sustainable?

Ripping out and installing flooring of this area would take typically two to three weeks. Using the Bona Resilient System, the school had pristine flooring in just five days, minimising

disruption.

It was calculated that replacing the 1100sq m would cost 50-60% more than the cost of the full renovation. Not only is there the cost of the replacement flooring, but the cost of disposing of the old flooring too, along with the remedial subfloor preparation which is always needed.

For the renovation the flooring was given a thorough clean and any areas requiring filling or repair identified. All small holes, tears, and missing welds at the joints were addressed resulting in a smooth homogenous surface following the use of the Bona FlexiSand and diamond abrasives. After cleaning the surface was coated using Bona Pure Colour. Two applications were used with decorative chips sprinkled into the wet second coat. This was followed by transparent coats of Bona Pure HD.

As with any project, there were challenges to overcome; there were many metal covers over expansion joints which had to be masked off as they remained untreated. This involved additional preparation time. The school was very specific regarding the final colour of the

flooring. As Bona Pure Colour is available in any RAL colour this presented no issues and the colour used exactly matched the school colour resulting in the uniform, beautiful appearance.

The sustainability of the products used in the installation

With the final transparent Bona Pure HD coats, the floor is durable, slip resistant, and with correct maintenance, should not require a similar refurbishment in the future. Instead, the floors will receive a simple periodic recoating with Bona Pure HD. This eliminates the mess and inconvenience of the typical cycle of stripping and polishing traditionally used to maintain resilient flooring.

The client was delighted with the outcome and were keen to promote the 90% savings in the CO2 footprint compared with replacing the floor, along with the energy, time, and cost savings.

The client added that the Stainbusters team were a joy to work with!



West Lakes Academy, Egremont



Before
After



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GLOSSARY

THE VITAL INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Fully updated for this year, the Glossary is your guide to some of the terminology and organisations mentioned around the sustainability topic. The CFA appreciates that, while the fundamentals of climate change may be relatively straightforward, the array of acronyms and jargon associated with our efforts to deal with the problem can sometimes seem designed to confuse further. We've pulled together some of the terms, organisations and acronyms that you are likely to come across, as you work to scale and embed sustainable working practices in your own business.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – BNG means making sure development has a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity, compared to what was there before development. There are now regulations in place designed to ensure this happens. Developers must deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10%. BNG will be mandatory for nationally significant infrastructure projects from November this year.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain

BREEAM – the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method was 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.

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 (CO₂) is the major greenhouse gas (causes global warming). Deforestation and any burning of fossil fuels (as in transport or manufacturing) releases CO₂ 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.

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.

cfa.org.uk/userfiles/files/Zero%20Avoidable%20Waste%20in%20Flooring%20-%20A%20Scoping%20Study.pdf

CISUFLO (Circular Sustainable Floorcoverings) – A collaborative European project which worked on new technologies and products to improve materials' recovery and drive the flooring sector in Europe towards a circular economy. The overall goal

was 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 was one of four trade association partners.

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 a 100% reduction by 2050, compared to 1990. While the Act is currently legally binding, certain political parties (eg. Conservatives – Kemi Bandenoch, October 2025) have vowed to repeal it, as they view it as an obstacle to growth and affordable energy.

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.

www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/workstream/co2nstructzero/

COP – these are meetings of the 'Conference of the Parties' to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) The next, COP31, will be held in Antalya, Turkey, in November this year.

cop.sifiratikvakfi.org/en/

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

c2ccertified.org/the-standard

Cradle to grave – the principle that the originator of a product is responsible for it right the way from its creation through to its disposal. This is therefore the principle that underlies end of life recovery schemes

www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Cradle-to-grave

Embodied carbon – the CO₂ emissions associated with materials and construction processes throughout the whole lifecycle of a product or building. It includes any CO₂ 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.

www.carboncure.com/concrete-corner/what-is-embodied-carbon/

DPP (Digital Product Passport) – this is a digital record holding a product's lifecycle data, material composition, and environmental footprint. These are now mandated by the European Union under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, and it makes supply chains transparent by linking physical items to a scannable QR code

green-forum.ec.europa.eu/implementing-ecodesign-sustainable-products-regulation_en

EPD – an Environmental Product Declaration is a report which provides a 'life cycle' description of a product, focussing on its environmental impact. They are now increasingly common in the construction industry, including flooring. According to the CPA there are now over 200,000 verified EPDs in existence. EPDs fit within an international EPD system which itself operates within ISO and EN standards. EPDs are logged on an international website.

www.environdec.com

EPR for Packaging – Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (EPR) has now been introduced. It moves 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 is intended to encourage producers to reduce their use of packaging and use types of packaging which are easier to recycle. Packaging producers pay more for less sustainable packaging, incentivising types that use less material and are easier to recycle. Producers also expected to meet ambitious new recycling targets and use clear unambiguous labelling of recyclability to assist consumers.

www.gov.uk/guidance/extended-producer-responsibility-for-packaging-who-is-affected-and-what-to-do

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.

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.

commercial.allianz.com/news-and-insights/expert-risk-articles/esg-construction-industry.html

Future Homes and Buildings Standard

FHBS – The UK Government's 2021 Heat and buildings strategy included the introduction of a 'Future Homes Standard' by 2025. This has now become the FHBS, which updates the Building Regulations (2010) to ensure that new homes in England are built with low-carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency. This will mean that, as the electricity grid decarbonises, these homes will not require future retrofitting in order to become zero carbon in use.

www.ribaj.com/intelligence/future-homes-and-building-standards-explainer/

Future Homes Hub – an industry-driven response to the above new Standards which brings together the necessary partnerships and provides resources for housebuilders to enable the sector to become environmentally positive.

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.

nbs.net/how-to-avoid-greenwashing/

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.

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.

www.iso.org/standard/76428.html

LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) – a scientific methodology used to evaluate the total environmental impact of a product, process, or service across its entire lifespan—from raw material extraction ("cradle") through manufacturing, distribution, and use, to final disposal or recycling ("grave"). The methodology is typically governed by ISO standards (ISO 14040/14044).

www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/insights-and-media/insights/whitepapers/life-cycle-assessment-a-guide-for-sustainable-manufacturing/

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is the most widely used green building rating system in the world.

www.usgbc.org/leed

Low Emission or Clean Air Zones – Low Emission Zones (LEZs), also known as Clean Air Zones (CAZs), are areas of major cities which drivers of more polluting vehicles must pay to drive through, in order 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

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

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.

unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement

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.

www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-need-to-register-for-plastic-packaging-tax

Scaling Sustainability – Scaling sustainability means expanding the positive impact and reach of environmental and social initiatives without proportionally increasing costs or complexity. According to the Green Building Council, it requires transitioning from isolated "pilot" projects into systemic, value-driven operations embedded deeply into an organisation's core culture, technology, and procurement frameworks.

ukgbc.org/resources/scaling-sustainable-solutions-barriers-and-enablers/

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 – a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) environmental assessment method, benchmark and standard for non-domestic fit outs.

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 by the NBS is the "Ability to sustain a comfortable human life without compromising the environment".

www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf

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 a daily charge.

tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/



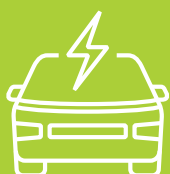
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Clockwise from left: Mapei UK Ltd, Flooring Matters SW Ltd, Loughton Contracts plc

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