



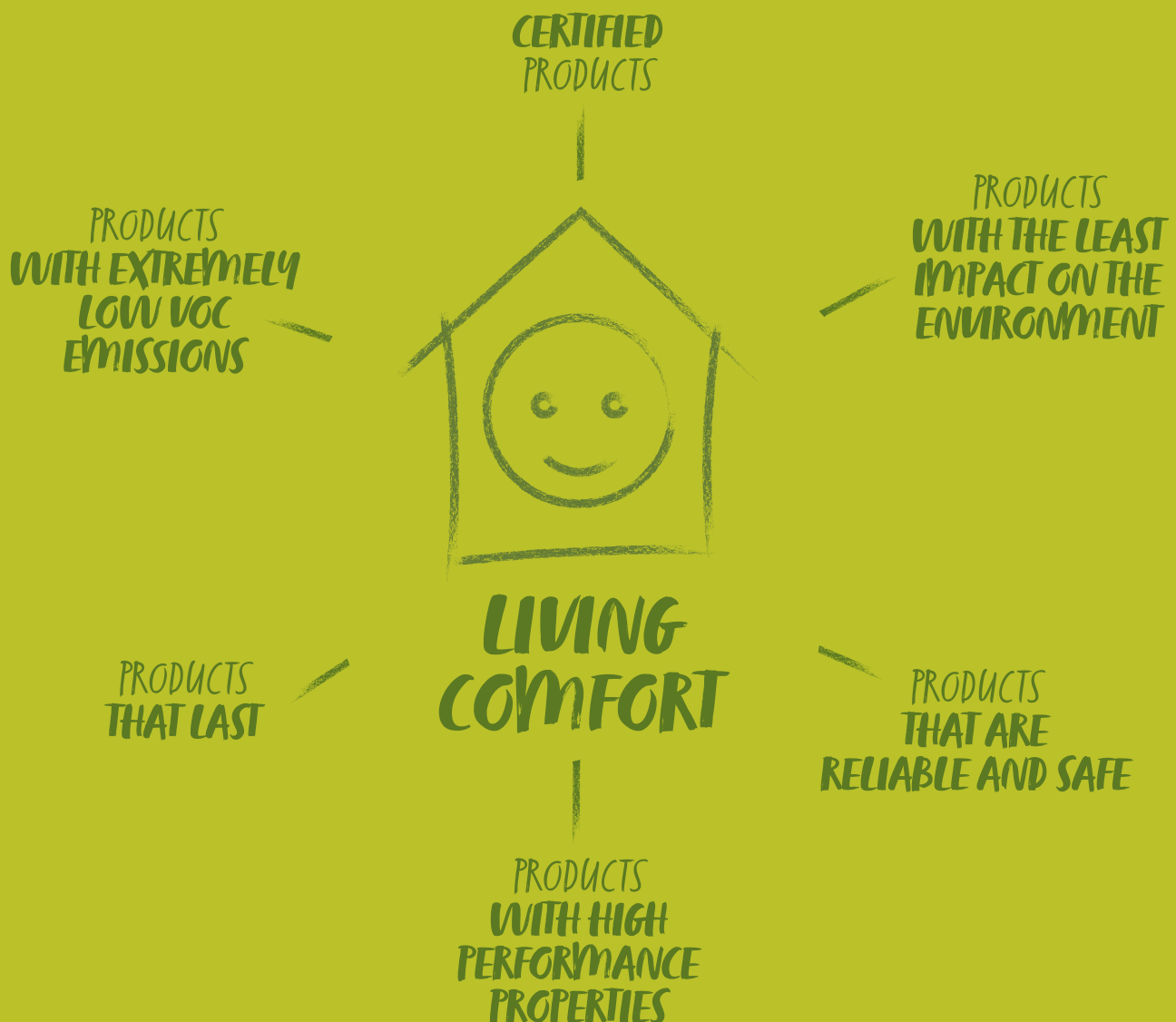
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# 2023 | GUIDE TO 2024 | SUSTAINABILITY

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# Sustainability

*is affecting us now*

Richard Catt, CEO of the Contract Flooring Association, sets the scene for this year's Sustainability Guide in which CFA hopes to reinforce the link between climate change and the practical steps that all of us need to take in order for our industry to play its part in meeting the Government's goal of Net Zero Carbon by 2050



**know that there are currently lots of things to think about for any of the companies in CFA membership. For contractors, getting hold of (decent quality) labour is a huge issue.**

Like many other areas that have always needed attention, organising sufficient, skilled, available labour is now more time consuming than it ever was. Pricing jobs, obtaining materials, arranging deliveries, and managing sites are all similar examples that simply take more time and need re-visiting more regularly. I would argue that sustainability issues are now also on the list that demand attention. This is for commercial reasons, as well as for the environmental imperatives. Recycling, electric vehicles, packaging, extended producer responsibility and energy sourcing are all examples of areas that are no longer abstract concepts, or simply fashionable marketing tools.

Most of us still require a high level of support on sustainability issues and to be kept updated with the latest information relevant to our businesses. Relevance to day-to-day business needs is the key point for us this year – making the link between the abstract and the granular. In point of fact the abstract has come a lot nearer to home in the last year anyway – with UK summer temperatures exceeding 40C for the

first time ever during 2022, as well as other alarming manifestations of the climate crisis appearing on the global stage.

Circumstances are now beginning to make all of this much more real for people – they are finding that climate-related events are happening which didn't happen before, such as their factories or homes are flooding, when they never used to. This is much the same as the way the skills and labour shortage has developed, which at one time might have sounded a bit of an abstract concept but is now a real discussion for manufacturers where sales are being restricted because contracting companies simply can't get fitters when they need them.

There are direct cost implications with a lot of these things and at the end of the day, money talks. Even if you do not connect climate impacts on your business with sustainability as such, there are new measures coming forward apace from Government in the way of new regulations, some of which inevitably mean new taxes. That will help concentrate the mind.

All of this probably just goes to show that the scale of the task that is in front of our industry on sustainability is vast. In order to get where we need to be, in some respects I feel that we are only at the very beginning. And we have to find ways in our own businesses of making

this a priority, despite all the other pressures on time and resources, most of which have got measurably worse during the past few years.

At a time when we are all busy and may feel ourselves spread too thinly, we produce our annual Sustainability Guide specifically to involve ourselves as the CFA at a practical level which

is of value to the sector. I believe it is critically important to pull the various strands together and to help members and the broader industry to establish priorities. When there are so many other issues, implementing new apprenticeships, trying to get funding for training, all of which take up a lot of our time and are also of significant and immediate concern to members, it is sometimes difficult to know where to start. That is all without mentioning revising standards that reflect change and supporting members as we always have done in areas such as fair payment and fighting unfair withholding of retention.

We already use mechanisms such as our Manufacturers' Committee because that is one of the forums where we engage with manufacturers and can access expertise.

There are some companies which have been involved in this for a number of years, and one might call them experts, but there are others which are right at the beginning of their sustainability journeys. To bring these new people along, to get them involved, we need to try and make sense of the complications which sustainability entails. And let's be clear, beyond the top-level concepts, it can get very complicated, with some manufacturers having to consider completely new product designs and concepts at all levels. Packaging design, manufacturing processes and logistics schemes that were not needed when sustainability was not a consideration now need to be on the agenda. Sustainable operation means it is no longer OK to put everything in a skip and send it to landfill at end of life.

We are fortunate that we can benefit from the work of the Construction Products Association (CPA) and in particular their Sustainability Policy Advisor Jane Thornback, whose article you can read elsewhere in this Guide. She has also worked incredibly hard to produce a vital series of Briefing Documents, containing practical



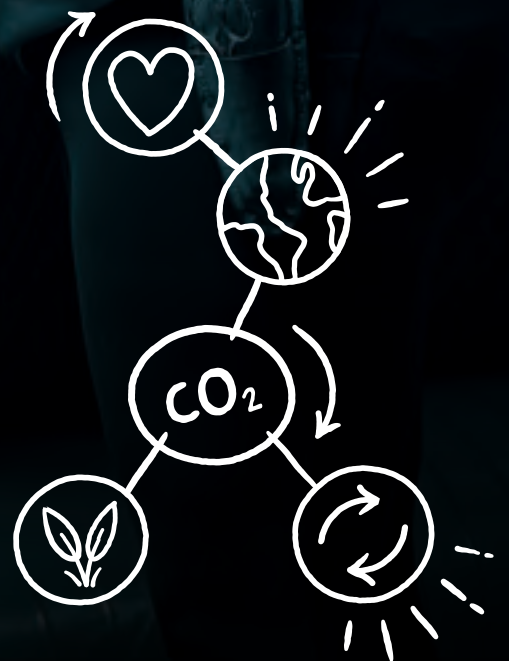


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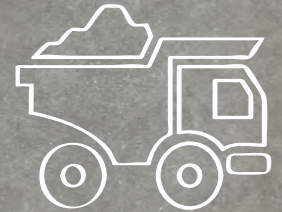
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**8**

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advice for businesses on sustainability. What they need to do in order to play their part, keep on the right side of impending Government legislation and meet customer and investor expectations in the marketplace.

The Briefing Documents are available on the CPA website and, as last year, we have very kindly been given permission to reproduce a number of the most relevant (and new) ones in this Guide in their entirety, and we also include links to where you can find all the others.

The CPA has introduced a new series of 90-minute sustainability meetings on specific topics, an approach which has been made much more viable by the use of Zoom. These are easier and much more cost-effective to attend than the in-person meetings which would have been held pre-Covid and I would certainly urge CFA members and others in the industry to participate. I know that the content of some of these meetings

is aimed at 'sustainability beginners', as well as the 'experts'. Similarly, I hope that this Sustainability Guide is of benefit to all those working in our industry, irrespective of where they currently are with regard to the sustainability of their operations or output.

As well as the CPA, I'm delighted that we have secured content this year from BEIS and I'm grateful to Stuart Young for making the time to speak to us and contribute his views on current Government thinking on sustainability and how the industry as a whole, via the Construction Leadership Council, has a clear channel for representation with the relevant ministers in order to drive progress on sustainability forward.

It is also good to hear from Sébastien Combey of Unilin in Belgium, who tells us about his company's pioneering work on materials separation, which is being carried out in France, and also the involvement of CISUFLO

the European project to develop recycling and circularity within the European floorcoverings industry. Although we are inspired by the work being carried out by a number of our European neighbours, this does however reinforce the scale of the task here in the UK, where the onus is perhaps more on the industry – and that means you and me – to pick up the baton and run with it.

I'm grateful to all those who have contributed their time and effort to create the content for this year's Guide, whether contractors, manufacturers, distributors or those directly involved in the recycling business.

I strongly believe that pulling a coherent thread for people to follow is our key challenge. Hopefully by making it real through work such as this Sustainability Guide, we delve into the practicalities and help to make the topic meaningful for companies in their day-to-day businesses. We know that we need to help people understand the connection between the manifestations of the climate crisis on the one hand and on the other the fact that we as an industry are still making some products that are difficult to re-use, difficult to de-construct, or difficult to recycle.

Although the flooring element may be less than 1% of the cost of a major new-build project such as a hospital, flooring contractors are now having to jump through the same hoops as those who are involved in much bigger ticket aspects of a project. We really need to keep up, as sustainability in commercial flooring is very much a NOW thing. ■



*Recycling, electric vehicles, packaging, extended producer responsibility and energy sourcing are all examples of areas that are no longer abstract concepts, or simply fashionable marketing tools."*

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With "Continual Improvement" a driving force for on-going development, Jewel Blade as part of W.R. Swann & Co Group is committed to enhancing its manufacturing facilities and processes to become more energy efficient and sustainable.

Jewel Blade is accredited to ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems and ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems. We also comply with ESOS, REACH, and Packaging Waste Directive 94/62/EC.

Recent initiatives undertaken in line with Jewel Blade's short, medium and long-term targets to reach 'Net Zero' include:

- Operating on 80% LED Lighting with PIR sensors in areas of low footfall throughout our 4680 m<sup>2</sup> Manufacturing facility.
- Improving production machinery by designing and installing more energy efficient models.
- A Carbon Footprint review has been undertaken by an approved expert subcontractor to identify the W.R. Swann & Co Group's Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions.
- An Energy Usage Minimisation Procedure is in place in accordance with ISO 50001.
- Sustainability meetings are held to set new objectives and targets whilst reviewing long term energy saving projects related to Energy Efficiency and reducing Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions.

These policies and actions are an integral part of Jewel Blade's culture and demonstrates how we proactively strive to reduce and eliminate the company's Carbon Footprint/GHG Emissions, forming part of our pathway to 'Net Zero'.



For more information on Jewel Blade's Environmental and Energy Policies please visit [www.jewelblade.com](http://www.jewelblade.com)

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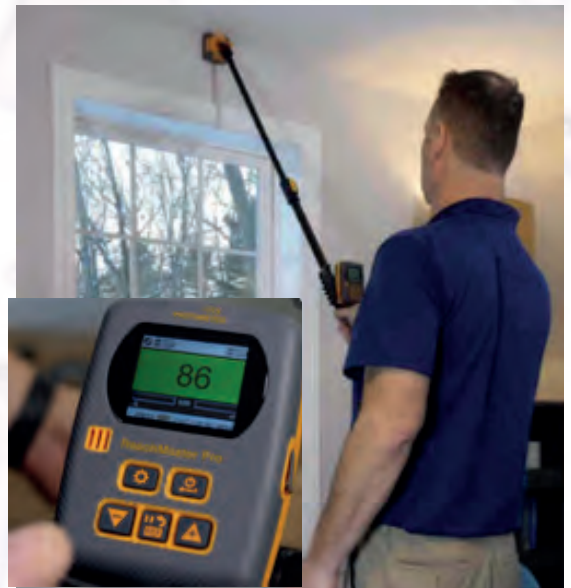
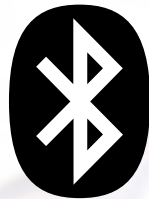
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# A proud record

## *on sustainability*

Carl Harper, President of the Contract Flooring Association, welcomes the publication of the second digital version of the CFA's Guide to Sustainability. Our industry has already achieved progress of which it can be proud, but there is so much more to do



**O**ne of the biggest changes in our industry in recent years has been the increased requirement for evidence of action on sustainability. It is not so long ago that it was just something to pay lip service to – and that is what most people did. And I'm only going back five years or so. Now it has become much more real.

Not only are climate events seemingly more frequent, nearer home and more severe, but also the business impacts are much greater. Some companies are unfortunately affected by impacts such as flooding, but the main impact is what we all have to do in our businesses nowadays to meet Government and market requirements regarding sustainability. These have become a part of our daily lives and ingrained into our company cultures. In Westcotes Flooring, sustainability has become a fundamental part of our corporate being.

It is often compared to being on a journey. We all have some idea of where we are and some idea of where we need to get to. But we are certainly not all starting from the same place or moving at the same speed.

Our theme for this year's Guide is to focus on the practicalities of the journey, what we need to do in order to ensure we keep moving in the right direction at the required pace. The understanding that energy usage,

material sourcing, logistics and labour are all sustainability issues will help us to translate aspirations on climate change into meaningful, achievable tasks, where we can all see we have a role to play. If this Sustainability Guide gives you more insight into the improvements you could be making in your business today, to make sure you keep going in the right direction, then we should consider it a job well done.

As a contractor we have been taking action for a number of years at Westcotes to improve the way we work from a sustainability point of view. Paying attention to the sustainability of the products we all use is an important - possibly the most important - way in which we can affect change. For instance we are now using a recycled protection board which is manufactured using 60% post-consumer waste and contains half the embodied carbon of a standard 2mm sheet. We are also seeing more click and loose lay LVT being installed on our projects, eliminating the need for adhesives. It also means that material can potentially more easily be re-used or recycled because there is no contamination on the backing when uplifted.

We are getting more involved with take-back schemes. Recycling bins are normally put out by main contractors, and we have a job coming up soon, on which we are working with Recofloor. Please see the article about Recofloor elsewhere

in this Guide to find out more about their work.

Recycling has become a standard part of our employees' job role. It's not just a tick box exercise...saying we're doing this or we're doing that. If we tell our clients that we're going to recycle and send waste away, they're going to need proof. Our fitters take waste to the collection bags, cut it up and make a phone call for the bags to be collected. Westcotes staff have really bought into the recycling and take-back schemes.

We use local labour as far as possible to minimise the amount of time they travel and the amount of fuel they have to put in their vehicles. Another aspect is that we are a lot more selective when it comes to choosing the right suppliers within our own supply chain. This enables best practice to make the business as sustainable as possible.

The way in which we run the company day-to-day has also changed, as sustainability becomes increasingly ingrained in our culture. It's about much more than the products we use – it requires engagement from everybody who works for the company. We encourage car share and we have trackers in our fitters' vans. The trackers pick up if the vehicles' paths cross regularly and if there are more economical ways of travelling via a van share. We've had charging points installed for electric and hybrid vehicles and the majority of new vehicles we purchase or lease



*Using less energy will save money for a business; sourcing products from near to home will save on transport costs and eliminating waste will drive costs out of a business."*





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CFA has now become the leading industry source of information and expertise on recycling. Given that it is one of our priorities, this bodes well for the future, so while the task ahead often feels daunting, I am nonetheless optimistic about the future and how the flooring sector can play a part in moving towards Net Zero Carbon by 2050.

This is partly because I think there is a realisation that, although there are costs attached to some aspects, a lot of these things ultimately have a cost benefit to business. Using less energy will save money for a business; sourcing products from near to home will save on transport costs and eliminating waste will drive costs out of a business. If you are doing something to improve your sustainability positioning, it also provides great content for your marketing and an opportunity to show customers what you are doing – and they are more interested than ever before, because their customers in turn are asking for EPDs or other reassurances on sustainability.

The tone at the moment coming from Government is not to separate sustainability from business effectiveness, but to move forward on both together. This is reflected in the Government's Skidmore Review of Net Zero, which reported earlier this year and which set out the business opportunities offered by Net Zero. In reality you cannot build strong businesses for the future without being sustainable.

Therefore why would you not have this at, or very near, the top of your agenda? ■

are electric or hybrid, and we now have eight of these in the company.

These are the kind of changes which contractors are now looking at making. We need to be aware of issues around disposal of waste floor material and that we need to act in a responsible manner, whether that's through recycling our offcuts and uplifted vinyl or carpet, as well as recycling paper and ink cartridges from our offices.

For this year's Guide I am pleased that

we have managed to pull in contributions from some big hitters in the sustainability field, including the CPA, CISUFLO and the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. That is in addition to speaking to some of the companies in our sector that are making the running on this and organisations set up by the industry to promote and facilitate product recovery and recycling. I think all this reflects the fact that, because of its membership and the work we are doing, the



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# 'The value

## of collaboration'

Stuart Young, Head of Stakeholder Management & Engagement at the Construction Unit in the Department for Business and Trade, talks about the Construction Leadership Council's Construct Zero Programme



“**Construct Zero is the construction sector's net zero carbon industry change programme.**

The approach in the sector is overwhelmingly positive, with progress being seen through the lens of the quarterly public reports, published by the CLC. We have witnessed a strong behavioural change in the industry, with over 200 companies supporting the programme.

The Construct Zero programme is well recognised by industry and beyond, with partners including HS2, CBI, PwC and Nat West. Our engagement has reached far and wide including San Diego, Australia and South America.

The quarterly public reports set out what the sector has achieved, as well as shining a light on where further progress is needed.

The initiative on removing diesel from

sites was a priority of Construct Zero.

HS2 and CECA have led an industry group on this project which, following a public consultation, has resulted in the publication of an industry road-map in April.

This programme is about engaging with the entire sector, not just the Tier 1s. We have many SMEs involved but regardless of what size you are as a company, if you would like to get involved and showcase your related work (within our nine priorities), please do contact me at [stuart.young@beis.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.young@beis.gov.uk).

This is all about communication, education, making it resonate and relevant to businesses, allowing SMEs to tackle these issues in bite-sized chunks, as their needs may be quite different from Tier 1 companies. Construct Zero sets out what it actually means to businesses, and the benefits of joining. The engagement of the sector is crucial.” ■



“*Construct Zero sets out what it actually means to businesses, and the benefits of joining. The engagement of the sector is crucial.*”



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# Focus on what you can do

*and what you need to do*

Many readers will be familiar with Jane Thornback's work on the invaluable Sustainability Briefing Documents which are available on the Construction Products Association (CPA) website. These documents are written either by Jane in her role as the CPA's Sustainability Policy Advisor or are commissioned by her from experts in their topic.



**W**e spoke to Jane about the challenge of translating laudable, lofty climate change aspirations into something relevant and meaningful for companies in the contract flooring business.

*This is what she said:*  
Words like sustainability are nebulous and vague: what on earth does it mean for any business – big or small? Equally, climate change, ice bergs melting, more intensive and more frequent hurricanes and storms, droughts and wild fires seem to be ideas and catastrophes too big and too far away from our small island and our everyday activities. What are the links to our everyday and how on an everyday basis can we respond and link to such big concepts?

I try within my job to translate the concepts of sustainability and climate change into the everyday, in order to make it meaningful to the members of the Construction Products Association. Many seem to be listening, as our CPA Sustainability Group now comprises 200 people from a wide range of businesses and construction product sectors. Some are at the start of their sustainability journeys, others have some understanding but want to know and do more, others especially those working for big companies are very well versed in the topic.

So let's look at the ways in

which issues of climate change and sustainability are linked to your everyday.

## Energy use

First up of course is energy - how much we are using and its source. Surely, in this time of hugely increased energy costs, no one can dismiss energy use as irrelevant. It's a very tangible concept, the bill arrives every month. All of us, whether at business or at home, are looking at ways to reduce our energy use, without hopefully impacting on comfort or business activity. With regard to heat, just like at home, it is important to look at our office premises and check whether they can be better insulated, that draughts around windows and doors can be reduced or prevented. To consider whether thermostats can be turned down even just a bit, or smarter

controls installed to subdivide offices into different sections that can be heated at different times or at different temperatures. (The fashion of open plan offices has perhaps not helped!). Reducing heating bills will save you money, and it also contributes to lowering energy use.

Let's not forget lighting. Most offices in recent years will have changed over to low energy light bulbs, but if not why not? Are the lights getting switched off when rooms and spaces are not in use? Then of course there's the kitchen area. Is the kettle constantly boiling? Would one of those taps which provides instant hot water be more cost-effective by lowering energy use?

Anything that reduces energy use, will save you money, it's a business no-brainer. It is also our individual way of reducing carbon emissions and responding to the climate challenge. ➤



“

*All of us, whether at business or at home, are looking at ways to reduce our energy use, without hopefully impacting on comfort or business activity”*



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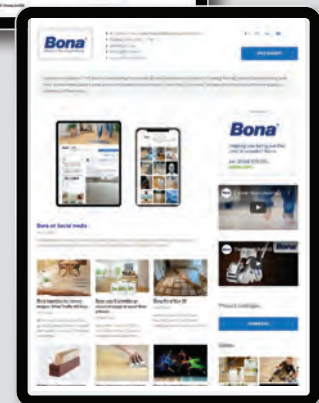
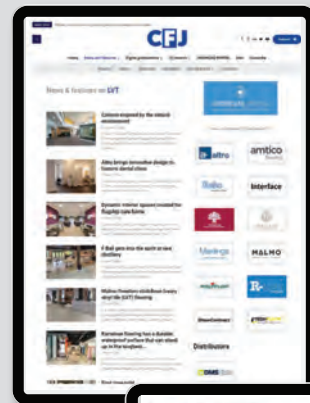
The portal offers site visitors access to your unique company 'microsite' page on the CFJ website:

[www.contractflooringjournal.co.uk/search-by-company/](http://www.contractflooringjournal.co.uk/search-by-company/)

Showcase products, case studies, videos, etc, alongside company specific editorial content taken from the monthly CFJ issues. Includes your company logo, contact details, social media links, etc.

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### Energy Sources

Now let's think about energy sources. Are there opportunities to switch to renewable, low carbon energy sources, either by purchasing renewable energy from an energy company, or if you have a roof, or large grounds, by directly installing your own solar panels or solar arrays? Quite a number of our members are now doing this. Just as you are seeing solar panels now a common sight on home roofs, then if your premises are suitable, does that present an opportunity? The cost of solar panels is now much reduced from its early days making the return on investment much quicker. Some of the very large companies in the CPA membership are exploring the possibilities of hydrogen power and there is a whole programme of government research looking at the viability of hydrogen becoming a significant power generation for some industries in some parts of the country, especially where there are existing large industrial clusters.

### Transport

Transport is another key business activity using petrochemicals, and many governments across the world have strategies to transition to electric vehicle, or for some large trucks to hydrogen power. The UK Government's Transport Strategy signals that transition. Cities such as London already have in place charging systems to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. This is supposedly extending by August 2023 (yes that

is this year) to cover all of the area within the M25. The daily charging cost within the current boundary is £12.50 (do not confuse this with a congestion charge – that is additional). If you are a business operating within that area then you must by now be looking at your transport options. Whilst the focus of the London scheme is on the emissions harmful to those with respiratory problems, the response is delivered by the transition to electric vehicles. Expect other cities in the UK to adopt similar policies. Already there is lot of momentum behind the development of electric vans, which will be of special of interest to companies in the flooring sector.

Other things to consider include using new technology to coordinate deliveries to minimise journey time per delivery in an energy-efficient way. This is certainly an opportunity for larger flooring companies to not only reduce their transport costs but also to decrease their carbon emissions

### Materials

Costs and sustainability collide when it comes to materials – the type of material used, its availability now and in the future. During the early stages of COVID issues emerged quite quickly on the availability of materials and products required for the construction industry – were there enough bricks available, but what about plasterboard or plaster in sacks? Timber availability became a huge issue, partly because so many of those on furlough worked on their gardens, installing decking etc. The costs of construction increased quickly, whether for home extensions or for large infrastructure projects such as HS2.

To improve dialogue on product availability, and to counter some of the wilder stories appearing in the media, the Construction

Leadership Council (CLC) created a Product Availability Group to ensure information across the industry was better communicated and accurate. What they were, and still are, concerned with is the immediate manifestations of resource availability. In the medium term and longer term, issues of material and product availability are unlikely to change. We all need to be smarter regarding how materials are used. Can the same performance be created using less material? Can materials be reused or recycled at end of life? This is sometimes given the name of circular economy, meaning that materials flow around the system having a use beyond the first use.

Questions of material availability are also impacting some manufacturers based on changes in chemical regulation. Every manufacturer is interested in whether the raw materials that they manufacture their products from are going to be available in the next three months, six months, a year, three years. There is a need for some horizon scanning to understand the bigger picture - how to be resilient and flexible in times of change.

### Water

More frequent floods, more frequent droughts seem to be becoming normal in the UK. Water availability is becoming an issue more often spoken about, and in the very high record temperatures of last summer when 40C was breached in some places (including where I live), then even the potential of having to use stand-pipes in the street was being talked about. For manufacturers dependent on water then it is becoming a potentially scarce resource and they need to plan for how they will cope with such shortages.

In other places and at other times, floods ➤





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are becoming more commonplace. For those people unfortunate enough to be experiencing this calamity, there are efforts to try and propose ways to refurbish their properties in a much shorter time and with materials and products less damaged by flood water. This includes what type of floor is best for just mopping up and hosing down after flood water. Fitted carpets are replaced by hard floors and rugs. An adaptation to the inevitable. In Venice they (used to) experience Aqua Alta – high water – and they adapted to it, with easy-to-move furniture and rugs, electricity points higher on the walls not at the base. All of these things are what sustainability is about and are the things which are now making it increasingly real for people every day.

### Waste and Packaging

The Plastic Packaging Tax, the Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) system, and the new Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme are intended to get those who use packaging to not expect the public purse to pick up the bill of managing the waste generated. The intention is therefore to make those who use packaging think about what it is made of, whether it could be reused again and again, or recycled. For example, most wooden pallets are only used once; large areas of Scotland are growing trees to make into wooden pallets that are used once and often then burnt. The changes are expected to bite to drive a change in how things are done.

### Investment and procurement

Finally, I want to mention the role of the marketplace in combating climate change through both investment and procurement and the ways that are beginning to impact on construction product manufacturers.

The CEOs of big companies within the CPA membership, especially the energy intensive companies, are finding that their investors are asking them whether they have made a commitment to decarbonise their activities and whether they have a decarbonisation plan in place, preferably one that is third party verified. If not, then with regret they intend to withdraw their investment. This focuses the mind of CEOs very quickly, such that sustainability is no longer something added to the HSE team but is now part of business risk and business strategy.

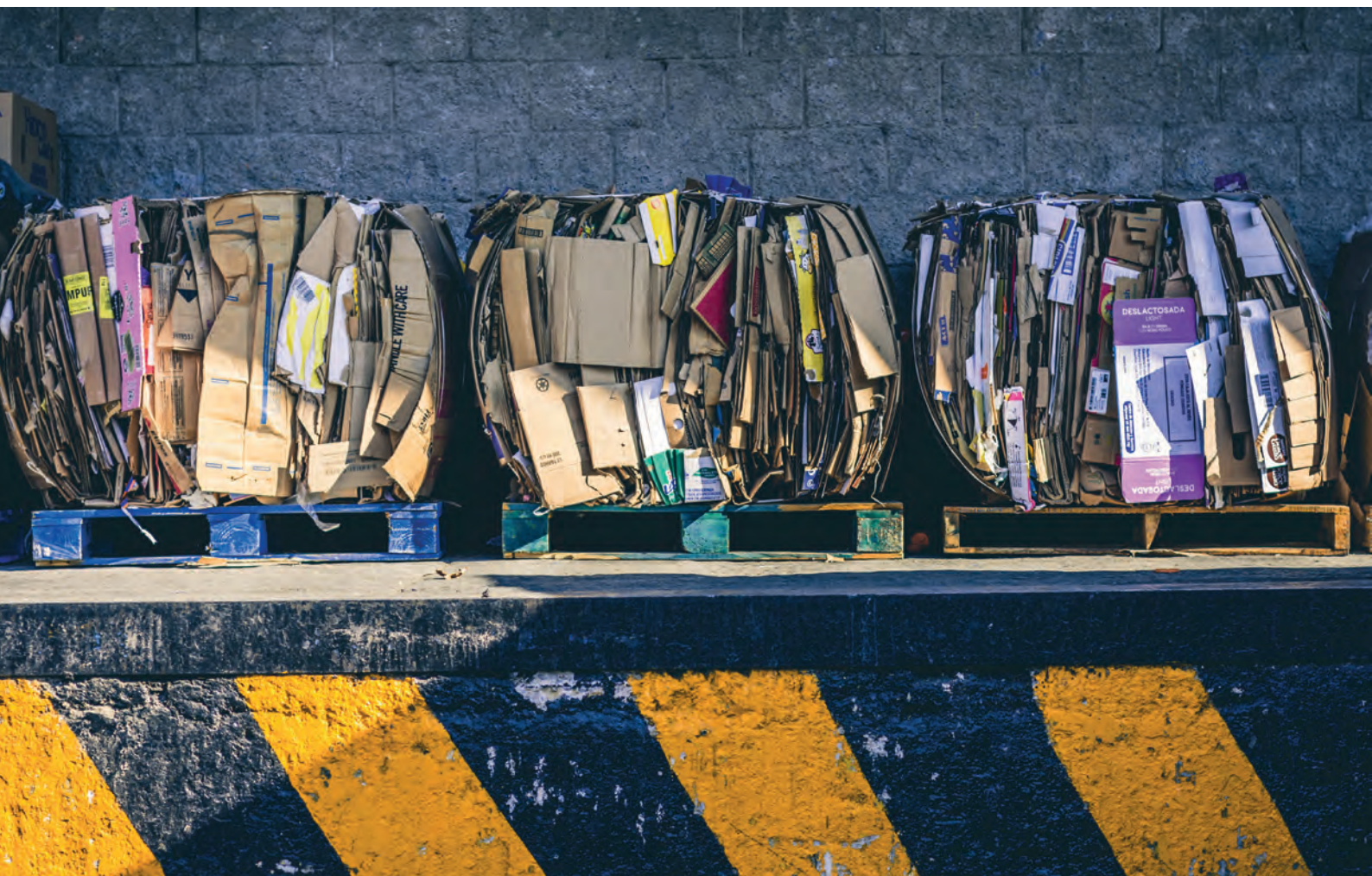
Similarly, many big developers have made a commitment to the UN's Race to Zero, and have a verified plan to decarbonise. This is now translating into their procurement strategies and cascading through the supply chain. Increasingly CPA members are asked what their climate commitment is and what their decarbonisation plan is. CPA has tried to capture some of the plans in our sector within a Decarbonisation Directory that signposts to the commitments and plans that have been made. Have a look at our Decarbonisation Directory on our website.

Cities are beginning to require similar evidence of a commitment to climate change. London for instance requires big developments

to provide a decarbonisation plan (and a circular development plan).

There is also increasingly an understanding that construction development should not just look at the operational energy in their energy use, but also the carbon involved in the manufacture and use of products throughout the construction lifecycle. This is called Whole Life Carbon Assessment (WLCA). For manufacturers the information that is required to contribute to the calculation comes from something called an Environmental Product Declaration (an EPD). Manufacturers are increasingly being asked for an EPD. If you want to understand EPD better then do look at the new set of Briefing Papers on the CPA website.

To conclude, even in the UK, people are becoming much more aware that our climate is changing and that this has impacts. We are also seeing impacts from across the world where climate change and competition for resources is changing supply chains and making once reliable supply chains suddenly break down. As individuals, businesses and governments, the required approach has to be to try and be flexible, to be willing to change if necessary, to be more aware of the bigger context. We need to think about energy, materials, waste and water in new ways – what do you do if their availability changes, or has to change? How do you manage that change and transition, how to adapt? It is both a tremendous challenge, and an opportunity. ■





# Dekton Carbon Neutral



Cosentino Group considers sustainable development as an essential commitment in the company's growth strategy, with regard to the respect and protection of the environment.

At Cosentino we are strongly committed to the 2030 Agenda promoted by the United Nations, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Local Action Plan promoted by the Government of Spain.

We address the reduction of emissions through the efficient use of natural resources, proper waste management and recovery, zero discharge strategy and other potential impacts in order to protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

As a demonstration of our commitment and in line with the SDG 13 – Climate Action, **we have been awarded the Zero Carbon Footprint Cradle-to-Grave Label for all DEKTON products**, offsetting our CO2 emissions over the entire product life cycle in 2019.



## We calculate our carbon footprint

As part of our Decarbonisation Plan, our carbon footprint is calculated and verified by an accredited third-party organisation. Later on, with the approval of MITERD (Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge), it became part of the **Spanish Registry of Carbon Footprint, Offsetting and CO2 Absorption Projects** of the OECC (Spanish Office of Climate Change).

For this calculation, we use data on energy and/or fuel consumption, raw materials, etc., of the entire value chain and of the **Cosentino Group branches** (Centres, Workshops, Cities, HUBs, HQ,...).



## We reduce our impact

We are committed to energy efficiency, emissions reduction and sustainable mobility to minimise our impact.

- **Energy efficiency:** it is a priority objective for Cosentino to reduce energy consumption in the production process and in the general group activity. In addition, 100% of the electricity we use in the production process comes from renewable sources.
- **Emission reduction:** 2.8 million euros have been invested in the implementation of an energy management and monitoring system for the heat systems which allows heat from the Dekton® furnaces to be recovered and used in the dryers, thus reducing emissions.
- **Sustainable mobility:** we have recently joined the "Plan Sumamos Salud + Economía" under which we have a Mobility Policy that helped us to avoid 1.255 TCO2 in 2019.



## We offset our emissions

To achieve carbon neutrality in Dekton®, at Cosentino **we offset our emissions over the entire product life cycle** (scopes 1+2+3) by investing in GHG emission offsetting projects.

For this purpose, we identify those projects that meet the requirements for responsible offsetting and that, in turn, have a strong social dimension that contributes to the achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals of the UN's 2030 Agenda**.

The project selected to offset the 42,532 tonnes of CO2 emissions resulting from one year of Dekton® production was the "**Loma Los Colorados Landfill Gas Project**" in Chile, which has a direct impact on sustainable development by **supporting the local economy, providing training and job opportunities**.



# The European Flooring Industry

— *pushing the boundaries on recycling and circularity*

We spoke to Sébastien Combey, Global Technical Services Manager, Unilin BV Flooring Division. Sébastien was able to provide us with a case study on recycling carried out by Unilin in France and also inform us how his company's project relates to work carried out by CISUFLO (Circular Sustainable Floor Coverings) and wider efforts to achieve circularity within the European floorcoverings industry



26

**U**nilin was formed in 1960 and has its roots in the recycling of flax shives to produce boards. It originally comprised an association of farmers who were harvesting flax for the textile industry and who noticed that there were lots of fibre residues from the main part of the flax that they could use to produce board. This was a recycled raw material which would otherwise have been dumped or burned, so recycling is really part of the Unilin DNA.

Today the company has four main divisions – Unilin Panels, Unilin Flooring, Unilin Insulation and Unilin Technologies. Within the flooring division there is a range of products – laminate, which was the original flooring product, as well as engineered wood flooring, LVT, sheet vinyl, heterogeneous vinyl and carpet tiles.

The company is committed to the Paris Agreement and the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTI).

“In February we gained approval for our own Science-Based Target Initiative,” says Sébastien Combey, “being the first laminate producer to achieve that. Regarding the pilot installation, we are ahead of the original CISUFLO research project planning. The pilot is now in production and we are in a position to take the decision about upscaling.”

The pilot that Unilin has installed at one of its factories in the French city of Bazeilles uses a steam explosion process to recover old MDF, HDF and laminate flooring in order to separate the fibres. The steam explosion breaks the adhesive link between the wood fibres, without damaging the structure of the fibre itself. This is superior to a mechanical process, which would shred the fibres,

decreasing their length and their mechanical properties.

In the process workers first shred the boards, planks or tiles into smaller pieces and then place them into a big tank where they are subjected to a steam explosion. The process can be used on all types of products, not just Unilin's own. The results are recycled wood fibres.

This process is very suitable for most types of glues, such as Melamine-Urea-Formaldehyde (MUF) glues. If a Methylene Diphenyl Diisocyanate (MDI) glue has been used, then the process could become more difficult.

“Circularity is the key – making a high performing product which can be recycled effectively. At Unilin we have developed a process to make water-resistant laminate that is very suited for recycling.

“Product tagging and digital product passports can help us here, especially when we are talking about products made by other companies, where you do not necessarily know the full technical characteristics of the materials used. This is what the ePRODIS programme is concerned with. However today our issue is that we are trying to recover end-of-life

products which were manufactured 20 or 25 years ago, and those products do not have tagging. If we start to implement product tagging today, it will only be helpful in 20-25 years' time.

“We need ePRODIS to be future-proof. Personally I think such a system would be difficult to implement in practice, because of the requirement to have a product ID on each component, such as a plank, when planks are often cut in two. If we want to recycle two parts we have to make sure each part has the product tagging. I am a bit sceptical of this and I think we need a different way of sorting the product.”

Some companies are currently developing techniques which use infra-red technology to sort different components, even on products which were installed 20 or 25 years ago and which don't have any tagging, QR code or ID.

“It is an interesting time for this type of work, since a lot of things are changing fast at the moment and a lot of good ideas are circulating within the trade, some of which won't come to fruition of course, but it is fascinating how things are changing at the moment,” says Sébastien. ➤

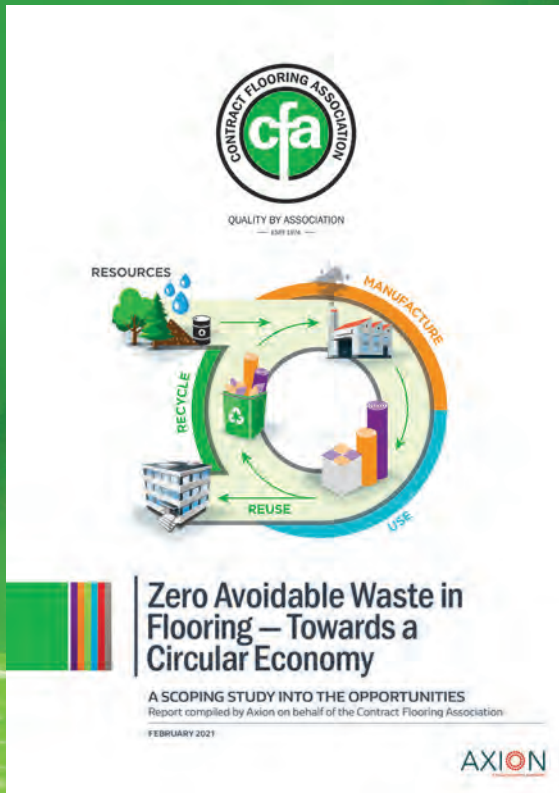


*Circularity is the key – making a high performing product which can be recycled effectively. At Unilin we have developed a process to make water-resistant laminate that is very suited for recycling. ”*



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determine if the recycled fibres are as good, worse or better than virgin fibres. The steam process itself does not release any chemicals and is as such a clean process.

Unilin is also engaged in research beyond the CISUFLO scope with carpet tiles, such as whether the bitumen backing can be removed to make carpet tiles easier to recycle and also developing a polyamide-based backer that can be easily separated from the tiles.

The company is involved in the European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute (ERFMI) project, which is concerned with recycling LVT. This mainly involves the company's internal wastes and its own products because the composition is known. Recycling post-consumer products, containing chemicals which are not 100% known, remains a challenge.

"We are working on this and are supporting the ERFMI project, so we are really looking into the future not just with recycling, but with product circularity in mind," says Sébastien Combey. "Current global factors, such as the increased cost of energy and the increased cost of raw materials are helping us to be more creative and to speed up our projects. But the base of our motivation is not just the cost. It is also to be doing good for the planet.

"I have the feeling that this sustainable spirit is now spread all over. In our own business it is not just one or two or three people who are pushing for it, but it is the whole company that is moving in this direction. Now it is not just people in R&D who are working on sustainability, as one might expect, but also the philosophy has spread to sales, finance, customer service, production. Everyone wants to play a role there. They have maybe made some changes at home in their personal lives and are ready to do something on a bigger scale, which is really fantastic. This isn't a dream any more. I really think that things are happening and I have noticed this change quite strongly over the last two to three years. Today sustainability is a really strong commitment for everybody." ■



The main drivers of change are the European Green New Deal, national regulation and customer requirements. In some countries customers are asking for take-back programmes, and this is built-in at the time of manufacture, which is the easiest way since the producer knows what was in the product and a product tagging is not required.

However geography is the limiting factor in this process. The distance involved may be more than 1,000km to get the product back to the factory, so it becomes a problem if you have to add in this transport element to the product lifecycle analysis. You may end up losing more in the transport aspect than you gain from the recovery of the material.

The future to achieve efficient recycling is more to have regional recycling hubs that are connected to the factory and less than 500km from it. France is currently setting up a system for recovering all building materials in line with the principles of Extended Producer Responsibility. Manufacturers are responsible for making sure that its products are collected and recycled at end-of-life. To achieve this there is a tax, which works in the same way as the one already in place for electronic equipment, and this funds the end-of-life collection. This year France has implemented a system to do this for all building materials - and flooring is part of that.

Collaboration and cooperation within the industry is important to make the regional hub concept work, so that the product from producer A can be recyclable by producer B. Compatibility to enable recycling is a key factor. The hubs are funded by a mix of tax collected from the industry and investment from Government.

France has become a leader in end-of-life product collection and Sébastien Combey believes the French model, assuming it is successful, could be extended to other countries. By involving third parties who are specialised in waste collection, it means that manufacturers do not have to be involved in that aspect. If that third party is able to sort all the product to be recycled in a given process and maybe also carry out a pre-treatment before offering the raw material to the producer, that would be an ideal system.

The advantage of working with laminates is that they do not contain legacy chemicals that are forbidden today. The only issue is that there

are some adhesives that are more difficult to break down with the steam process. PVC on the other hand can contain heavy metals and plasticisers which are forbidden in today's market. For these a chemical or mechanical pre-treatment would be required. This would make recycling much easier for the producer, because they would be able to achieve a recycled PVC which is ready to use in the new flooring with no dangerous legacy chemicals.

"The support we receive from the CISUFLO project is important," says Sébastien. "We get a subsidy to develop our pilot, but for the later scaling up and further development, we have to fund this ourselves as a company."

The ability to incorporate recycled material into new products is key to achieving circularity. Currently Unilin is able to source a small percentage of the wood fibres in its HDF products from recycled materials, and in fact part of the HDF that the company produces now contains a fraction of recovered wood fibres and the target is to increase this. At the moment it is able to treat more than one tonne per hour and aims to increase that to ten tonnes per hour over time, introducing up to 25% recycled fibres in all factories.

Interestingly the target is not to go up to 100% recycled fibre content yet. The main reason is that the supply chain for recovered MDF/HDF is not built yet. The required volumes will be in competition with wood used as energy fuel. When we achieve 80% recycled content, then we can consider how to reach 100%.

Concerning VOC emissions, it is too early to draw any conclusions. Tests are ongoing to







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**To protect the environment, we minimise our production of waste and greenhouse gases, consistently conserve resources, treat energy conscientiously, and reduce hazardous materials or make sure we use them safely. Our Research & Development department works continuously to develop eco-friendly products using blowing agents with low or zero greenhouse potential (global warming potential, or GWP).**

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- On the effects in the processing phase in the material safety data sheets about our products
- On the effects in the utilisation phase in the environmental product declarations (EPDs) as well as the emissions measurements of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

- For the utilisation phase, the environmental product declarations do not include the heating fuel (oil, gas, etc.) saved by our customers nor, therefore, the significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with those savings. Resource savings during utilisation far exceeds resource consumption during production (by at least a factor of 20).
- On the effects in the disposal phase in the material safety data sheets as well as the environmental product declarations.

### **We conserve resources and the environment...**

... and take responsibility for future generations and their right to an intact and liveable environment. That's why we support climate protection objectives and certification concepts for buildings. We are committed to coherent,

sustainable management and to the goal of optimising our company's products and processes from an economic, ecological and social perspective.

### **BEWI products mean energy efficiency...**

The thermal insulation properties of all our products contribute to energy-efficient and sustainable





construction. As a manufacturer, sustainability and product stewardship are a vital part of what we do.

During product development, we assess early on whether and how the raw material extraction, manufacturing process, practical use and complete life cycle of our products will affect the environment. To that end, first we check to make sure that the composition of our products is safe – improving it, if necessary – and then we favour suppliers who are actively committed to environmental protection.

**Quality is our guarantee...**

We believe that it is important for us to continuously measure the quality of our products and services and to adapt them to meet requirements. That's why BEWI Insulation's quality monitoring includes self-monitoring and third-party monitoring.

We conduct the self-monitoring of JACKODUR products according to the requirements of EN 13164 and EN 13172 as well as the applicable approvals, e.g. from Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. For JACKOBOARD products, the requirements of the self-monitoring are listed in the General Building Authority Test Certificate and other national approvals.

Within the framework of third-party monitoring, external institutes such as MPA Dortmund, MPA Leipzig, LNE Paris, Seco Brussels, IKOBKB Utrecht and BBA London regularly audit the self-monitoring, the production processes and the products.

Our locations are certified according to:

- ISO 9001 (Quality Management)
- ISO 14001 (Environmental Management)
- ISO 50001 (Energy Management)

**Safety and health are top priorities...**

The success of our company essentially depends on employees working together hand in hand. Employees and managers can work successfully and enthusiastically only if everyone gives their best at their place, follows the rules, and pursues a shared objective. To preserve safety and health, all employees are obliged to identify possible sources of danger and ensure that on-the-job accidents and injuries are prevented. We insist



on transparency and reporting.

**To clarify our position, BEWI are taking a positive role in the European plastics industry, with involvement in various industry initiatives. Examples of our actions are:**

- All THERMOMUR webs are produced from 100% recycled polyethylene
- All internal factory waste is reprocessed and returned to production
- We include around 20% or recycled and reclaimed polystyrene in our products
- Our Operation Clean Sweep has resulted in us preventing stray production material from entering the environment around our factories.

**In the UK we are making a positive statement; that plastics when used as long-term construction materials that can greatly reduce the need for heating energy can make a positive contribution to reducing climate change.**

**BEWI also produce polystyrene bee hives, again a product which will last a lifetime and help protect our pollinating bees, one of the other major environmental challenges.**

It can be shown that these insulated hives improve the viability of bee colonies, keeping them warm through winter and cool in summer.

We have teamed up with The Bee Centre, [www.thebeecentre.org](http://www.thebeecentre.org), an educational centre, to subsidise equipment and training for customers and other groups and communities who would like to take up beekeeping. By supplying our hives we can halve the investment cost of equipment and the Bee Centre can provide the necessary training and the bees!

<https://www.jackon-insulation.com/company/sustainability/>





# Greening our skills in the Contract Flooring Sector

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

**It is very clear that if the construction industry is going to meet 'Net Zero' targets and play its part in reducing its contribution to climate change, then the whole supply chain has to pull together and action changes that will help target the current and ongoing climate emergency.**

This includes the development of 'Green Skills' and a requirement to educate those working in our sector, and also the next generation, regarding sustainability best practice, and also to highlight new occupations that will be created as a result of this changing landscape. 'Green Skills' will not just be required for new construction and infrastructure but also for tackling the improvement of existing commercial and domestic buildings.

Fundamental shifts in construction and infrastructure over the next 5 to 10 years will see an increase in the requirement for our entire workforce to work within new parameters of sustainability. So I was pleased to see a report called Greening the UK's Skills, published in November 2022 and authored by Graham Hasting-Evans, Chief Executive at the National Open College Network (NOCN Group), outlining the challenges faced by the UK in meeting its climate change commitments. NOCN is one of the largest UK construction awarding organisations specialising in regulated UK qualifications, End-Point

Assessments and short courses.

The report outlines that the transition to Net Zero will only be possible with a skilled 'green' workforce to build, operate and maintain the necessary assets for energy, retrofit and carbon capture as well as related infrastructure in the logistics, utilities and transportation industries.

Whilst the UK has great engineering, science and technology skills to support the drive to Net Zero, it lacks enough people with those skills, particularly the operational workforce, mainly at Level 2, that can build, operate and maintain 'green' physical

environmental assets.

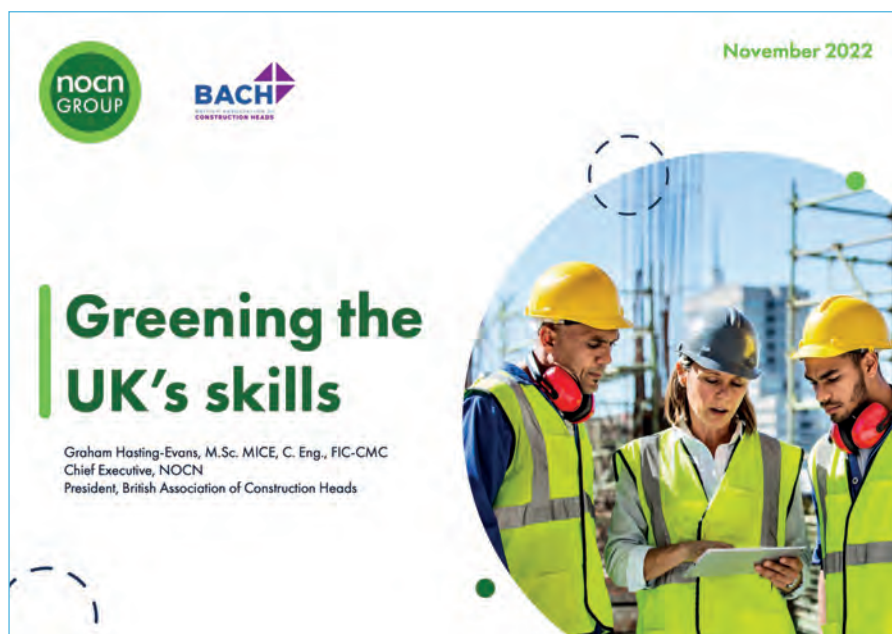
The paper aims to help clarify what 'Green Skills' are and sets out the range of adapted and new skills the UK's economy will urgently need to build and operate over the next 5 to 10 years if we are to be successful in addressing the major challenges created by climate change.

The report covers a wide range of topics, including the impact economic activity will have on our industry, the shift to greener materials, the need for additional investment in skills beyond current qualifications, the reduction of reliance on fossil fuels and tackling energy waste, all with clear links back to training and qualifications stating: "There will need to be a re-alignment of occupational standards, T Levels and a wide range of other qualifications' curricula to prepare young people that are entering the workforce, or those moving within the workforce, for the skills and competency requirements of the 'green' economy."

But how does all of this affect the next generation of floorlayer and the flooring industry? It starts with the revision and reform of Apprenticeship Standards and Occupations Standards currently taking place. These are two areas where CFA and its members are already heavily involved. Both the Floorlaying Apprenticeship Standard and The National Occupation Standards for Floorlaying are in review with a clear priority on upgrading them for greening, digitisation and productivity improvements within the training and assessment plans.

Areas such as retrofitting, off-site manufacturing, the switch to greener materials, recycling, waste disposal and heat pump installation (underfloor heating - something that is being discussed within the CFA's manufacturing committees) will also have to be embedded within training of current workforces as well as any new recruits.

The report concludes that "Investment in up-skilling and re-skilling the green workforce of the future is vital, educating workers young and old on the perils of climate change, and the need for everyone to make positive change. As well as curriculum change, skills training and assessing capacity building is now an urgent necessity." I would advise anyone reading this to consider looking at the report in more detail which can be accessed and downloaded via the link <https://www.nocn.org.uk/products/consultancy-and-research/greening-uk-skills/> ■





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Jamie Shaw, Global Head of Sustainability at Karndean Designflooring, said:

"Our floors can balance on-trend biophilic aesthetics with practicality and sustainability."

"The durability of our flooring is key to product longevity and in commercial environments this can result in a carbon footprint that is up to 85% lower than other flooring products."

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Karndean 



# Our industry leading, sustainable underlay production journey

We operate a responsible, resourceful and safe business. We commit to, and invest in, re

We are proud of our achievements and will continue to push forwards to enhance everyo

## 1989 Our sustainable journey begins

Ball & Young are purchased by The Vita Group to develop the use of recycled PU trim foam.

## 1995 Game changing industry first

Award-winning Cloud 9 is launched, pioneering the use of PU trim foam in underlay manufacture.

## 1998 High density underlays developed

Cloud 9 high density underlays launched, another industry first.

## 2002 Underlay for marine use approved

Cloud 9 flame retardant range is launched and approved for marine use.

## 2010 Carbon footprint reduced by logistic efficiencies

Ball & Young block plant investment, reduces vehicle movements between sites.

## 2015 Another game changer: anti-bacterial underlay

Another first... Ultra-fresh underlay stays fresher for longer with anti-bacterial treatment.



Vita  
↓

enhancing  
everyday  
life

CLOUD  
9  
RANGE OF  
UNDERLAYS  
®

## A HISTORY IN FLOORING

by Ball and Young

Founded in 1983 by Martin Ball and Jim Young, Ball and Young, is based at Corby Enterprise Zone, located here after the redevelopment of the area.

Ball & Young, part of The Vita Group, has now been at the vanguard of innovation within the flooring market for almost 40 years. The company originally launched with The Royal Leaders Collection; a High-Quality Rubber Sponge Collection of underlays.

The success of The Royal Leaders Collection saw the company's reputation for excellence grow, and the Ball & Young name became synonymous in the marketplace for quality products and reliable service.

From its inception the company continued to grow both in sales and reputation, which brought it to the attention of British Vita, who saw the opportunity to diversify their product portfolio. In 1989 Ball & Young was purchased by the worldwide foam and fibre giant.

### The innovators

By 1995 Ball & Young were ready to launch their industry pioneering product, Cloud 9 - the revolutionary underlay that was a game changer for the sector. The underlay is made from foam trim offcuts, shredded and rebonded into new foam underlay and was the start of Ball & Young's long history of working sustainably. Unveiled at the NEC Birmingham, Cloud 9 went on to win the award Best New Product in the Marketplace!

### The start of the circular economy

Cloud 9 underlay by Ball & Young truly is sustainability in action. The concept of preventing unwanted trim and offcuts from Furniture, Mattress Manufacturing and Automotive industries, which would ordinarily have been sent to Landfill, being recycled and repurposed into carpet underlay.

100% of the trim generated within The Vita Group, is re-used and re-purposed, including the trim from Vita Group customers - which we call the 'take-back off-cut initiative'. This means that Vita is a net consumer of trim and stops 20Kt of trim foam going to landfill each year. Over 250Kt of foam trim has been diverted from landfill to date.



ney  
reducing waste.  
day life.

**2017** **Unusable trim gets new lease of life!**  
Re-purposing previously unusable trim, Cloud 9 Eco-Cushion is launched for use with artificial grass.

**2019** **Cloud 9, the proven choice for healthy homes**  
Cloud 9 products are certified for indoor air quality control.

**2021** **Take-back underlay off-cut initiative launched**  
Post fitting off-cuts will be diverted away from landfill in this new scheme.

**Electricity from 100% wind source**  
Since March 2021, electricity comes from 100% wind source, backed by REGO Certificates.

**Membership of Carpet Recycling UK**  
Partnering industry leaders in the improvement of sustainability solutions.



Ball & Young aim to achieve net zero CO2 emissions no later than 2050 and zero to landfill by 2040. Since March 2021, 100% of our electricity comes from wind source, backed by REGO Certifications.

**Unusable trim solutions**

Ball & Young's Eco Cushion utilises reticulated PU foam - previously it was sent to landfill as it could not be repurposed. However, through extensive R&D work out of our state of the art Innovation Centre, we have developed a system where a technical mix of PU in Eco Cushion allows water to pass through very efficiently, which exceeds P.G.A. & R.F.U. requirements.

The takeback off-cut initiative is now in full swing. Post fitting off-cuts are diverted away from landfill, collected from Flooring Contractors and then recycled back into carpet underlay.

Ball & Youngs portfolio includes products to suit many applications from wood laminates, stretch fitted and double stick carpet installations, including high traffic areas in commercial, hospitality and flame retardant underlays for the marine sector.

Ball & Young underlays are multi-functioning. From underlays to support your underfloor heating system, a great Cloud 9 insulator to keep your house warmer in the colder months, or money saving underlays that help you save money and reduce your energy costs, Ball & Young has an underlay to suite everyone's needs.

Our purpose and values continue to guide all that we do, whether that's our focus on the well-being and safety of our staff and our customers or our ambitions to work more sustainably.

As part of the Vita Group we operate a responsible, resourceful and safe business. We commit to - and invest in - reducing waste, increasing recycling and reuse of raw materials, and conserving natural resources in pursuit of a net zero footprint. We are proud of our achievements and will continue to push forwards.

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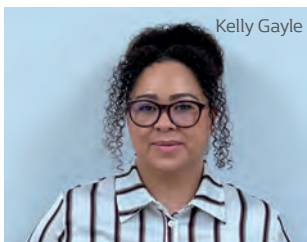




# Contract flooring industry takes up the challenge

Contractors, distributors and manufacturers in our sector are committed to achieving real improvements in their performance on sustainability. What quickly emerges is that the depth of that commitment and the pace of change have taken a big step forward just in the last couple of years – and often that is being driven by the integration of climate change aspirations with day-to-day activities in the operation of their flooring business.

**AG FLOORING** is a contractor working in the northwest, mostly on commercial projects, such as hospitals, schools, stadiums and Network Rail infrastructure. According to Kelly Gayle, Office Administrator, these are all quite demanding clients, when it comes to environmental requirements, and these demands have become more onerous over the last two or three years.



Kelly Gayle

“So we have set up an annually renewable Carbon Reduction Plan which, along with other initiatives, aims to create infrastructure, support communities, reduce emissions to help improve the environment and enable growth to deliver community benefits. The Carbon Reduction Plan commits the company to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050. We are getting smart electric and gas meters installed to give us more control over the energy we are using. We also look at where staff can work from home to minimise the carbon impact from travel.”

The Carbon Reduction Plan includes a calculation of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to establish baseline figures and enable improvements to be measured.

As with most contractors, Kelly Gayle feels that their major impact is in the fuel that the company uses, covering quite a wide area and normally having to transport equipment and materials in a vehicle. They have looked at electric vehicles, but the view is that the charging infrastructure is still not good enough to make that viable. They would also have to figure out how home charging for company vehicles would work and be funded.

“We’re aware that some of the initiatives that we take might save us money, where they involve being more economical with fuel and energy usage and so on,” says Kelly Gayle. “But other aspects, such as any move to

electric vehicles will require quite significant investment on our part, although it would hopefully also lead to savings on running costs in the longterm.”

The really big gains, she says, need to be made in the manufacture of products. “To a large extent this is out of our control. In most cases the products we use are whatever the client has stipulated. Obviously it is a good thing that manufacturers are now making environmentally-friendly products more widely available.”

When it comes to recycling of flooring materials, the company believes there needs to be more Government support and investment to help the industry get to where it needs to be.

“We can as an industry achieve what we need to do, in order to become sustainable, but there is a lot of work that needs doing in order to get there. And to do that, everybody in the industry needs to be on board. It’s definitely a collective thing. Making the link between what people hear about the climate crisis and their day-to-day actions is where the progress will be made.”

No longer is the word ‘sustainability’ just something to which lip service should be paid. It is not just a phrase to be put on a website, used in marketing and to create the impression to others that you’re doing and saying the right things. But it actually now means something very real for flooring contractors. Many will in fact tell you it’s part of their corporate being. For Carl Harper, Managing Director of **WESTCOTES FLOORING COMPANY LTD**’s London Office, sustainability is a fundamental part of its corporate being.

As Carl notes, and many others will have noticed, main contractors often demand that subcontractors are following their lead: “We’re finding that a lot of the main contractors now, as part of their corporate responsibility, are really focussing on being being eco-friendly.”

He says that this is filtering down through their purchasing and procurement and it’s now becoming an important direction for Westcotes “to ensure that we have a positive impact on our work and our processes. At preliminary

meetings the subject is always brought up. Sustainability, reducing carbon footprints and emissions and responsible labour resourcing are discussed.”

At **MACGREGOR FLOORING COMPANY LTD**, Chairman & CEO, Hamish Macgregor, says that the company is doing a lot of work on recycling nowadays, working with Recofloor, CRUK and also metal and packaging recycling, plastic buckets being among the latest items to join the recycling system. They’ve also installed two electric vehicle charging points and are looking at bringing in electric vans.

But the biggest development of recent years, Hamish MacGregor believes, is the growing use and much increased acceptance of loose lay LVT and sheet vinyl. He attributes this to a beneficial after-effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We were involved in laying a lot of flooring in the temporary hospitals that were used during the pandemic,” he says, “and we were regularly using adhesive-free loose-lay sheet vinyl, so that the flooring could later be removed, without damaging the substrate below. This has led to loose-lay becoming much more accepted by the market than it was previously, and it is also being offered much more by manufacturers than previously. I can remember 20 years ago when the quality of loose-lay was very poor, but now it is much improved and we have no hesitation in recommending it where we can, because of the sustainability benefits amongst others. COP26 in Glasgow moved awareness on to a new level as well I think.”



Hamish MacGregor

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**FLEGT licensing provides social, environmental, and economic benefits.**



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Many of these views are echoed at **FLOORWISE**, a major distributor of flooring installation products, many of which it develops and sources itself for distribution through its distributor network. It has 14 members and 25 distribution depots across the UK and Ireland. The product range includes underlay, profiles, gripper, screeds, adhesives and tools. One of the advantages of the structure is that the independent members are able to share information and best practice across the group and between companies.

Richard Bailey, Managing Director, says: "I am involved in transportation and warehousing, as well as product composition, where the product comes from and consideration of recyclability at the end of the product's life.

"Transportation and warehousing are probably the two big areas that we can look at from a sustainability point of view. Then there is product sourcing and finally the administration side, a lot of which has gone paperless nowadays. A lot of our companies have moved towards electric cars for personal transportation. Although electric vehicles have become a lot more high profile, just in the past year, we really do need to see more Government investment in the infrastructure for this.

Richard Bailey has seen a lot of change with regard to product type, especially with regard to adhesives and screeds, where there has been a move away from VOCs and towards E1 types of glues, which have low levels of formaldehyde. On the other hand many of the chemicals used in flooring tend to be refined substances, limiting the options, especially since you need to preserve a decent shelf life, although fillers such as chalk can be used in some cases.

Richard Bailey says that in some cases his distributor members do get involved in bringing waste back from the site, such as off-cuts of overlay or adhesive that's left in the tub. So that raises questions of how it is being moved back either to the distributor or how it is being disposed of.

"This again comes back to product manufacture and sourcing," he says. "We are

looking at how we can make products that can be recycled more easily. We sell a lot of polyurethane foam underlay, some of which is now made from recycled products, such as old mattresses. We are using waste and recycled industrial foam increasingly now, which is a positive. I know there is also work going on amongst the big chemical manufacturers to look at how polyurethane foams can be turned back into the poly oils that they were developed from to make a circular process.

"Our underlays generally have a paper or some kind of film backing. When specifying products we are always looking at improving these and there are plant-based backings that can be used. So we are often having conversations with suppliers about whether these are suitable for us to use and whether we can improve the recyclable element of what we are bringing in. Of course we check that the gripper that we are buying is FSC - and often our customers will be asking for this. Sometimes there are new companies that come on the scene, which use recycled materials, so we keep an eye out for them as well.

"We've also got to look at where our products and the raw materials that go into them come from. For example you can buy carpet gripper from a UK company. Their plywood used to come from Russia, but now comes from China, as does the hardware. So you then wonder whether it's better to bring the finished product from the Far East, since all the raw materials are coming from there anyway.

"Unfortunately there are still a lot of barriers to making recycling work effectively and efficiently. More Government and local authority support for recycling products easily and cost-effectively through local recycling centres would help. This could involve a more mobile recycling operation which can travel around sites and uplift directly from there. It is fairly straightforward to put out recycling bins and there are companies that do collect those and will bring them back to the depot, but the economics of it depend on how far away they are from the depot. Possibly this is the kind of thing that the CFA could get involved with

- thinking about where these products can be recycled and where it can be done more effectively.

"We do come across some strange things sometimes. For instance there are companies who are making foam out of PET, recycled plastic bottles, which sounds great. But we have been told it can't be put into normal recycling for plastic bottles, but has to go into landfill, which is ridiculous."

Richard Bailey believes there is a lot of greenwashing going on, where companies are promoting green credentials for commercial reasons that aren't actually accurate. He believes it's getting worse, despite the efforts of the Advertising Standards Authority who are supposed to police it.

"It would certainly help if the Standards were tightened up. I believe that a lot of them, UK and European Standards, are very grey. If we are going to offer any green credentials, they need to be clear, accurate and transparent. The kind of regulation that now applies to packaging could also be brought in for other areas, so that people are not able to make unsubstantiated claims about their products. This would make it a lot easier for all of us and introduce more rigour to the specification process, ensuring that products with better sustainability credentials are specified.

One of the key developments among manufacturers currently is the introduction of increased transparency and accountability into the product claims that they make. Because of greater rigour being introduced throughout the supply chain, including clients increasingly needing to see evidence for claims made by their suppliers, "greenwashing" is exposed to an increasingly high level of scrutiny.

An important enabling tool is Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), which leading manufacturers are now developing for their product ranges. These ensure that customers can know the carbon footprint and therefore can make an informed decision when deciding which product to use.

Yorkshire carpet tile manufacturer **BURMATEx®** is one company that is putting sustainability at the top of its agenda. It has embarked on a programme for its sustainable development, which is called **eco<sup>2</sup>matters®**. This has the aspiration of developing "British made flooring solutions creating sustainable value globally". According to Médéric Payne, Chief Executive Officer, "eco<sup>2</sup>matters® is our commitment to providing the right business focus, trading responsibly and achieving Net Zero in a sustainable manner."

Burmatex® has put its thinking into practice with the launch of its two latest products. Arctic is a carbon neutral product which uses carbon negative recycled yarn and also features the company's own unique BioBase™ recycled backing. The latest version of the company's 'go to' product uses EgoCycle® 75 recycled solution dyed nylon as well as BioBase™

recycled backing. The company understands that support for the circular economy starts with product design and manufacture, making the products recyclable and for reuse - while it also operates its own recovery take-back service.

"We manage this ourselves," says John Doherty, Head of Marketing at Burmatex. "When we deliver new product, we can take back carpet tiles that are uplifted, and this is not confined just to Burmatex® products."

"We are constantly reminded by our customers of the value of being a British manufacturer," says John Doherty. "At Burmatex® we believe there is a strong link between sustainability and British manufacturing. The two things go hand in hand. Our products are designed, manufactured and stocked in Ossett, West Yorkshire which makes them readily available. The twin messages of sustainability and 100% manufactured in the

UK are resonating strongly with the market."

Greenwashing is a rising concern within our industry and a growing frustration for both Burmatex® and our customers.

"We had a recent example," says John Doherty, "where the products used had to be UK manufactured, be "carbon friendly" and the subcontractor had to be from the local area. However, it was unclear what was meant by "carbon friendly". Use of this terminology is very unhelpful, as it allows companies to make unsubstantiated claims and allows a culture of misinformation to prevail. I believe the wider adoption of 3rd party verification, in particular EPDs, will help combat this.

"Interest and activity within the industry even in the last few months on sustainability has increased dramatically, which is great news!" "I feel positive about the future and that we can all make a difference," he says. ▶



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F Ball Recycling units at select distributors for disposing of empty F. Ball buckets and bottles

Things are also on the move in the adhesives and floor preparation sector. Jenny Barnett, Safety, Health, Environmental and Quality Manager at **F. BALL AND CO. LTD** says: “We have an ethical duty to make sure that our business activities do not adversely affect the environment, in order to preserve it for present and future generations. There is also a business case for ensuring the sustainability of our practices for years to come. Many sustainability initiatives, such as striving to be more energy-efficient and generating electricity from renewable sources, save resources in the long run, and people are increasingly looking to buy from businesses who take their environmental responsibilities seriously.”

F. Ball’s sustainability initiatives can be split into efforts to regulate the resources the company consumes on the one hand and efforts to manage its outputs on the other.

Work that the company has already carried out include changes at its Staffordshire headquarters, such as installing over 1,000

solar panels with a 250 KwP peak output to generate a significant amount of the site’s electricity supply. 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 both company cars and employee vehicles.

F. Ball has introduced recyclable packaging for a number of products, with much of the new 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 new bottles are

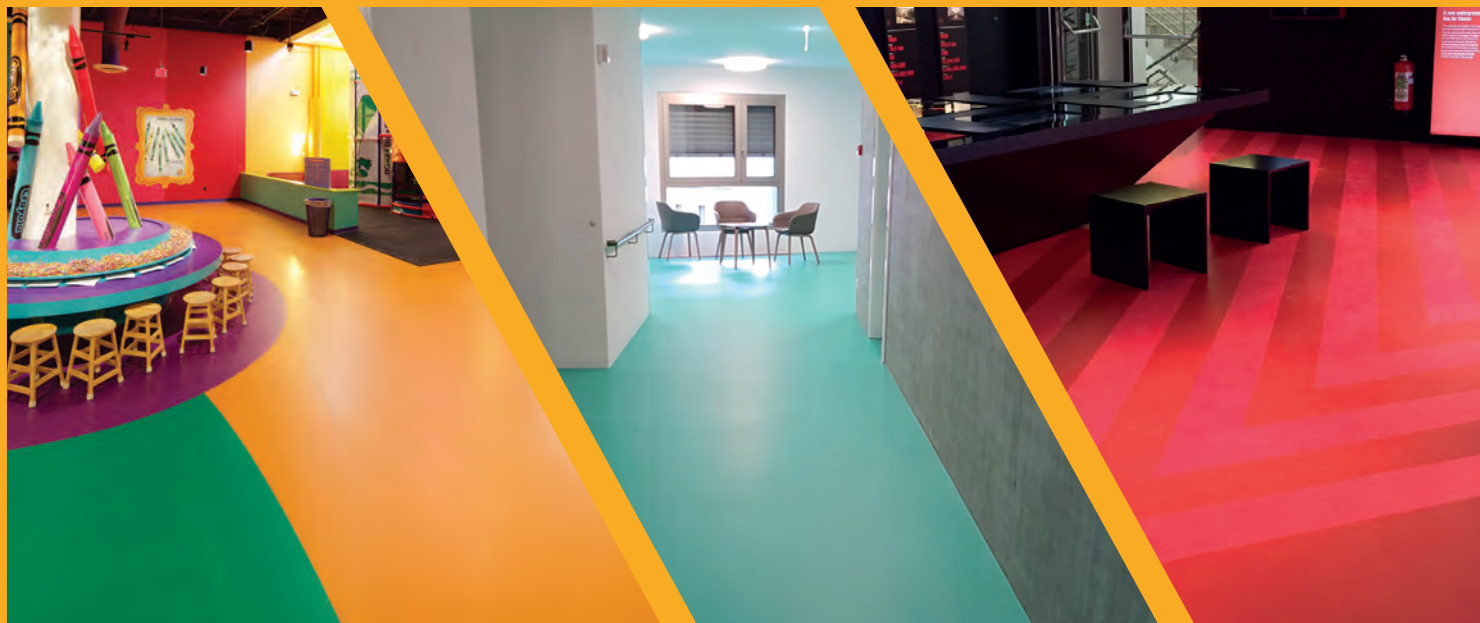
manufactured from 30% recycled high-density polyethylene (rHDPE), with the material being able to be recycled up to ten times.

F. Ball has also introduced a recycling scheme to provide contractors with a convenient means of disposing of its recyclable packaging. The initiative provides branded receptacles at select 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.

In response to a continued positive reception to the buckets and bottles recycling scheme from flooring contractors, F. Ball is now steadily increasing the number of recycling points at its distributor partners. Subject to the continued success of the programme, there are plans for it to be further rolled out to achieve more widespread geographical coverage.

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Timber flooring is an area where efforts have been ongoing to improve environmental performance for decades. The Forest Stewardship Council, founded as a result of international collaboration in 1993, was one of the first initiatives to provide a credible global certification standard for forest management. For the first time, companies selling FSC-certified timber products could say to their customers with confidence that the products they were selling were made from timber sourced from sustainable forestry.

Nowadays technology is playing a role in making timber flooring products more sustainable. For instance, Swedish company **BJELIN'S** sister company, Välinge Innovation, created the world's first glue-free laminate floor with an advanced mechanical locking system in the mid-1990s, while its Woodura® surface technology from sister company Välinge maximises the amount of product that can be manufactured from every log. In fact ten times more flooring can be produced from the same amount of timber, compared to traditional engineered wood flooring and 30 times more flooring compared to solid wood flooring.

This patented technology involves the fusing of a thin sheet of real wood with a wood fibre core through a powder mix layer. Compared to traditional wood flooring, the durability of the wood wear layer is massively increased. The new hardened wood floors are made with oak, ash and walnut from sustainable timber sources of timber with FSC certification. The technology makes the manufacturing process much more efficient and environmentally friendly in terms of timber usage than traditional processes. ■

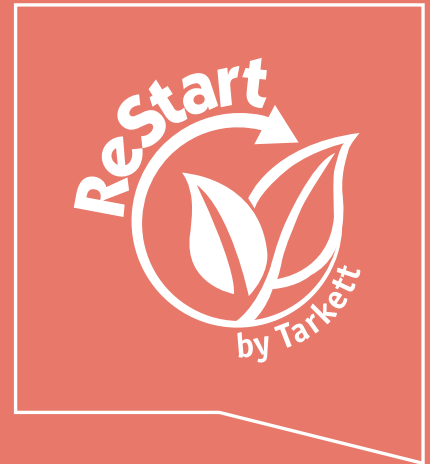


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# Taking action on climate change

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# Carpet Recycling UK claims 80% support from carpet and textile flooring sector

44

Following significant growth in its membership network, Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK) is seeking more engagement from the construction, facilities management and flooring sectors to act to reduce textile flooring waste such as commercial broadloom carpet, carpet tiles and underlay.

**Support from CRUK's 17 core members comes from Balsan, Betap, Brintons Carpets, Condor Group, Cormar Carpets, ege Carpets, Furlong Flooring, Gradus, Headlam Group, IVC Commercial, Likewise Floors, Milliken, Modulys, Rawson Carpet Solutions, Shaw, Tarkett and Victoria Group. They are taking voluntary producer responsibility for the products they place on the market and striving to reduce waste in production as well as for their customers, helping to create cost savings.**

Commenting on their focus for 2023, Adnan Zeb-Khan, CRUK Scheme Manager says: "In our 15th year, the 80% increase in industry support adds weight to our representation for the sector, recognising the achievements of our members and wider network, as we continue to help the sector to develop sustainably.

"Moving forward, companies will need to demonstrate reductions in use of new resources, design products with recycling in mind, include methods of identification of material make up and consideration of reverse logistics for take-back and recycling outcomes. Our members are making great strides ahead with many developing products with recycling in mind, from single polymer ranges, to ranges made with recycled content."

For the construction sector, developers and facilities companies interested in sustainable solutions to flooring waste, CRUK offers an extensive network of specialists handling surplus and used textile flooring waste,

such as carpet tiles, carpet rolls and clean installation offcuts.

Adnan continues: "New homes flooring contractors, for example, are already segregating carpet and textile flooring waste for reuse and recycling. They recognise the savings in resources and costs associated that they have achieved and the benefit of their connection with us when tendering for new work."

David Heafey is Finance Director of CRUK member Saint Flooring, who implemented waste material recycling throughout the company's nationwide sites in 2019. He says that membership of Carpet Recycling UK is contributing to their sustainability goals and helping to achieve annual savings of up to £170,000 a year on disposal costs by reusing and recycling their waste materials, including carpets. "Carpet Recycling UK supported us throughout and our membership helped us to find partners to recycle the carpet. Without being a member, I do not think we would have had this success."

CRUK's 136-strong membership includes specialist reuse and recycling members repurposing surplus flooring for reuse and recycling in feasible outlets or used as an alternative fuel source. Adnan observes: "Our ultimate aim is to move carpet and textile flooring up the waste hierarchy and create circularity to maximise the use of these resources. Obviously, preventing this material becoming a waste by reusing flooring in new settings is the best outcome for unwanted

and surplus material. This helps to provide affordable flooring for social housing tenants and low-cost flooring for property developers. That's why we're inviting companies to discuss their projects with us."

Key to CRUK's work is collecting accurate data on the volume of carpet and textile flooring placed on the market together with tonnages for waste material which is being diverted from landfill – it is estimated that of the 470,000 tonnes arising in 2020, 70% was diverted from landfill. The latest figures due back from the 2021 tonnage survey will be presented at CRUK's annual conference on June 21-22 for which early registration is advised.

"Given the heightened interest in legislation issues, developments and challenges surrounding the treatment of textile flooring related wastes, we're expecting high demand for our conference," adds Adnan. "In just 15 years, we have come a long way in developing solutions for carpet and textile waste that preserve valuable resources and reduce costs for the supply chain.

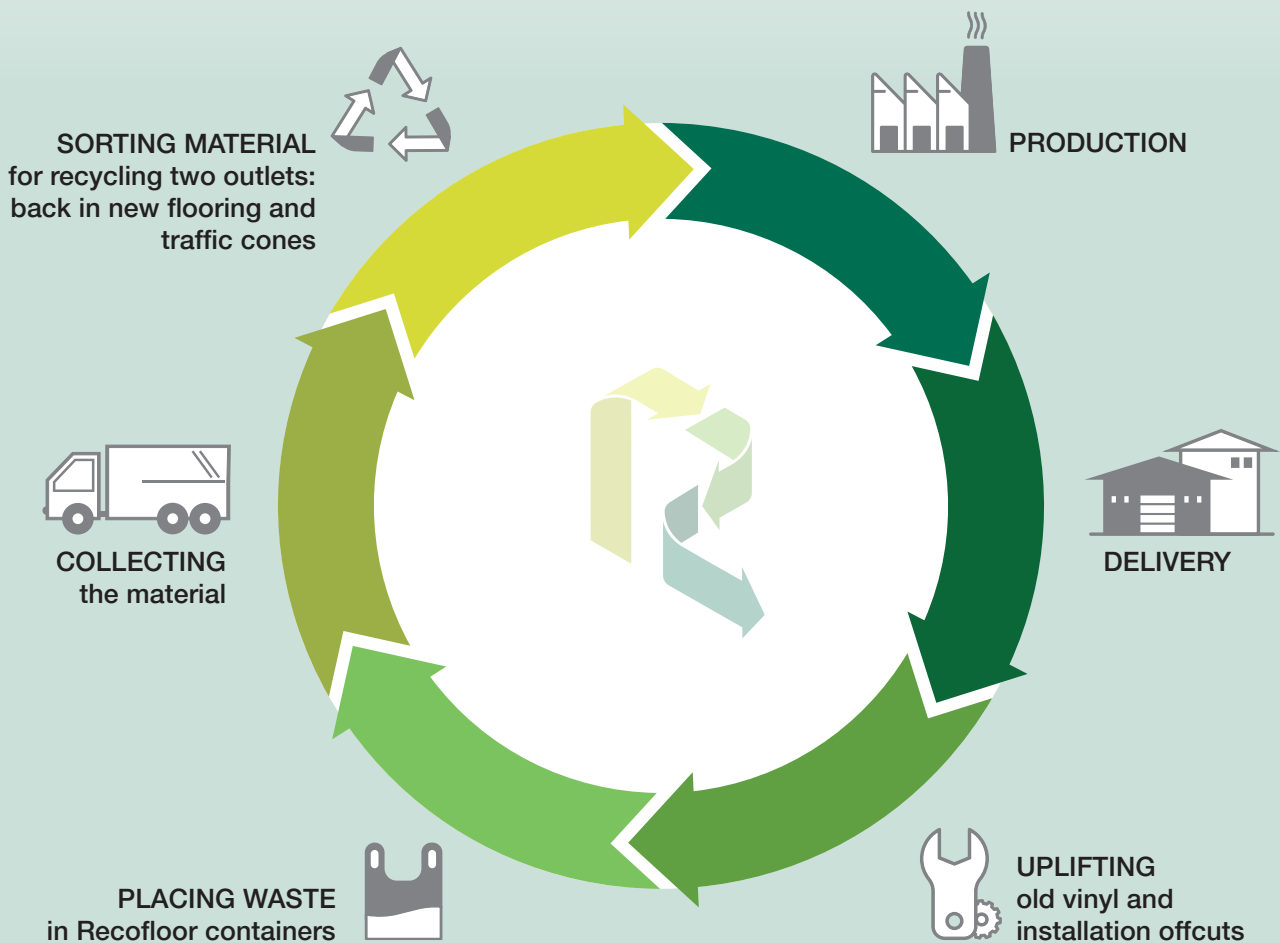
"We want to reach more companies who would like to find sustainable solutions for their waste carpet and textile flooring material that help to reduce the impact this waste stream has on the environment. Thanks to our rapidly growing network, we can help you."

For the CRUK Directory and more information, email: [info@carpetrecyclinguk.com](mailto:info@carpetrecyclinguk.com) or visit [www.carpetrecyclinguk.com](http://www.carpetrecyclinguk.com). ■



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**Recofloor™**  
Vinyl Take-Back Scheme

# Recofloor drives industry enthusiasm for recycling

Recofloor, the industry leader in vinyl take-back, now operates 58 drop-off sites around the UK and has diverted 6,550 tonnes of waste vinyl from landfill, enough to cover 301 football pitches. We spoke to Carla Eslava, Recofloor Manager, who shares with us a number of case studies from some of the most enthusiastic users of the scheme, which was founded in 2009 by manufacturers Altro and Polyflor.

**NUTLAND CARPET ACCESSORIES is an independent family run business, distributing commercial flooring, carpets, vinyl and flooring accessories to the flooring trade. The company is a big supporter of Recofloor and uses the scheme to its full potential, running a Recofloor drop-off point.**

Nutland Carpet Accessories joined the scheme in November 2009, virtually from the scheme's inception, and has been a consistent collector ever since. They believe they have collected over 100 tonnes, which represents over 30,000sqm of waste vinyl flooring successfully diverted from landfill to protect the environment.

The company's commitment is helping its customers with their own waste management requirements. By providing Recofloor recycling bins for free waste drop-off, Recofloor saves them time and money from visiting local recycling centres, where the material is more likely to be used in other means rather than being recovered by Recofloor where resources are saved and kept in circularity for longer.

Nutland monitors the use of the bins daily, making sure that the contents are free from contaminants so that the material can be recycled effectively. The bins are locked at night to protect them and prevent fly-tipping.

When trade customers buy vinyl from the company, Nutland explain how the scheme works and remind them that the two Recofloor bins are there for their use. Plus, Nutland regularly promotes the use of the bins to customers via its monthly newsletter and social media.

"I would certainly suggest other companies go ahead and do it as well," says James Smith, Managing Director of Nutland. "Recofloor has been an excellent and supportive partner for us; the scheme was easy to set up and is easy to manage. It is very popular with our customers. We should all be doing our bit to reduce the amount of waste heading to landfill sites."

Nutland recycles everything that it can,

buying recycled where possible and using plant-based cleaning products on the premises. It offers a recycling scheme for one of its adhesive suppliers, which also has a recycling bin on Nutland forecourts. It also has a cardboard-only industrial bin for customer use.

"As a family-run distributor, we take great pride in doing our bit to reduce the environmental impact of our operations by being part of innovative recycling schemes like this and are fully committed to encourage more manufacturers to join Recofloor and follow Altro and Polyflor's lead."



Carla Eslava

**ABSOLUTE FLOORING SW LTD** is an independent flooring contractor who work closely with their local participating Recofloor flooring distributor, Fitwell Flooring.

According to Ben Clarkson, Surveyor, the company used to fill up two skips a week with waste, which went to landfill. It was a very simple decision made easier by the fact that the company had a local partner to work with alongside Recofloor. Now it works with Fitwell Flooring, to dispose of waste in an environmentally friendly way.

Absolute Flooring SW Ltd has used Recofloor on many different types of projects, such as social housing, schools, offices and care homes. The company finds that using Recofloor on vinyl flooring projects is straightforward and saves the company money.

"Filling up a general waste skip or two every week is extremely expensive," says Ben Clarkson, "so cutting down by recycling waste vinyl flooring through Recofloor definitely saves us at least £1,000 each year.

"Recofloor support is great. Everything is online which makes it very easy. Their customer service is brilliant too. With Fitwell, they are extremely accommodating in terms of making sure there is space for us to send a van down to unload in fairly large quantities so all three of us are working together. It's a pretty seamless operation."

The company created a purpose-built area for the materials that are going to be recycled. It stores up to at least one van load and then does it in as few trips as possible. Fewer big trips mean less van use and also minimises the carbon footprint.

"It's a very simple process," says Ben. "The opportunities from a company point of view in terms of advertising, are great. There's nothing difficult about working with Recofloor, everything is straightforward and made simple by them.

"I think sustainability is something that is relatively new in terms of the smaller flooring companies. It really should be a key focus for any new or established flooring company. It's a lot easier now to be sustainable than it was ten years ago and generally speaking, it doesn't cost anything to be more sustainable. We can all do our bit."

To date, Fitwell Flooring's drop-off site, in collaboration with their customers such as Absolute Flooring SW Ltd, has diverted 58 tonnes of vinyl flooring, which is equivalent to covering 322 average UK classrooms. ➤



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Louisa Jordan Hospital in Glasgow

reduce the amount of waste transferred to landfill sites and incinerators, which can only be good for the environment. Recofloor is a great scheme that helps us to do this. I think it's a pivotal part of our trade now. Customers ask us all the time what we're doing about sustainability.

"We've always known about the Recofloor scheme and were aware that 3D Flooring in Bristol is a drop-off site. As a fresh business, it was something we were keen to do as it makes sense. If the customer sees that you're taking material away for recycling and doing something good as well, it's a no-brainer. Now, after three years as a growing company we are taking on bigger projects such as £150k hospital refurbishments where we recycle all the offcut materials."

"When we started up, we didn't have many staff so we could just implement the scheme ourselves. As more people started working for us, using the scheme is just an everyday thing. As well as training our own fitters in how Recofloor works, we help to get fitters who have started up their own companies get involved in the scheme. We also promote the scheme to customers we have worked for to sign up so they, in turn, can tell their customers."

First Call's nominee, Mitchell, from Rome Flooring Ltd, recently won the Recofloor Best Newcomer Award. Mitchell promotes the scheme to all his customers and fitters. He has also worked for First Call Flooring and shows the same commitment to the scheme.

"He had the right mentality," says Mariusz. "We encouraged him to join the scheme and now he is recycling everything. I feel young people coming through the industry and starting up a company with the principle of promoting the Recofloor scheme is the future of the Recofloor brand." ■

**MACGREGOR FLOORING COMPANY LTD** has been a member of Recofloor since 2013 and is a genuinely enthusiastic supporter of the scheme, putting sustainability at the heart of its business.

"We use the Recofloor scheme primarily on large projects that we are working on for multiple months," says Kenny Smith, Managing Director. "This allows us to maximise the amount of materials that we return. These could be large colleges, hospitals, student residences and the like. We are now looking at how we can use the scheme on smaller contracts, which are slightly more challenging logistically."

"The most memorable one is the Louisa Jordan Hospital in Glasgow, which was a temporary hospital for COVID-19 patients. We laid approximately 12,300m<sup>2</sup> of loose lay vinyl. Due to the nature of this project and the extremely tight time frames that we were working under there were no product specifications or detailed tender documents to work with. So, in tandem with our partners, we proposed the use of the Polyflor Quicklay product as we knew this could be reused or recycled at the end of use, which was extremely important as this was only a temporary hospital.

"In May 2021, we were drafted back in to lift the flooring that had been laid at the start of the pandemic. In total we lifted around 12,300m<sup>2</sup> of product. 2000m<sup>2</sup> was gifted to local charities within the Glasgow area. The remaining 10,300m<sup>2</sup> was recycled via the Recofloor scheme. Our team worked across the course of a week to uplift the material, palletise and wrap it to keep it safe before collection. Two articulated trucks transported the 250 rolls of vinyl for recycling.

"We've worked with Zero Waste Scotland and implemented their recommendations on reducing waste. We will continue to take part in Zero Waste initiatives. We have also invested in Circular Economy principles and everyone in the office took part in a 12-week

CE course. We learned a lot from this, and we try to implement parts of that in our business as well. We are committed to trying to make ourselves greener. It's definitely the future - we are trying to get ahead of the curve.

"I think there are certain companies, such as Recofloor members, who take it very seriously and realise that it's imperative to the future. We're all going to have to do more to save the planet. I think unless legislation is put in place and businesses are told they must do something then they might be less inclined to do it.

"Joining Recofloor is the right thing to do. It's not difficult. I think maybe a lot of flooring contractors think it's problematic, that it adds another layer of paperwork, getting the guys on site to do things differently - but it's really simple and straightforward. The benefit, apart from doing your bit to try to reduce waste, is that the main contractors on site are very appreciative. Every time we say to them: "Look, we're going to recycle our waste", you can see them say: "Fantastic!".

**FIRST CALL FLOORING LTD** is another enthusiastic contractor member. Company founder, Mariusz Jancewski, is fully committed to spreading the Recofloor message through the company website or as part of the training for the fitters they use.

"I think it's important in the flooring industry we are in," says Mariusz. "If we all recycle our clean vinyl offcuts, this will dramatically



First Call Flooring





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# GREENWASHING – *Don't get caught out!*

With clients increasingly requiring sustainability guarantees from contractors, concerning the products they use on site and their working practices, it may be tempting for companies to make claims which are not based on fact, meaning they can be misleading or totally wrong.

**G**reenwashing is a form of marketing where this type of misleading information may persuade customers that an organisation's products, services, aims and policies are more environmentally friendly than they are. Under proposed legislation contained in the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill, companies could face multi-million pound fines for promoting their products with unverified environmental claims.

As the need for businesses to demonstrate sustainable practices, including environmental performance, continues to gather pace, so do the risks of greenwashing.

Although there is currently no specific law against greenwashing, nonetheless businesses which falsely advertise their products as green or sustainable may fall foul of existing consumer protection laws, and the Advertising Standards Agency can penalise businesses for misleading adverts. The Competition and Markets Authority coordinated a global review of randomly selected websites and discovered that 40% of green claims made online could

be misleading consumers.

The CMA has issued guidance on making green claims which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-claims-code-making-environmental-claims/environmental-claims-on-goods-and-services>

There have been a number of high profile global cases of companies being taken to task for their greenwashing claims. Recently Shell's board of directors has been sued over their flawed climate strategy - the first case of its kind in history. This serves as a wake-up call for all businesses to take sustainability efforts seriously and make any necessary changes to claims that are being made.

Meanwhile the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) filed a court action for alleged greenwashing against an investment company which was marketing an option which they described as being suitable for members who are "deeply committed to sustainability", despite the fact that it included 15 fossil fuel companies.

According to Christopher Jockel, Principal Sustainability Consultant at testing, inspection

and certification company Bureau Veritas: "Green claims don't have to be intentionally misleading to be labelled as greenwashing and in today's fast moving business communications environment, the risk of conveying uncontrolled or unintentional misinformation, is high. Intense scrutiny and action against greenwashing is escalating worldwide, putting organisations and their leaders on notice regarding overstatements or misleading claims and incurring potential reputation and regulatory risk.

"Any short-term gain from erroneous, misleading, unsubstantiated, exaggerated, or posturing claims are overwhelmingly lost reputationally and possibly financially through fines in the medium and long term when the claim is debunked in public or in court.

"The challenge for companies to identify and mitigate greenwashing is complex which is why we have launched our informative webinar and downloadable guide to understanding Green Claims. Together, these provide a no nonsense, intuitive and digestible way to navigate the myriad of intricacies surrounding greenwashing." ■





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# GLOSSARY

## Helping you navigate the sustainability jungle

We know from feedback received after publication of last year's Guide that the Glossary of terminology used around the sustainability topic was much appreciated. It is undoubtedly true that, while the fundamentals of climate change may be relatively straightforward, the science behind it is not, and the acronyms and jargon associated with our efforts to deal with it, can confuse further. We've pulled together some of the terminology and organisations that you are likely to come across, as you try to bring into effect environmental improvements in your own business.

**BREEAM** – the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method is the world's first sustainability rating scheme for the built environment and has contributed much to the strong focus in the UK on sustainability in building design, construction and use. A BREEAM assessment is voluntary but may be required for some planning approvals.  
[www.breem.com](http://www.breem.com)

**Carbon neutral** - Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. This matters because carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) is the major greenhouse gas (causes global warming). Deforestation and any burning of fossil fuels (as in transport or manufacturing) releases CO<sup>2</sup> 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](http://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.  
[www.cfa.org.uk/userfiles/Downloads/210816135900\\_1002-Zero-Avoidable-Waste-in-Flooring-A-Scoping-Study-2021/Zero%20Avoidable%20Waste%20in%20Flooring%20-%20A%20Scoping%20Study.pdf](http://www.cfa.org.uk/userfiles/Downloads/210816135900_1002-Zero-Avoidable-Waste-in-Flooring-A-Scoping-Study-2021/Zero%20Avoidable%20Waste%20in%20Flooring%20-%20A%20Scoping%20Study.pdf)

**CISUFLO (Circular Sustainable Floorcoverings)** – A collaborative European project which is working on new technologies and products to improve materials' recovery and drive the flooring sector in Europe towards a circular economy. The overall goal is to minimize the environmental impact of the flooring sector, by setting up a systemic framework for circular and sustainable floor coverings taking into account both technical feasibility and socio-economic factors. The CFA is one of four trade association partners.  
[www.cisuflo.eu](http://www.cisuflo.eu)

**Climate Change Act** – The UK passed its Climate Change Act in 2008, and was the first country to do so. The Act aspired to an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. In 2019 this was changed to 100% reduction by 2050, compared to 1990.  
[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents](http://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/constructzero/](http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/constructzero/)

**COP 26** – the 26th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Glasgow in November 2021. COP27 was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022  
[www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/briefing-papers/cop-26-an-introduction-what-will-be-happening-in-glasgow/](http://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/briefing-papers/cop-26-an-introduction-what-will-be-happening-in-glasgow/)

**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.  
[www.c2ccertified.org/get-certified](http://www.c2ccertified.org/get-certified)

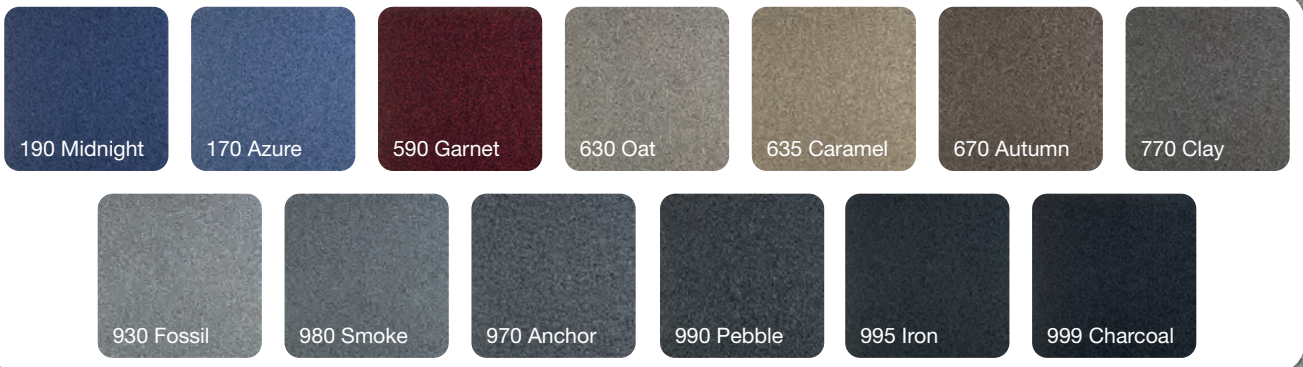
**Cradle to grave** – the principle that the originator of a product is responsible for a product right the way from its creation through to its disposal. This is therefore the principle that underlies end of life recovery schemes which exist in other industries (such as the vehicle industry) but are yet to become established in flooring.  
[www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Cradle-to-grave](http://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Cradle-to-grave)

**Embodied carbon** – the CO<sup>2</sup> emissions associated with materials and construction processes throughout the whole lifecycle of a product or building. It includes any CO<sup>2</sup> 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/](http://www.carboncure.com/concrete-corner/what-is-embodied-carbon/)





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**EPD** – an Environmental Product Declaration is a report which provides a 'life cycle' description of a product, focussing on its environmental impact. EPDs fit within an international EPD system which itself operates within ISO and EN standards. EPDs are logged on an international website. [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com)

**EPR for Packaging** - Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (EPR) is being phased in from 2023 and will move the full cost of dealing with packaging waste on to the packaging producers, applying a 'polluter pays principle' and making producers responsible for the costs of their packaging throughout its life cycle. This will encourage producers to reduce their use of packaging and use types of packaging which are easier to recycle. Packaging producers will pay more for less sustainable packaging, incentivising types that use less material and are easier to recycle. Producers will also be expected to meet ambitious new recycling targets and use clear unambiguous labelling of recyclability to assist consumers. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1063589/epr-consultation-government-response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1063589/epr-consultation-government-response.pdf)

**EPR for Construction Products** – there has been discussion regarding the suitability of Extended Producer Responsibility for construction products. The goal would be to incentivise manufacturers to consider durability, reparability and end of life as part of the product design. The topic features in one of the CPA's Sustainability Discussion Papers. [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/](http://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/)

**Future Homes Standard** – a UK Government initiative which involves changes to Part L (energy conservation) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations as they apply to new buildings. The new regs are designed to ensure that new homes produce 75-80% less carbon emissions than current regulations permit. Currently the housing stock is reckoned to be the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases, after transport, energy supply and business. The target will be achieved mainly by making the insulation standards more rigorous. It involves a 'fabric first' approach, which means that poor building insulation cannot be compensated for by the addition of heat pumps etc. The first change, a 31% carbon reduction came into effect in June 2022, with the full Future Homes Standard coming into effect in 2025. [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings)

**Future Homes Hub** – an industry-driven response to the Future Homes Standard which provides resources for housebuilders to enable the sector to become environmentally positive. <https://www.futurehomes.org.uk>

**Greenwashing** - advertising or marketing in which marketing activities are deceptively used to persuade the public that an organization's products, aims and policies are more environmentally friendly than is the case. <https://nbs.net/how-to-avoid-greenwashing/>

**Heat & Buildings Strategy** – the Government published many strategies prior to COP26. The Heat and Buildings strategy came out in October 2021. It forms part of the Government's plan to deliver net zero by 2050. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-and-buildings-strategy](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-and-buildings-strategy)

**ISO Net Zero Guidelines** – published at last year's 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](http://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](http://www.iso.org/standard/76428.html)

**LEED** - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed)

**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](http://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition)

**Net Zero Review** – published in January 2023, this report led by MP Chris Skidmore sought to make the link between opportunities for economic growth and net zero aspirations. It took evidence from the construction sector, including input from the CFA. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/net-zero-review-uk-could-do-more-to-reap-economic-benefits-of-green-growth>

**Paris agreement** – COP 21, held in Paris in 2015, agreed the target of limiting global warming to 1.5C compared to pre-industrial levels. This is a United Nations agreement and is legally binding. It is hoped to achieve this goal by attaining Net Zero by 2050. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

**Part L** – part of the UK Building Regulations which relates to energy efficiency. A new 'Interim Part L' came into effect in England in last June, which states that the average home will need to produce 75% - 80% less carbon emissions than one built under the previous regulations. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/conservation-of-fuel-and-power-approved-document-l](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/conservation-of-fuel-and-power-approved-document-l)

**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](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-need-to-register-for-plastic-packaging-tax)

**Scope 1, 2 & 3** – these refer to different types of emissions caused by industrial processes, categorised according to the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

- Scope 1 are emissions directly caused by a company's business, such as fuel combustion, company vehicles and emissions caused by manufacturing.
- Scope 2 are emissions caused by power generators from whom a company acquires its energy.
- Scope 3 emissions include all those caused further down the supply chain. For many companies in our sector this is where the majority of their emissions come from, since it includes emissions caused by raw material extraction and the fabrication of bought-in components. These are also the most difficult emissions to monitor and to minimise, since they are not within the company's direct control. [www.carbontrust.com/resources/briefing-what-are-scope-3-emissions](http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/briefing-what-are-scope-3-emissions)

**SKA rating** is a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) environmental assessment method, benchmark and standard for non-domestic fit outs. [www.rics.org/uk/about-rics/responsible-business/ska-rating/](http://www.rics.org/uk/about-rics/responsible-business/ska-rating/)

**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 the environment. A definition put forward in last year's NBS Sustainability Report is the "Ability to sustain a comfortable human life without compromising the environment" <http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf> [www.thenbs.com/sustainable-futures-report-2022/](http://www.thenbs.com/sustainable-futures-report-2022/)





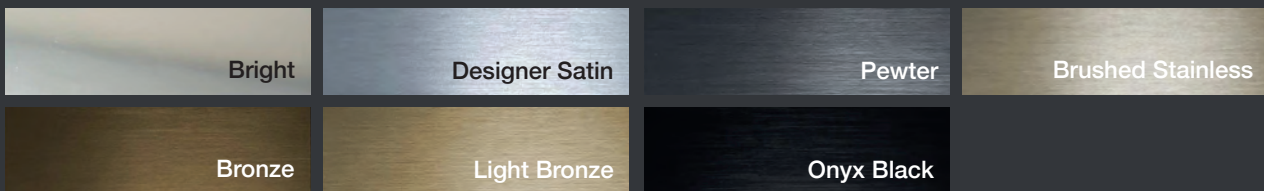
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# CPA Sustainability Briefing Documents

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The Construction Products Association (CPA) continues to produce great work on sustainability. The CPA's library of Sustainability Briefing Documents is especially useful. Authored by Jane Thornback, the CPA's Sustainability Policy Advisor, and others with expert knowledge in particular areas, the Briefing Documents cover the key issues of concern to companies in our sector looking for information on the practicalities of improving their sustainability performance. They also include links to a vast amount

of additional information, which is very useful for those who wish to research specific areas in more detail. The CPA is delighted to have secured permission to reproduce a number of the documents in full here and is grateful to the CPA for allowing us to do so. The links to most of the documents on the CPA website are featured below. You are encouraged to follow the links below, even for the documents which we have reproduced in full, to ensure you have the latest version, in case there may be updates.

60



**BELOW ARE LINKS TO FURTHER DOCUMENTS WHICH MAY WELL ALSO BE OF INTEREST:**

- [www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/decarbonisation-and-net-zero/treatment-of-biogenic-carbon-content-of-construction-products-in-environmental-product-declarations-epd/](http://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/decarbonisation-and-net-zero/treatment-of-biogenic-carbon-content-of-construction-products-in-environmental-product-declarations-epd/)
- [www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/decarbonisation-and-net-zero/what-is-upfront-carbon/](http://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/decarbonisation-and-net-zero/what-is-upfront-carbon/)
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# How do Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) consider the carbon content of a construction product? A Technical Briefing

Authored by Jane Anderson, ConstructionLCA Ltd

**This Briefing Paper is a technical level description of how the carbon content of construction products and their packaging is considered in Environmental Product Declarations (EPD). The carbon content of a construction product is not the same thing as the embodied carbon of a construction product (see separate Introductory Briefing Paper), they are different concepts measured differently. There is however a relationship between them and this Briefing Paper discusses how carbon content is considered in an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) from a technical perspective.**

## Environmental Product Declarations

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

The European Standard, [EN 15804](#) sets out Product Category Rules for the development of EPD for construction products, to ensure that all types of construction products are assessed consistently using the same methodology and approaches. [EN 15804](#) was first published in 2012 and amended in [2019](#). Life cycle assessment experts have refined the concepts and methodology over many years. The following describes the approach in [EN 15804:2012+A2:2019](#) to quantifying and reporting the carbon content of construction products.

## Which construction products contain carbon?

All products are likely to emit carbon dioxide during their manufacture, from the use of fuels for example. However, materials such as wood and biobased materials (hemp, wool etc), plastics and composites and some minerals also contain carbon within the product itself. Construction products using these materials, such as structural timber beams, cork insulation, plastic guttering, PVC flooring, GRP panels, limestone cladding etc therefore contain carbon, as does packaging made of plastic, cardboard and timber.

This carbon content can be sourced from fossil sources, for example in conventional plastics made with natural gas or oil, carbonates in stone and minerals, or from biogenic sources, for example in timber or bioplastics.

The source of the carbon affects the way in which it is considered in EPD.





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## What is the difference between carbon content and the embodied carbon of construction products?

The **carbon content** of a construction product only describes the mass of carbon contained within the product, and although for biobased products this will have an effect on the resulting embodied carbon reported in the product and end of life stages, it is otherwise unrelated.

**Embodied Carbon** for a building is defined as the greenhouse gas emissions (and removals) associated with materials and construction processes throughout the whole life cycle of a building (Modules A1-A3, A4-A5, B1-B5 and C1-C4 as shown in Figure 1).

EPD provide a source of embodied carbon data for construction products, reporting the climate change impact of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from extraction, processing, manufacture and associated transport in the product stage (Modules A1-A3), of transport to site and installation in the construction stage (Modules A4-A5), of use, maintenance, repair, replacement and refurbishment in the Use Stage (B1-B5) and from demolition, deconstruction, waste processing, disposal and associated transport in the end of life stage (C1-C4).

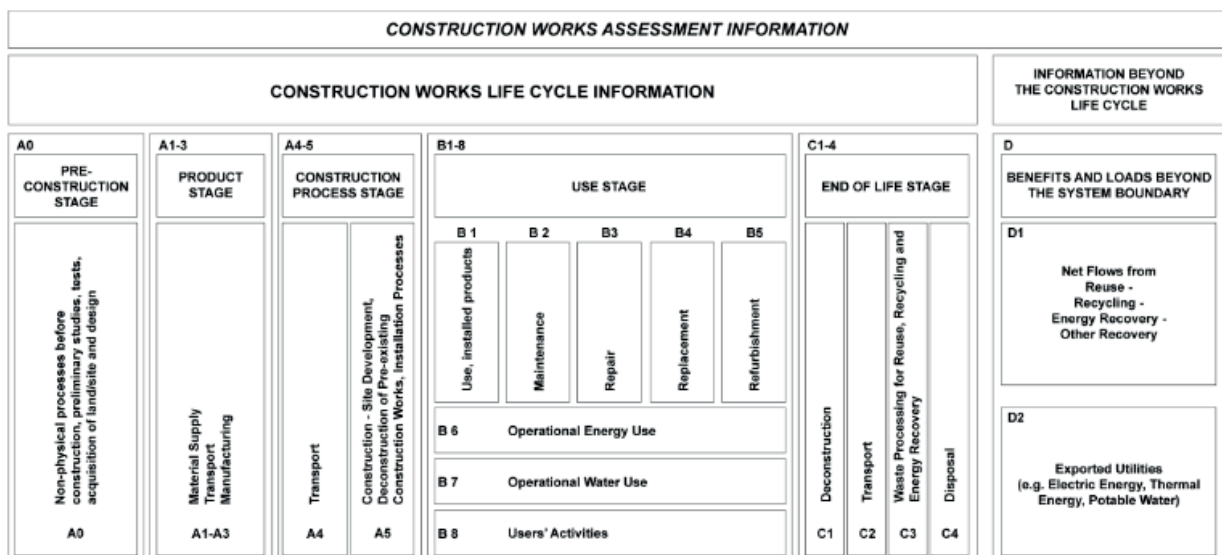


Figure 1 TC350 life cycle stages and modules with Embodied Carbon and Upfront Carbon illustrated (courtesy CEN TC350)

## Treatment in EPD of “fossil” carbon content in construction products

“Fossil” carbon within products is sourced from natural gas or oil, or from minerals such as carbonates. Fossil carbon is only considered to have an impact on the climate change indicators in an EPD when it is emitted, for example if the product is burnt in an energy from waste plant where fossil carbon is converted to CO<sub>2</sub> through combustion. In this case, the emission of fossil CO<sub>2</sub> is reported in EPD to EN 15804 in the module in which it occurs, for example C3 for energy recovery processes and C4 for incineration processes.

If the product is recycled, then the fossil carbon is not emitted nor considered as a transfer to the next product system, and no impact from the fossil carbon content is reported in EPD to EN 15804. If the product is landfilled and the fossil carbon is not emitted but remains within the landfill, then no transfer to nature is considered and no impact from the fossil carbon content is reported in EPD to EN 15804.





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EN 15804 does not require EPD to report the fossil carbon content of products or packaging, as such content does not provide any benefit (e.g. as a removal) in A1-A3.

Products containing lime and cement may carbonate over their life cycle – that is they reabsorb some of the CO<sub>2</sub> driven off during production, back into the product as calcium carbonate. Any carbonation should be calculated using the standard [EN 16757:2017](#) and reported in A5 (for products which carbonate quickly) and in B1 and C3 for products which carbonate slowly.

## **Treatment in EPD of “biogenic” carbon content in construction products**

Biogenic carbon is sequestered through photosynthesis from atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> into carbohydrates, and then incorporated into more complex molecules, for example into cellulose or lignin within trees or plant material. This biogenic carbon content is called “sequestered carbon”. Animal products such as wool and leather also incorporate biogenic carbon sourced from the ingestion of plant material containing sequestered biogenic carbon.

The treatment in EPD of biogenic carbon content is different from that of fossil carbon content, and there are two approaches: one for timber which is not from sustainably managed sources, and one for sustainably managed timber and all other biobased products.

### **a) Treatment of biogenic carbon content in unsustainably managed timber**

For timber which is not from sustainable managed sources, then no removal of carbon through sequestration is modelled in EPD to EN 15804, but at end of life, the carbon is considered to be emitted to nature or transferred to the next system or nature and treated as an emission of CO<sub>2</sub> in the climate change category, GWP-land use and land use change (GWP-LULUC) in EPD to [EN 15804:2012+A2:2019](#), and as an emission of CO<sub>2</sub> in the climate change impact category of EPD to [EN 15804:2012+A1:2013](#).

### **b) Treatment of biogenic carbon content in sustainable managed timber and other biobased products**

Firstly, the sequestered biogenic carbon stored within the product can be considered as part of the assessment and is modelled as a removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from nature and reported as a negative emission of biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> within module A1 in EPD to EN 15804.

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

- I. If the product is recovered for recycling or is reused, then the carbon is considered as a transfer of biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> to the next product system, and this is reported, in the same way as an emission, in module C3 in EPD to EN 15804.
- II. If the product is used for energy recovery then the resulting biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> resulting from combustion is reported as an emission of biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> in module C3 in EPD to EN 15804.
- III. If the product is used for incineration (or energy recovery in a plant which doesn't have R1 status) then the resulting biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> resulting from combustion is reported as an emission of biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> in module C4 in EPD to EN 15804.
- IV. If the product is landfilled, then the resulting CO<sub>2</sub> and methane from degradation of the biobased material in the landfill over 100 years, and any subsequent landfill gas capture and combustion is modelled with the resulting emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> or methane reported as biogenic carbon emissions in C4 in EPD to EN 15804. In addition, any residual biogenic carbon content remaining in the landfill after 100 years is considered as a transfer of biogenic carbon to nature and reported as an emission of CO<sub>2</sub> in C4 in EPD to [EN 15804:2012+A2:2019](#). For EPD to [EN 15804:2012+A1:2013](#), no transfer to nature is considered for residual biogenic carbon remaining in landfill after 100 years.



Thirdly, in EPD to [EN 15804:2012+A2:2019](#), the biogenic carbon content of the product and its packaging must be reported separately in the EPD if the biobased material in the product accounts for more than 5% of the weight of the product or packaging respectively. This is reported in kg Carbon (with 12 kg Carbon equivalent to 44 kg Carbon Dioxide, based on the mass of carbon and oxygen in the CO<sub>2</sub> molecule). This information allows end of life modelling for alternative scenarios if the scenarios provided for end of life in the EPD are not suitable at the building level (e.g. if an EPD for structural timber only provides a scenario for energy recovery in Germany rather than in the UK and does not provide recycling or reuse scenarios).

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

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

#### **Further reading:**

- CPA Briefing Paper: Is the carbon content of a construction product the same as its embodied carbon? An Introduction.
- CPA Briefing Paper: Environmental Product Declarations and Embodied Carbon: How do EPD account for embodied carbon?
- [EN 15804:2012+A1:2013](#)
- [EN 15804:2012+A2:2019](#)
- [CPA Briefing Paper: How is waste and recovery modelled in EPD](#)
- [TDUK Technical Paper: Assessing the carbon-related impacts and benefits of timber in construction](#)

## Contact

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

## Discover more

Read more about sustainability in the construction products industry at [www.constructionproducts.org.uk/sustainability](http://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/sustainability)

**V1 –December 2022**





## Environmental Product Declarations and Embodied Carbon: How do EPD account for embodied carbon?

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

**Information about the embodied carbon of a construction product can be found in an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD); indeed an EPD is the principal source of embodied carbon information about a construction product. The data from an EPD is used in building level assessment often called Whole Life Carbon Assessment (WLCA) which measures embodied and operational carbon of a structure. Architects, designers and others are beginning to realise they must carry out Whole Life Carbon Assessments (WLCA) of buildings and structures if we are to reach net zero targets. The information they require about the embodied carbon of construction products comes from an EPD.**

### Embodied Carbon - what is it?

Embodied carbon, or more accurately the impact on global warming potential (GWP), of a construction product is the greenhouse gas emissions (and removals) associated with materials and construction processes throughout the life cycle of a building or structure.

It is measured in kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (kgCO<sub>2</sub>eq.).

Embodied carbon is one of a range of environmental indicators measured by a life cycle assessment (LCA) methodology and reported in an independently verified document called an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

### Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)

Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) provide environmental impact information about a product, using a standardised life cycle assessment (LCA) methodology and reporting format. Both LCA and EPD are subject to rules set out by Standards Institutions – at international level by [ISO](#), at European level by [CEN](#), and at UK level by the [British Standards Institution \(BSI\)](#); all three standards bodies cooperate on the development of EPD methodology. The most relevant standards for EPD are:

- [ISO 14025](#) is the International Standard which sets out the requirements which EPD Programmes need to follow to publish EPD.
- For construction products, the European Standard, [BS EN 15804](#) and the International Standard [ISO 21930](#) provide the methodology for producing an EPD, these are called the Product Category Rules (PCR) for construction products. The PCR are necessary to enable comparison of the environmental impacts of construction products at the building level.

EPD provide a source of embodied carbon data for construction products, reporting the climate change impact of greenhouse gas emissions and removals.



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## The European Standard [EN 15804](#)

Within the built environment, a suite of standards exist for assessing the sustainability performance of construction works (i.e. buildings and infrastructure) including construction products. These have been developed by the [European Standards Body \(CEN\)](#) under a mandate from the European Commission. To progress the work, CEN established a Technical Committee in 2005 called [CEN/TC 350](#); this Committee is responsible for the development and revision of the standards on this topic. In the UK [BSI's B/558 Committee](#) is responsible for CEN TC/350 standards.

The European standard developed by CEN TC/350 to assess the environmental impact of a construction product is [EN 15804](#). EN 15804 assesses the environmental impact of a construction product throughout its life cycle against a range of environmental indicators. The standard sets out the Product Category Rules for the development of EPD for construction products, to ensure that all types of construction products are assessed consistently using the same methodology and approaches.

EN 15804 was [first published in 2012](#), with an amendment in 2019 as [EN 15804 +A2 \(2019\)](#).

## The Construction Product Life Cycle

To understand the measurement of embodied carbon requires an understanding of the construction product life cycle. Early in the life of CEN/TC 350, it developed a construction works life cycle model divided into stages and modules (see Figure 1):

All the sustainability assessment standards for construction products, buildings and infrastructure under CEN/TC 350 are based on this same description of the construction life cycle. EN 15804 therefore divides the product life cycle into four stages and then into Information Modules. These are:

- **the pre-construction stage (Module A0)** which is not relevant to products.
- **the production stage (Modules A1-A3)** covering all processes from extraction from nature until the product is ready to leave the factory gate (cradle to gate)
- **the construction stage (Modules A4-A5)** covering transport to site and installation on site
- **the use stage (Modules B1-B7)** covering any emissions from the product in use, and maintenance, repair and replacement over its service life in the building, and any energy or water consumed by the product in use
- **the end of life stage (Modules C1-C4)** covering demolition/deconstruction, transport to waste processing and waste processing and disposal

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

[EN 15804](#), provides two additional modules called Modules D1 and D2, which describe “benefits and loads beyond the system boundary”.

- **Module D1** covers the loads and benefit of any recovery processes from net output flows leaving the system
- **Module D2** is not relevant at product level and covers the benefits of any exported energy from a building



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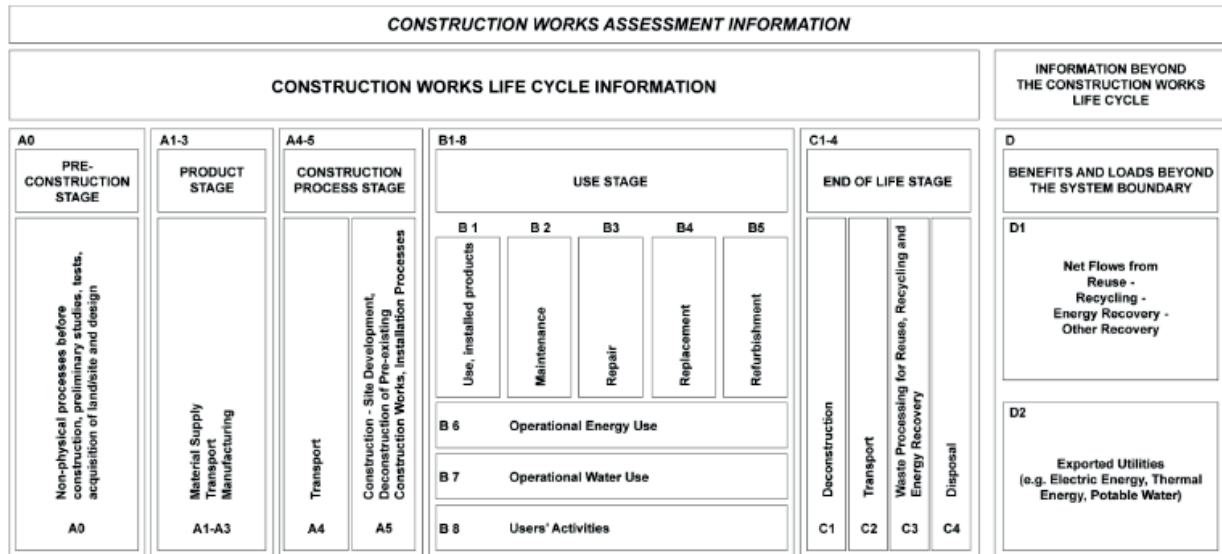


Figure 1 TC350 life cycle stages and modules with Embodied Carbon and Upfront Carbon illustrated (courtesy CEN TC350)

## How do EPD report Embodied Carbon?

### Embodied Carbon Indicators

Life cycle assessment (LCA) methodology is similar to financial accounting in that it is subject to rules. Inevitably it gets complex and is carried out by a LCA assessor.

In technical terms, Embodied Carbon is assessed using the “Global Warming Potential” or “Climate Change” impact category and indicators, measured relative to the impact of the release of an equivalent mass of Carbon Dioxide after 100 years, in an indicator unit known as kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (kgCO<sub>2</sub>eq.) using a measurement methodology provided by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Depending on the version of [EN 15804 \(2012\)](#) or the amended ([2019](#)) or [ISO 21930](#) the impact category and indicators used to report the data regarding embodied carbon may vary very slightly as described in Table I below.

Table I Impact Categories, Indicators and Units used in EPD providing data on Embodied Carbon

Standard	Impact Category	Indicator	Acronym	Unit
EN 15804:2012 +A2:2019	Climate Change – total*	Global Warming Potential total	GWP-total	kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.
	Climate change – fossil	Global Warming Potential fossil fuels	GWP-fossil	
	Climate change – biogenic	Global Warming Potential biogenic	GWP-biogenic	
	Climate change – land use and land use change (luluc)	Global Warming Potential land use and land use change	GWP-luluc	
	Additional indicators	Biogenic carbon content in product		kg Carbon



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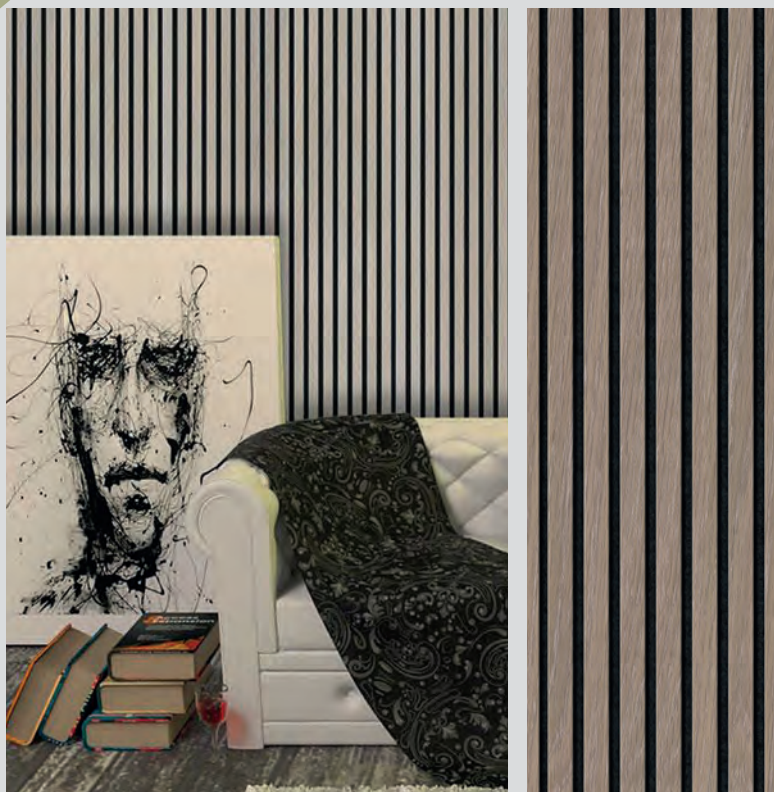
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		Biogenic carbon in accompanying packaging		kg Carbon
EN 15804:2012 +AI:2013	Global Warming	Global Warming Potential	GWP	kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.
ISO 21930:2017	Global Warming Potential	Global Warming Potential	GWP 100	kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.
	Additional indicators	Biogenic CO <sub>2</sub> – product		kg CO <sub>2</sub>
		Biogenic CO <sub>2</sub> – packaging		
Calcination and carbonation CO <sub>2</sub>				

\* GWP-total is the sum of GWP-fossil, GWP-biogenic and GWP-luluc.

### How are indicators such as GWP reported in EPD?

EPD report indicator results to 3 significant figures as shown in Table 2. As the impacts can range from very small numbers to very big numbers, EPD often use Scientific Notation to provide the results in a shortened way, again shown in Table 2.

Actual Number	To 3 Significant Figures	Scientific Notation
0.13274	0.133	1.33E-01 or 1.33*10 <sup>-1</sup>
1327.4	1330	1.33E+03 or 1.33*10 <sup>+3</sup>
-1.3274	-1.33	-1.33E00 or -1.33*10 <sup>+0</sup>

Table 2 How results can be displayed in EPD

### Why use EPD as a source of Embodied Carbon data for construction products?

There are over 12000 EPD to EN 15804 now available globally and they are the prime source of embodied carbon data for construction products for use in assessments of Embodied Carbon or Whole Life Carbon (Embodied plus Operational Carbon) for buildings and infrastructure. There are some other sources of Embodied Carbon data for products including carbon footprints to ISO 14067 or PAS 2050, Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) to ISO 14044, or from a variety of generic databases.

The advantage of information from an EPD is that:

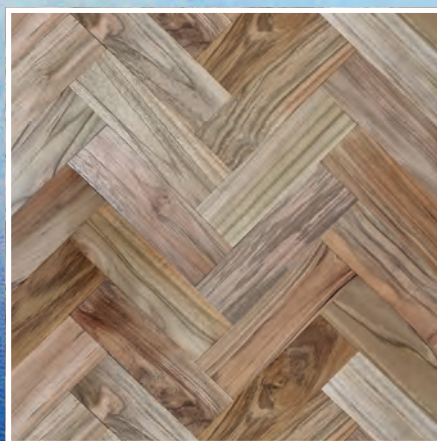
- **EPD to EN 15804 are comparable:**  
All EPD to EN 15804 are based on a common set of Product Category Rules provided in EN 15804 – so they all use the same approach to life cycle assessment and methodological choices. This means that [EN 15804 EPD](#) can be used to compare products at the building or construction works level and generally do not need to be reviewed to check for different methodological approaches.
- **EPD and Embodied Carbon assessments use the same life cycle structure:**  
[BS EN 15804](#), the European standard for EPD for construction products and [ISO 21930](#), the International standard for construction products, plus [BS EN 15978](#), the European standard for



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building level environmental assessment, all have the same structure (shown in Figure 1). This means data from EPD can be used directly to assess the impact on global warming of a building over its life cycle, as shown in Figure 1.

This structure is also followed by the [Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors \(RICS\) Professional Statement on Whole Life Carbon Assessment of the Built Environment](#) which seeks to provide guidance to the construction sector on how to implement the European Standard [EN 15978](#) which is the standard for assessing the environmental performance of buildings.

➤ **Different types of EPD are suitable at different stages:**

Manufacturer and product specific EPD provide the most representative data for the products used in a detailed design or as built embodied carbon assessment, but not all products have this type of EPD.

Collective EPD, for average products for example, are useful during early stage assessment, when products have not yet been precisely specified. They can also be used as representative data during design stage and as built assessments when the products used do not have EPD. See CPA Briefing Paper on EPD Types.

**Further reading:**

- [ISO 14025:2006 – Environmental labels and declarations – Type III environmental declarations – Principles and procedures](#)
- [CEN/TC 350](#)
- [BS EN 15804:2012+A2:2019. Sustainability of construction works. Environmental product declarations. Core rules for the product category of construction products](#)
- [ISO 21930:2017 – Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services](#)
- [BS EN 15978:2011 Sustainability of construction works. Assessment of environmental performance of buildings. Calculation method](#)
- [RICS Professional Statement on Whole Life Carbon for the Built Environment](#)
- [A simple guide to Environmental Product Declarations. OneClick LCA.](#)
- [EPD Numbers Infographic 2022](#)
- [A Guide to Understanding the Embodied Impacts of Construction Products by Jane Anderson and Jane Thornback, 2012](#)

## Contact

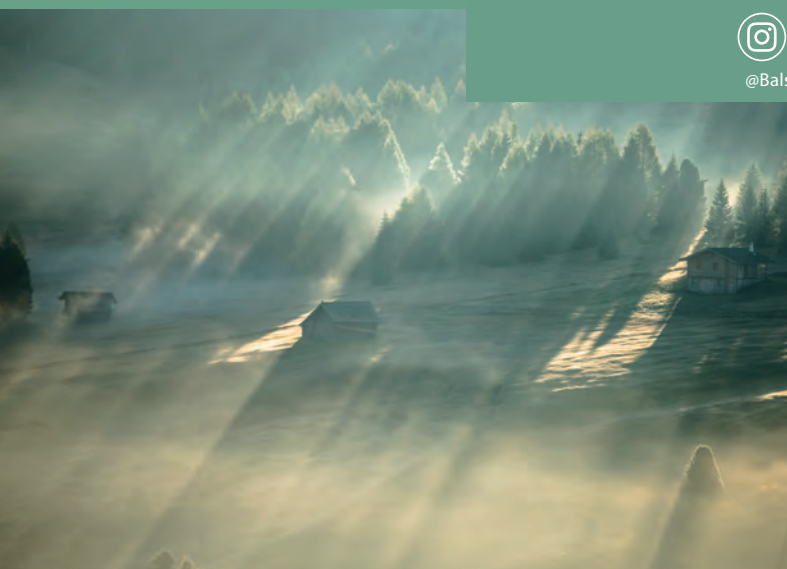
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Jane Anderson is Chair of [BSI's B/558 Committee](#) which is responsible in the UK for developing and commenting on the CEN TC 350 suite of standards

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## Is the carbon content of a construction product the same as its embodied carbon? An Introduction

Authored by Jane Thornback, CPA Policy Advisor and Jane Anderson, ConstructionLCA Ltd

**Is the carbon content of a construction product the same thing as its embodied carbon? The simple answer is No, they are different things measured differently. There is some relationship between them but they are not the same thing. This Briefing Paper aims to bring clarity to the differences between these two concepts and how they are measured.**

But let's start with an analogy. A human being is made up of a bunch of molecules which include carbon molecules, nitrogen, various minerals etc. This can be measured and analysed and will be affected by weight, bone density etc. The carbon content of an individual human can therefore be calculated and is measured in terms of mass, i.e. a measurement of weight such as grams or ounces. Indeed humans tend to comprise about 12-18% carbon molecules.

The carbon impact of that individual human is different and will depend on their lifestyle – how they heat their home, what form of transport e.g. bicycle or car they use and how often, how much flying they do, what they eat, what consumer choices such as clothes they purchase, the holidays they take etc. Indeed how long they live is relevant. This is the carbon impact or carbon footprint of the person. It is not the same as the carbon content of that person.

Measuring the impact of a human, or any product, is called life cycle assessment (LCA), the methodology of which is subject to a set of rules. These rules can be used to look at many or just one impact, such as the main impact caused by carbon dioxide, climate change or global warming.

### Applying this to construction products...

Lets therefore apply these concepts to construction products. Is the carbon content of a particular construction product the same as its carbon impact? The simple answer is no they are different things, measured differently.

- The carbon content of a construction product only describes the **mass** of carbon i.e. the quantity of carbon contained within that product, and although carbon content will have an effect on the carbon impact of the product through its life cycle it is otherwise unrelated. Wood and biobased materials, plastics and composites, limestone etc especially contain carbon molecules.
- Embodied carbon is the term used to describe the carbon impact of that product through its product life cycle, excluding its operational impacts. This environmental impact is measured using life cycle assessment (LCA) methodology to produce an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

The indicator measured is technically described as the impact on global warming potential and is measured in kg CO<sub>2</sub>equivalent. This is popularly called embodied carbon, though technically it relates to all greenhouse gases.

Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) are now widely used to provide information about the environmental impacts of manufacturing, using and disposing of construction products. The European Standard, [EN 15804](#) sets out Product Category Rules for the development of EPD for construction products, to ensure that all types of construction products are assessed consistently using the same LCA methodology and approaches. [EN 15804](#) was first published in [2012](#) and [amended in 2019](#). Life cycle assessment experts have refined the concepts and methodology over many years.

Having established that carbon content and embodied carbon of construction products are two different concepts, let's briefly examine how they are related.

### Relationship between carbon content and embodied carbon of construction products?

This is where it gets a lot more complex, and for a technical account of how EPD consider the carbon content of construction products please read a separate CPA Briefing Paper by Jane Anderson.

Essentially the carbon content of a construction product impacts the measurement of carbon impact at various stages of the product and end of life stages. To understand this it is necessary to have an understanding of the product and building life cycle stages. See Figure 1.

**The Embodied Carbon** for a building is defined as the greenhouse gas emissions (and removals) associated with materials and construction processes throughout the whole life cycle of a building. The construction works life cycle which is applicable to construction products, buildings and infrastructure, has been defined in Standards as a series of life cycle stages and modules as shown in Figure 1. The Modules relate to different parts of a product life cycle from extraction of raw materials through to end of life. For products, the modules are grouped into A1-A3 (product stage), A4-A5 (construction stage), B1-B5 (use stage) and C1-C4 (end of life stage).

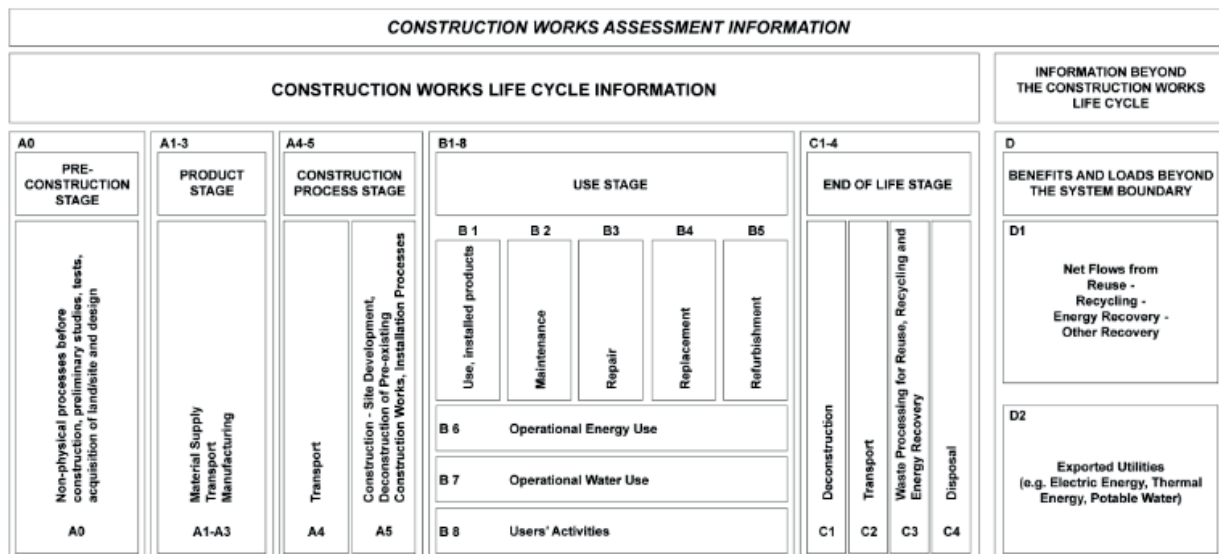


Figure 1 TC350 life cycle stages and modules for construction products (courtesy CEN TC350)



EPD provide a source of embodied carbon data for construction products, reporting the climate change impact of greenhouse gas emissions and removals:

- From extraction, processing, manufacture and associated transport in the product stage (Modules A1-A3),
- Of transport to site and installation in the construction stage (Modules A4-A5),
- Of use, maintenance, repair, replacement and refurbishment in the Use Stage (B1-B5)
- For energy or water consuming products, of operation in the Use Stage (B6-B7)
- From demolition, deconstruction, waste processing, disposal and associated transport in the end of life stage (C1-C4).

Carbon content impacts several of these life cycle stages, especially for wood and biobased products where issues of sequestration of carbon have to be considered. These differ depending on whether timber is logged from a sustainably managed forest or not (for a detailed discussion of this see the CPA Briefing Paper on how EPD consider Biogenic Products by Jane Anderson).

Secondly, what happens to the carbon containing product at end of life of the product is impactful, and the impact differs depending on whether the product is for instance recovered for recycling or reuse, is used for energy recovery or sent to landfill with resulting CO<sub>2</sub> and methane emissions from degradation over a certain timescale.

#### Further reading:

- CPA Briefing Paper: How do Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) consider the carbon content of a construction product? A Technical Briefing. By Jane Anderson
- CPA Briefing Paper: How do EPD consider Biogenic Products. By Jane Anderson.
- CPA Briefing Paper: Environmental Product Declarations and Embodied Carbon: How do EPD account for embodied carbon. By Jane Anderson and Jane Thornback
- [CPA Briefing Paper: How is waste and recovery modelled in EPD](#)
- [EN 15804:2012+A1:2013](#)
- [BS EN 15804:2012+A2:2019](#)
- [RICS Professional Statement on Whole Life Carbon for the Built Environment](#)

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## What is carbon footprinting?

Authored by Chris Foster, EuGeos Ltd & Chair of BSI sub-committee SES/1/5 Environmental Management - Life Cycle Tools & Techniques

The need to respond to the climate challenge has created the demand for knowledge of the carbon footprint of an entity. But what is carbon footprinting and how is it calculated? Are there established methodologies to ensure that comparisons are meaningful between different choices?

One important characteristic of carbon footprinting is that it is an accounting procedure rather than a measurement of a physical attribute such as density or strength.

This Briefing Paper aims to shed light on this important topic.

### What is a carbon footprint?

A carbon footprint is a calculated indicator for a chosen object: it is the result of a structured, quantitative assessment of the cumulative greenhouse gas emissions associated with a defined “network” of human/industrial activities which create a product, service, material, organisation, or other entity.

The object of the calculation is the output of this network: normally a specific amount of product or a year’s worth of a company’s operations. The network spans activities from extraction of raw materials to manufacture and, in some cases, can also include delivery, use and disposal.

Although it is called 'carbon' footprint, it is not just CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which are taken into account; other greenhouse gases (GHG) are also included. [The Kyoto Protocol](#) lists six<sup>1</sup> GHG, but the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's \(IPCC\)](#) periodic Assessment Reports identify many individual HFC and PFC gases that may be included in carbon footprint calculations along with their potency as GHG in relation to carbon dioxide. CO<sub>2</sub> is the “reference gas” for Global Warming Potentials (GWP), hence the results of a carbon footprint calculation are quoted as an amount of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

A product carbon footprint adds together "direct" GHG emissions from the final manufacturing step, with “indirect” emissions from the rest of the product network; these indirect emissions come from the generation of power used throughout the network, the production of fuel and raw materials, transport and waste management.

Product carbon footprints always include emissions from the supply chain (the “upstream” part of the product life cycle (see separate CPA Briefing Paper “What is the construction product life cycle?”). Direct and indirect emissions from product use and from the management of products when they become waste may also all be within the scope of the calculation.

**Organisational carbon footprints** include direct emissions from the organisation’s own activities – whether those are manufacture, vehicle operation or service provision. Indirect emissions from the

<sup>1</sup> carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulphur hexafluoride, hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) and perfluorocarbons (PFC) [https://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol](https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol)



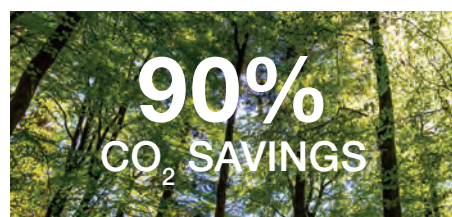
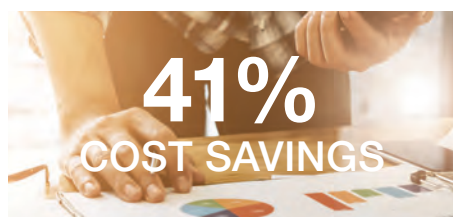
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activities of users and in supply-chains may be in the assessed network. Organisational carbon footprints usually include emissions from electricity generation (often referred to as “Scope 2” emissions in this context), and sometimes include emissions from other elements of the organisation’s supply chain (“Scope 3”).

## Carbon footprinting standards

Carbon footprinting is an accounting procedure and therefore is subject to rules set out in formal standards by bodies such as ISO, CEN and BSI.

**For products,** carbon footprinting is a specific, single-issue form of life cycle assessment (LCA). The LCA standards [ISO 14040](#) and [ISO 14044](#) as well as [ISO 14067](#) are fundamental reference documents.

More specific rules (called “product category rules” or PCR) exist for particular classes of products. For construction products the standard [EN 15804](#) contains these specific product category rules; these may be clarified further in subordinate standards such as [EN 17074:2019. Glass in Building. Product category rules for flat glass products.](#)

**For organisations,** rules have been developed in different frameworks: [ISO 14064-1](#) provides high-level guidance, while private standards such as the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#) and [Carbon Disclosure Project \(CDP\)](#) provide more detailed rules.

## Calculating carbon footprint

### Data sources

Carbon footprint calculations need three kinds of data:

1. “*primary data*” that characterise final manufacture of a product, or an organisation’s operations, in terms of inputs and outputs of energy and substances (raw materials, greenhouse gases, wastes, etc.);
2. “*secondary data*” that allow these flows to be converted into direct and indirect GHG emissions;
3. the Global Warming Potential factors that allow the conversion of non-CO<sub>2</sub> GHG (for example some refrigerants used in air-conditioning) into carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

Only the first of these, the primary data, can be measured. Different organisations have access to more or less extensive primary data. For instance, a steel maker with integrated operations may have primary data for several steps in the chain of activities that makes steel from iron ore, while an assembler of steel doors may only have primary data for the final assembly operation.

But even primary data seldom include measured GHG emissions themselves because these are actually measured in very few instances: For example, almost no operators of industrial gas boilers measure the actual amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that boiler releases when gas is burned: the CO<sub>2</sub> generated is calculated from its natural gas composition<sup>2</sup> and consumption data. And almost no entity has access to primary data that would allow a direct calculation of GHG emissions occurring throughout the network of activities supplying it with materials, energy and services.

Secondary data must be drawn from published sources, often databases. GWP factors are drawn from the [IPCC’s Assessment Reports](#).



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## Accounting rules

To use the data gathered for a carbon footprint calculation, some rules must be applied. Think about gas again: gas use is normally measured for a whole facility using one meter. Most facilities make more than one product though - whether they are quarries, oil refineries, factories or consultants' offices. So to establish how much gas is associated with one particular product, it is necessary to divide up the total gas use between all the products made in the facility. This can be done in more than one way, just as there is more than one way to allocate costs between different products (e.g. activity-based costing and overhead costing). We need some rules to ensure consistency and to generate meaningful carbon footprints, both for this division ("allocation") - and in other parts of the calculation.

So carbon footprint calculations are made using models of supply-chains and production activities in databases or spreadsheets that are already equipped with secondary data and GWP factors for different GHG; in the calculations various rules are applied to deliver consistent results. So although it is in some ways helpful to think of a carbon footprint as a property of a material, like its strength, that analogy is very limited. We can't obtain a product's carbon footprint by testing a sample any more than we can find its price that way. Carbon footprint is best considered as an accounting-type concept, and many now talk of carbon accounting as an analogue of financial accounting.

## There is no "right" answer

The nature of carbon footprints, the constant evolution of supply networks (think about the change in electricity generation in the UK over the last 15 years as wind and solar power starts to increase), and the potential for different rule-sets to be applied in the calculations mean that it's possible to obtain more than one carbon footprint for the same product or organisation.

For example, under [EN 15804](#) product category rules for construction products, any recycled material has a "zero" carbon footprint when it leaves the recovery activity in which it ceases to be waste. This rule effectively states that none of the emissions arising from the original manufacture of a material are carried forward from its first use to any subsequent use. An alternative rule, sometimes applied in the context of short-lived products, is that the emissions arising from the original manufacture of a material are shared among a number of successive uses. For materials whose initial production is greenhouse-gas intensive, like many metals, applying these two rules gives very different results for the carbon footprint of the recycled metal – or of a product that contains it.

## Meta matters

Carbon footprint values can only effectively support decision-making for more sustainable outcomes if the calculations are internally-consistent, the accounting conventions reproducibly applied and their implications understood. It's almost impossible to meet these criteria if carbon footprint numbers are just taken in isolation or combined in an unselective way. Contextual information ("meta-data") is critical.

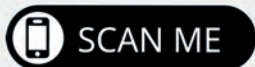
For products and materials, this contextual information that allows sound use of carbon footprints is provided in Environmental Product Declarations (EPD). EPD contain carbon footprints and other environmental indicators for products or materials, along with prescribed meta-data. The production and publication of EPD in turn follows standards: in this case [ISO 14025](#), one of the [ISO 14020-series](#) standards relating to environmental statements and programmes. [EN 15804](#) – the standard for construction product EPD – contains both rules to apply in construction product LCA and prescriptions for the contextual information to include in EPD: it refers back to both [ISO 14044](#) and [ISO 14025](#).

A valuable feature of [EN 15804](#) is that it breaks the cradle-to-grave life cycle of construction products into defined modules (see Briefing Paper on "what is the product life cycle") so that it's clear which parts of the carbon footprint relate to manufacture, delivery, use or disposal.

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- > **Product Catalog** - One simple default product list - no cloud back up or collaboration functions
- > **Takeoff** - Create regions without walls - no elevation functions - no advanced stage design capacity
- > **Product Assignment** - Assign each product individually - select products from pull down lists for each room - no flash cove capacity - basic tile patterns - no wall profile functions - no random tile function
- > **Estimation** - Need to click estimate button everytime you modify the diagram - no multiplier functionality - no phase installation functions - no cloud share function
- > **Reporting** - Map data to XL spreadsheet
- > **Cloud Integration** - None
- > **Accounting** - None

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## Carbon footprint validation

Technical information published about construction products is validated to ensure its credibility: for example machines used to measure physical properties are calibrated using standard test-pieces. But that approach is only possible for directly-measurable characteristics. For carbon footprints, as for company profits, the only mechanism by which the validity of the reported value can be checked is an audit by someone independent of the original calculation. This third-party verification or validation is key to the credibility of carbon footprint statements.

The audit mechanism itself is somewhat different for product carbon footprints reported in EPD compared to organisation-level carbon footprints. Product carbon footprints in EPD are “verified” by an independent third-party. The verification protocol and the qualifications required for verifiers are set by organisations, established under [ISO 14025](#), publishing EPD: EPD Programme Operators.

[ISO 14064-3](#) provides a slightly different framework for auditing organisational carbon footprint statements.

### In summary

Carbon footprints can support decisions aimed at improving the sustainability of the built environment. They can allow organisations to understand the wider implications of their decisions for economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions and to track their progress in reducing the emissions of defined sub-sections of the economy. Product carbon footprints enable improvement opportunities to be identified and trade-offs inherent in building-level choices to be explored.

But a carbon footprint is an accounting concept, so these decisions will only have good outcomes if the carbon footprint calculations are internally-consistent, contextual information taken into account, the accounting conventions reproducibly applied and their implications understood. For construction products, externally-verified EPD are an important vehicle for credibly communicating both carbon footprints and important contextual information.

Finally, tackling greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is a priority for the construction sector as for society more widely. But it is important that in pursuit of lower carbon emissions, we don't lose sight of other dimensions of sustainability. Carbon footprints should also be used alongside other sustainability metrics, whether at the organisation level or at the product & building level. At the product & building level, EPD and LCA embed wide range of environmental metrics covering themes complementary to the climate-focused carbon footprint.

### Further reading:

- Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) (<https://www.cdp.net>)
- EN 15804:2012+A2:2020 Sustainability of construction works - Environmental product declarations - Core rules for the product category of construction products. (<https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/sustainability-of-construction-works-environmental-product-declarations-core-rules-for-the-product-category-of-construction-products-1/standard>)
- EN 17074:2019 Glass in building. Environmental product declaration. Product category rules for flat glass products. (<https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/glass-in-building-environmental-product-declaration-product-category-rules-for-flat-glass-products/standard>)

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- GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (<https://ghgprotocol.org/>)
- IPCC, 2021: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA. doi:10.1017/9781009157896.
- ISO 14020:2022 Environmental statements and programmes for products – Principles and general requirements (<https://www.iso.org/standard/79479.html>)
- ISO 14025:2006 Environmental labels and declarations — Type III environmental declarations — Principles and procedures (<https://www.iso.org/standard/38131.html>)
- ISO 14040:2006 Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Principles and framework (<https://www.iso.org/standard/37456.html>)
- ISO 14044:2006 Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines (<https://www.iso.org/standard/38498.html>)
- ISO 14064-1:2018 Greenhouse gases — Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals (<https://www.iso.org/standard/66453.html>)
- ISO 14064-3:2019 Greenhouse gases — Part 3: Specification with guidance for the verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements (<https://www.iso.org/standard/66455.html>)
- ISO 14067:2018 Greenhouse gases — Carbon footprint of products — Requirements and guidelines for quantification (<https://www.iso.org/standard/71206.html>)

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Chris Foster is a life cycle assessment practitioner and Chair of BSI sub-committee SES/1/5 Environmental Management - Life Cycle Tools & Techniques

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v1 – January 2023





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## What is meant by the construction product life cycle?

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

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

### Standards for assessing sustainability performance of construction works

#### – a bit of history

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

At the European level, the [European Standards Body \(CEN\)](#) in 2005 set up a Technical Committee [CEN/TC 350](#) to develop standards to assess the sustainability performance of construction works, including construction products. This was at the request of the European Commission which was becoming concerned that a host of national sustainability assessment schemes were arising across Europe that could act as barriers to the single market. In the UK, BRE (formerly a government technical institute but privatised in the mid-1990s) provided the “national” assessment methodology for building elements (BRE Green Guide) and buildings (BREEAM).

In the UK, the British Standards Institution (BSI) convenes the [CEN TC 350 Mirror Committee BS/558](#).

The work of [CEN/TC 350](#) has led to the publication of a suite of standards, including;

[EN 15804](#) which sets out the calculation methodology (called product category rules) for assessing the environmental impact of construction products resulting in an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

[EN 15978](#) which provides the calculation methodology for the assessment of the environmental performance of buildings

[EN 17472](#) which provides the calculation methodology for the assessment of the environmental performance of infrastructure

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



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

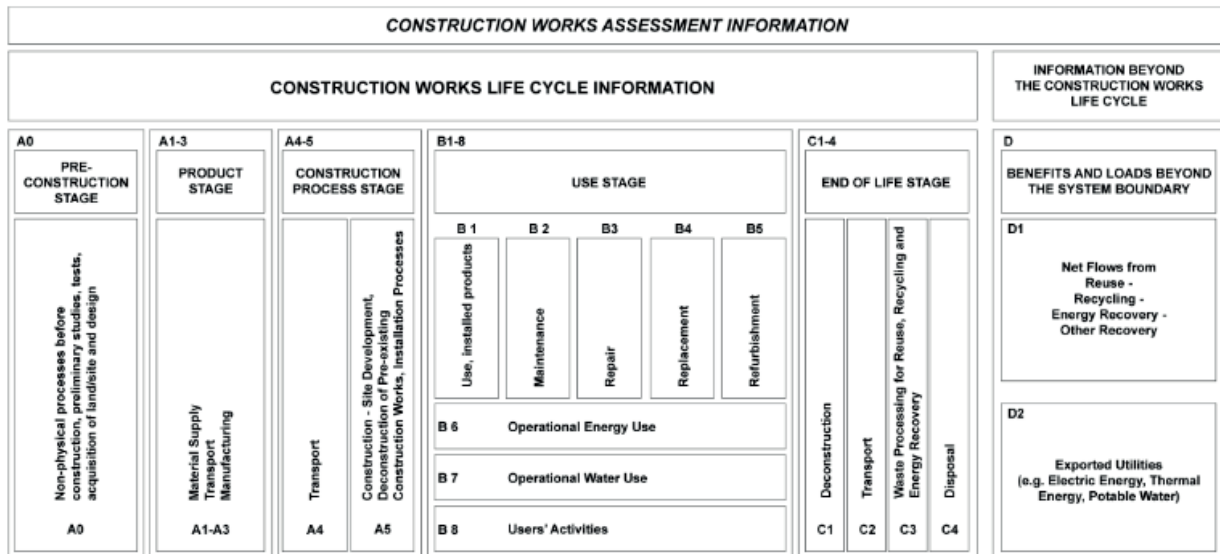


Figure 1 Figure 1 TC350 life cycle stages and modules for construction products (courtesy CEN TC350)

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

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

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

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

- **Module D1** covers the loads and benefit of any recovery processes from net output flows leaving the system
- **Module D2** is not relevant at product level and covers the benefits of any exported energy from a building





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## Policy Position of the Construction Products Association

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

### Further reading:

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

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

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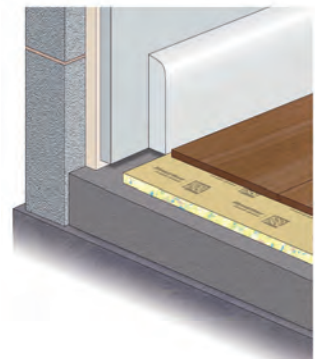
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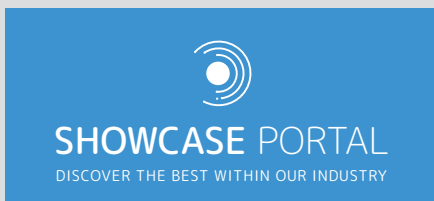
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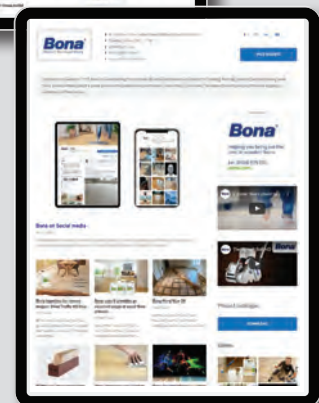
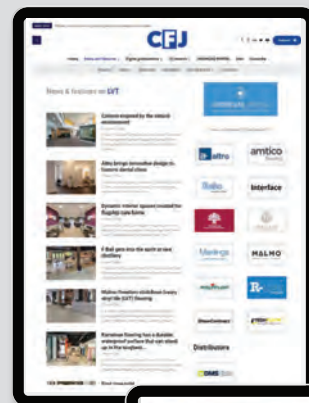
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## Types of Environmental Product Declaration and their advantages and disadvantages

Authored by Jane Anderson, ConstructionLCA Ltd

### Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)

**EPD are a type of environmental label which provide environmental information about a product, using a standardised life cycle assessment methodology and reporting format and based on standards. This paper aims to describe the different types of EPD, the data that they use, and to explain the advantages and disadvantages of these types of EPD, both for manufacturers and for those using making use of EPD.**

#### Types of EPD by EPD Owner:

**Manufacturer-specific EPD:** Manufacturers can produce EPD for their own product(s) and site(s), these are known as manufacturer-specific EPD.

**Collective EPD:** Manufacturers can group with other manufacturers to produce collective EPD, for example, UK trade associations such as British Precast or the Brick Development Association, European trade associations such as the European General Galvanisers Association, campaigning organisations such as WoodforGood and certification bodies such as UK CARES have all produced collective EPD.

**Advantages and disadvantages:** Working with other manufacturers to produce a collective EPD will reduce costs and effort for individual manufacturers and ensure that there is representative EPD data for the product type in the market. It may also give manufacturers an idea of their impact relative to the average product, and give them the opportunity to produce a manufacturer-specific EPD as a result. Producing a manufacturer-specific EPD may be more expensive, but will allow a manufacturer to control the type of EPD, e.g. product- or site-specific EPD, and to gain deeper access to information that will help eco-design and product improvement.

For building assessment, using manufacturer-specific data is more representative if their products are installed in the building, but collective EPD data will be more useful at early design stage when the exact products to be used are as yet undecided.

#### Types of EPD by Product type:

**Product specific EPD:** EPD can be provided for a specific product. Some EPD programmes allow separate results for more than one product to be included in a single EPD, other programmes require each product to have their own EPD – this will increase the costs of registration and listing.

**Average product EPD:** An average product EPD will cover two or more products, for example the average of all production or for a particular product range. Weighted averages by production are normally used.

**Representative Product EPD:** A representative product EPD provides information for an actual or theoretical product which is chosen to be representative of production.

Types of Environmental Product Declaration: Explaining the different types of EPD and their advantages and disadvantages

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**Worst case EPD:** Worst case EPD are commonly used for products which are themselves high impact, but contribute only very little to building impacts because they are used in very small quantities, e.g. adhesives and coating or building hardware. Also known as a Model EPD or Template EPD, worst case EPD are developed by a group of manufacturers based on data collection and LCA modelling to identify the worst case impacts for a product group and limit values for inputs/processes that drive impact. Any manufacturer in the group can then use these impacts to produce a Worst Case EPD if they show their product is within the limit values. IBU is the only programme to register these EPD.

**Advantages and disadvantages:** [EN 15804](#) requires any significant variation in impact for an average product EPD to be stated in the EPD. The International EPD programme goes further and states that the variance for average project EPD should not be greater than 10%, although EPD with greater variance can be published if the actual variation of GWP-GHG results is reported in the EPD. Product-specific data from the chosen manufacturer is the most representative type of EPD data to use in a building LCA, especially if it is also site-specific. However at early design stage, when exact product choice is not known, a collective EPD for an average product is more suitable. If average product EPD are being compared, particularly with product-specific EPD, then the variation of impact should be taken into consideration, particularly if it is significant.

### Types of EPD by Geographical Scope:

**Site specific EPD:** If a manufacturer only has one site, then their data will always be site-specific. Where a manufacturer has more than one site, they may produce EPD to provide information for the product(s) produced at each individual site. As collective EPD always cover more than one site, site specific collective EPD are not possible.

**Average site EPD:** Collective EPD, which always include at least two manufacturers, will always be average site EPD. Average site EPD may provide a weighted average of all the sites of a manufacturer(s), or an average (normally weighted) of a selection of sites chosen to be representative of all production.

**Advantages and disadvantages:** If a manufacturer doesn't allow their customers to specify products from a specific site, then average site EPD should be provided. A number of programmes limit the range of impact for average site EPD, for example, the International EPD Programmes limits variance to 10% but EPD with greater variance can be published if the actual variation of GWP-GHG results is reported in the EPD.

For building LCA, it is important to take account of the transport impacts to the construction site if site-specific EPD are being used. If average site EPD are being compared, particularly with site-specific EPD, then the variation of impact should be taken into consideration, particularly if it is significant.

### Geographical market for EPD:

In terms of geographical scope of an EPD, there are two aspects. Firstly, EPD may be:

**Production-based:** providing data representative of the production sites within a country or region

**Consumption-based:** representative of the manufacturers or sites marketing their product in a country or region. However the most common type of consumption-based data is generic data from LCI databases.

The impacts of EPD based on production or consumption for a market may differ if imports or exports are a significant part of the market.

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Additionally, EPD now have to model end of life scenarios for construction products – in many cases gate to grave scenarios will be specific to the market for the EPD, because, for example, the end of life routes may vary in different countries, and/or the benefits of recovery, for example of energy, also often varies by country.

## Types of EPD - Verification

[ISO 14025](#) requires that EPD are verified and published by EPD programmes. Independent verifiers must be approved by the EPD Programme, by demonstrating experience of life cycle assessment (LCA), understanding of the product category rules (PCR) and relevant standards, and knowledge of the products covered by the EPD Programme. Verifiers review not only the EPD, but a detailed Project Report and check that the data is plausible and that the EPD follows the relevant PCR and Standards.

**Verified EPD:** [EN 15804](#) requires the table below to be reproduced in EPD so verified EPD can be quickly identified.

CEN standard EN 15804 serves as the core Product Category Rules/PCR	
Independent verification of the declaration and data, according to EN ISO 14025:2010	
<input type="checkbox"/> internal	<input type="checkbox"/> external
(where appropriate)* Third party verifier	
<Name of third party verifier>	

**Verified EPD from a Verified Tool:** EPD tools such as One Click LCA's Pre-verified EPD Generator have been checked and verified to produce EPD for a specific product group. These EPD can be verified by EPD programmes at a lower cost, as the LCA modelling has already been checked.

**Unverified EPD from a Verified Tool:** Unverified EPD from EPD tools should be considered carefully. If the verified tool has been specifically designed for the product and EPD owner, then you will need to check that the EPD provides the variables entered into the tool and that these are sensible. If the tool allows any type of product to be assessed, then you should not rely on an unverified EPD as there are so many variables which could affect the LCA modelling, and treat it as any unverified EPD.

**Unverified EPD:** LCA is complex and it is very easy to make errors or make unjustified choices. An unverified EPD does not comply with EN 15804 and has not been checked to ensure the standards have been followed or that the data is plausible. They should not be considered as reliable information.

### Further reading:

- [ECO Platform](#)
- [CEN/TC 350](#)
- [EN 15804+A2](#)
- [Worst Case EPD](#)

## Contact

[jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk](mailto:jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk)

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Types of Environmental Product Declaration: Explaining the different types of EPD and their advantages and disadvantages

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## Classifying EPD by type

The table below shows how EPD can be classified and provides examples of the different types.

EPD Owner	Product type	Site type	Example EPD
Manufacturer specific	Product Specific EPD	Site specific EPD	<a href="#">Kingspan – EPD for Benchmark Quadcore Evolution Insulated Panel manufactured at Holywell the UK</a>
		Average site EPD	<a href="#">British Gypsum Saint Gobain – EPD for 12.5mm Gyproc WallBoard – based on 4 sites in the UK</a>
	Average Product EPD	Site specific EPD	<a href="#">Aggregate Industries – EPD for average granite aggregate produced at the Glensanda Quarry in the UK</a>
		Average site EPD	<a href="#">Etex Building Performance – EPD for average GTEC Plasterboard products produced at 2 sites in the UK</a>
	Representative Product EPD	Site specific EPD	No example found
		Average site EPD	<a href="#">Hanson UK – EPD for UK Average Ready Mix Concrete – based on a theoretical mix of Hanson Concrete at 167 plants in the UK</a>
Collective	Product Specific EPD	Average site EPD	<a href="#">British Precast Drainage Association – EPD for UK Manufactured DN600 Concrete Pipe with Class B Bedding – data from 3 member companies</a> <a href="#">Cembureau – EPD for Portland Cement (CEM I) – data provided by the national cement associations in France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom and Turkey covering 74% of production in Cembureau countries.</a>
	Average Product EPD	Average site EPD	<a href="#">Brick Development Association – EPD for average UK produced brick - members of the BDA covering 46 UK manufacturing sites and representing 99% of UK brick production.</a>
	Representative Product EPD	Average site EPD	<a href="#">British Ready-mixed Concrete Association – EPD for UK manufactured generic ready-mixed concrete - manufacturing data covering 93% of production from member companies of the British Ready-Mixed Concrete Association and a defined mix design</a>
	Worst Case EPD		<a href="#">Association for the European Adhesive and Sealant Industry (FEICA) – Model EPD for silicone-based construction sealants</a>

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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 you organisation.

Tel: 0207 697 1977 • [www.actionsustainability.com](http://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.

Tel: 020 7170 7000 • [www.carbontrust.com](http://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.

Tel: 0117 934 1400 • [www.cse.org.uk](http://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.

Tel: 020 7222 0101 • [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://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.

Tel: 0370 850 6506 • [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://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.

Tel: 0208 1507 231 • [www.greenmark.co.uk](http://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.

Tel: 020 7833 6000 • [www.carbonneutral.com](http://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.

Tel: 01295 819900 • [www.wrap.org.uk](http://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](http://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.

Tel: 020 7215 5000

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-trade](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-trade)



# HERRINGBONE & PLANK FLOORS



## FINESSE HERRINGBONE PARQUET

Size (W/L/D): 80 x 400 x 10\*2mm

Character Grade

Pack Price: £23.00 per m<sup>2</sup>

Pallet Price: £21.00 per m<sup>2</sup>

## FINESSE HERRINGBONE PARQUET

Size (W/L/D): 125 x 500 x 14\*3mm

Character Grade

Pack Price: £28.00 per m<sup>2</sup>

Pallet Price: £26.00 per m<sup>2</sup>



**NEW!**

## CLICK-FIT OAK PLANK FLOORING

Size (W/L/D): 190 x 600-1900 x 14\*3mm

Character Grade

Pack Price: £32.00 per m<sup>2</sup>

Pallet Price: £29.00 per m<sup>2</sup>

## FINESSE CHEVRON PARQUET

Size (W/L/D): 125 x 485 x 15\*4mm

Character Grade

Pack Price: £35.00 per m<sup>2</sup>

Pallet Price: £32.00 per m<sup>2</sup>



\*\* All prices subject to VAT and Delivery Charges | Samples available on request

For enquiries, please contact:

+44 (0) 16386 64988 | [hello@vita-style.co.uk](mailto:hello@vita-style.co.uk) | [www.vita-style.co.uk](http://www.vita-style.co.uk)



# 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.

**Tel: 0330 355 6275**  
**www.asbp.org.uk**

## American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC)

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

**Tel: 020 7626 4111**  
**www.americanhardwood.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.

**www.aecb.net**  
**0845 4569773**

## 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.

**Tel: 0161 426 7731**  
**www.axiongroup.co.uk**

## British Carpet Technical Centre (BCTC)

Provides extensive range of product testing and certification services.

**Tel: 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.

**Tel: 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.

**Tel: 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.

**Tel: 0345 080 9000 • www.bsigroup.com**

**CFA members stand out from the crowd.**



**Find out more at [www.cfa.org.uk](http://www.cfa.org.uk) – or call 0115 941 1126**

## 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.

**Tel: 0844 249 5351 • [www.builduk.org](http://www.builduk.org)**

## Carpet Foundation

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

**Tel: 01562 755568 • [www.carpetfoundation.com](http://www.carpetfoundation.com)**

## Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK)

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

**Tel: 0161 440 8325 • [www.carpetrecyclinguk.com](http://www.carpetrecyclinguk.com)**

## Centre for Sustainable Design (CfSD)

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

**Tel: 01252 892772 • [www.cfsd.org.uk](http://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.

**Tel: 01604 620426  
[www.ciwm.co.uk](http://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](http://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.

**Tel: 020 7323 3770  
[www.constructionproducts.org.uk](http://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.

**Tel: 0115 941 1126 • [www.cfa.org.uk](http://www.cfa.org.uk)**

## Contract Flooring Journal (CFJ)

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

**Tel: 01892 752400  
[www.contractflooringjournal.co.uk](http://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](http://www.planetcork.org)

**Tel: 07814 919112  
[www.cork-products.co.uk](http://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.

**Tel: 020 7824 8882  
[www.esauk.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.mylaminate.eu/en) that promotes the benefits of laminate flooring to homeowners.

**[www.eplf.com](http://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](http://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.

**Tel: 07484 075254**

[www.ferfa.org.uk](http://www.ferfa.org.uk)

### Flooring Industry Training Association (FITA)

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

**Tel: 0115 950 6836**

[www.fita.co.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**Tel: 01982 382 650**

[www.larac.org.uk](http://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.

**Tel: 01782 764428**

[www.lucideon.com](http://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](http://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.

**Tel: 01562 547754**

[www.ncca.co.uk](http://www.ncca.co.uk)

### National Institute of Carpet and Floorlayers (NICF)

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

**Tel: 0115 958 3077**

[www.nicfntd.org.uk](http://www.nicfntd.org.uk)

The CFA offers members a wide range of support and guidance to help grow their businesses.



Find out more at [www.cfa.org.uk](http://www.cfa.org.uk) – or call 0115 941 1126



### 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](http://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.

Tel: 01536 410000 • [www.satra.co.uk](http://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.

[www.rics.org](http://www.rics.org)

### Spanish Ceramic Tile Manufacturers' Association (ASCER)

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

[www.ascer.es](http://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.

Tel: 01303 856123 • [www.stonefed.org.uk](http://www.stonefed.org.uk)

### The Tile Association (TTA)

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

Tel: 0300 3658453 • [www.tiles.org.uk](http://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.

Tel: 01892 752400 • [www.tileandstonejournal.com](http://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.

Tel: 01494 840774 • [www.trada.co.uk](http://www.trada.co.uk)

### Town and Country Planning Association

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

Tel: 020 7930 8903

[www.tcpa.org.uk](http://www.tcpa.org.uk)

### UK Green Building Council

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

Tel: 020 7580 0623

[www.ukgbc.org](http://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](http://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.

Tel: 0330 325 0490

[www.woodrecyclers.org](http://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.

Tel: 01483 426444

[www.wwf.org.uk](http://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.

Tel: 01295 819900

[www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)





## Junckers and Courtcraft win award for Sustainability Initiative of the Year at CFJ Awards

**A**FTER winning the Flooring in Education – Schools at last year’s CFJ Awards in Coombe Abbey, Warwickshire, Junckers was then awarded the Sustainability Initiative of the Year award by the independent panel of judges. The winning installation was at Merkinch Primary School in Inverness. The client, The Highland Council had used Junckers flooring for multiple projects previously and had come to rely on the product and installation by one of Junckers’ approved contractors.

The brief was a high-performance sprung floor to BS EN 14904 level A4 which would perform well and continue to do so for many years to come. The ability to restore the floor multiple times to as-new condition without high maintenance costs was also a factor.

Sustainability was high on the agenda for the entire project, the building was designed and built to be thermally efficient to reduce operational costs and offer an optimal learning environment. Along with a glulam cross-laminated timber frame and shell, Junckers flooring with its A+ BRE Green Guide rating, contributed to the scheme.

Said Junckers: ‘This was a straight-forward installation with no complications, every aspect of fitting the floor went according to plan. Flooring contractor Courtcraft has extensive experience in working with Junckers flooring systems and knew what to expect from the product, how to achieve the most efficient installation solution and finish the project on time and on budget.’

Sustainability was high on the agenda for the entire project, the building was designed and built to be thermally efficient. Built with a glulam cross-laminated timber frame and shell, naturally a thermally efficient and airtight element, enhancing the thermal performance of the building fabric, in turn reducing the operational costs for the school while creating an enhanced learning environment.

All CLT panels were installed to strict tolerances, ensuring that they fitted together accurately, and all penetrations, openings and junctions were correctly sealed, to limit warm air leaking out through the building envelope and achieve a very low airtightness figure.

Continued Junckers: ‘Wood is naturally low in embodied carbon, a renewable resource that does not produce waste or pollution. Junckers manufactures solid wood flooring that stays true to nature and cares for the environment. As far back as the 1930s when the company was founded, Flemming Juncker replanted trees to ensure forests were thriving - an environmentalist before his time. A Junckers floor has independently verified environmental credentials.

‘Every Junckers floorboard is made of strong and durable solid hardwood. With a lifespan of 60+ years, a Junckers floor comfortably falls into the criteria for longevity set out by RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge. A long life means less waste to manage and ultimately, lower demands on natural resources.

‘A Junckers floor also scores highly on another target set by the RIBA – wellbeing. Junckers floors carry the Danish Indoor Climate label, recognised by BREEAM, and have



Junckers solid maple flooring at the school

undergone extensive degassing and odour tests to ensure there are no chemical substances in the flooring which adversely affect the air quality in the room. In addition, wood helps keep and even temperature in a room and minimises electrical static. Light coloured floor finishes such as ash, beech and Nordic oak enhance daylighting and reduce overheating.’

Junckers floors are easy to lift and reuse and can be recycled as a reclaimed floor or used as another building material. A sand and seal will bring an old floor right back to pristine condition, ready for many more years of use.

The project had already won the following awards:

- Learning Places Scotland Awards 2021 - Innovation in Delivering Value
- Learning Places Scotland Awards 2021 - Innovation in Delivering a Sustainable Learning Space
- Winner of the Wood for Good 2021 - IAA Presidents Award 2021

Jillian Kean, headteacher, Merkinch Primary School said: ‘At Merkinch we are delighted with the amazing flooring in our brand new gym hall and learning stairs. These areas are used daily by children from nursery to P7 for PE, assemblies, concerts, group reading, and afterschool activities. The sports hall is also used for hire for activities such as badminton and indoor football and the feedback on the quality of flooring is very positive.’

[www.junckers.co.uk](http://www.junckers.co.uk)



Merkinch Primary School

## Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK) member: New Homes Flooring

BY MANAGING DIRECTOR, HELEN HOLLAND

**A**t New Homes Flooring, we engaged in our recycling journey in 2017, when we purchased our first three balers from Kenburn, at that time we just wanted to do waste to energy rather than landfill. Since joining Carpet Recycling UK in August 2018, we’ve changed from waste to energy being our ‘end goal’ to now insisting we send our separated materials to ‘reuse’ where possible.

Our membership has assisted us massively and certainly proven this wasn’t ever meant to be an easy journey. We’re also proud to have won the Recofloor ‘most improved’ followed by ‘contractor of the year!’

We purchased a further two balers in 2021,

meaning we’re able to separate clean cardboard, dirty cardboard, clear plastic, mixed plastics, clean polyprop, clean wool carpets, clean underlay, paper, dirty mixed bales (these make up our waste to energy).

We continue to strive to find the best ‘re-use disposal solutions’, meanwhile we can confidently confirm we’ve reduced our landfill waste from more than 1,000 tonnes per year to just 50 tonnes per year, rather than our waste to energy being 48 pallets every four-to-six months, we’ve reduced to 44 pallets every 12-14 months. Not only have we reduced the volume of waste, but we’ve reduced our costs by £18,000 annually.

When tendering for new business, we’re



finding every measure we take to improve our waste reduction has a positive effect on winning new work. It’s important we all do our bit. Carpet Recycling UK is growing continually, as do we.

We look forward to making more improvements in 2023.

[www.newhomesflooring.co.uk](http://www.newhomesflooring.co.uk)



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With our superb range of Flooring.

Featuring high performing products that offer an unmatched level of performance, longevity and quality.

Call us now to find out more on **01985 218994**  
or visit **[www.jaymart.co.uk](http://www.jaymart.co.uk)**

**Jaymart Rubber & Plastics Ltd.**

Roman Way, Crusader Park, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 8SP

*Jaymart*  
Mats and Floors



## REUSE MEMBERS:

### Carpet Tile Recycling

**Activity:** Carpet tile reuse and recycling.  
**Acceptance criteria:** Dry, palletised tiles  
**Collection service available:** Yes, a free service  
**Volumes accepted:** Min 1000 tiles, no max.  
**Pricing:** Prices based on quality, distance and volume  
**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** 27 Forester Street, Nottingham NG4 2LJ  
**Contact name:** Ashley Haigh, Managing Director  
 01159 404 454 / 07808 919 126  
 ash@carpettilerecycling.co.uk  
 www.carpettilerecycling.co.uk

### Envirocycle London Ltd

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

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

### Further Flooring

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

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

### Greenstream Recycling

**Activity:** Reuse/Recycling of used carpet tiles and post installation broadloom carpet  
**Acceptance criteria:** Carpet tiles normally on dry pallets, alternative arrangements available  
**Collection service available:** Yes, national service  
**Volumes accepted:** Min 100sq metres.  
**Pricing:** Prices based on quality, distance and volume  
**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** 3 Rheola Industrial Estate, Porth, Rhondda Cynon Taff CF39 0AD  
**Contact name:** Ellen Petts, Managing Director  
 01443 683 123  
 info@ggsflooring.org.uk  
 www.findcarpettiles.co.uk

### Midland Carpet Tile Recycling

**Activity:** Carpet tile reuse and recycling.  
**Acceptance criteria:** Dry, palletised and loose tiles  
**Collection service available:** Yes  
**Volumes accepted:** 1-8 tonnes per load/1-10 pallets.  
**Pricing:** Prices based on quality, distance and volume  
**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** 28 The Avenue, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9AL  
**Contact name:** Lee Chambers, Director  
 08000 148 591 M: 07803 185 158  
 sales@usedcarpettiles.com  
 carpet-tile-recycling.co.uk

### Spruce Carpets

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

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

## SURPLUS SALES MEMBERS:

### Salvation Army Trading Company

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

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

## RECYCLING MEMBERS:

### Allensway Recycling Ltd

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

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

**Collection service available:** at extra cost dependant on collection address

**Volumes accepted:** all quantities accepted

**Pricing:** based on quality and volume

**Area:** Nationwide

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

**Contact name:** Aaron Fox, General Manager  
01430 861 812 / 07432 534 442

aaron@allensway.co.uk

www.allensway.co.uk

### Anglo Recycling Technology Ltd

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

**Acceptance criteria:** Dry, palletised, baled or bulk bags

**Collection service available:** Yes

**Volumes accepted:** 1-20 tonnes.

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

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

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

**Contact name:** Andy Hall, Managing Director  
01706 853 513 / 07791 097 274

andy.hall@anglore recycling.com

www.anglore recycling.com

### Carpet Recycling London

**Activity:** Pre- and post-consumer carpet waste collection. Reuse, recycling and recovery of all types of dry carpet waste.

**Acceptance criteria:** Dry, any condition, offcuts. Sorted carpet waste.

**Collection service available:** Yes

**Volumes accepted:** Up to 1.5 tonnes per collection.

**Pricing:** Prices based on quality, distance and volume

**Area:** London, Home Counties and Essex

**Address:** 54 Leatherhead Road, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2SY

**Contact name:** Tony Spreckley, Director  
01372 613 002

Info@surreywasteremoval.co.uk

www.surreywasteremoval.co.uk

### Countrystyle Recycling Ltd

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

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

**Collection service available:** Yes

**Volumes accepted:** 1-25 tonnes.

**Pricing:** Prices based on quality, distance and volume

**Area:** London and South-East England

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

**Contact name:** George Moore, Commercial Manager  
03448 807 700

george.moore@countrystylegroup.com

www.countrystylerecycling.co.uk

### Eco2 Enterprises Ltd

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

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

**Collection service available:** yes

**Volumes accepted:** Any quantity by agreement.

**Pricing:** Please call for quote

**Area:** Nationwide

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

**Contact name:** Dominic Harper / Rob Harper

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

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

www.equestriansurfaces.co.uk

### Econpro WDS Ltd

**Activity:** Recycling of all types of carpet waste including bitumen backed carpet tiles.

**Acceptance criteria:** Dry, ex waste transfer station, ex HWRC, palletised, baled or loose.

**Collection service available:** Yes Volumes accepted: 1-26 tonnes at gate.

**Pricing:** Prices based on quality, distance and volume

**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** Unit 13a Deeside Industrial Estate, (Zone 1 Central), Drome Rd, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 2LR

**Contact name:** Angie Vizard, Administration Manager  
01244 289 003

angie.vizard@econpro.co.uk

www.econpro.co.uk



## RECYCLING MEMBERS (CONT'D):

### Edward Clay and Son

**Activity:** Collection and recycling of clean, post-manufacture TUFTED PP only carpet offcuts. Carpet sample books also accepted.

**Acceptance criteria:** Clean, dry, sorted in bales only.

**Collection service available:** Yes

**Volumes accepted:** 1,000 to 20,000 kgs.

**Pricing:** FOC if in the right region, haulage only if further afield.

**Area:** UK Mainland

**Address:** Wesley Street, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 8EX

**Contact name:** John Clay, Managing Director

01924 273 994

jclay@edwardclay.co.uk

www.edwardclay.co.uk

### Equipro Equestrian Ltd

**Activity:** Collection and recycling of synthetic carpet and carpet tiles. Reuse of carpet tiles.

**Acceptance criteria:** Carpet tiles, whole/offcuts/trimmings. Must be clean/free of other waste. Palletised or baled. Post-production/post-consumer.

**Collection service available:** Yes

**Volumes accepted:** Any amount received.

**Pricing:** Individual client basis

**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** 2 Kelvinside, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 7JY

**Contact name:** David Catton, Director

0151 792 2539

d.catton@equipro.org.uk

www.equipro.org.uk

### Foley's Equestrian Surfaces Ltd

**Activity:** Collection and recycling of post-manufacture synthetic carpet offcuts only.

**Acceptance criteria:** Segregated dry post-manufacture synthetic carpet offcuts only, pref. loose but will consider bales. Carpet waste must be clean/free of other waste.

**Collection service available:** Yes

**Volumes accepted:** Any amount received.

**Pricing:** Prices based on quality, distance and volume.

**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** 7 Lorton Road, Redcar, Yorkshire TS10 4LY

**Contact name:** Keith Rutherford, Director

01642 989 441 / 07717 862 962

keith@teesstone.com

www.foleyequestrian.co.uk

### Hamilton Waste and Recycling Ltd

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

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

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

**Volumes accepted:** No upper limit/huge capacity.

**Pricing:** Yes, price is volume linked.

**Area:** Scotland/Nationwide

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

**Contact name:** Ken Chrystal

0131 665 2173 / 07917 116 537

kenchrystal@hamiltonwaste.com

www.hamiltonwaste.com

### John Cotton Group Ltd

**Activity:** Collection and recycling of clean, post-manufacture TUFTED PP only carpet offcuts.

**Acceptance criteria:** Clean, dry, sorted in bales only.

**Collection service available:** Yes

**Volumes accepted:** 2,000 to 20,000 kg.

**Pricing:** Pricing based on quality, distance and volume.

**Area:** UK Mainland

**Address:** Nunbrook Mills, Huddersfield Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire WF14 0EH

**Contact name:** John Rhodes

01924 483 262 / 07970 612 081

johnr@johnncotton.co.uk

www.johnncotton-nonwovens.co.uk

### Melrose Interiors Ltd

**Activity:** Reuse and repurposing of sorted pre-consumer carpet rolls and roll ends for retail.

**Acceptance criteria:** Sorted, clean and dry, loose rolls. Must be pre-consumer.

**Collection service available:** Yes

**Volumes accepted:** By agreement.

**Pricing:** Prices based on quality, distance and volume

**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** Park View Mills, Wibsey Park Avenue, Wibsey, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD6 3QA

**Contact name:** Andy Murphy, Managing Director

01274 491 277

sales@melroseinteriors.co.uk

www.melroseinteriors.co.uk

## Join Carpet Recycling UK to help make the UK carpet sector more sustainable!

With the help of Carpet Recycling UK, our members and wider network diverted 330,000 tonnes of waste carpet and textile flooring from landfill in 2020, approximately 70% of the total textile flooring waste arising in the UK. How can you help to increase this?

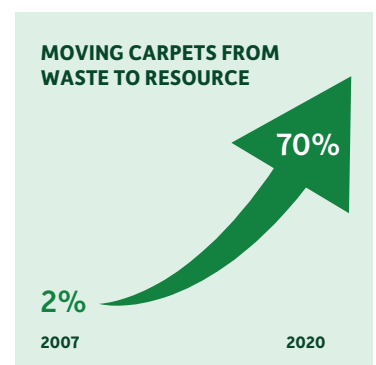
- C** Carpet Recycling UK is a not-for-profit membership association set up in 2007.
- A** We are an **association** of 136 member companies.
- R** We **respond** and advise on best practice for reuse and recycling of commercial textile flooring waste.
- P** We **provide** support and advice throughout the supply chain to include flooring manufacturers, contractors, retailers etc.
- E** **Members** are encouraged to demonstrate their progress by sharing stories/case studies as well as entering our awards.
- T** **Textile flooring** includes broadloom carpet, carpet tiles, planks, event carpet, rugs and underlay.
- W** We engage with the supply chain to identify and promote Circular Economy initiatives.
- A** We **assess** your waste to find the most feasible, cost-effective recycling options.
- S** We demonstrate and promote **sustainability** through design for recycling initiatives.
- T** Surplus, offcut and used **textile flooring** can be reused or recycled, contact us!
- E** Talk to us at our **events**—join our network!

### Contact Carpet Recycling UK

Carpet Recycling UK is a not for profit organisation funded by companies across the supply chain to develop more sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions for carpet waste. Our ability to network with our members and wider network helps to provide you with the most feasible solutions to send your waste up the waste hierarchy and prevent waste being sent to landfill. Please visit our website for more information.

[www.carpetrecyclinguk.com](http://www.carpetrecyclinguk.com)

Thank you to our Core Members





## RECYCLING MEMBERS (CONT'D):

### Potter Group

**Activity:** Recycling pre- and post-consumer carpets to produce stabilising fibres for equestrian ménages, gallops and turn outs.

**Acceptance criteria:** Segregated carpets from HWRC and transfer stations as well as commercial sources, preferably loose and dry. Must be clean/free of other waste.

**Collection service available:** yes.

**Volumes accepted:** Any quantity by agreement.

**Pricing:** Please call for quote

**Area:** Wales, Midlands and North-West England

**Address:** Potter House, Henfaes Lane, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7BE

**Contact name:** Richard Carter, Business Development Manager

01938 552396 / 0771 009 4183

enquiries@potters.co.uk

www.potters.co.uk

### Salvation Army Trading Company Ltd

**Activity:** Reuse of used carpet tiles and surplus broadloom carpet rolls.

**Acceptance criteria:** Dry carpet tiles on pallets, alternative arrangements available

**Collection service available:** Available weekdays

**Volumes accepted:** Any amount.

**Pricing:** Prices based on quality, distance and volume

**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** 1-3 Williams Way, Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RQ

**Contact name:** Richard Shea, Service Development Mgr

T: 01933 441 807 M: 07780 621 778

Richard.Shea@satcol.org

www.satcol.org

### Tarkett Ltd

**Activity:** ReStart programme offers collection and recycling of bitumen backed tiles for fibre reprocessing and bitumen for roadstone/roofing.

**Acceptance criteria:** Dry palletised tiles, any manufacturer, part or full tiles

**Collection service available:** Yes

**Volumes accepted:** No minimum or maximum.

**Pricing:** On request

**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** Tarkett Ltd, 4th Floor, Connect 38, 1 Dover Place, Ashford, TN23 1FB

**Contact:** James Bagdadi, Technical Services

01233 746 020 / 07341 565 472

james.bagdadi@tarkett.com

www.tarkett.com

### Usel

**Activity:** Broadloom carpet reuse and recycling, carpet tile reuse.

**Acceptance criteria:** Segregated carpet must be dry, ex transfer station and HWRC, carpet accepted loose and baled. Dry palletised carpet tiles.

**Collection service available:** Yes

**Volumes accepted:** 1-50 tonnes.

**Pricing:** Based on quality, volume and distance travelled

**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** 182-188 Cambrai Street, Belfast BT13 3JH

**Contact name:** Scott Jackson, Circular Economy Manager

02890 356 600 / 07733 096 224

info@usel.co.uk

www.usel.co.uk

### Valley Equestrian Surfaces Ltd

**Activity:** Recycling of both post-industrial & post-consumer carpets for equestrian ménages, gallops etc.

**Acceptance criteria:** Segregated carpet from HWRC/post-industrial, dry bales/rolls/trimmings. Must be clean and free of other waste.

**Collection service available:** If required.

**Volumes accepted:** Agreed prior to delivery/collection.

**Pricing:** Prices based on quality and volume.

**Area:** Nationwide

**Address:** Unit 8, Bradley Fold Trading Estate, Radcliffe Moor Rd, Bolton BL2 6RT

**Contact name:** Maggie Maher

01204 529057

sales@valley-equestrian.com

www.valley-equestrian.com

### Waste to Energy b.v.

**Activity:** Collecting and processing carpet waste (post consumer and production).

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

**Collection service available:** Yes - collect on walking floor loose or curtain side trailers baled.

**Volumes accepted:** 15-10,000 tonnes.

**Pricing:** Prices based on quality, distance and volume

**Area:** Nationwide including Ireland

**Address:** Riddererf 10, 3861 PT NIJKERK, Netherlands

**Contact name:** Peter van Verseveld, Managing Director

+31 342 462 824 / +31 653 926 992

peter@waste-to-energy.nl

www.waste-to-energy.nl

# PROTECT AND CARE

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WINNING  
INTERCHANGEABLE  
4 GLIDE SYSTEM

## Quickclick

Protect 4 types of flooring  
with 1 interchangeable  
glide system



Quickclick ensures that we protect our beautiful wooden and marble floors from irreparable damage and allow easy movement of furniture

Roch Castle & Penrhwi luxury guest accommodation  
Pembrokeshire, Wales

Stroolmount 

### Exclusive to Stroolmount

Carpet, wood, laminate or tiles: Quickclick gives long-term protection for them all. So when moving any furniture to a room with different flooring, just click in a protection glide for that floor type.

### Quickclick protects your flooring

Chairs scraped back and forth wear down even the most resilient flooring. Quickclick, keeps flooring looking its best for much longer.

### Quickclick protects your furniture

It minimises wear and tear, plus reduces stress on your chair and table legs.

### Quickclick protects your ears

Noise is reduced up to 75%. So your dinner party needn't be interrupted by unbearable screeching – or at least by the chairs!

### Step by Step

- 1 Screw in a Quickclick base under each furniture leg.
- 2 Click a glide into the base. You're now protected.
- 3 To swap a glide, click it out with a screwdriver and pop another one in.



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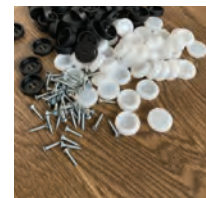
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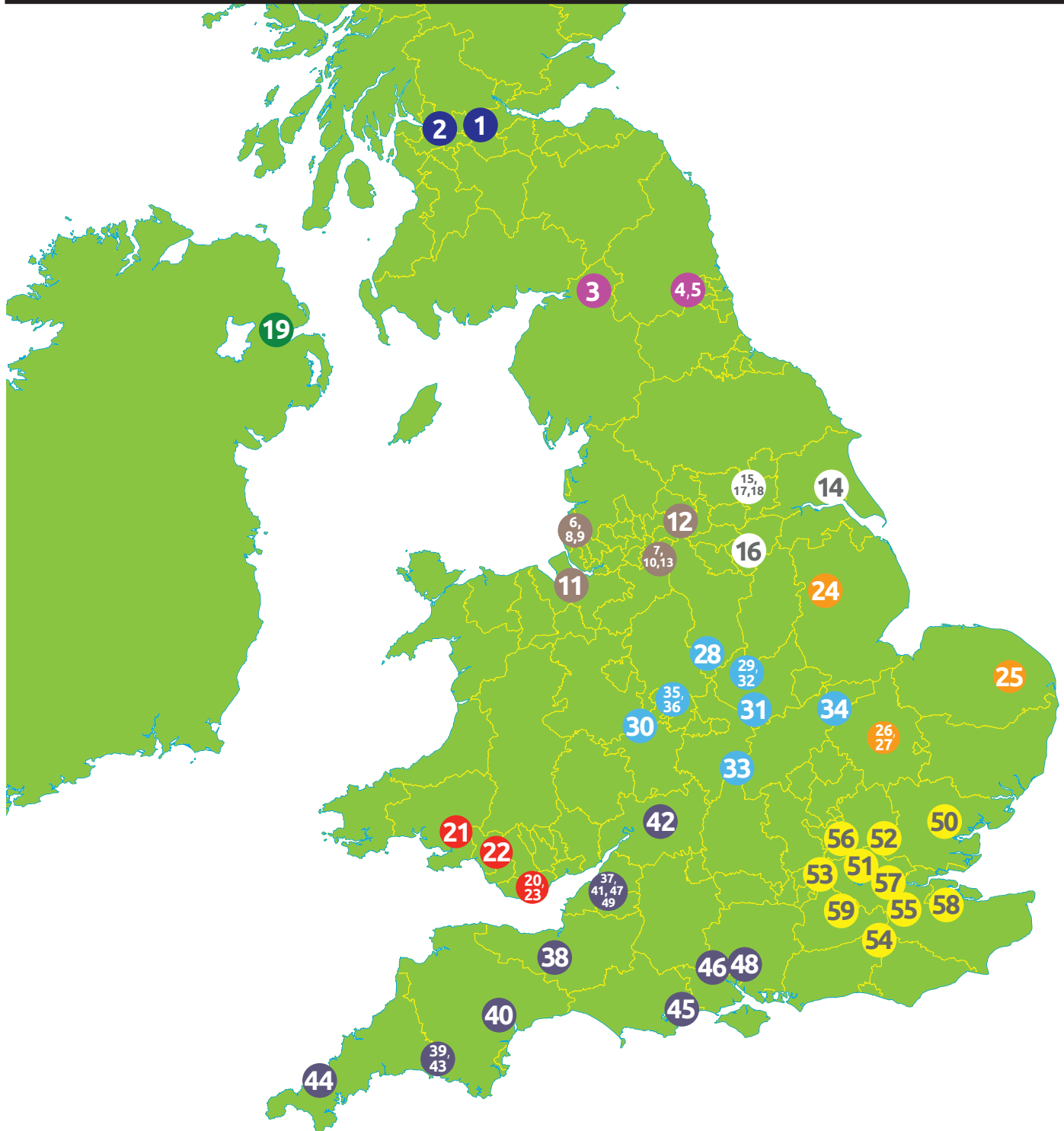
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120

Recofloor, the national vinyl take-back scheme, founded by leading flooring manufacturers Altro and Polyflor, have 59 drop-off site locations in the UK.

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

### SCOTLAND

- 1. Headlam Scotland**  
McNeil Drive, Eurocentral,  
North Lanarkshire ML1 4YF
- 2. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**  
231 Maclellan Street,  
Kinning Parkway Estate,  
Glasgow G41 1RR

### NORTH

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

## NORTH WEST

6. **Alvin Morris**  
Unit 4 The Grain Industrial Estate,  
Harlow Street, Toxteth,  
Liverpool L8 4UG
7. **Branagan Flooring Services**  
Harper Road, Sharston Industrial  
Estate, Manchester M22 4RG
8. **Flooring Supply Centre**  
Unit 1, Dunningbridge Rd,  
Netherton, Liverpool L30 6TA
9. **Lee Floorstok**  
24-32 Greenland Street,  
Liverpool L1 0BS
10. **Lee Floorstok**  
Unit B1 The Dresser Centre, Whitworth  
Street, Manchester, M11 2NE
11. **Pennine Flooring Supplies**  
Unit 6 Rector's Lane Industrial Estate,  
Sandycroft, Chester CH5 2DH
12. **Pennine Flooring Supplies**  
Unit 1, Junction 19 Business Park,  
Green Lane, Heywood OL10 1NB
13. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**  
James Nasmyth Way, Green Lane,  
Eccles, Manchester M30 0SF

## YORKSHIRE

14. **Birch Distribution**  
Rotterdam Road, Sutton Fields  
Industrial Estate, Hull HU7 0XD
15. **Birch Distribution**  
Unit 11 South Leeds Business Park,  
Hudswell Road, Leeds LS10 1AG
16. **Birch Distribution**  
318 Coleford Road, Darnall,  
Sheffield S9 5PH
17. **Mercado**  
Thornes Farm Way, Thornes Farm  
Business Park, Leeds LS9 0PS
18. **Wilkies All Floors**  
Treefield Industrial Estate, Gelderd  
Road, Gilderstone, Morley,  
Leeds LS27 7JU

## IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

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

## WALES

20. **3D Flooring Supplies**  
Units 8-10 Llandough Trading Estate,  
Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8RR
21. **3D Flooring Supplies**  
Unit 6 Viking Way, Winch Wen  
Industrial Estate, Winch Wen,  
Swansea SA1 7DA
22. **MCD Wales**  
Horsefair Road, Waterton Industrial  
Estate, Bridgend CF31 3YN
23. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**  
Unit 6 Charnwood Park, Clos Marion,  
Cardiff CF10 4LJ

## EAST

24. **Cheshires of Lincoln**  
2 Turnstone Road, Vincent Court, Teal  
Park, Lincoln LN6 3AD
25. **Mytton Flooring**  
Unit 43, Hall Road White Lodge  
Business Park, Norwich NR4 6DG
26. **STS Flooring**  
Unit 4 Links Industrial Park, Trafalgar  
Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB23 8UD
27. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**  
Unit 14, Bar Hill Trading Estate,  
Trafalgar Way, Cambridge CB23 8SQ

## MIDLANDS

28. **Concept Flooring Supplies**  
1 Dartmouth Road, Junction Industrial  
Estate, Smethwick B66 1AX
29. **Floormart**  
39 Carlisle Street, Leicester,  
Leicester LE3 6AH
30. **MCD Kidderminster**  
Hoo Farm Industrial Estate,  
Kidderminster, Worcestershire  
DY11 7RA
31. **Garrard Waters**  
Unit 7, Kingfield Road Trade Park  
Coventry CV1 4DW
32. **Garrard Waters**  
94 Freemans Common Rd  
Leicester LE2 7SQ
33. **Garrard Waters**  
3 Weddell Way, Brackmills Ind Estate  
Northampton NN4 7HS
34. **Garrard Waters**  
Unit A2, Hampton Business Park,  
Club Way, Peterborough PE7 8JA
35. **HFD Ltd**  
Gorsey Lane, Coleshill,  
Birmingham B46 1JU
36. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**  
Emerald Point, Bell Heath Way,  
Birmingham B32 3BZ

## SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST

37. **3D Flooring Supplies**  
Unit 2 Newbridge Trading Estate,  
St Phillips, Bristol BS4 4AX
38. **3D Flooring Supplies**  
Unit 14 Crown Close Way, Crown Ind  
Estate, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8RX
39. **Bailey Carpets**  
North Road, Lee Mill Industrial Estate,  
Ivybridge, Plymouth PL21 9GN
40. **Beach Bros**  
Western Road, St. Thomas,  
Exeter EX4 1EQ
41. **BL Flooring Supplies**  
Unit 5A Gaton Road, St. Werburghs,  
Bristol BS2 9SH
42. **BL Flooring Supplies**  
Unit 9 & 10, The Pegasus Centre,  
Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth,  
Gloucester GL3 4AQ

43. **Christal Supplies**  
Laura Bridge Boatyard, The Ride,  
Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 7JD
44. **Fitwell Flooring**  
Unit 16 Cardrew Industrial Estate,  
Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1SS
45. **Nutland Carpets**  
39 Cowley Road, Nuffield Trading  
Estate, Poole, Dorset BH17 0UJ
46. **Nutland Carpets**  
Renown Close Industrial Estate,  
Chandlers Ford, Hampshire SO53 4HZ
47. **Richards**  
Richards Building, Lysander Road,  
Cribbs Causeway, Bristol BS10 7UB
48. **Richards**  
Units 10-11, M3 Trade Park,  
Manor Way, Eastleigh, Southampton,  
Hampshire SO50 9YA
49. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**  
Units D-E Riverside Business Park,  
St. Annes Road, St Annes Park,  
Bristol BS4 4ED

## SOUTH EAST AND LONDON

50. **Anderson Grant**  
Unit 9, Atholl Road, Dukes Park  
Industrial Estate, Chelmsford,  
Essex CM2 6TB
51. **Ashmount Flooring Supplies**  
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**  
Stanhope Road, Camberley GU15 3BW
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



[www.recofloor.org](http://www.recofloor.org)



# BUYERS' GUIDE:

## *The green future has arrived for the flooring industry*

Flooring companies, whether contractors, manufacturers or distributors, are now delivering the goods when it comes to new sustainable initiatives



Amtico Valley Oak



Amtico Washed Salvaged Timber

### AMTICO

**DESIGNERS and specifiers continue to prioritise sustainable products that reduce a project's environmental impact. As a result, flooring has evolved to become more than designs and laying patterns. Indeed, one advanced solution that's emerged, says Amtico, is its Amtico Bio – a bio-attributed LVT flooring option.**

The company says: 'Amtico Bio offers the durability and aesthetics of Amtico's core LVT collections, combined with the benefits of a reduced carbon footprint.'

But what is bio-attributed LVT – and how can it play a role in a more sustainable future for commercial spaces?

#### The science

Created for projects that demand the highest levels of sustainability, Amtico Bio offers climate-conscious customers the option to choose low-carbon flooring. The bio-attributed LVT is reportedly manufactured using PVC derived from renewable raw materials and is available to specify across the Signature, Spacia and Form collections.

Traditional PVC is made using crude oil (a fossil fuel) and salt from seawater, with the fossil fuel element being the main contributor to CO2 emissions. However, bio-attributed PVC fully removes the fossil fuel component and instead uses either crude tall oil from biomass or used cooking oil as a source of renewable ethylene. Reducing the crude oil derived from fossil fuels removes over 90% of the CO2 emissions produced during the manufacture of PVC – yet the material remains chemically identical to standard PVC.

There can be some confusion around the term 'biomass'; non-food biomass refers to renewable organic material that comes from plants – in Amtico's case, the biomass is a

by-product from the paper pulping industry in Scandinavia. The forests are sustainably managed, so the rate of consumption and re-growth is balanced responsibly. Used cooking oil is another waste product that is a source of renewable ethylene. It contains no impurities and performs in the same way as ethylene from crude tall oil. Traditionally, this would have been landfilled or disposed of in environmentally damaging ways.

#### Supporting change

Says Amtico: 'Customers who specify Amtico Bio receive a certificate to guarantee the PVC is derived from renewable organic material and authenticate Amtico has followed the stringent ISCC audit process, which promoted compliance, third-party verification and traceability throughout the supply chain. Amtico's bio-attributed PVC is ISCC PLUS accredited using the mass balance approach, which also guarantees transparent sourcing and ethical production.'

#### Mass balance

The company continues: The 'mass balance' principle allows Amtico to incorporate renewable biomass materials in its existing manufacturing processes, rather than creating new ones. This ensures bio-attributed flooring is affordable and accessible for everyone, while supporting the next step in PVC's sustainability journey. Most people wouldn't think of LVT when specifying sustainable flooring, but bio-attributed LVT offers a means of significantly lowering a project's carbon footprint.

Amtico Bio is identical to the standard Signature, Spacia and Form products – so the quality and performance identities from each collection are the same, including the commercial warranties.'

#### Climate leaders

The world's leading manufacturers should be looking out for the planet. Adds Amtico: 'By offering Amtico Bio as an option, it allows climate-conscious customers to support the general transition away from fossil fuel-derived raw materials within LVT products.'

LVT has several sustainability benefits that make it an attractive option for designers and specifiers looking to reduce the environmental impact of projects. In fact, LVT is low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can contribute to poor indoor air quality, plus it can be recycled at the end of its life. This allows the materials to be repurposed and used in the manufacture of new products.

Amtico supports the UK's legislation on 'Net Zero' and recognises climate change as a defining challenge. And, as a British manufacturing expert, it says it's working hard towards reducing its carbon emissions over the next five years, with the introduction of Amtico Bio set to play a vital part.

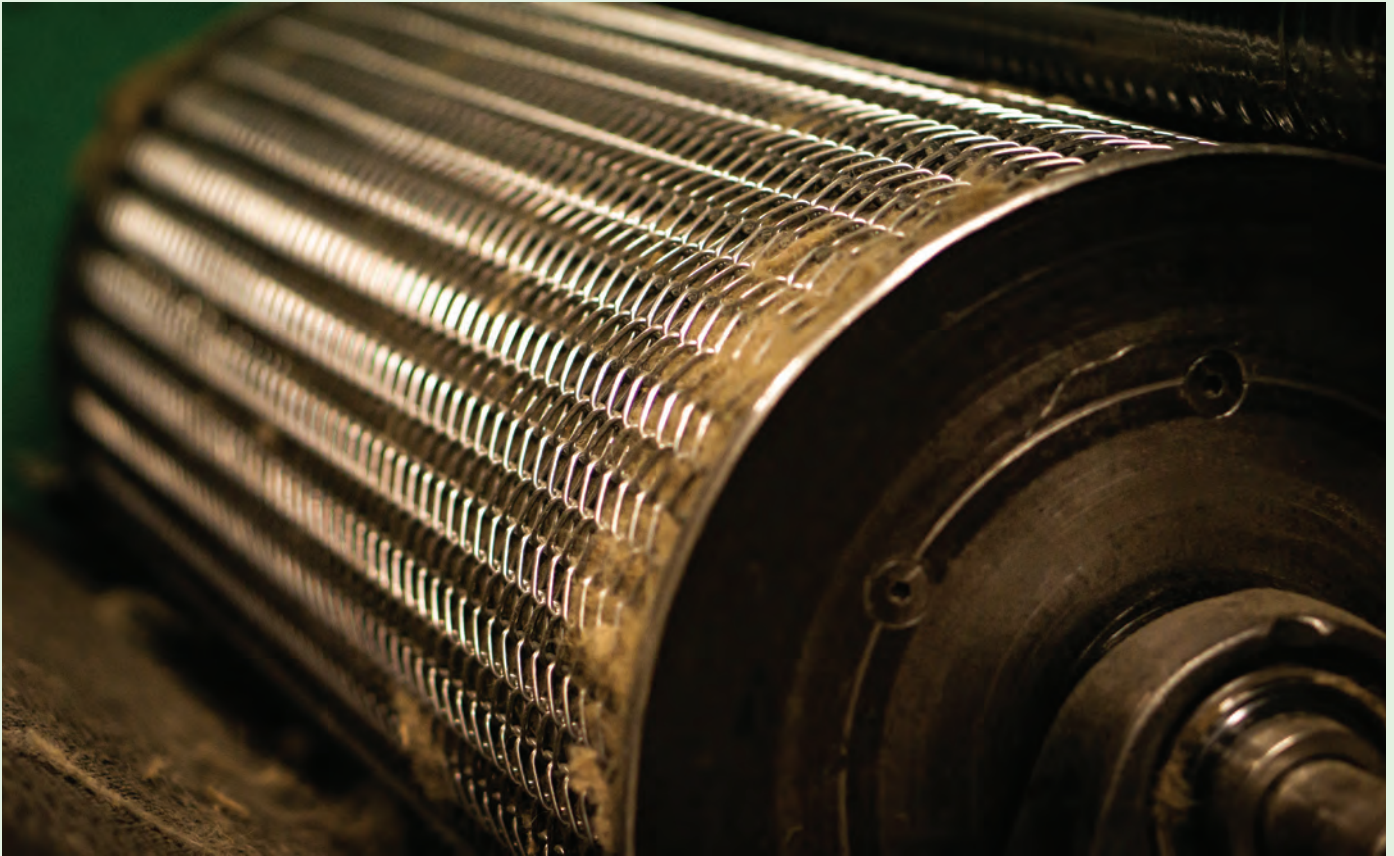
Sustainability can be defined in myriad ways, but in a commercial interiors context, it's about the creation of environments that use principles such as functionality, accessibility and aesthetics, with a focus on people and the planet.

Sustainable design is about being guided by considerations to help reduce energy consumption, pollution and waste, while putting people at the heart of the design.

In short, Amtico says it's committed to providing the same high-quality products and unrivalled designs that flooring fitters and specifiers expect, but with a smaller environmental impact.

[www.amtico.com/commercial](http://www.amtico.com/commercial)





'Truly an exciting and strategic addition to Anglo's capabilities'

## ANGLO RECYCLING

**ANGLO Recycling has installed its second recycling line at the company's factory in the Rossendale Valley in Lancashire. Anglo says it's delighted with the response from its customers.**

Simon Macaulay, the chairman, takes up the story: 'We used to bring great big diesel 40-foot trucks all the way over from Belgium to the UK to meet our needs for jute for our horticultural and flooring customers. We sourced in the UK where we could from Ellis Jute, but the wonderful husband-and-wife team of Howard and Bernadette Ellis couldn't supply all we needed. We discovered, when we investigated it, that these trucks were expending 5 tonnes a year of CO2 into the atmosphere on the long trips to our factory.'

'When Howard Ellis decided that after 50 years' pulling just sacks, he wanted to retire, we agreed to buy the production assets from him. We've now refurbished it and with his help, also that of our electrician Mike Keiley and our inhouse engineers Steve and Paul, there's now jute fibre being produced in volume in the UK again.'

Simon continues: 'But the key has been the website that Howard built that allows coffee roasters all over the UK to recycle their surplus sacks. Managing director Andy Hall reports: 'www.ellisjute.co.uk has been amazingly successful. Coffee roasters in the UK are generally small- to medium-sized businesses like ourselves and they don't want to waste anything. The owners are often artisans and very conscious about all they can do to help the environment. So, they find us through this little website and then we work out the best and lowest energy way to get their sacks to us.'

'They're great people and companies to work with and it's working incredibly well. The materials are then recycled into a large array of Horticultural and Landscape nonwovens made from natural materials, as well as into our Classic FR ranges of contract carpet underlays. This is truly an exciting and strategic addition to Anglo's capabilities.'

07767 247500  
[www.anglore recycling.com](http://www.anglore recycling.com)



The factory in the Rossendale Valley in Lancashire





Breathe – Koli Oak

## ATKINSON & KIRBY

**FLOORING** supplier, Atkinson & Kirby, has released a new range to provide solutions for the specification market, with two collections of sustainable engineered hardwood oak and SPC catered towards commercial settings.

Designed to help elevate high-footfall areas, from co-working hubs and office spaces to hotels and restaurants, the range introduces more than 30 new flooring colourways across two collections: 'Breathe' and 'Rockwood'.

Says the company: 'These ranges maintain the brand's key values of blending sustainability with seamless design to offer high-quality products suited for commercial projects. This follows Atkinson & Kirby's recent pledge to achieve Net Zero by no later than 2050, as part of the United Nations' Race to Zero initiative.'

'Inspired by nature, produced using 100% solar power and the use of other more eco-friendly credentials, Atkinson & Kirby saw the increased demand for more sustainable hardwood flooring within the commercial sector. In addition, the flooring will help to

boost occupants' wellbeing, enhance interior design schemes and incorporate rising trends such as Biophilia.'

### Breathe

Continues the company: 'Breathe engineered hardwood flooring offers 18 new finishes that can be customised to suit any space. Each flooring is available in either a new commercial finish 'Purotec' or a natural oil finish. The next generation innovative finish 'Purotec' protects wood surfaces that endure high footfall by increasing scratch resistance, and protecting the wood from abrasions and chemicals, whilst the natural oil finish complements the natural characteristics of the wood, creating a feature floor in lower footfall areas.'

'The components of the natural wood benefits both people and the environment, saving 6-8kg of CO2 per square meter compared to other floorcoverings. The collection features light oak patterns such as Koli Oak and Hossa Oak, as well as darker, more earthy tones including Haparanda Oak and Rogen Oak.'

### Rockwood

The company says: 'Rockwood SPC offers an embossed and registered and scratch-proof flooring, with a mineral composite base underneath a decorative surface, which together creates an illusion of real wood flooring. Ideal for kitchens, bathrooms and corridors, the long-lasting flooring is also suitable for commercial spaces and large impact areas.'

'The SPC is water-resistant so the material is not susceptible to moisture or temperature morphing, as well as being highly durable. Its twelve different plank colours and patterns range from the grey tones of Cordillera Oak, warm patterns in Sierra Oak and earthy hues from Lebanon Oak.'

To get in touch with a member of Atkinson & Kirby's specification team or request samples, use the details below:

**01695 573234**  
**specification@akirby.co.uk**  
**akirby.co.uk**  
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## BAL ADHESIVES

**FROM material sourcing, through to product launch, sustainability is key focus for the ARDEX Group UK in all its processes, says the company.**

The group, through its UK brands including BAL and ARDEX, has a core objective to reduce its impact on the environment in an evolving marketplace through sustainable sourcing of materials, recycling, and waste reduction. Ultimately, the group's aim is to be carbon neutral by 2040 through a series of initiatives. (Carbon Neutral for Scope-1 & 2 by 2030.)

In its own words, here's what it has done so far:

### Manufacturing

100% of electricity used onsite comes from renewable sources thanks to a partnership with a leading energy supplier. They've installed electric vehicle charging points at both their UK manufacturing plants and are introducing electric or renewable fuel company vehicles.

In the process of converting their diesel forklifts to electric – with the project nearly complete.

Energy efficient LED lighting installed in warehouses – saving more than 45,500kwh per year.

Leading waste management systems.

### Products

ARDEX Group products reduce lifetime build costs due to longer guaranteed product lifetimes. They aim to reduce product waste for end users through longer working times. High-yield and lower cement consumption materials are a core part of its new product development programme.

The ARDEX Group are always looking to use recycled materials, with 3% of all raw materials coming from recycled sources.

New products developed with high content of recycled materials – including new BAL Micromax3 ECO Grout with more than 25% recycled raw material. 100% of all cement used in its products are sourced from the UK or EU.

### Packaging

ARDEX Group have made a conscious effort to reduce the use of 'virgin' plastics in its products.

56% of all plastic buckets and bottles across the UK group are now produced using PCR (post-consumer recycled plastics).

99% of pallets used in deliveries are second-hand recycled pallets. Trialing the use of plastic



reusable pallets that can be tracked as part of the Group's plans for a circular economy.

### Certification

The ARDEX Group UK holds EPDs (environmental product declarations) on all its products – to report on the environmental impacts of its products in an ultra-transparent way. The group is working towards full EN standard approval with BREEAM with products previously tested to LEED protocols. Its core products have EMICODE Approval with remaining products in the process of EMICODE Approval. This allows consumers and installers to compare and evaluate the emission characteristics of our products.

New BAL Micromax3 ECO grout reached EC1 Plus designation – the best rating for low emissions.

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

BSI ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management – this is a standard that the ARDEX Group uses to enhance its environmental management programme.

BSI ISO 14064-1: 2006 Greenhouse Gas Verification. ARDEX is one of the first manufacturers in the industry to achieve ISO 14064:1 (otherwise known as CEMARS) for the quantifying and reporting of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and removals.

To achieve this internationally recognised standard, ARDEX UK worked with Achilles

(an independent consultancy) to accurately measure its GHG emissions and create positive strategies to manage and continually reduce impacts.

David Shephard, ARDEX Group UK operations director and sustainability lead outlined why the accreditation was so important for its UK operations:

'The key to our reduction commitment

must be honesty and transparency, which is why it's important to achieve independent and impartial verification through established and recognised accreditation. The standard and its tools have become an integral aspect in us delivering upon our promises to reduce emissions and meeting our targets.

'The achievement of Part 1 of the standard will provide a platform to more challenging research and development innovation as the companies prepare to take on the challenge of products containing less carbon output when we venture into ISO 14064-02, a future aspiration. In return all our efforts will assist us in successful delivery of our ambitious Carbon Neutral plans by 2030 (scope 1 and 2).'

### Carbon Neutral 2040

The ARDEX Group UK has several initiatives that we're looking to implement as we look to hit our target of being Carbon Neutral by 2040. This includes:

Installing solar panels to generate its own electricity. Plans in place for solar panels to be installed at its Haverhill site in 2023, and in Stoke-on-Trent in 2024. The installation of a 552 kw solar panel array at ARDEX UK in 2023 would equate to 25% of total power requirements:

- achieving zero waste to landfill
- reducing the use of plastics by a further 40%
- a 10% cement substitution across its product range
- ensuring 100% of company cars are electric or carbon neutral fuels and many, many more initiatives.

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

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

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

[www.bal-adhesives.com](http://www.bal-adhesives.com)



BAL LED lighting has been installed across the UK group



## **RECYCLING CARPET WASTE STILL COSTS LESS THAN LANDFILL.**

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waste with a Kenburn carpet crusher

Over the past 10 years landfill tax has increased by a staggering 250% in order for the UK to meet landfill diversion targets.

It's therefore inevitable that skip costs will continue to increase in April each year for the foreseeable future as these targets have not yet been met.

It's not all doom and gloom though, especially for the flooring industry as improvements in technology and the increase in carpet recycling plants throughout the UK has meant that new and uplifted post-consumer carpet and underlay waste can now be recycled for less than the cost to landfill.

Kenburn provide a no obligation free of charge waste survey to assess the financial viability for "going green" and to explain how the compacted waste on pallets is collected, where it goes to and how the waste is processed.

Not only will recycling reduce your ever increasing waste management costs, it will also improve your sales conversion rates as well as recycling initiatives are always met with enthusiasm from existing and potential new customers alike.

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



For more information, please contact us: **01727 844988** [sales@kenburn.co.uk](mailto:sales@kenburn.co.uk)

[www.kenburn.co.uk](http://www.kenburn.co.uk)



## BMK

### MERCADO has extended its Envy brand offering with a plan to launch new sustainable carpet ranges.

Says Mercado: 'As one of the largest distributors of all types of floorcoverings, Mercado is conscious of the environmental impact that the carpet industry can have on the planet. There are a lot of products that when they reach their end-of-life, the options available are limited and all too often used carpet ends up in landfill. We know how many retailers, tradespeople and homeowners are making more sustainable choices when looking for products and at Mercado, we are committed to supporting them.'

The company continues: 'In a changing world where sustainability is of the upmost importance and also understanding the requirement of giving customers a more sustainable product option, Mercado has introduced several new ranges to their prestigious brand, Envy.'

Under the banner of 'Go Green with Envy' the creation of Mercado's greenest collection yet, is a new six range carpet collection.

'Manufactured not only using 100% recycled polyester yarn, four of the ranges feature an eco-insulated backing which again, is made

from 100% recycled Polyester. All carpets while made from recycled products are of the upmost quality and can at the end of their life once again be recycled, creating a continuous loop and minimising the impacts of carpet manufacturing on the planet.'

The range includes three saxony and three twist pile carpets, 'in an action and felt-back while utilising the most modern colour options across a variety of weights from 1,500g/sq m right up to a sumptuous 2,800g/sq m'.

#### Alta Moda

Says Mercado: 'A mid-level twist of the collection. Alta Moda is a 1,900g, 100% recycled polyester twist which comes on a premium action back. Available in four and five metre widths, with 14 modern colour options, this range combines durability with sustainability.'

#### Moda Colorata

The company says: 'The real handful of the range. Moda Colorata is a 2,350g premium saxony made from recycled polyester. As dense as it is thick, this carpet ticks all the boxes. Available in four and five metre widths and boasting 18 fresh colour options. This carpet comes on a 100% recycled eco-insulated PES felt-backing giving it completely recycled and recyclable properties.'

#### Moda Opulenta

Says the company: 'Soft and luxurious, Moda Opulenta is a 2,350g soft saxony made from 100% recycled polyester. Available in both four and five metre widths. This range has 18 luxury colour options. Again, Moda Opulenta features a 100% recycled polyester eco-backing.'

#### Moda Raffinata

The company continues: 'A lighter saxony, Moda Raffinata is a 1,500g luxurious Saxony made with a 100% recycled polyester yarn. Available in four and five metre widths and 18 colour options.

This fantastic value saxony also features a 100% recycled eco-insulated PES backing adding to its comfort and sustainability.'

#### Moda

#### Sontuosa

Says Mercado: 'Vibrant with colours, Moda Sontuosa is a 1,500g 100% recycled polyester twist which, comes on a 100% recycled eco-insulated PES backing. Available in four and five metre widths with eight fashionable colour options.'

#### Sheer Indulgence

Adds the company: 'Pure luxury, the most glamorous in the collection. Sheer indulgence is a 2,800g super soft and heavy saxony, again, made from 100% recycled polyester. Available in four and five metre width with a range of 14 modern colour options. Sheer indulgence features a 100% recycled PES backing and will undoubtedly be the sovereign of the collection.'

The 'Go Green with Envy' Collection is exclusively distributed by the Mercado group. Full availability on the collection is expected to be in May 2023, with full range stands available 'to allow for the best display of the products and its features'.

Concludes the company: 'Please contact your local representative from Mercado, Alvin, Morris, Anderson Grant, Richards and LGS and help us with our journey and mission in offering a wide range of greener and more environmentally friendly flooring options in the marketplace.'

0113 3802900

sales@mercado.co.uk





# Sustainability

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## BONA

**FOR years, Bona says it's seen the resource saving benefits of properly maintaining and renovating floors. The environmental effects of renovating rather than replacing are clear. However, few studies have quantified and verified the positive effects. Until now. Bona initiated an ambitious project together with the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, to find out the hard facts.**

The report states a 78% carbon footprint reduction when refinishing rather than replacing wood floors. Refinishing resilient floor surfaces can offer up to 92% reduction in carbon footprint versus replacing. Additionally, the report found that by refinishing hardwood or resilient floors a minimum of 90% savings in resources is realised which includes transport, electricity use, consumables, and materials.

By renovating a floor rather than installing a new one, the energy savings are as high as 95%. Let's take Bona's yearly production of floor finishes and calculate the m<sup>2</sup> of floors it covers. If new floors were installed instead on same amount of floor surface, the energy use would have been 1.8bn kWh more. In comparison, these savings correspond to the yearly energy use of 9,000 households or a small Swedish town.

Floor renovation saves up to 90% in reduced carbon footprint vs installing a new floor. If we look at Bona's yearly production of floor finishes and calculate the m<sup>2</sup> of floors it covers, the carbon footprint reduction per m<sup>2</sup> vs new floors is 108,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>. This is equal to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 9,600 flights around the world.

How much energy will you save? And what will the carbon footprint be? Test to see the energy savings and how much less CO<sub>2</sub> you'll generate on your resilient floor job with the calculator available at [www.bona.com](http://www.bona.com).

When comparing costs for renovated floor with a new installation, it's important to consider all actions involved. The square metre cost of new floor is only one part of an installation calculation, so to make a fair calculation comparison you need to include labour costs for ripping out the existing floor, preparation of subfloor, removing and re-mounting skirting boards etc.

A renovation of a wood or resilient floor works out to be at least 40% less expensive compared to installing a new floor.

A properly maintained refinished wooden floor will last longer and extend the time between renovations, as well as providing endless possibilities to bring your floor vision to life. The IVL study makes a clear case for the extensive sustainable benefits to be gained by refinishing existing floors rather than replacing them with new ones. Refinishing contributes to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and the use of primary energy resources.

The environmental impact of a refinished wooden floor is equivalent to 1.4kg carbon dioxide per m<sup>2</sup>, compared to a newly installed floor, which has an average of 6.63kg.

The results show that the use of primary energy resources can significantly be reduced. With a refinish, the total use of primary energy resources is 15 MJ/m<sup>2</sup>, including production of raw materials, resources and trips made by the craftsman. Compared to installation of a new floor, where the energy use is a total of 340 MJ/m<sup>2</sup>, the savings are 95%.

A wooden floor is expected to last for about 15 years before it needs to be refinished or replaced. However, a wooden floor can be refinished up to four times, which means it can last for 60 years. Considering the significant environmental and cost savings that comes with just one renovation, the benefits are considerable when looked at from a long-term perspective.

For resilient floors that are damaged or heavily worn, replacement is the traditional answer. However, with new and modern methods a resilient floor can be completely restored to its original beauty and lifetime extended immensely, while lowering material and time-related costs, as well as environmental impact.

A refinished resilient floor has an impact on climate change of 1.14kg carbon dioxide equivalents per m<sup>2</sup>. Compared to a newly installed floor that uses an average of 11.42, this produces a carbon footprint that's more than 10 times lower for a refinished floor.

The assessment included all products used, electricity, consumables, waste treatment and transport.

The results



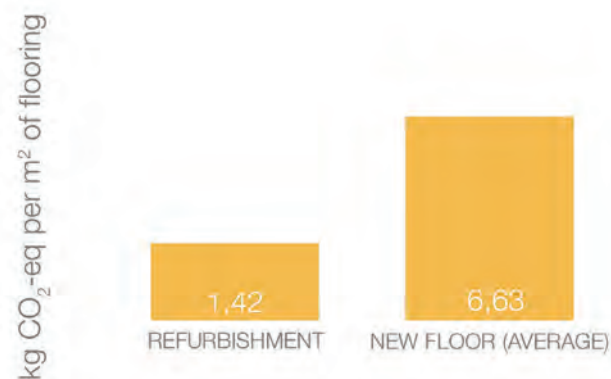
Bona renovations

show the use of energy resources can be significantly reduced. Since refinishing allows continued use of already available flooring materials. With a refinish the total use of primary energy resources is 20 MJ/m<sup>2</sup>. This takes into consideration the production of raw materials and resources and trips made by the craftsman. Compared to installation of a new floor, where the energy use is a total of 200 MJ/m<sup>2</sup>, the savings are 90%.

A renovated floor also means a healthier floor. Renovating ensures bacteria and microorganisms are eliminated – even those hiding in joints, scratches and other hard-to-reach areas.

The test verified that a smooth, joint-free LVT surface can be created using Bona Deep Clean and Bona Pure, securing a hygienic floor according to the regulations of Technical Rules for Biological Agents (TRBA), says the company.

[info@bona.com](mailto:info@bona.com)  
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Floor renovation saves up to 90% in reduced carbon footprint vs installing a new floor







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Bond It products

## BOND IT

**BOND It, which says it ranks as one of the UK's fastest growing manufacturers of building chemicals, adds that it fully acknowledges its responsibility to protect natural resources, minimise waste sent to landfill and reduce its carbon footprint. This year, the group will focus on waste segregation and recycling to reduce the quantity of waste sent to landfill. It says it has a target and will continue to manage their resources to minimise impact on the wider environment as part of its sustainability agenda.**

With accreditation to ISO 14001 and a fully implemented environmental management system its focus this year is to review its packaging portfolio and are making steps to increase the sustainability of packaging across the core product range. The target is to reduce its use of virgin plastic for tubbed materials as phase 1, which will be seen throughout their flooring and tiling products ranges.

Says the company: 'As the material is made of recycled plastic the new "greener" tubs and lids are easily identifiable by their grey colour. The new tubs are manufactured using a minimum content of 30% post-consumer recycled (PCR) plastic which is high density polyethylene plastic.

'The materials have been tested rigorously to ensure there are no performance issues and are confident that storage, usability and durability of their products will be unaffected. They'll continue to source new greener packs across the ranges, where possible, and work alongside suppliers who are developing solutions that will increase PCR content and drive down usage of virgin plastic in throw-away packaging. We also use recycled materials on all our outer cartons, accredited with FSC certification, sourced from responsible suppliers.'

The company is also conducting extensive research into the chemistry of its product portfolio to identify safer and greener products to replace traditional compounds that go into the manufacturing processes. As part of its long-term sustainability programme Bond It is aiming to make its products safer for the user as well as kinder for the planet.

The latest 'sustainable' addition to the range is a water-based contact adhesive. Concludes the company: 'With all

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## BUREAU VERITAS

**IN today's world, as the need for businesses to demonstrate sustainable practices, including environmental performance, continues to gather pace, so do the risks of greenwashing.**

Greenwashing is a form of marketing where misleading information may persuade the public that an organisation's products, services, aims and policies are more environmentally friendly than they are. Under proposed legislation, companies could face multi-million pound fines for promoting their products with unverified environmental claims.

With disputes surrounding green claims on the rise across the UK, it's time for businesses to pause and ensure they are not overselling their environmental benefits, or risk sowing mistrust and being reputationally and financially impacted.

Christopher Jockel, principal sustainability consultant at Bureau Veritas, comments: 'Green claims don't have to be intentionally misleading to be labelled as greenwashing and in today's fast moving business communications environment, the risk of conveying uncontrolled or unintentional misinformation, is high. Intense scrutiny and action against greenwashing is escalating worldwide, putting organisations and their leaders on notice regarding overstatements or misleading claims and incurring potential reputation and regulatory risk.

'Any short-term gain from erroneous, misleading, unsubstantiated, exaggerated, or posturing claims are overwhelmingly lost

reputationally and possibly financially through fines in the medium and long term when the claim is debunked in public or in court.

'The challenge for companies to identify and mitigate greenwashing is complex which is why we have launched our informative webinar and downloadable guide to understanding Green Claims. Together, these provide a no nonsense, intuitive and digestible way to navigate their myriad of intricacies surrounding greenwashing.'

The UK Competition and Markets Authority – the competition regulator in the UK – coordinated a global review of randomly selected websites and discovered that 40% of green claims made online could be misleading consumers.

Christopher concludes: 'The benefits for businesses who successfully manage their Green Claims, are considerable. Not only will they reduce the risk of reputational and financial impacts, but companies can gain a competitive edge and in turn, increase customer retention, while building confidence in the information provided to customers, stakeholders and investors.

'At Bureau Veritas we take this risk of miscommunication seriously and our team



of sustainability experts can help businesses by presenting range of solutions to detect and manage greenwashing, ensuring claims are accurate, reliable and not in any way misleading.'

To find out more about how the expert team at Bureau Veritas can detect and manage greenwashing, to ensure claims are accurate, reliable and not misleading, visit its website.

[www.bureauveritas.co.uk/needs/managing-green-claims](http://www.bureauveritas.co.uk/needs/managing-green-claims)



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## BURMATEX

**YORKSHIRE carpet tile manufacturer Burmatex has several product ranges which it says demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and UK manufacturing.**

Says the company: 'Our sustainability principles, eco<sup>2</sup>matters help provide the right business focus, trading responsibly and achieving Net Zero in a sustainable manner.'

'The newest addition to the range is a multi-level loop carpet tile called arctic, which is inspired by the changing landscape of the Arctic. Organic lines cut through icy rock, cold water flows down frozen mountains and glacial river rapids inspire the movement in the design.'

'arctic's colour palette consists of 12 colours inspired by these natural elements – ice blues and cool greys among soft and subtle warmer hues, with marine-like green tones to further enhance the collection.'

The company continues: 'The product is manufactured using Universal Fibers ground-breaking Thrive matter yarn, the world's first carbon negative recycled yarn, and the company's unique BioBase recycled backing. Together, these features mean arctic is carbon neutral.'

'arctic is available in tile and plank, allowing you creative freedom in either option, creating unique structures and patterns to suit every individual project. It works well when used in combination with other Burmatex carpet tile ranges, notably balance ground and origin.'

Here, in Burmatex's words, are the sustainability credentials of arctic:

- Carbon neutral
- Manufactured from carbon negative recycled yarn
- Uses BioBase recycled backing
- Comes with a takeback service for used tiles, eliminating product going to landfill
- Made with 100% renewable energy
- Third party independently verifiable
- Yorkshire-designed, manufactured and stored for rapid UK delivery

In the company's loop pile range, the relaunched go to range is the sustainable choice. This now features a refreshed colour palette, using EqoCycle 75 recycled solution-dyed nylon. This, combined with the BioBase recycled backing reportedly produces a low carbon update to this 'reliable product range. go to offers two designs, sixteen plains and four stripe options. The range of colours has been increased to create this attractively practical, versatile and flexible palette'.

The company continues: 'go to shares the proven track record of high performance and resilience that Burmatex carpet tiles are known for. This core level loop range is the go to choice for users who are looking for a quick and easy carpet installation option.'

The company's commitment to net zero has led it to develop innovations such as its BioBase low carbon backing system.

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

Combined with 100% organic, non-vinyl polymer binders and fillers, BioBase contains a minimum of 77% recycled content. This combination of material science and process technology means BioBase requires less energy during the production process. Burmatex carpet tile products use the BioBase recycled backing system.

[www.burmatex.co.uk/eco2matters/](http://www.burmatex.co.uk/eco2matters/)



## CONDOR CARPETS

**BY reducing emissions, reusing materials, and recycling products for circular development, the Condor Group is right on track in achieving its sustainability vision 'On a Roll to Zero Emission', says the company.**

With all eyes on conserving the planet and making the world a better place for today's and future generations. With that in mind, the Condor Group connects with stakeholders for circular developments and optimises its production facilities to continue 'Covering the world' in a sustainable manner.

### **Meet the Condor Group, 'one of the top three largest carpet manufacturers'**

With 100 years' experience in the group and an annual production of 140sq m, the Condor Group says it operates as one of Europe's leading carpet manufacturers.

'With seven specialised subsidiaries divided into the various in- and outdoor textile industries, the Condor Group is covering the world by delivering in more than 100 countries. That's why taking responsibility for conserving the planet has always been top-of-mind. The Condor Group has been working on clean energy, reusing waste, and recyclable products for quite some time now, but it's time for the next step.'

### **'On a roll to zero emission'**

The Condor Group says it's taking big steps in realising its ambitious sustainability goals. The changing climate, growing awareness of consumers on their impact and the increasing demand for sustainable products have created an enormous motivation for the Condor Group to implement the sustainable development goals of the UN. 'Having the main focus on clean energy, sustainable innovation, and circular development, the Condor Group is right on track in making the organisation more sustainable and becoming closer to zero-emission production.'

The company says: 'We can make a difference and are therefore determined to become a sustainable supplier by reducing our emissions and creating circular products.'

It continues: 'Having set a major step with

more than 13.000 solar panels onsite, the Condor Group also collaborates in the biggest solar park in the Netherlands. This solar park consists of more than 328,000 solar panels on an area of 85.5 hectares, which causes our renewable energy to increase to 50% this year. This puts the Condor Group in sight of the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2025.'

### **'A closer step towards circularity with ALLOA'**

Sustainable production is a huge step, but in the end, the products have to be more sustainable as well. 'That's why the Condor Group commissioned its R&D department years ago to develop circular products. With the arrival of our ALLOA (All Over Again) brand, this dream has become reality. In the coming years, ALLOA will introduce an extensive range of products across all segments that are made from recycled materials and can be recycled again and again. This brings the organisation closer to a closed loop.'

### **'Fully recyclable ALLOA Grass in production'**

The group continues: 'Artificial grass expert Condor Grass has already taken the first steps towards circularity. Last year it introduced the ALLOA Pura 100, a fully recyclable artificial grass. And the next innovation is already in the pipeline; the ALLOA Pura 200 which is mainly made from recycled Pura 100. And it doesn't stop there. Behind the scenes, Condor Grass has already come a long way with the development of artificial grass completely made from natural materials. That sounds nice, right?'

### **'Closing the loop with circular car mats'**

Condor Cartex, the automotive supplier of the Condor Group, reportedly saw the same opportunity. 'They've been working extremely hard in developing fully recyclable car mats as a first step to reusing carpet waste. Today, Condor Cartex is already able to use up to 50% recycled content in its ALLOA car mats and a 100% recycled product is under development. That product will fully close the loop, which is a major step towards circular development in the automotive industry.'

### **'On the way to 100% circular carpets'**

The next step? Use this knowledge and developments towards circularity for the benefit of residential carpets. For almost 10 years, the Condor Group has made use of recyclable yarns like for instance Econyl. These yarns, which are mostly generated from plastic (sea) pollution, were the first step in developing circular carpets. Now the Condor Group is working on carpets produced without unused waste, that can be reused and recycled again and again. Unique and of course the ultimate goal for the Condor Group.

'ALLOA has led to incredible steps towards a sustainable future and brings us closer to achieving our vision; creating sustainable textile (flooring)solutions for everyone.'

### **'Circular products from sustainable production facilities'**

The group continues: 'Efficient production is where the Condor Group makes the difference. The link to sustainability is therefore quickly made. Facilities with the highest sustainability label (BREEAM Outstanding), mostly without gas, with lots of renewable energy and efficient logistics, the Condor Group sets new standards. Also, the brand-new facility of member VEBE - which should be in operation in 2023 - underlines this once again. With this ultra-modern production facility, VEBE strives to receive the highest sustainability label; the BREEAM Outstanding.'

### **Continuing in covering the world, circular**

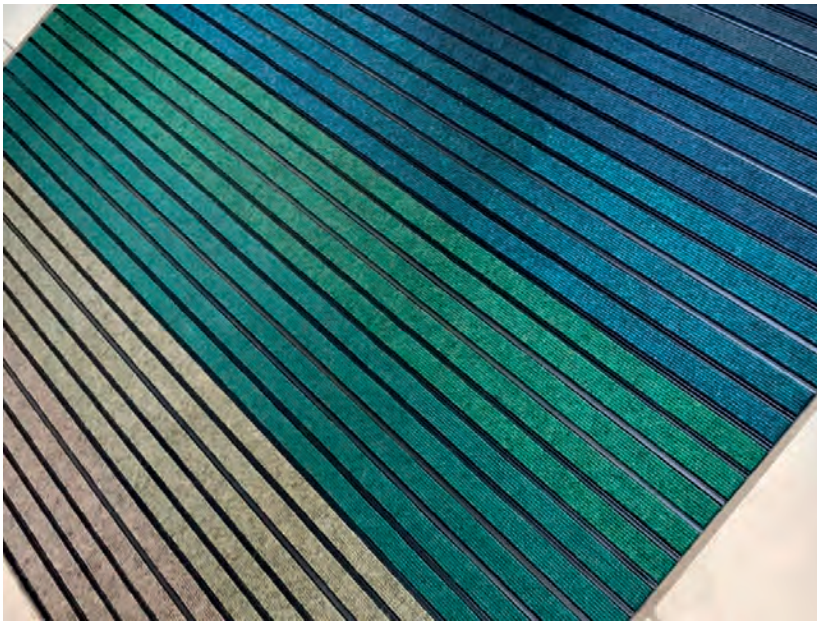
The group concludes: 'In short, the Condor Group is right on track in becoming even more sustainable. Striving to achieve 'Zero Emission' with tens of thousands of solar panels, its eco-brand ALLOA and continuous optimisation of their facilities. The Condor Group speeds to a circular future to make the world better and healthier for current and future generations. That's how the Condor Group will keep 'Covering the world', but in a sustainable and more circular way.'

[www.condor-group.eu](http://www.condor-group.eu)

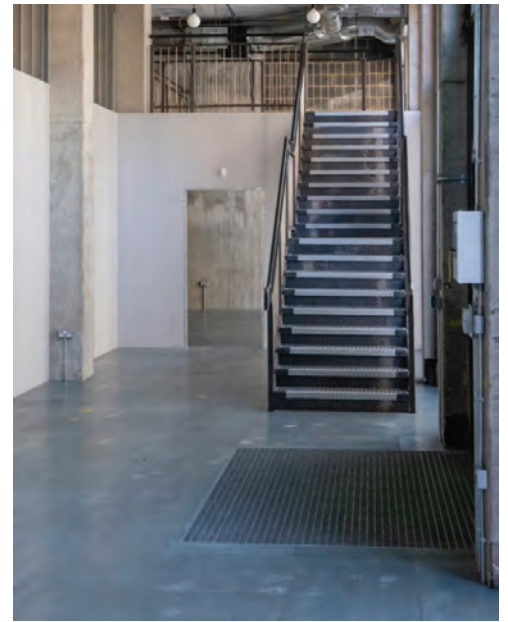


Condor Group is right on track in achieving its sustainability vision





EMS Tretford Design Range showing a selection of neutrals, blues and greens with gunmetal grey anodising



Towner Art Gallery – EMS Evergreen Debris Channel Range

## ENTRANCE MATTING SYSTEMS

**EMS says it provides natural sustainable entrance matting that doesn't compromise on quality, colour choice and style.**

'EMS delivers a fantastic choice of sustainable entrance matting products, including infill strips made from recycled, recyclable and renewable materials. All infill strips can be replaced with like-for-like or different materials and/or colours. In addition to this, EMS entrance matting systems come with 100% recycled aluminium grid systems as standard.

'Although entrance matting is often a small aspect of building and renovation design, choosing the right products can help the sustainability of the project as a whole. As a result, EMS has helped numerous building and renovation projects achieve A+ BREEAM and LEED ratings.'

These, in the company's own words, are its most sustainable entrance matting systems:

- EMS Recover – replaceable, ribbed 80% recycled PET (ie plastic bottles) infill strips, fully recyclable after use due to the

*innovative use of thermal bonding instead of adhesives and additives.*

- EMS Tretford Design Range – replaceable, ribbed, natural and renewable goat hair infill strips. Ethically sourced material made with waste/by-product, and Global Tag certification. With 60 colours to choose from, this entrance matting system is perfect for matching interior or brand colours and creating in-laid logos. Stylish and luxurious designs can be created using this beautiful texture and colour combination, further enhanced by the large selection of anodised aluminium – endless design possibilities.
- EMS LU Multi-track (section 12) – replaceable, multi-directional, natural and renewable, low smoke emission rubber infill strips. This extremely hardwearing entrance matting system was designed to meet the strictest health and safety requirements of the London Underground and is on the LUL register and has been successfully installed at numerous Underground and overground train stations throughout the UK.

- EMS Evergreen Debris Channel – GREENSPEC-approved
  - DC003-md recycled polyester and polypropylene multi-directional honeycomb, suitable for internal and external use
  - DC004 100% natural renewable coconut fibres, suitable for internal use
  - DC008 recycled rubber, which is extremely hardwearing and ideal for external use

Concludes the company: 'Building and renovation design has a large impact on the environment, therefore designers, manufacturers, and contractors have an enormous responsibility to choose and create the most sustainable materials and solutions. EMS takes its environmental responsibility seriously and is passionate about delivering sustainable entrance matting systems for all commercial applications.'

**01205 761757**  
**info@entrance-matting.com**  
**www.entrance-matting.com**



EMS LU Multi-track sample



The Blade – EMS Tretford Design Range with Bronze anodised aluminium grid system



## F BALL AND CO

**F BALL and Co says it's made it easier for flooring contractors to do their bit for the environment by further increasing the number of locations at distributor partners across the UK where contractors can deposit empty recyclable F Ball buckets and bottles for recycling.**

The expansion of the company's scheme is a response to a positive reception from flooring contractors to the initial pilot, with bin-loads of empty containers that would have otherwise been destined for landfill being taken back for reprocessing.

Last year, 13 tonnes of plastic buckets, equating to 23,000 buckets, and 1,560kg of bottles (about 12,000), were collected and recycled through the scheme.

F Ball has introduced recyclable packaging for several products, with much of the new packaging itself manufactured from recycled materials, including fully recyclable versions of five and 20 litre plastic bottles used for liquids, primers and tackifiers.

The move takes the total number of recycling points around the UK to 30, with more information about participating wholesalers available on the F Ball website.

Commenting on the scheme, F Ball sales director Darren Kenyon said: 'As a business, we have a responsibility to strive for sustainability and limit the impact our activities have on the environment, including reducing both the resources that we consume and the waste that we produce.'

'Accordingly, and in compliance with ISO 14001 standards, the company evaluates the entire lifecycle of its products when looking for ways to be more sustainable, including the materials used to make them, manufacturing processes and how they can be recycled or disposed of responsibly following use. In line with this, we are making it as easy as possible for flooring contractors to recycle the packaging used for our products.'

'Subject to the continued success of the programme, there are plans for it to be further rolled out to achieve more widespread geographical coverage, so I encourage customers to continue to take advantage of the service.'



Styccobond F58

[www.f-ball.co.uk](http://www.f-ball.co.uk)



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# FLOORING WITHOUT FLAWS

Whatever the project, you need quality materials to get the job done right. And if the packaging is sustainable ... even better!





## GRANORTE

**AS a floor that's natural and renewable, cork is a sustainable choice. Yet, there's a lot more to cork's green story.**

Granorte manufactures cork floors and other products in Portugal, where it's been finding new ways to use the waste cork from wine stopper production since 1972. The cork used in

Granorte's flooring ranges is originally harvested from the bark of trees in Portugal's protected forests.

Portugal produces about 50% of the world's cork supply and its forests are strictly protected by the government. In fact, the first regulations protecting the country's cork forests date back

to the 13th century. This strict protection, which includes government approval for the removal of trees, ensures Granorte cork floors come from a sustainable natural resource.

These forests also lock in carbon, with a recent study showing Portuguese cork forests absorbs 4.8m tonnes of carbon each year.

Unlike wood, cork is harvested from the bark of the tree and is renewed after nine years for the lifecycle of the tree, which can be over 200 years. This makes cork a rapidly renewable natural resource\*, yet by the time it reaches Granorte, it's also a post-industrial recycled material, coming as the waste of the wine stopper industry.

The cork industry is highly efficient in its raw material use with every gram used. Even cork dust is harnessed as a green energy source.

Says Granorte: 'Granorte takes this natural material and manufactures a range of highly sustainable flooring options. In its purest form – the glue-down tiles of Tradition – this makes a Granorte floor made from 90% recycled and rapidly renewable natural resources. There are few other floors that are suitable for commercial use that have this status. Even with its engineered floating floors using Uniclic, Granorte achieves up to 80% renewable natural materials status. Granorte's range of cork flooring provides commercial interiors with a wide range of sustainable choices, backed by high levels of UK stock.'

**01952 443555**  
**[www.granorte.co.uk](http://www.granorte.co.uk)**

\* The US Green Building Council defines rapidly renewable as a material that's able to regenerate itself in 10 years or less.



Granorte manufactures cork floors and other products in Portugal



MADE IN GERMANY



## DURABLE, NOT DISPOSABLE

SEBO products are designed to last a long time, but over the years of use, parts can wear out. We are proud of the fact that we can offer replacement parts, even for models we no longer produce, so that rather than being thrown away, an old SEBO can continue working, keeping homes clean rather than becoming waste.

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Dormouse Hurst Herringbone Vinyl

## HARVEY MARIA

**LEADING a more eco-friendly, sustainable lifestyle is something we all now aspire to. We're choosing products and materials that improve our air quality at home and more importantly reduce energy consumption, pollution and waste.**

Harvey Maria's award-winning MSeries collection of authentic LVT planks is said to be recognised for its low impact on the environment in all aspects – production process, product composition, emissions and indoor air quality, and sustainable construction.

Says the company: 'With conscious design at the forefront of trending interior schemes, MSeries is a stylish option for both traditional and contemporary properties. The classic style of our Hurst Herringbone, Chevron and Parquet designs are still a popular choice for customers, combining authentic texture with a palette that includes modern, light washed tones. Harvey Maria floors are incredibly durable – designed to last for years to come, which in itself make them a great sustainable choice for both commercial and domestic projects.'

The company continues: 'At each stage of the design process from concept to completion, Harvey Maria has thought about where they can reduce the environmental impact of their floors now and in years to come. MSeries designs offer practical and beautiful floors that replicate the look and feel of real wood. This allows for an authentic style that doesn't compromise on sustainability, right from the beginning of the production process. Their production plant is certified to ISO 14001 ensuring a neutral impact on the local environment. Combined with ISO 9001 certification, these accreditations form part of their commitment to providing the highest quality products in the most sustainable manner possible.'

Harvey Maria says the MSeries collection has achieved the Eurofins Indoor Air Quality Gold Standard, meaning both floors and

adhesives have very low VOC emissions, and so provide a safe and healthy indoor environment for you, your family and your pets. The floors are said to have been designed with both high footfall, commercial spaces and busy, modern family life in mind, making them a suitable option for projects of all sizes.

Continues Harvey Maria: 'The composition of MSeries floors complies with the European REACH system to the same high standards required for toys and childcare products, meaning a safe, healthy and phthalate-free floor.'

'This is another reason so many Harvey Maria customers opt for MSeries floors throughout their home, from kitchens to kids bedrooms, as it gives them reassurance that they will not only look great for years to come as their interior style and needs evolve, but also continue to be a safe choice for their home. These environmental and clean air credentials contribute to BREEAM and LEED certification for building and construction sustainability.'

Like many LVT collections, Harvey

Maria says MSeries floors are easy to clean using a minimum amount of water and no harmful chemicals, ensuring minimal impact on the environment through its life.

'Harvey Maria knows recycling is something many of us are passionate about in the move towards more sustainable living - all floors are fully recyclable, and by using the purest materials the newly recycled products will be free of harmful toxins too.'

[www.harveymaria.com](http://www.harveymaria.com)



Hurst Chevron Old Bramble kitchen



## ICOPAL (MONARFLOOR ACOUSTIC SYSTEMS)

WITH more than 150 years in the construction products manufacturing industry, Monarfloor Acoustic Systems says it knows the difference between a good product and a great product. In its own words, the company says:

### **The scene for sustainability**

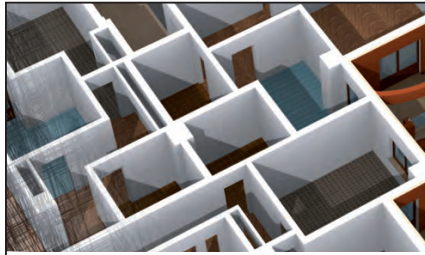
The construction and manufacturing industries have been under the sustainability spotlight, and for good reason. Collectively, we have an enormous impact on the environment, with significant global carbon emissions coming from building and construction.

As an industry, we've already made huge strides in a range of fields, from education and awareness to recycling materials, to redesigning processes to be more sustainable. But we must do more.

We must build today to protect tomorrow.

### **The Monarfloor Acoustic Systems point-of-view**

Two important factors for great sound insulation are quality solutions and experienced professionals. Without these, constructing buildings with excellent sound insulation simply wouldn't be possible. But there's a third factor that has less to do with products, and all to do with the people who live, work, and play in these buildings.



**BMI**

Monarfloor  
Acoustic Systems

## COMPLETE ACOUSTIC SOLUTIONS

Lightweight acoustic isolation systems for floating screeds.

[www.monarfloor.co.uk](http://www.monarfloor.co.uk)

These people are our partners, our customers, our employees, and the communities that surround us – just to mention a few. And at Monarfloor, we believe we have a distinct responsibility to each and every one of these people. This responsibility includes always doing our best and constantly raising the bar. Not just when it comes to acoustic products, but when it comes to projects and initiatives with a broader societal and environmental impact as well.

As a result, we're on a journey of continual improvement, pushing for positive change in a number of different areas.

We do it when we develop greener and more sustainable solutions to benefit the environment and future generations.

We do it when we reduce our water usage and make sure our materials are sourced responsibly. We do it when we volunteer to assist the local communities we are an integral part of. We do it when we embrace and encourage diversity in all layers of our business – from factory floors to corner offices. And we do it when we promote a Health & Safety culture to make

sure everyone we work with remains on top of their game – physically as well as mentally. These are just a few examples of how responsibility is deeply rooted in our DNA – a responsibility we take on not because we have to, but because we believe in protecting what matters most for tomorrow, for everyone.

### **A common goal**

Protecting Tomorrow is our approach to achieving more sustainable manufacturing, operations and products. We're working across the BMI Group business to address all of our sustainability opportunities and challenges. By connecting people from different countries, brands and departments, sustainability becomes a joint responsibility that we all share. We want the actions we take today to protect our people and planet tomorrow. We know that all of our choices, big or small, can add up to a huge impact in the years to come.

### **People. Planet. Product.**

People, Planet, and Product align with the UN sustainable development goals, which act as a common blueprint for organisations around the world to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

**People.** From training and development to helping others and leading the way against discrimination, BMI is committed to addressing the social aspect of sustainability across the globe.

**Planet.** From deploying wind-generated energy at one of our manufacturing facilities in Wales, to repurposing energy produced by different manufacturing processes and finding smarter ways to use technology, at BMI group, we're always looking at new ways that we can address the environmental impact of sustainability.

**Product.** The green opportunity, making more of your health & wellbeing.

From using more recycled materials, systems that significantly exceed building regulation requirements for sound insulation, flooring and membranes that can set the future for acoustics, Monarfloor is pioneering new ways to combat sustainability in the built environment.

[www.bmigroup.com](http://www.bmigroup.com)

**BMI**

# Complete Acoustic Floor Solutions

[www.monarfloor.co.uk](http://www.monarfloor.co.uk)



QUALITY BY ASSOCIATION

— ESTD 1974 —

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## for sustainability support and advice on your flooring projects



CFA contractor members are part of a supply chain that has a wealth of experience, knowledge and products to fulfil specification with a sustainability criteria.

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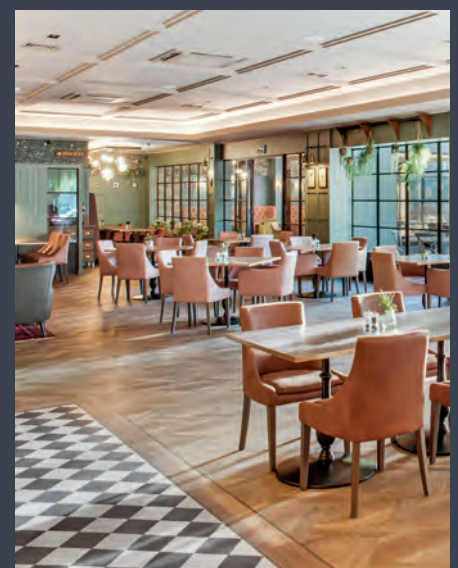
See the Downloads section at [www.cfa.org.uk](http://www.cfa.org.uk) and download our FREE "Why Choose a CFA Member" leaflet TODAY



Courtesy of Forbo Flooring UK Ltd



Courtesy of Loughton Contracts plc



Courtesy of Amtico International







Innovate Recycle believe waste shouldn't be wasted

## INNOVATE RECYCLE

**INNOVATE Recycle says it works with the flooring industry to build sustainability and circularity of materials from end-of-life carpet.**

More than 500,000 tonnes of end-of-life carpet is produced in the UK each year. Until now there's been no way, at volume, to deconstruct the carpet and enable the reuse of the carpet constituent materials. Instead, it's burnt for energy, losing the component materials from the UK industrial supply chain forever; shredded for use in equine surfaces, again losing the components from the supply chain and with the added danger of shredded plastic being spread in the environment; or is sent to landfill.

Innovate Recycle says it will be the first in the UK to deconstruct carpet and extract the component materials for reuse in a wide range of industrial supply chains such as automotive, composites and consumer plastic items. 'Our initial focus, at our first facility in Northampton, is on polypropylene rich carpets from post-consumer and post-industrial sources.

'We're working with the flooring industry, with manufacturers, retailers and flooring contractors. We were particularly pleased to announce recently that we'll be working with leading national flooring contractor Designer Contracts, providing a solution for its offcut waste carpet.'

Innovate Recycle says it'll take carpet offcuts from Designer Contracts' regional network and convert the waste material into recycled and reclaimed polypropylene (rPP) and calcium carbonate. 'Our company mission is to create a fully circular economy solution for carpet waste in the UK by working with our partners and customers, and so we're really pleased Designer Contracts will be joining us on this journey.'

During 2023 we'll increase rPP production in Northampton and then, in 2024 and 2025, Innovate Recycle will establish several further facilities around the UK, tackling more of the annual 500k tonnes of waste carpet and helping its partners in the flooring industry to implement a better, more sustainable approach to dealing with end-of life and unutilised offcut carpet.

The company says: 'For properly sorted, segregated and baled material

we offer a favourable gate fee, down to free-of-charge for consistent 100% target material. We're working closely with New Zealand based company Sagitto who provide a cost-effective spectrometer based system that enables end-of-life/unutilised carpet providers to properly identify the polypropylene rich carpets that we require. And also with the Kenburn Carpet Crusher which has enabled Innovate Recycle to maximise our storage space for compacted material on pallets.'

Carpet manufacturers have a growing interest in properly recyclable product that increases green and net zero credentials and demonstrates a commitment to sustainable, minimum waste end-of-life product. Innovate Recycle says it's providing accreditation for product ranges, giving reassurance to increasingly circular economy, recyclability savvy consumers.

Finally, the UK government is gradually implementing a range of measures intended to support the development of a UK circular economy and the better handling and continuous use of materials beyond their initial product life.

The recent plastic packaging tax has driven increased demand for recycled content in packaging. Other manufacturers in sectors such as automotive and consumer products already have ambitious targets for recycled polymer content in their products. Forward-thinking companies, with the desire to do the right thing, but also with an eye to the prospect of future legislation such as Extended Producer Responsibility, are thinking about recyclability now.

Concludes the company: 'At Innovate Recycle we believe waste shouldn't be wasted, and instead is a valuable commodity that the UK economy needs to make much more of. Working with our partners and with the growing recycled materials industry, Innovate Recycle is helping bring new levels of sustainability to the flooring industry.'

**07921 076226**  
[info@innovaterecycle.co.uk](mailto:info@innovaterecycle.co.uk)  
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Carpet manufacturers have a growing interest in properly recyclable product that increases green and net zero credentials







UltraFloor solar panels



An eco-friendly fleet

## INSTARMAC

**LEVELS of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are at an all-time high. While CO2 is an essential element to the survival of plants and animals, too much CO2 has a catastrophic impact on the environment. The continuous burning of fossil fuels by humans has resulted in a massive rise in greenhouse gases, creating an imbalance in the atmosphere.**

In May 2021, CO2 levels reached 419 parts per million – the highest average ever recorded. ‘As a manufacturer, we know we have a responsibility to be as sustainable as possible. Sustainability and environmental impact has always been a high priority for us and I’m delighted to announce we’ve introduced further environmental initiatives, all with the aim of reducing our environmental impact,’ says Mark Shorrock, managing director at Instarmac.

UltraFloor says it prides itself on its sustainability practices and that its ‘high performance subfloor preparation materials are produced at its world-class manufacturing facilities in Tamworth, Staffordshire’.

‘Having as little impact on the environment as possible is behind every decision I make about the running of our production and warehouse facility. Over the past few years, I’m proud to say we’ve introduced further initiatives which include using variable speed drivers across the plant, consuming less electricity at start up, replacing lighting with LED bulbs and using Intelligent Wrapping Technology to select the best wrapping solution for each product, focusing on stability and efficiency,’ says Paul Evans, works director at Instarmac Group.

By adapting its manufacturing processes to utilise the most sustainable procedures possible, UltraFloor says it’s delighted to report that in 2020, its carbon footprint was

measured at 3303.53 tonnes per CO2E – a 16% improvement compared to the previous year.

The environmental improvements to UltraFloor’s manufacturing and office facilities reportedly don’t end there. Instarmac installed 1,656 solar panels across a 3,771sq m area at its state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Tamworth. The 768KW solar panels will generate 680,000KW of clean green energy for Instarmac to use and is projected to save at least 36,000KW of power per month and 15 million KW over the lifespan of the system. This has saved more than 642t of CO2 emissions since being commissioned, says the company.

What’s more, research is also underway to install more solar panels across the wider Instarmac group infrastructure and properties.

‘UltraFloor is helping its customers reduce their own carbon footprint with Level IT Hydra Bond. The first of its kind, Level IT Hydra Bond is a ground-breaking, water based floor leveller that has eliminated the use of single use plastic bottles. By utilising EnviroBead Technology in its formulation, UltraFloor is pleased to announce that every bag of Level IT Hydra Bond also contains 20% recycled material.’

In addition, says the company, when UltraFloor products do require the use of plastic bottles, they’re now made from 100% recycled material, which can also be recycled – ‘a huge step forward for UltraFloor and the flooring industry as a whole’.

UltraFloor’s subfloor preparation materials are delivered to customers on its 35-strong, privately owned fleet which now includes two CNG lorries. The introduction of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles will reportedly result in a reduction of CO2 emissions by 115 tonnes per truck, per year. UltraFloor says it’s

fully committed to using fuel alternatives and aims to have 25% of its fleet running on CNG by the end of 2024, and 60% by the end of 2025.

UltraFloor acknowledges diesel isn’t great for the environment and that’s why every other vehicle in its fleet features AdBlue. AdBlue is an additive which is used alongside diesel to reduce mono-nitrogen oxide emissions produced by the exhausts of vehicles. AdBlue transforms the harmful mono-nitrogen toxins in diesel into nitrogen and water vapour reducing the negative impact vehicle emissions have on the environment.

Other initiatives successfully implemented at UltraFloor include intelligent lighting, a grey water system and climate control. It’s also proudly been zero waste to landfill since 2014 – this means 100% of manufacturing waste is recycled and not sent to landfill.

UltraFloor’s environmental practices have been acknowledged by ISO 14001 – an independent accreditation which UltraFloor have been awarded for the past 15 years. Furthermore, in December 2022, UltraFloor achieved its first year of Planet Mark Certification and has kickstarted their journey towards becoming a carbon neutral manufacturer.

Says the company: ‘These accreditations are a great accomplishment for UltraFloor as it shows our customers, the supply chain, and the flooring industry as a whole, our intent to continually improve all aspects of our business and how committed we are to providing sustainable solutions.’

Find out more about UltraFloor’s environmental commitments for the future by visiting [Instarmac.co.uk](http://Instarmac.co.uk) to download a copy of its Environmental and Social Responsibility Report.

[www.instarmac.co.uk](http://www.instarmac.co.uk)





INTRAsystems has announced the publication of nine cradle-to-grave EPDs covering its bestselling products

## INTRASYSTEMS

**UK entrance matting specialists, INTRAsystems, has announced the publication of nine cradle-to-grave EPDs covering its bestselling products. As part of the company's continued commitment to providing the most sustainable entrance matting products and services, the publication of these EPDs provides 'transparent and comparable data on the environmental impact of its products throughout their lifecycle'.**

Forty percent of all global emissions can be traced back to the construction and building industries. Using INTRAsystems in your specification reportedly now guarantees your entrance matting is manufactured to the highest quality and environmental standards with the EPD certification.

### What is an EPD?

An environmental product declaration, or EPD, is a standardised document which transparently communicates the environmental performance or impact of a product or material over its lifetime. Each EPD document must be independently verified by a third-party expert. It then remains

valid for five years from the date of verification.

As more manufacturers commit to a sustainable future, INTRAsystems says its aim is to generate a library of high-quality and scientifically robust EPDs. This is to inform users about the environmental credentials of construction products and to enable the evaluation and benchmarking of whole buildings in the UK and across the globe.

James Farrant, managing director for INTRAsystems comments: 'A founding principal of INTRAsystems was always to have products that architects could specify with confidence. Throughout the history of the company, products have been brought to market consistently because of their quality and performance.'

'With the increasing need to focus on sustainability across the market, our team has taken proactive steps to source recycled materials for all our products – including recycled aluminium and repurposed ECONYL as well as, most recently, our PVC-free backing material, PureBase.'

'Since our products meet high sustainability

standards, it was an important step to have this certified with EPDs. INTRAsystems is really pleased to be able to confirm we now have EPDs across a range of our products. It's a sign of our commitment to architects so they can be sure when specifying our products that they exceed all environmental performance standards. We look forward to further collaboration with the architect community as they specify sustainable products for buildings of the future.'

INTRAsystems' EPD-accredited products include: INTRAfLEX XT; INTRAfLOW; INTRAfOW Plus; INTRAfORM; INTRAfORM LP; INTRAfORM DM; INTRAfORM DM LP; INTRAfORM FR; and INTRALink2.

EPD certificates can be downloaded from the relevant product page on the INTRAsystems website, or alternatively on NBS Source. In addition, they're also listed on the official Environdec International EPD website library, the global EPD programme for publication of ISO14025 and EN15804 compliant EPDs.

[www.intrasystems.co.uk](http://www.intrasystems.co.uk)



The company is committed to providing the most sustainable entrance matting products and services



## JUNCKERS

**AS part of its continued commitment to sustainability, Junckers has launched a Buy Back Scheme where its floors can be lifted and reused instead of ending up on landfill sites. The scheme will reportedly give hundreds of square metres of flooring a new lease-of-life every year, contributing towards a more circular economy.**

### 'The long life of a Junckers floor'

Flooring made in solid wood is well-known for its long lifespan. It can be sanded and refinished many times to restore it to as-new condition. Junckers oak, beech and maple floors are designed and made to last for generations, even a well-used sports floor has a lifespan of 60 plus years, says the company.

'When a Junckers floor is replaced, it can be lifted with ease without causing damage to the floorboards. It can then be repurposed as a floor in a new location, in a home, restaurant, workspace or bar, for example.'

The Buy Back Scheme sees Junckers acting as liaison, connecting flooring installers specialising in reclaimed floors with a project where a Junckers floor is being replaced. They carefully lift the floor and remove it from site, ready to find a new home.

Reclaimed solid wood floors are in high demand for residential and commercial projects as more and more people look for ways to recycle honest, natural materials. Repurposing a floor means diverting waste from landfill and contributing to a circular economy.

### Reuse and renew

When the floor is installed in its new setting, it can either be sanded and refinished with an oil or a lacquer to make it good as new.

Junckers own-produced woodcare range is ideal, with a wide choice of natural colours and finishes available as primers and oils, says the company.

'Junckers PreLak Colour primer is designed

for use on any light-coloured timber which has been sanded and prepped. The colours, which include Nordic, Driftwood Grey, Dark Coco and White, are semi-transparent, leaving the timber's structural grain patterns to show through for a natural look.

Application is quick and easy with the use of a roller, and it dries in under an hour. The full-bodied formula and excellent levelling properties give good coverage and minimises the risk of overlap marks.

'One coat gives a hint of colour whereas two or more coats will deepen the colour for a more intensive appearance. The primers can be used straight from the pack or mixed creating various tones. To finish, the floor is sealed with one of Junckers' water-based lacquers to give it a durable, long-lasting finish.'

The company adds: 'Another way to transform a newly sanded reclaimed wood floor is by applying one of Junckers' floor oils. An oil will enhance the natural tones of the timber and offer protection for the floor in a matt finish. Hugely popular since its launch, 2K Eco Protect Oil, a low VOCs formula, is available in a choice of six natural colours – Antique Oak, Black, Clear, London Grey, Nordic and White. It can be used with or without a hardener and usually only one coat is needed, reducing time onsite. The floor can be overcoated with one of Junckers' water-based lacquers for extra protection.'

### 'Easy-care, individual style'

The reclaimed floor can also be installed without being refinished, with marks and line markings if it used to be a sports floor, left intact. This option gives an entirely different look, completely individual with lots of interest. It's very popular in industrial-style interiors, where the worn and well-used look of a reclaimed floor is often the perfect backdrop. The recently completed Union Bar at the Student Centre at Queen's University Belfast made use of a Junckers' sports floor lifted

from a primary school by Hargreaves Reclaimed Flooring.

Oakvale Wooden Flooring installed the floor, complete with the old line markings, giving it a seal of Junckers High Performance Friction+ lacquer to give it a slip-resistant surface required in a bar area. The rustic floor hides a multitude of sins in a busy student bar.

The reclaimed look works equally well in a residential setting. A quirky home in Cornwall made use of an old Junckers Maple sports floor in the open-plan kitchen area. The randomly placed old line markings gives the room an individual look and provides a flooring surface that will last for decades if not longer. The beauty of a solid wood floor is that it can be sanded and re-finished many times without losing its good looks and durability.

### Good for the environment

Giving a wooden floor a new lease of life benefits the environment in more ways than one. Not only does it reduce landfill and contribute to a circular economy, it also keeps carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, a crucial element in the fight to combat climate change. As a tree grows, it absorbs CO2 through a process known as photosynthesis.

Wood continues to keep harmful CO2 out of the atmosphere even when made into a product such as flooring. Wood is the only building material that has the natural ability to absorb carbon from the air and store it; a naturally renewable resource that does not produce waste or pollution.

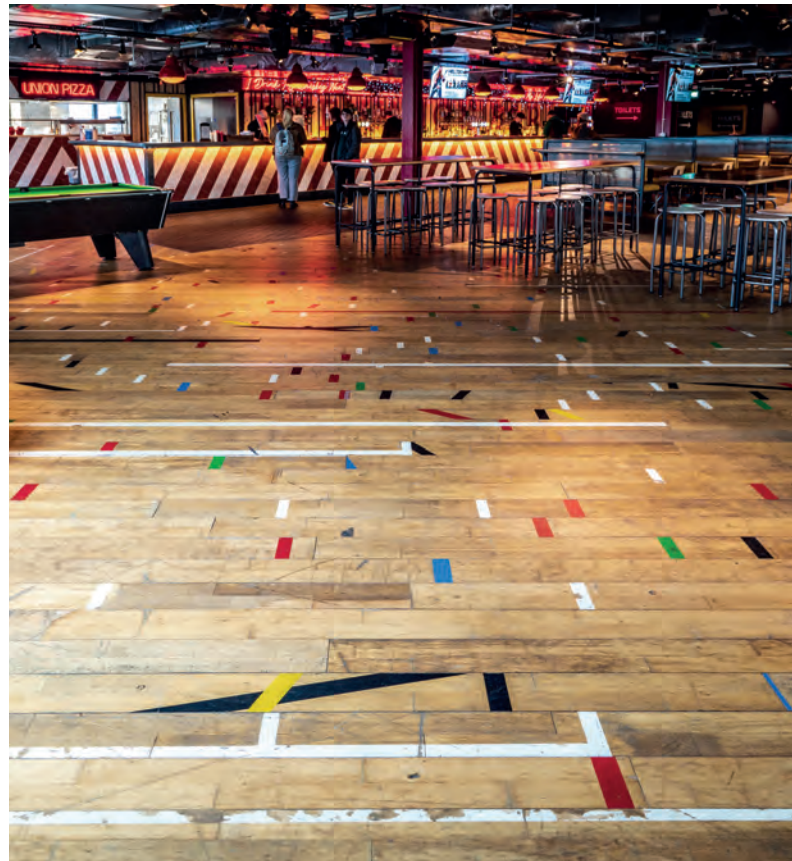
Get in touch with Junckers if you're replacing a Junckers floor; it's very possible it can find a new home and it will save you the job of lifting it and disposing of it.

Junckers will put you in touch with a reclaimed flooring specialist for an assessment.

[www.junckers.co.uk](http://www.junckers.co.uk)



Junckers beech flooring treated with PreLak Colour Dark Coco and sealed with Strong lacquer



Junckers reclaimed sports flooring: QUB student bar



## KENBURN CARPET CRUSHER

**THE Kenburn Carpet Crusher provides an ideal logistics solution for transporting carpet waste to various carpet recycling plants throughout the UK.**

Says Kenburn: 'Over the past eight years, the Kenburn Carpet Crusher has helped the flooring industry divert thousands of square metres of recyclable carpet waste from landfill.'

Established in 1987, Kenburn Waste Management says it has a wealth of experience in providing expert advice on recycling initiatives that not only divert recyclable waste from landfill but also reduce ever-increasing waste management costs as the costs to recycle are less than landfill.

'One of our most successful recycling initiatives has been to install the Kenburn Carpet Crusher into flooring contractors so that they can compact their waste to reduce the transportation costs and carbon footprint to the carpet recycling plants. The Kenburn Carpet Crusher has a 4:1 compaction ratio so a pallet can typically carry 225sq m of carpet waste.'

### What happens to the carpet waste?

Carpet waste can be recycled into various products, equestrian flooring, underlay and felt products, even contaminated post-consumer carpet can be diverted from landfill and used as a fuel for 'waste to energy'.

As technology improves so does the variety of options for the use of recycled polypropylene. One of the newest and most exciting recycling processes to arrive in the UK

is a facility which can extract the polypropylene yarn from carpet waste, melt it down then convert the waste into polypropylene pellets. These pellets can then be used by plastic injection moulding companies to manufacture a wide range of plastic products across multiple industries.

Kenburn Waste Management says it's extremely grateful for the help and advice Carpet Recycling UK has provided over the years and the recycling targets

it's achieved 'have been outstanding and the impact it's had on the flooring industry is a testament to its continued ambition to create a circular economy for flooring, Kenburn look forward to joining CRUK on this journey'.

### Arrange a waste survey

Continues the company: 'Kenburn's team of recycling experts can visit your premises anywhere in the UK, we can conduct a brief waste survey, analyse the volumes



Contract Flooring with carpet bale

of waste you generate, then make our recommendations on how to make your company more 'environmentally friendly' with the use of a Kenburn Carpet Crusher. There's no charge for a site survey so please give the kenburn sales team a call 01727 844988 or email.'

**sales@kenburn.co.uk**  
**www.kenburn.co.uk**



H Mears Preston



## LION BOARD

**MADE in Finland by Finnish Fibreboard with a construction that eliminates the core gaps and overlaps of plywood, there's no doubting LION Floor is a high-quality, reliable replacement for BS 8203 plywood that's just as easy to install and more sustainable, says the company.**

The company says: 'Finnish Fibreboard manufactures LION Floor from wood by-products, making it one of the most environmentally friendly boards produced. The wood by-product used is also sourced locally and from legally managed sustainable forests.'

'Most of the energy required by the mill is also produced with biofuel and modern evaporation technology is used to treat production wastewater, reducing the footprint of production. Combined with no added formaldehyde, LION Floor comes with M1 and PEFC certification and can be easily and safely reused or recycled.'

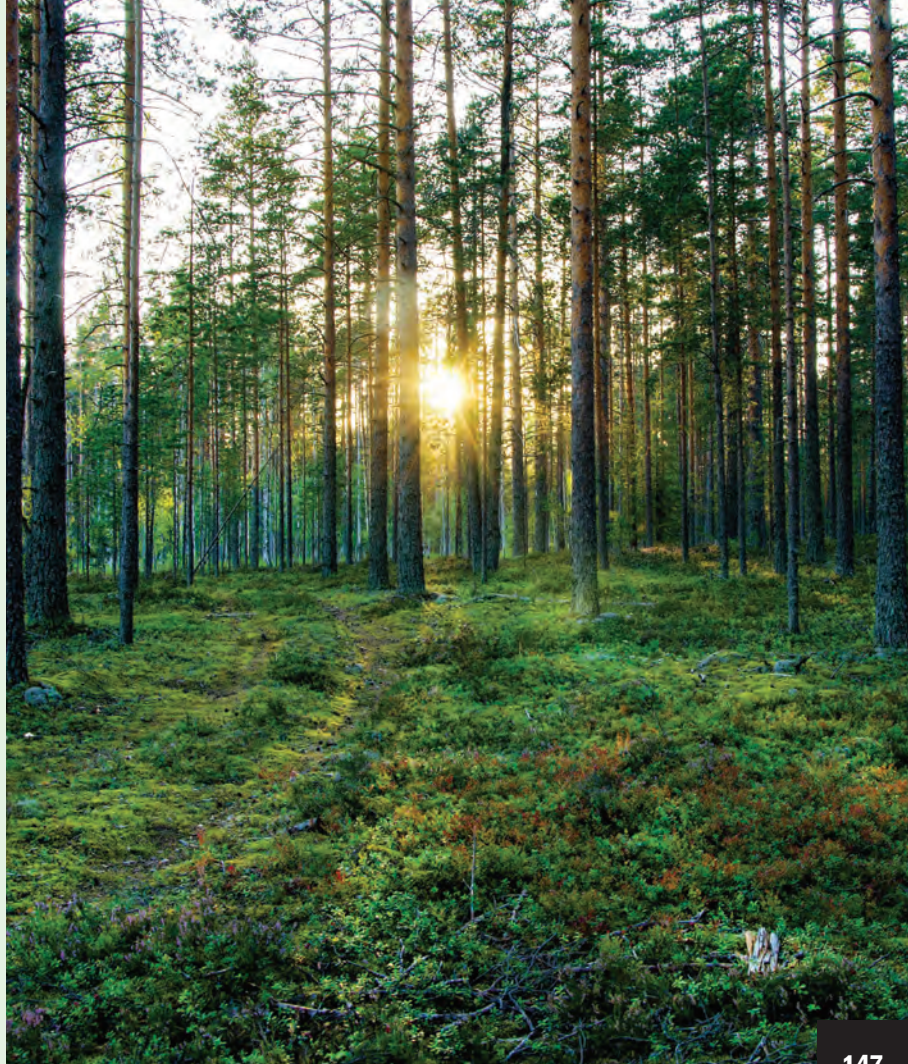
The company continues: 'The raw material for LION Floor comes almost completely from Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) certified forests, so its origin and journey can be traced all the way from forest to finished product.'

'The manufacturing process is based on a Finnish tradition spanning more than 80 years, which has been honed to perfection over the decades to meet the requirements of modern construction.'

LION Floor is the first hardboard panel to be designed and manufactured specifically for the flooring industry. It's also one of a very small number of fabricated underlays which can be used for LVT and other resilient floorcoverings that meets British Standards and CFA guidance.'

The company concludes: 'The easy to install LION Floor is available by contacting [sales@finfib.fi](mailto:sales@finfib.fi) to find your nearest stockist. For more information, contact Finnish Fibreboard (UK) using the contact details below.'

[sales@finfib.fi](mailto:sales@finfib.fi)  
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ECOPROTEC range

## LTP

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

Says the company: 'All 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. To protect tiles and stone laid outside, as part of spring landscaping projects, the ECOPROTEC range includes three sealers, a pre-grout protector for matt porcelain and a restoration treatment for faded dark pavers.'

### Sealing external stone and paving

The ECOPROTEC external sealer range includes three protective treatments: Ultimate Sealer, Patio Sealer and Colour Enhancing Sealer.

Says LTP: 'All three sealers are designed to protect all types of natural and engineered stone in outdoor settings, including smooth, honed, rough cut and polished surfaces. They each have a water-based impregnating formulation that strongly repels water, oil, dirt and grease, helps reduce efflorescence and allows the surface to breathe.'

'The difference is in the finish: Ultimate Sealer leaves the surface virtually unchanged in appearance; Patio Sealer provides a delicately enhanced natural finish; and Colour Enhancing Sealer creates a more pronounced enhancement, bringing out the stone's natural warmth, tone and colour pigment.'

'Unlike film-forming or topical sealers

which sit on the tile surface, impregnating sealers penetrate, react and line the open pores.'

'They create a hydrophobic and oleophobic barrier that helps prevent deep staining and facilitates future cleaning and aftercare. Once cured, water vapour permeability remains, allowing transition of microscopic droplets of moisture. This helps keep any rising salts down and allows any residual moisture to escape.'

### Protecting textured matt porcelain

LTP continues: 'Developed for use externally and internally, ECOPROTEC Pre-Grout Protection is a water-based 'pre-and-post-grout' treatment designed for unpolished, textured porcelain. This solution is specifically designed to protect tiles from staining, and it allows easy removal of residues of 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 helps improve and increase the working time of grouts and jointing compounds – and greatly reduces the risk of cement and resin staining. It also helps assist with future cleaning and aftercare.'

### Restoring colour to faded pavers

Outdoor sealer and restorer, ECOPROTEC Black Stone Colour Restorer is a water-based impregnator designed for dark natural stone and artificial stone surfaces. 'Fast and safe to use, it's formulated to restore the appearance of faded limestone, marble, slate and concrete and to provide protection against the elements and staining. During application, the

treatment is applied in multiple coats until the desired colour effect is achieved – from grey to ebony. Once dried the sealer is then 'cut back' to remove excess, ensuring the surface is safe to walk on.'

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.'

Continues LTP: '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 a spirit-based solvent.'

### Advice on-the-go

In addition to support provided by LTP's in-house technical team, the ECOPROTEC Product Selector is said to offer instant advice on surface care and treatment, for all types of tile and stone. The free online resource – accessed at [ecoproductselector.com](http://ecoproductselector.com) – identifies the correct treatment according to surface type and symptom, with continuous updates to include the latest tile finishes and related issues. As well as providing support for contractors, installers and end-users, Product Selector is also described by the company as a valuable retail sales aid and training tool.

**01823 666213**

**technical@ecoprotec.co.uk**  
**www.ecoprotec.co.uk**



## MAPEI

**MAPEI says its wide-ranging products and solutions are a concrete example of its commitment to research and development. In 2021, it invested £38m pounds in research and development across 32 research centres worldwide, regularly collaborating with universities and scientific and industrial research institutes to continuously update technologies in use.**

Working on the entire product lifecycle, and putting the wellbeing of the planet and people at the centre of business initiatives, Mapei says it promotes a culture of quality and long-lasting construction.

Since 2017, the firm has shared the results achieved in its annual Sustainability Report, setting out the actions it's undertaken to monitor and reduce the impact of production processes and products on the environment.

To produce less and less waste and limit the exploitation of resources is one of the main challenges of this millennium: Mapei says it addresses this by paying particular attention to the use of recycled materials in products and formulations, as well as in packaging.

### Driving sustainability through products and relationships

Mapei's sustainable-focused mission centres around several areas, both product and people focused. In the company's words, these include:

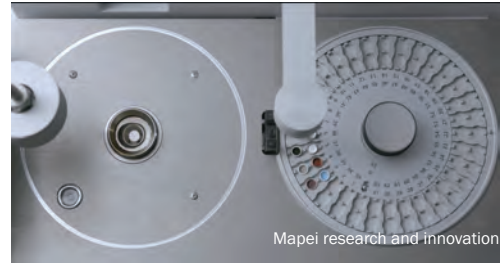
Evaluating product impact: A dedicated group evaluates the impact generated by products

throughout their life cycle using the methodological approach - LCA (Life Cycle Assessment).

Durability and circularity: Mapei ensures its solutions promote durability and circularity, since application of a quality product guarantees better resistance, less maintenance and less wasted material. This reduces the environmental impact. Commitment to increasing sustainable construction: The high quality and low environmental impacts that characterise Mapei solutions can significantly contribute to the sustainability of buildings in which they are specified, eg by increasing their energy performance.

Mapei's voluntary certifications and protocols for sustainable certification of buildings include LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method), BREEAM-Nor, WELL (Well Building Standard), the 'Der Blaue Engel' label and the Finnish mark M1 or Logo Sanitaire.

Creating a culture of sustainability: Every year, Mapei interacts with designers, contractors, installers, material manufacturers and companies, providing technical assistance to ensure they can maximise product benefits without compromising their performance, durability and sustainability. In 2021, Mapei provided a total of 10,752 hours of technical training throughout Europe, involving about 127,426 participants.



### Power and water

Mapei's commitment to reducing its emission of greenhouse gases is demonstrated by its investment into cogeneration plants installed at subsidiary facilities - Vinavil, Polyglass and Vaga - and in photovoltaic plants at its Parent company's facilities in Mediglia and Latina; part of a drive towards in-house production of electrical energy.

As well as seeking solutions to continually lower greenhouse gas emissions, Mapei also identifies relevant sustainability projects to offset CO2 emissions generated by its products. In 2021, it introduced the CUBE System, designed to actively help the concrete industry maintain its high standards while reducing CO2 emissions and consequently the climate impact.

It also offset the total CO2 emissions generated by the overall production of KERAFLEX MAXI S1 ZERO in Italy and ULTRACOLOR PLUS in Europe by purchasing certified credits. The project chosen to offset CO2 involves generating energy from renewable hydroelectric sources in Indonesia.

### Wellbeing and safe, sustainable learning

Numerous initiatives have been launched by Mapei, with a focus on the working environment. In the UK, these include investment in the Mapei Academy – a purpose-built training facility in Halesowen, in the West Midlands, and a complementary programme of online bitesize courses. Live, interactive sessions provide delegates with the opportunity to ask experts specific questions relating to products, applications and projects. The training courses – both face-to-face and online – are available free-of-charge.

### Made in the UK

Innovative flooring solutions manufactured in the UK at the Halesowen plant include: Ultrabond Eco TX3 – an excellent wet grab adhesive for textile and linoleum floorings, Ultrabond Eco V4 Evolution – an all-in-one universal adhesive for resilient and textile floor and wallcoverings, and Ultrabond Eco Tack TX+ carpet tile tackifier.

All part of the Ultrabond Eco range, the adhesives are solvent-free and certified Emission EC1 Plus (very low emissions of VOC). In 2023 Mapei has also opened a new manufacturing site in Speke, Liverpool for the local production of admixtures for concrete.

To read Mapei's Sixth Sustainability Report, visit <https://www.mapei.com/it/en/about-us/sustainability-menu/sustainability-report>

[www.mapei.co.uk](http://www.mapei.co.uk)



Mapei Eco range



## MILLIKEN

**NORTHWARD Bound was Milliken's first European collection in its D/LUX series. The D/LUX series is so named because it's all about creating a high performance luxurious carpet that uses less raw materials (thus reducing embodied carbon) with no compromise on aesthetics, says Milliken, adding that this is achieved by carefully considering materials, innovating with fibre suppliers and pioneering use of yarn systems and tufting technology.**

Says the company: 'Doing more with less is in harmony with Milliken's ethos to 'do good' and the company's unwavering ethical approach to corporate social responsibility and sustainability. All Milliken carpet, luxury vinyl tile and entrance flooring modular products around the globe are now carbon neutral.

'The carpet tile collection is made up of three designs: Snow, Glacier and Ice – inspired by a laid-back and understated Scandi aesthetic (a look that has driven several Milliken collections in recent years). A warm and cool neutral palette, varying scales across the three patterns, minimalist designs and soft flowing organic forms all help generate a feeling of calm movement across the floor plane. Northward Bound was designed to stand alone or be combined with Milliken's now classic and bestselling collections: Nordic Stories collection or, for more premium areas, the Arctic Survey collection.'

The company continues: 'Despite its sophisticated styling, Northward Bound is competitively priced to meet the needs of current market conditions. It's highly rated for heavy traffic areas and the acoustic technology employed through the integral cushion backing, that is offered as standard, significantly reduces noise distractions, proving that practicality

and luxury are not mutually exclusive.'

The collection comes with Comfort Lite cushion backing as standard (90% recycled content) and is available with TractionBack pressure sensitive adhesive on request, improving indoor air quality and offering a more flexible installation process, says Milliken.

'Milliken's innovative cushion backing provides luxurious underfoot and excellent acoustic performance, outstanding appearance retention and durability. The collection is designed to support well-being, with health, happiness and productivity in mind.

'Using Milliken's easy to access online visualiser, Northward Bound can be previewed in more than 40 interior settings either on its own or combined with other Milliken carpet or LVT collections. Three colours in each Northward Bound design are available for immediate shipment from Milliken's 'From Stock' 24-hour programme.'

Concludes Milliken:

'Northward Bound is made using 100% solution-dyed nylon. Northward Bound carpet tiles are manufactured in the UK in a ISO14001 certified location using renewable sources. The collection is CRI Green Label Plus certified for indoor air



Milliken's Northward Bound

quality, EPD verified and TUV certified.

Northward Bound comes with a 12-year wear guarantee and a lifetime antistatic guarantee.'

[www.milliken.com](http://www.milliken.com)



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## MODULYSS

**IN a rapidly evolving world, architects and interior designers are facing ever-more daunting – and ever-more fascinating – creative challenges. The field of neuroaesthetics is where neuroscience meets design, requiring a whole new conceptual approach to projects.**

Artificial intelligence has definitively staked its claim on the public consciousness and will undeniably impact processes in a significant way. And under the shadow of global climate change, sustainability is urgently becoming a cornerstone of design. modulyss aims to explore these concepts, guiding designers and architects not just in their spatial designs, but also as they navigate these critical themes with the potential to future-proof design work for years to come.

### Neuroaesthetics

The field of neuroaesthetics exists at the crossroads where neuroscience intersects with design. How can architecture, interiors and apparel be created thoughtfully with positive neural activity and overall mental well-being in mind?

The answers to that question not only promise to enrich the daily lives of people with neurodiverse conditions but can generate mood-boosting qualities in workspaces and places of education, ultimately benefitting anyone with access to those spaces. The results? A boost for inclusivity and a win-win outcome for neurodiverse and neurotypical people alike.

### AI-driven project design

Where artificial intelligence was once a futuristic concept, AI is now firmly rooted in the public mind. And its influence will only continue to develop at an accelerated pace. As a society, we're already familiar with text-to-image generators and conversational chatbots, but researchers and developers have only just begun to scratch the surface of what's possible, especially from a creative perspective. How will this impact the world of design? Whether providing technical shortcuts within the creative pipeline or allowing people to visualise otherworldly aesthetics, AI will never cease to challenge and push the human imagination, collapsing our boundaries between what is real and what is synthetic.

### Sustainability versus newness

The cost of materials has skyrocketed. Supply chains are more often disrupted than

not. And climate change demands that we mitigate waste where we can. The quest for sustainability is a growing focus and sought-after solution in architecture and interior design.

One way to tackle all of these issues at once? Adaptive reuse. How can existing materials play a role in new designs and plans? Could the desire for something completely new be fulfilled by the uniqueness of repurposed products and spaces?

### modulyss talks

In May, modulyss will host a series of expert talks at the brand's London showroom. 'Clerkenwell Design Week is a momentous celebration of architecture and design in the UK,' says Sophie Hautekeete, head of marketing for Belysse and its premium brand modulyss.

'Our modulyss talks are one key way we've committed to inspiring and supporting the architecture and design community. Our guest speakers are all thought leaders in their fields. They'll share insights into neurodivergence, uncover the possibilities of AI and investigate how to deliver projects with a minimal carbon footprint. Together we'll navigate the challenges emerging today and prepare for their impact on the future of interior design and architectural work.'

The speaker line-up includes Tarek Merlin, Rachel Morgan-Trimmer and Tim Fu. Aside from thought-provoking talks, there are also plans for two interactive workshops: one exploring sustainability through a hands-on approach and the second encouraging an hour of meditation and contemplation.

These Clerkenwell Design Week sessions will take place at the modulyss showroom on Clerkenwell Road.

'It's no coincidence we insisted on Clerkenwell Road as the location for our new London showroom,' shares Jose Hamp, sales director for modulyss in the UK, 'It's essential to us that we not just support this vibrant hub of architecture and design with our innovative products, but that we fully immerse ourselves in this community. We want to join conversations and contribute to the flow of ideas materialising from this remarkable creative core. Regularly hosting talks and workshops is a vital part of that mission.'

You can find programming details and learn how to register via the modulyss

website: <https://www.modulyss.com/en-INT/clerkenwell-design-week-sessions-at-modulyss>

### About Rachel Morgan-Trimmer

Rachel Morgan-Trimmer is a sought-after neurodiversity consultant, who trains companies on how to include, work with and celebrate people with dyslexia, ADHD and autism. She is a co-founder of the Neurodiversity Association and one of very few neurodiversity consultants trained and experienced in public speaking. She has shared her personal experience with autism and ADHD with captive audiences from TEDx to BBC Access All Areas, as part of Global Accessibility Awareness Day.

### About Tarek Merlin

Tarek Merlin is the director and co-founder of Feix&Merlin Architects, an LGBTQ+ led design practice, working across the fields of architecture and interior design. Most recently, in collaboration with David Chipperfield architects, Tarek helped lead the competition winning scheme for the new Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, a flexible mixed use higher education building at 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields, for the LSE London School of Economics. He was also part of the winning bid team behind the redevelopment and extension of Walworth Town Hall in Southwark, as well as the remarkable interior designs for socially responsible members club The Conduit. Tarek has a strong relationship with architectural education and acts as a visiting lecturer at the LSA, Brighton University and The Bartlett, UCL. Tarek is also the creator of Behind Closed Doors – a series of short films exploring buildings you can't normally get into, which aims to make architecture more accessible and inclusive.

### About Tim Fu

Tim Fu is a Canadian architectural designer based in London, UK. He is part of Zaha Hadid Architects and computational research group ZHACODE, where he specializes in algorithmic design and computational research. He graduated from the Architectural Association in London (MSc dist.) and teaches in various workshops including Harvard GSD, ACADIA, PA Academy, and other academic institutions. His recent exploration into the use of AI in architectural design has been published in various media and exhibitions.

[www.modulyss.com](http://www.modulyss.com)



Millennium Nxtgen



Artcore



## PALLMANN

**THE year 2023 will be a different year for Pallmann. Under the motto 'Magic Oil changes everything', the manufacturer of products for the new installation, renovation and maintenance of wood floors will concentrate on its Magic Oil products.**

Says the company: 'Solvent-free, easy to use, environmentally conscious, made from renewable raw materials and in harmony with one of the most sustainable floorcoverings, wood. This year, a new wood floor oil will be added to the range.'

When it comes to sustainable building and furnishing, timber is unsurpassed. It's renewable, provides clean air during growth and plays an essential role in our ecosystem. As a floor, its use has no limits owing to the numerous options for surface finishing and renovation, which also makes it particularly sustainable.

Wood floor oils emphasise the natural look, the wood is protected and remains breathable. In combination with solvent-free products, such as the oil-wax combination Magic Oil from Pallmann, a floor made of wood also ensures the best possible indoor air quality, says Pallmann.

'Magic Oil has been an integral part of the Pallmann product range for many years. Pallmann was the first to introduce a 2-component wood floor oil back in 2004. This revolutionised the surface finishing of wooden floors, offering a substitute for waxed floors. In the meantime, these oil-wax combinations have become the standard in the wood floor industry.

'Over the years, the wood floor specialists from Würzburg have further changed and constantly improved the surface finishing of wood floors with the Magic Oil range. The products convince with fast drying, easy application and natural wood look.

'Besides the easy application and fast drying time, Magic Oil emphasises the natural colour and structure of the wood - because the oil penetrates deep into the cells of the wood and prevents other liquids from having an effect. The wax content provides a protective film on the surface which, unlike sealers, is not a closed film.'

The company continues: 'The introduction of the 2-component oil Magic Oil 2K Original in 2004 made impregnation with a natural oil-wax combination possible even for highly frequented areas and was the start for a success story in the surface finishing of wood floors. Wood floors in showrooms, offices or hotels have now been able to be protected with the solvent-free oil. The fast drying additionally ensures a smooth renovation process, as the impregnated surfaces can be fully loaded again after only 12 hours. To ensure the best possible maintenance and lasting beauty of the oiled surfaces, Magic Oil Care was introduced at the same time as a care emulsion. It was especially developed for oiled wood floors and extends the intervals between basic cleaning and oiling. This significantly extends the lifetime of the wooden floor.'

The next change for wood floor installers came with the introduction of Magic Oil 2K Ergo in 2009. Says Pallmann: 'The 2-component oil can be applied upright standing which is gentle on the back. The wood floor oil, which has the same properties as Magic Oil 2K Original, is applied to the surface with the help of an applicator. The solvent-free product thus ensures a comfortable, ergonomic working method as well as a quick, large-area and single application.'

'Since 2010, an oiled wood floor in a bathroom or in wet areas is no longer a problem. Magic

Oil 2K Spa has, among other things, a higher hardener content and thus achieves a very high cross-linking density, which leads to the formation of a very water-resistant and dirt-repellent surface. The resistance to moisture makes Magic Oil 2K Spa the perfect alternative to film-forming finishes.

In combination with the Pallmann Color Collection and with the Pallmann brushing technology, the wood floor specialists from Würzburg offer numerous other possibilities to refurbish, renovate and individually design oiled wood floors.'

Eighteen years after the introduction of the first Magic Oil, the series of successes is to be continued consistently and in the spirit of the natural product philosophy, according to Pallmann.

'In 2023, we're relying entirely on our Magic Oil products and are pleased to be able to present another, magical wood floor oil that will once again change many things,' announces managing director Stefan Neuberger confidently.

'In keeping with the Uzin Utz Group maxim 'Planet', the new Magic Oil Change will once again demonstrate the company's long-standing sense of responsibility for the industry and the craftsmen. The wood-floor oil is based on cold pressed hemp oil and natural waxes.

'The use of renewable raw materials from regional, ecological agriculture reduces CO2 emissions by approx. 80% compared to conventional wood-floor oils. Magic Oil Change is available as a 2-component product, including hardener, as well as a 1-component product.'

[www.pallmann.net](http://www.pallmann.net)



The complete Magic Oil family 'offers the right product for every requirement'



Magic Oil 2K Ergo can be applied 'while standing upright with the help of an applicator'



Magic Oil series products 'ensure a natural feel and perfect barefoot sensation on wooden floors'



## RAWSON CARPET SOLUTIONS

**UTILISING what's been described as the highest grade Polyester PET, and advanced machinery, 'a soft luxurious surface product in a selection of aesthetic colours has been created'.**

As Rawson Carpet Solutions puts this product is a **fully recyclable** carpet tile. 'No landfill. No additives. No latex. Single polymer. Made from 80% recycled material.'

Continues the company: 'This, backed with a specially designed single polymer robust backing for the tile, provides a product to the market with proven recyclability back into PET, offering a multitude of further life uses.'

Recover is available in sheet and tile and both, says the company, are manufactured using 80% recycled material. 'Our standard swatch is available ex stock, however as a manufacturer, bespoke colours and designs are always an option. The benefits continue with a lightweight box, easy cutting and high acoustic and thermal properties.'

The specifications of the product are as follows:

- Surface Material 80% Recycled PET Polyester 20% Virgin Polyester
- Backing Material 80% Recycled PET Polyester 20% Virgin Polyester
- Surface weight 1,000g

- Total weight 2,000g
- Thickness 7mm
- Tiles per box 16 (4m sq)
- Dimensional stability pass
- Fire accreditations pass
- Class Rating 33
- Castor chair test pass

Get in touch with Rawson's creative sales team for more information and technical knowledge.

**01924 382860**  
**rccsales@werawson.co.uk**  
**www.rawsoncarpetsolutions.co.uk**



Carpet tiles made from recycled material

## SNICKERS WORKWEAR

**SNICKERS Workwear says it's always believed in making hard-wearing, long-lasting working clothes. It says: 'With sustainability now at the forefront, we know that the longer our clothes last, the less environmental impact they have.'**

It's this fundamental insight that is the foundation of our sustainability initiatives. It's how Snickers Workwear's durability and sustainability go hand-in-hand.'

The company continues: 'This brand leads on sustainability by using the highest quality, most hard-wearing products that have as little environmental impact as possible. It's why the latest garments are made from 'preferred fibres' to create hard-wearing workwear with a long product lifecycle - the key to reducing waste.'

So, if you choose Snickers Workwear you'll be making a conscious contribution to the environment by saving valuable resources through your buying decisions, the company concludes.

**www.snickersworkwear.com**



Snickers Workwear's durability and sustainability go hand-in-hand



## SHAW CONTRACT

**FROM a broad societal perspective, our awareness and urgency around climate and sustainability issues has intensified in 2023. Extreme weather events in various corners of the world, plastics in the ocean, energy supply and efficiency, fair and equitable treatment in the production of goods and the supply chain continue to make headlines.**

The corporate world is taking note. ESG stands for environmental, social and governance. Investors are increasingly applying these non-financial factors as part of their analysis process to identify material risks and growth opportunities. ESG metrics aren't commonly part of mandatory financial reporting, though companies are increasingly making disclosures in their annual report or in a standalone sustainability report.

Numerous institutions, such as the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) are working to form standards to facilitate incorporation of these factors into the investment process.

What's important to note is ESG factors are often interlinked.

For manufacturers and clients alike, it requires consideration of a range of interwoven factors around environmental protection, consideration of people and working relationships, and standards for running a company.

### 'Setting our own example'

Shaw Contract developed a position around People Together, Planet Forever to meet this. Looking ahead to making choices that positively impact people and planet with a focus on four ambitions:

- material health – design and manufacture products to optimise human environments;
- carbon impact – be a positive force in the global effort to collectively fight climate change;
- diversity, equity and inclusion – nurture an environment where different perspectives can be heard; and circular economy – practice a regenerative, closed loop approach to sustainability.

What does this mean in practise? Says the company: 'Shaw Contract is a 100% carbon neutral manufacturer globally. We

offer carbon neutral carpet tile collections for the UK market, made in our carbon-neutral manufacturing facility in Scotland which draws 100% of its electricity from renewable sources.

'A key initiative has been the introduction of our 100% recycled content yarn system, EcoSolution Q100 which uses pre-consumer recycled content. This fibre is used for key collections we manufacture in the UK which are also carbon neutral and optimised for low embodied carbon.

We have recycled content in our backing solutions, and our ComfortWorx backing has 100% content from post-consumer recycled plastic bottles.'

### 'Helping lower embodied carbon'

Much of the conversation around sustainability in buildings centres around operational carbon, this being the emissions associated with the activities that take place in a building after it is built. However, specifiers are now considering how to lower the embodied carbon of their assets too. Critically, many are considering the impact that choosing more sustainable materials and interior finishes can have on the overall picture.

The embodied carbon of a building takes into account all the emissions from the construction materials, building process, and fixtures and fittings inside, as well as from deconstructing and disposing of it at the end of its useful lifetime.

Continues Shaw Contract: 'This year, we've taken an important step to meet this, and to encourage a step towards a circular economy. Shaw Contract is offering a first-in-kind warranty across 15 years that covers reuse of our UK-made carpet tiles in a second space or building, when installed with IOBAC MagTabs.

'The concept of reusable floors opens a whole new dynamic to managing buildings and property portfolios through a circular lens



Shaw's ComfortWorx backing is made up of 67 recycled plastic bottles per metre squared

– by using the same materials again, there's no embodied carbon linked to the second location.'

The company adds: 'Shaw Contract's warranty extension is an important enabler. We're providing customers with the peace of mind that their flooring will not only continue to perform as expected, but for property owners and managers, that the flooring itself can become an asset that can be reused. The drive towards calculating a product's carbon impact through Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) is climbing higher on the agenda.

'The supply chain of raw materials, manufacturing operations and then transport, installation, use, transportation again and disposal all factor into this assessment. Our re[TURN] Take-back scheme means materials are recycled, reused or repurposed and is available across the Shaw Contract backing platforms. Closed loop recycling is the goal which can be met through new manufacturing processes and in 2023 this is an important focus.'

### 'Promoting wellbeing with healthy materials'

Another critical aspect of ESG is our wellbeing. As people returned to the workplace and into education, significant energies have been devoted to making workspaces and educational facilities fit-for-purpose, and that includes creating modern spaces that support wellbeing.

This makes healthy materials another key part of the building sustainability story. With more than 90% of products Cradle-to-Cradle certified, and over 20 years pioneering a Cradle-to-Cradle approach, key health metrics such as material ingredients that support good indoor air quality has always been a focus at Shaw Contract. What's more, this can also be measured and certified when it comes to material performance.

Take Indoor Air Comfort (IAC) Gold Certification as an example. This standard ensures low VOC emission requirements are fulfilled and demonstrate manufacturers' commitment to quality and contribution to a healthy indoor environment. Shaw has achieved this certification across our TaskWorx and ComfortWorx carpet tiles, made in the UK.

Crucially, IAC certifications are accepted as proof from programmes for sustainable buildings such as BREEAM international and LEED, making material choices an important component of wider building sustainability strategies.

[www.shawcontract.com](http://www.shawcontract.com)

Shaw Contract's carpet tiles are manufactured at their carbon neutral facility in Sanquhar, Scotland



## STAUF

**CAN highly efficient chemical products and ecological responsibility be reconciled? The experts at STAUF says they've answered this question with a clear 'yes' with the development of the new ProForce product range.**

The manufacturer of 'high-quality adhesive systems for floor, wall and outdoor coverings, has developed three adhesives that cover the most diverse areas of parquet installation, but all have two essential properties: they have a significantly lower density and thus a

much greater range than products previously available on the market'.

Adds the company: 'STAUF M2A 910 from the dispersion adhesives range, STAUF SPU 510 from the silane adhesives range and STAUF PUK 410 from the polyurethane adhesives range represent the TOP product in the STAUF portfolio in our technology area with outstanding properties and application approvals.'

### 'Wider range, less weight'

With these new developments, STAUF says

it's making a further contribution to greater sustainability in construction chemistry, as they reportedly allow significantly more square meters of parquet to be installed per kilogram of adhesive.

'In addition, the low-density adhesives are significantly lighter than conventional adhesives. The lower weight saves resources, has a favourable effect on transport costs and emissions, and above all is easy on the craftsman. The higher range of about 40%, depending on the adhesive, ensures correspondingly lower consumption.'

### 'Bucket made from 100% recycled plastic'

However, STAUF says it's not only focused on saving energy and resources and reducing CO2 emissions, but also on the recyclability of the packaging: the buckets of ProForce adhesives are said to be made from 100% recycled plastic – which is post-consumer recycled (PCR) plastic.

Says Stauf: 'This material is derived from plastic packaging from consumer waste. It's a robust material that doesn't require fossil raw materials to produce. Because PCR is made entirely from waste, it contributes to a reduction in CO2 emissions, unlike other plastics. Specifically, it saves 36% CO2 per bucket.'

The company concludes: 'Since STAUF has also replaced the metal handles with handles made of plastic, the buckets can be easily recycled 100% after use and returned to the cycle without additional effort.'



©STAUF Klebstoffwerk, GmbH

STAUF Proforce SPU 510 Comp

[www.stauf.de](http://www.stauf.de)

The factory in Haaksbergen in The Netherlands



## UZIN UTZ GROUP

**THE Uzin Utz Group invests into innovating more sustainable products and says it adopts the best environment practices. 'Our products are responsibly sourced and manufactured to meet ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.'**

The company adds: 'Most of our products have been awarded EMICODE EC1 Plus certification. Such products are solvent-free, very low emission and guarantee excellent indoor air quality as well as providing the most ecological approach for

flooring installations.

'We also manufacture several products which have environmental product declarations (EPDs), which are suitable for clients and customers which require a SKA rating or require products to meet ISO 14025 (environmental labels and declarations).

'Our commitment to sustainability is evident when building and constructing new offices and factories such as our factory in Haaksbergen

in The Netherlands. Here, our products are manufactured in a CO2-neutral environment. The heating is generated by a combination of pellet and geothermal heating, rainwater is used for flushing toilets and the air, light and temperature are sensor controlled.'

Concludes Uzin: 'Together with numerous other initiatives, this has led to us having one of the most sustainable factories in Europe.'

<https://uk.uzin.com/>



## TARKETT

**SUSTAINABILITY should be open to being interpreted differently by individual businesses. While the definition of 'sustainability' may not have changed much over the years, people's understanding of it has.**

In recent years, the conversation has shifted towards creating a stronger circular economy, moving away from the traditional 'take, make, use and dispose' linear model.

For the construction industry in particular, this is proving to be a difficult challenge. In 2018 a study by Defra showed construction, demolition and excavation (CDE) was responsible for an astonishing 59% of the million tonnes of waste generated in the UK that year.

In its own words, here is Tarkett's approach:

*At Tarkett we decided it was time to make a change and defined circularity as one of the key pillars in our sustainability DNA, to develop a regenerative method of production to prevent damage to our planet, also known as the circular economy.*

*Unlike the traditional linear model based on a consumer throw away pattern, the Circular Economy is designed to eliminate waste to circulate. The circular economy is based on three key principles, designing out waste and pollution, circulating products and materials at their highest value and regenerating natural resources.*

*This has led to significant changes in the way manufacturers make products, which has encouraged specifiers to have an eco-conscious approach when selecting products for consumers use. While these changes take place, there is still a missing link in being able to fully close the loop.*

*Guided by Cradle to Cradle principles and through significant investment and ground-breaking innovation, Tarkett is leading the transition to a circular economy in the flooring industry.*

*The Cradle to Cradle Methodology challenges*

*manufacturers to re-design their products from the outset, eliminating any waste and harmful ingredients and chemicals from their products. It also champions the use of recycled raw materials, renewable energy and carbon management, water stewardship and social fairness.*

*Tarkett has the widest selection of Cradle to Cradle Certified products on the flooring market, with more than 20 certificates covering over 100 different individual products.*

*Having identified the barriers to placing products on the market that are truly circular, Tarkett continued to develop the solutions to recycle post-installation and post-consumer flooring waste – and we have achieved it.*

*At one of our nine dedicated recycling centres, Tarkett can now recycle post-installation waste of all our commercial vinyl and linoleum, and post-consumer flooring waste of carpet tiles, homogenous vinyl, linoleum, loose-lay sheet vinyl and loose-lay LVT. This is all encompassed in our ReStart programme, the hassle-free flooring takeback service.*

*In 2021, Tarkett released the Circular Selection brochure – a collection of new and existing products which are defined as circular – utilising high levels of recycled content and are 100% closed-loop recyclable at end-of-life at one of our recycling centres, collected via our ReStart programme. This offers customers the choice of specifying truly sustainable products.*

*As well as being able to recycle, Tarkett upcycles waste materials from other industries such as chalk, fishing nets and polyvinyl butyral*

ReStart programme



*(PVB) to give old materials a new lease-of-life to continue to circulate in the 'closed loop'.*

*Of course, the focus of many businesses, organisations and government is on climate change and the impact that their operations have, directly or indirectly. Many specifiers are now looking at carbon neutral options. While carbon neutral products can be beneficial, the 'neutrality' is often achieved through carbon offsets, which has faced criticisms, including giving manufacturers the right to pollute and avoiding real carbon reductions, these products are then not able to be recycled post-consumer, so are likely to be incinerated at their end-of-life, thus emitting CO2 back into the atmosphere.*

*'Product waste is one of the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, adopting a circular approach is essential in achieving net zero,' says Ross Dight, technical & sustainability director at Tarkett.*

*When Tarkett take back flooring through the ReStart Programme it prevents products from being sent to landfill and incineration by recycling valuable resources back into new Tarkett flooring. This saves virgin raw material extraction and prevents harmful fumes being let out into the atmosphere, which contributes to reducing CO2 emissions.*

*Tarkett Climate Benefit's from Recycling Report highlights how you can save about 10kgs CO2-eq, per m2 of post-use DESSO Eco-Base carpet tiles, 17kgs CO2-eq per m2 of post-use loose-lay LVT, 12.4kgs CO2 per m2 of post use loose-lay sheet vinyl and 5.4kgs CO2-eq per m2 of post-use linoleum.*

*As an example, in 2022, Tarkett worked with London based hospital, UCLH where a total 6.4 tonnes of post-use and post-installation flooring waste was recovered from the site, saving an impressive 23 tonnes CO2-eq when recycled back into new Tarkett floors.*

*It's clear that harnessing circularity and applying a regenerative approach will certainly make our planet a better place. Recycling is crucial to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the reliance on virgin raw materials which will not only prevent the extraction of precious and scarce minerals to eliminate the amount of waste we produce, it will allow eco-systems to flourish too.*

To find out more information on Tarkett's Circular Selection try the new carbon calculator by scanning the QR code.

01233743659  
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www.tarkett.com





## THE SOLID WOOD FLOORING COMPANY

**THE Solid Wood Flooring Company says its mission is simple. 'We want to make our planet more sustainable. Since our humble beginnings, we've always prided ourselves on staying ahead of our competitors by embracing technological advances and adopting environmentally friendly principles.**

Developing and designing sustainable spaces is critical. And wood is the only renewable choice of building material for flooring. Plastics are derived from fossil fuels, and concrete can damage our environment through the energy it takes to produce.

'Wood is a renewable resource that naturally grows in abundance. And it's the way forward. But it's not just our bespoke wood flooring we offer for sustainability. Here, in the words of The Solid Wood Flooring Company, is some of the work it's doing as part of its green sustainability strategy:

### **We partner with Maersk Eco Delivery**

Our forward-thinking approach means we're always looking for ways to achieve our mission. Through this, we realised container shipping is an energy-intensive activity, as most shipping containers use unsustainable Heavy Fuel Oils (HFOs).

It's important to explore low-carbon energy options which can integrate easily into our existing supply chains, which is why we're proud to partner with global logistics specialists Maersk ECO Delivery.

Using only sustainable second-generation biodiesel, they offer a promising decarbonisation solution that saves an average of 2 tons of carbon emissions per container shipped.

This perfectly aligns with our commitment to sustain our planet whilst creating stunning interior spaces.

Why? Because we choose to use wood: the only renewable choice for flooring as its production uses less energy than any other material. By improving our efficiencies for our logistics, we're choosing to further contribute to this commitment.

### **We collaborate with Gone West**

It takes 5 times more energy to produce 1 tonne of cement, 24 times more energy for 1 tonne of steel, and 126 times for 1 tonne of aluminium. However, the production of wood flooring uses less energy in its processing methods than any other construction material.

Young trees absorb more carbon dioxide than mature ones. So, it makes sense to harvest older trees and plant new ones. However, with only

11.76% of our land being used as forests, it's crucial to our country's environmental future that we act now.

That's why we're proud to be a part of the Gone West global mission. Our plan is to use approximately 1,000 oak trees a year, and as part of our partnership we've committed to planting 4,000 oak trees every year. So, for every tree we cut down, we'll plant three new ones.

And why is it important? Because climate change is real. We've underestimated our impact on the planet. In the past two centuries, we've cut down 50% of the world's forest. It's time to act.

Alongside this, in our continued efforts to reduce our carbon footprint, we teamed up with Minchinhampton Golf Club. As part of this, we funded the planting of over 50 mixed oak and beech trees.

### **We're certified by the FSC and PEFC**

We unreservedly condemn illegal logging and will not manufacture some exotic species as we believe a lot come from questionable sources.

That's why we only source from well-managed, legal sustainable forests. It's also why we manufacture our own wood flooring because we can control the sources of our raw materials unlike our competitors who buy from traders.

To ensure our materials come from certified, sustainable, and well-managed forests, we work closely with the Forest Stewardship Commission (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Our FSC chain of custody certification means our materials have been identified and separated from ineligible and unacceptable ones as it makes its way along the supply chain from the forest to your project.

This means all of our flooring can be traced back to the forest where it was harvested, ensuring its responsibly managed.

### **We're supporters of The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy**

As members of the Royal Commonwealth Society, we support the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy. The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy is an initiative started in 2015 as a network of forest conservation programmes throughout the Commonwealth of Nations' 54 countries.

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy is committed to raising awareness within the Commonwealth of the value of indigenous forests. Additionally, they're dedicated to saving them for future generations.

Projects committed to include:

Australia's 20m Trees

Programme – a community project to plant 20 million trees, which will re-establish green corridors and urban forests on public and private land.

Namibia's N/a'an ku sê Forest Conservation Revegetation Project – this project plans to establish economically viable and ecologically sustainable nurseries that utilise recycled water and solar energy to propagate and plant native trees and revegetate degraded landscapes.

Seychelle's 20,000 Trees Programme – As part of their

programme, Seychelles are planting 20,000 trees to restore and rehabilitate degraded forests land area and plant endemic species to reinforce their population within the islands.

### **We only harvest older trees**

Whenever we use a tree, we ensure nothing goes to waste. That's why we only harvest older trees that consume less carbon and produce less oxygen. We work with forestry experts to select the trees and ensure no habitats are damaged or destroyed.

To utilise every inch of a tree, we primarily produce engineered floorboards. This means we consume around one fifth of the amount of material compared to producing solid boards. In turn, we can provide your project with additional benefits such as underfloor heating systems and flexible sizing without compromising sustainability.

### **Sustainable manufacturing processes**

Our manufacturing processes alone make it a more sustainable, environmentally friendly and natural wood product. The process doesn't involve toxic glue, making our engineered wood flooring better for your health.

Bamboo, although a very sustainable product, uses very toxic glues in its manufacturing process, which can contaminate the air you breathe. Cork is made from organic and renewable materials that are both biodegradable and recyclable, making it a versatile and sustainable product for the environment.

Oak floors are considered one of the most sustainable options because forest management protection programs and regulations make sure these trees are regularly replanted in forests. Oak also has a smaller carbon footprint and releases fewer toxic emissions during the manufacturing process than other options.

### **Sustainable interior design done differently**

Our roots are in refurbishing Grade I and II listed properties. Inspired by a lack of homegrown products and the quality of cheap imports, we spent several years researching and developing high-quality engineered flooring that interior designers can pick up and play with.

Since day one, we work closely with architects, contractors, fitters and interior designers to manufacture flooring that brings the artistic vision to life. By investing in innovation, we afford architects and designers new levels of imagination.

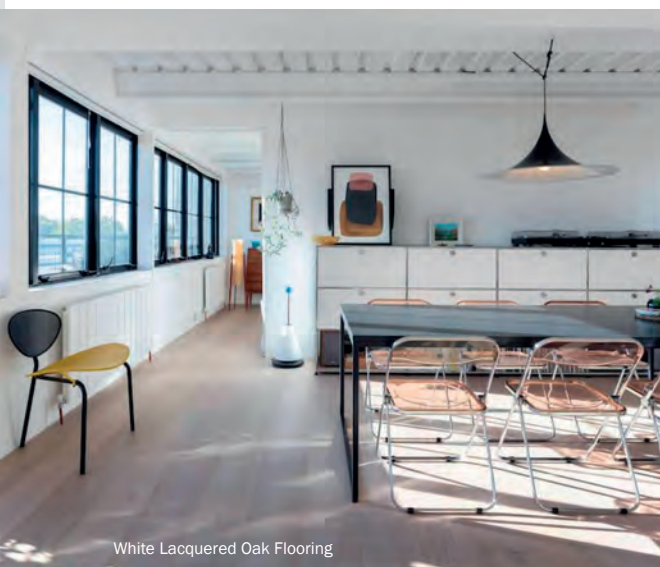
All our engineered boards can be used for cladding walls or bar fronts to create atmosphere and transform spaces. By offering multi-purpose boards, interior designers can create cohesion and consistency by matching up the flooring with the walls and bar fronts.

By offering multi-purpose engineered flooring, we continue our commitment to providing environmentally friendly alternatives suitable for sustainable living and design.

[www.thesolidwoodflooringcompany.com](http://www.thesolidwoodflooringcompany.com)



Light fumed brushed UV-oiled engineered oak wood flooring



White Lacquered Oak Flooring



## TOVER

**‘AT Tover we don’t just talk the talk on the environment, we put our money where our mouth is and walk the walk by implementing not just ideas, but concrete actions that will help generations of our loved ones inherit a better Earth than the one that we have left behind,’ says the company.**

While ‘Let’s Go Green’ is an oft-sung mantra and is very easy to say, actually getting down and dirty and doing something to make it happen that will make a real and lasting difference takes imagination, tenacity, and focus. It also requires true commitment, says Tover.

The company continues: ‘We’re proud to be not just be a ‘sayer’ of catchy slogans and soundbites. At Tover we believe we were the first manufacturer of environmentally conscious chemical solutions for the flooring industry to manufacture our products using solar power. We didn’t make this commitment

when it was fashionable, and indeed it was even said by some of our competitors that we were ‘unwise’ But we knew in our hearts that even though on the balance sheet the hard numbers most definitely didn’t stack up in favour, it was morally the right thing to do. This wasn’t just a few years ago as well. This was in 2010.’

It adds: ‘Let’s all be honest here, there have been hugely traumatic events in the world over the past few years that have changed how we all live our lives. Events that we all wish had never happened. While we can’t change any of this, we can change how to shape our futures and the future of our planet by implementing smarter and more innovative strategies that help nurture the Earth and limit the seemingly inexorable rise of global emissions.’

Catchy slogans? Soundbites? Not at all, says Tover. ‘To help our world one step at a

MS Adhesives



time, Tover is proud to be part of the plant for the planet <https://www.plant-for-the-planet.org> where we pledge to increase reforestation worldwide.

‘And that’s not all! Tover is proud to be the first manufacturer of environmentally conscious chemical flooring solutions to offer recycled plastic buckets for our MS Polymers, polyurethanes and epoxy adhesives. Again (Just like the balance sheet about the roof) from cold hard numbers on a profit and loss sheet, this really doesn’t add up at all. But, just like the roof, we truly believe it’s the right thing to do. **Stamping on that ‘footprint’** we realise we needed actions at every stage of our thinking as a company if we were truly going to make a difference in the world. That’s why every raw material, and every resource we buy as a company arrives at our doors by carefully vetted, truly local suppliers at the closest geographical distance to the factory, minimising our carbon footprint and helping the world get to net zero before it’s too late.’

[www.tover.com](http://www.tover.com)



Tover offices



## VÄLINGE INNOVATION

**SIMON Darbyshire, managing director of Välinge Innovation UK, has more than 30 years' international management experience in the wood-based panels sector. Here he comments on the issue of sustainability and how his experience with Välinge shows innovation is key to making improvements in product development.**

Sustainability is constantly rising up the policy agenda, and the concept of a sustainable economy now underpins government's strategy for a recovery of the construction sector post-covid.

When it comes to improving the sustainability of flooring products, there is still much to do. According to the Zero Avoidable Waste Report published by the Contract Flooring Association in 2021, there's a 'limited market for reuse' of laminate flooring and the 'primary disposal pathway for laminate flooring is as a biomass infeed'. Furthermore 'there are no established manufacturer or contractor funded take-back or recycling schemes for offcuts of timber flooring from the fitting process or at the end of life'.

In the flooring industry as a whole the scope for improving reuse and recycling therefore remains considerable. One of the best ways to ensure this is to manufacture and install them in such a way that they can remain within a circular model.

The international CISUFLO project, Circular Sustainable Floorings, for instance, aims to develop innovative circular products for the flooring industry, prompting, in the long run, the adoption of a circular economy model throughout the entire value chain and beyond. One of the important things to be aware of is how innovation and sustainability can come together.

At Välinge Innovation the focus is on product innovation and has been since the company's foundation in 1993. In fact, the company has historically been an R&D and technology company. The company has pioneered a technological revolution for the flooring industry and led the transition from traditional glued tongue-and-groove to today's modern click technology.

From launching the original mechanical locking system, Välinge Innovation has now been granted over 3,500 patents for floor, furniture, and surface technologies, and has

over 260 licensees across the globe using their innovations.

The company has only gone into manufacturing relatively recently, and now has a new state-of-the-art 4,000sq m production facility in Sweden. It's also in the process of finalising its facility in Ogulin, Croatia which will extend the overall available production capacity to about 8 million square metres, with plans to grow to 20 million square metres.

Meanwhile, Pervanovo Invest AB, Välinge's parent company owns the Croatian companies Bjelin Spacva and Bjelin Otok, and is today one of Europe's largest manufacturers of oak veneers. Pervanovo's two Croatian veneer companies now have a combined production capacity of 25 million square metres of FSC-certified oak veneer.

Välinge Innovation has invented and commercialised the Woodura technology - a smarter and more efficient way to make a real wood hardened floor. Välinge has invested in factories in Sweden and Croatia and the products are now sold as Bjelin Hardened Wood Flooring.

Välinge Woodura technology fuses a thin sheet of real wood with an HDF wood fibre core through a powder mix layer. The powder mix perfectly fills up the natural openings of the wood veneer and enhances the wood appearance. It thereby eliminates the need for wood-filler and creates a significantly stronger surface with a hardness three times greater than traditional engineered and solid wood floors.

The hardened wood floors use timber much more efficiently. In fact only 10% of the material normally used in hardwood flooring is required for the timber used in Woodura. What's more, hardened wood flooring with Woodura technology is made with oak, ash and walnut that come from sustainable sources of timber with FSC certification.

5G Dry is a further development, comprising a fold-down installation system that provides enhanced water resistance by preventing water from penetrating into the joints of the floor panels. With greater



Simon Darbyshire

protection to withstand spills, this innovation makes floors both incredibly easy to install and to live with.

In wood-based floorings, 5G Dry contributes to significantly lower edge swelling, thereby ensuring that the floor both looks and feels better even when subjected to wet mopping, accidents and other events resulting from everyday use.

In the Bjelin flooring range, both these systems are available in the following sizes: XL (206 x 2,200mm) and XXL dimensions (271 x 2,378mm) and the 5G Dry locking system allows for two times faster installation and provides the strongest locking system available. Importantly from a sustainability perspective, it does not require adhesive, making separation and recycling much more straightforward, when the time comes (if ever needed for such a long lasting and beautiful real wood floor).

So it can be seen that, by focusing on innovation, it is possible to develop products in the wood flooring sector, which meet all the aesthetic requirements of a timber floor, as well as being much more durable and also meeting sustainability goals on a number of levels.

I firmly believe, firstly that we in the flooring sector, and in the hardened wood flooring sector specifically, have to play our part in the crucial drive towards sustainability and improved environmental performance.

Secondly I am sure, considering Välinge's history and expertise that innovation is the way forward to achieve those important climate change goals in the flooring sector.

We need to innovate technologies that enable minimal use of raw materials when producing real wood flooring that lasts a lifetime. We need products which are easily separable and which, where possible, do not require the use of adhesives.

It seems clear Välinge Innovation is leading the sector on this issue.

[www.valinge.se](http://www.valinge.se)  
[bjelin.com/uk](http://bjelin.com/uk)



Välinge Centre



## Karen Wilding

# Going round and moving forwards: The key to a circular economy

WITH a target for the country to be net zero by 2050, set by government, sustainability is at the forefront of many companies' minds for 2023. So, what can the flooring industry do to be more environmentally conscious? Here I'll explain what they're doing as a company to minimise their impact on the environment.

According to studies, the construction industry accounts for nearly a third of the world's overall waste and at least 40% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions - and this includes the flooring industry. As one of the largest surface areas in most projects, flooring can have a big impact on the carbon footprint generated by a building.

In fact, it was estimated in 2018 that about 400,000 tonnes of carpet waste was generated in the UK, of which around only 44% was diverted away from landfill sites. This means at least over half of all flooring waste currently doesn't get reused or recycled.

To help the flooring industry to become more circular, it's imperative that the ways in which flooring is manufactured and disposed of changes.

As a global manufacturer of high-quality commercial and residential floorcoverings, Forbo is committed to becoming more sustainable. While it has a set of objectives to reach its overall sustainability goal, the company has already achieved several accomplishments.

One such accomplishment being a 70% decrease in carbon emissions per sq m of product produced between 2004 and 2021. Additionally, 23% of Forbo's flooring is made up of recycled materials by weight, with some products containing as much as 89% recycled material. Forbo's product lines are also manufactured using 100% safe and traceable raw materials in factories using 100% green electricity, further reducing its carbon footprint.

Part of the work Forbo does to become more sustainable focuses on the entire supply chain, looking from start to finish with its products and services. This includes ensuring the materials used to make its products aren't only taken from sustainable sources, but also that those collecting them are being treated fairly, which is why Forbo was the first flooring manufacturer to receive the international, auditable SA8000 social certification standard for

social performance and guaranteed fair treatment of all workers across its worldwide supply chain.

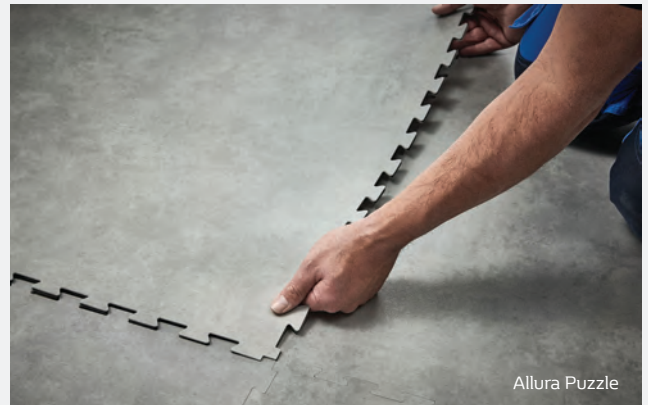
Thanks to our commitment to sustainability, Forbo's portfolio offers some truly unique sustainable solutions.

Forbo's own brand of linoleum flooring, Marmoleum, is climate positive from cradle to gate, without the need for offsetting. A bio-based floor, Marmoleum is manufactured from 97% natural raw materials. This includes flax, jute and linseed oil, which are obtained from annual crops, and wood flour and pine rosin that are sourced from sustainably managed forestry plantations.



In fact, 61% of the natural ingredients are renewable, of which 29% are rapidly renewable, meaning it will grow back within one year. Marmoleum also boasts 43% reused and recycled content to reduce the demand for virgin raw materials.

The climate positivity of Forbo's Marmoleum from cradle to gate is confirmed by the independent Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), which shows the CO2 removed from the atmosphere during the growing of its natural ingredients exceeds the CO2 produced in the extraction, transportation and manufacturing



Allura Puzzle

taken advantage of by flooring contractors to help create a more circular economy, delivering a phthalate-free solution that is not only quick and easy to install, but can also be removed, recycled or reused at the end of its useful service life as it has no adhesive residue.

To help close the materials loop, Forbo is investing in developing closed loop manufacturing processes, such as that at its Ripley site where waste materials from the group can be recycled; indeed, some of Forbo's vinyl ranges contain 89% recycled content by weight. Its commercial vinyl is completely safe, with low carbon emissions that Forbo declares using third party verified environmental product declarations (EPDs).

Forbo can also claim a high percentage of recycled content by weight for its Tessera carpet tiles too - up to as high as 76%, which can be increased further when produced using the Softbac backing option. It also uses Econyl yarns across many of its carpet tile and Coral entrance system products, which are sourced from waste fishing nets, making for 100% regenerated material.

To continue in this endeavour to be a trusted partner, providing full transparency when it comes to circular flooring solutions and renewable raw materials, Forbo is aiming to increase its renewable energy usage; for example, the Tessera carpet tile factory in Bamber Bridge uses renewable electricity and biogas, as well as continuing to decrease CO2 emissions and evaluating low impact energy supply, as part of its sustainability programme 2025.

The company is also looking at minimising its product and office waste and to maximise the reuse and recycling of any waste generated, to limit landfill and incineration as solutions to its disposal.

In addition to this, Forbo operates a 'Back to The Floor' recycling programme, where they collect clean installation off-cuts of Forbo products. These off-cuts can then be recycled back into some of Forbo's product lines, helping to create a more circular economy. This has the added benefit of saving contractor's money as collections are free and provide an alternative to landfilling waste flooring.

To learn more about Forbo's commitment to sustainability, visit <https://www.forbo.com/flooring/en-uk/sustainability/going-round/pnjbgb>

[www.forbo.com](https://www.forbo.com)

Karen Wilding is marketing communications manager at Forbo Flooring Systems



Marmoleum Linear Trace of Nature Blue Basalt

# Cutting your carbon footprint: Where to start

**F**LOORING has an important part to play in making the built environment more sustainable which is imperative to the UK hitting its net zero target in 2050. Although imagining a sustainable future for their operations can be daunting for contractors, specifiers and manufacturers already navigating difficult economic and industry conditions, it is possible. But where to start?

The familiar position of knowing things need to change but not being sure where to start is where Interface found itself in the early 90s, as our founder Ray Anderson sought to find an answer to what the company was doing for the environment. Cut to 2023 and Interface is now a Carbon Neutral Enterprise, and we have set our sights on becoming a carbon-negative business by 2040 with our Climate Take Back mission.

Getting this far has meant navigating some steep learning curves and taking a broad look at the impact of our products and wider company. It won't be long before the need to reduce carbon footprint becomes mission critical for businesses across the sector, and we hope that Interface's experience can be a useful guide to getting started.

### Knowledge is power

Meaningful change requires meaningful metrics, so the first step for any business looking to work more sustainably is understanding its current emissions. This doesn't just mean measuring the emissions that result directly and indirectly from operations and energy (known as Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions), but those from other indirect emissions such as how products are used and disposed of (Scope 3).

For flooring, this means undertaking lifecycle assessments that measure the impact of the product from manufacturing through installation, use and disposal. Many companies focus on their Scope 1 and 2 emissions, which is a good starting point, but in the majority of cases, a significant proportion of a company's emissions will be Scope 3. For Interface, understanding the full lifecycle carbon footprint of our products was critical as a significant amount comes from the raw materials we use, maintenance of the installed product, and the end of life.

Once we have this understanding of our carbon footprint, we can set targets and begin the process of carbon reduction. In 2022,

Interface took the huge step of balancing our entire carbon footprint and became a carbon neutral enterprise, meaning any impact created by our products and company is offset to zero. This was only possible through measurement and reductions achieved since we started our first sustainability mission in 1994.

Having a comprehensive view of their emissions allows businesses to understand their impact and where they might be able to make the most significant changes. It also creates transparency, assuring customers and employees that progress is being made and there are robust plans for future reductions.



### Reduce, reduce, reduce

Having interrogated their current impact and defined their objectives, companies can get to work on reducing their footprint. At Interface, one of our key areas to address was the raw materials being used in our products.

Continual innovation has led to more recycled and biobased content being used in our products and our latest innovation, CQuestBio backing, is cradle-to-gate carbon negative. This means it stores more carbon than it releases, and it comes as standard on all our carpet tiles, not just certain collections. This has enabled our customers to lower the carbon footprint of the projects they're working on, reducing their Scope 3 emissions.

Alongside the headline-making innovations such as switching to renewable energy and recycled materials, product design and installation adjustments are also needed, which often require a smaller upfront investment and have an immediate impact. Training installers to reduce waste during the fit-out process, as well as providing more sustainable adhesives, brings down Scope 3 emissions that we're often too quick to declare out of our reach.

There's a certain amount of pragmatism required; a frank approach that goes beyond how sustainable a product is on paper. One of the most important things we've learned when designing for sustainability is the need to balance environmental benefits with performance and durability – a 'sustainable' floor that needs replacing every three years isn't that sustainable.

We've also seen the value of giving our partners the tools to make better choices with our products when they're replacing flooring. Introducing take back options gives users direct access to sustainable disposal.

Interface's ReEntry programme gives carpet tiles a new lease of life with worthy causes in the local community, eliminating the emissions created by producing something new.

### Sharing is caring

A sustainable flooring industry will be built on a culture of transparency. Environmental impact is already front of mind for customers, who are becoming more fluent with the language and metrics of sustainability. Businesses looking to thrive in this market will need to make the details of their products available and digestible.

In the built environment, we are seeing the increase in demand for environmental product declarations, which provide transparency on the carbon footprint of the product and allow specifiers and contractors to compare different solutions.

This desire for transparency will move beyond products alone – soon, customers will want to know what manufacturers and contractors are measuring and what steps they're taking to reduce their impact and footprint. This is where external verification will become increasingly important to ensure that targets set are in line with what is required, and any offsets used are making a real, additional and measurable reduction.

For the flooring sector, it's a question of when rather than if the industry will be forced to work more sustainably. For many businesses, how they manage the transition will be crucial to how they fare in a future defined by a more sustainable built environment. It's easier said than done, and there are no shortcuts, but it is possible, and we have a duty to make it happen.

[www.interface.com](http://www.interface.com)

Becky Gordon is regional sustainability manager (UKIME) at Interface





## Pia Honey

# Sustainably improving the flooring industry with community action

In December 2021 I changed some of my downstairs laminate flooring. There was nothing wrong with it, and it would've been such a shame just to waste it, and add to landfill, which I detest doing. So I considered my options.

I asked the floor fitters if they'd take it up carefully and put it to one side. I then placed adverts on St Albans Facebook recycling site saying that anyone who needed it was very welcome. There was no charge, I just wanted it to be used by someone who needed it.

It soon became apparent that a lot of people needed it. On this occasion, I was able to help three separate families all of whom had similar stories. Through speaking to them, I learnt they'd been lucky enough to be given a home by the council, but that they'd been given bare floorboards or concrete floors. Between 2016 to 2018, 17% of households (3.9m) in England lived in social housing.

### Flooring in council houses

When someone receives a home from the council, all the flooring is removed no matter what state it's in. It's a health and safety issue (apparently). It could be perfectly adequate, but still destroyed. This needs to be reviewed.

If you have little money, and are just starting out furnishing a home, one of the largest expenses is flooring. So very often the new tenants are left for years with absolutely no flooring, very likely with small children running around. This is far from ideal, especially in winter, with rising energy bills, trying to keep warm and comfortable is a feat in itself.

### A possible solution.

With this in mind, I wanted to call on the council

to see if they were willing to take a little more time in assessing each situation.

When new tenants come to view a council property, then they should be able to decide to 'keep or clear' the flooring. If health and safety is a concern, then this could come with a disclaimer from the council to absolve responsibility.



If the tenant isn't able to view beforehand, then surely someone in the council can make the judgement? Or maybe the council could repurpose the funds allocated to uplift, removal and disposal to instead cleaning and sanitising the floors. With so much talk about environment and landfill, it would be good for the council to be seen to be proactive in reducing this.

I then started a petition to raise awareness.

### Community involvement

Because there are so many people to help,

I made it my mission to try and find more flooring. I gave away my spare room carpet, and contacted carpet fitters and shops collecting a lot of room size pieces. I also started a Facebook page where people could donate their preloved flooring, and I match them with people in need.

In 2022, I officially registered my efforts as a community interest company – No Floor No More.

With the help of a local removals firm, Akers Removals, I now have access to a shipping container and storage facilities. We now provide weekly opening times, where people need can come to receive carpets and flooring. We also monthly take our carpets to Vineyard food bank in St Albans to provide a greater opportunity to help the local community.

### Award nomination

India Pim, an art department assistant, was given the role of disposing of a large amount of carpet. While looking online she came across my group and contacted me. I jumped at the chance of buying these. She has been instrumental in sourcing carpets from the TV and film industry, thus leading to the amazing nomination of No Floor No More for the Planet Positive Award at the 2023 British Film Designers Guild Awards.

Because of our Planet Positive award nomination, our recycling flooring initiative has raised much interest and approaches in moving forwards from green companies such as CAMA asset store and the sustainability department at the BBC.

### Our mission continued

We're actively saving tonnes of carpets (and chemicals) from landfill, and are providing carpet and homewares for so many low income families that are often overlooked.

It's a real passion of mine to help create a home environment for children in the community. Furnished homes promote good health, and this in turn eases the burden on the NHS and social services with antidepressant prescriptions and injuries from bare floors. Being happy in your home alleviates stress, payday loans, debt of higher utilities, and promotes good mental health.

To date we've helped almost 200 families in little over a year with absolutely no official funding.

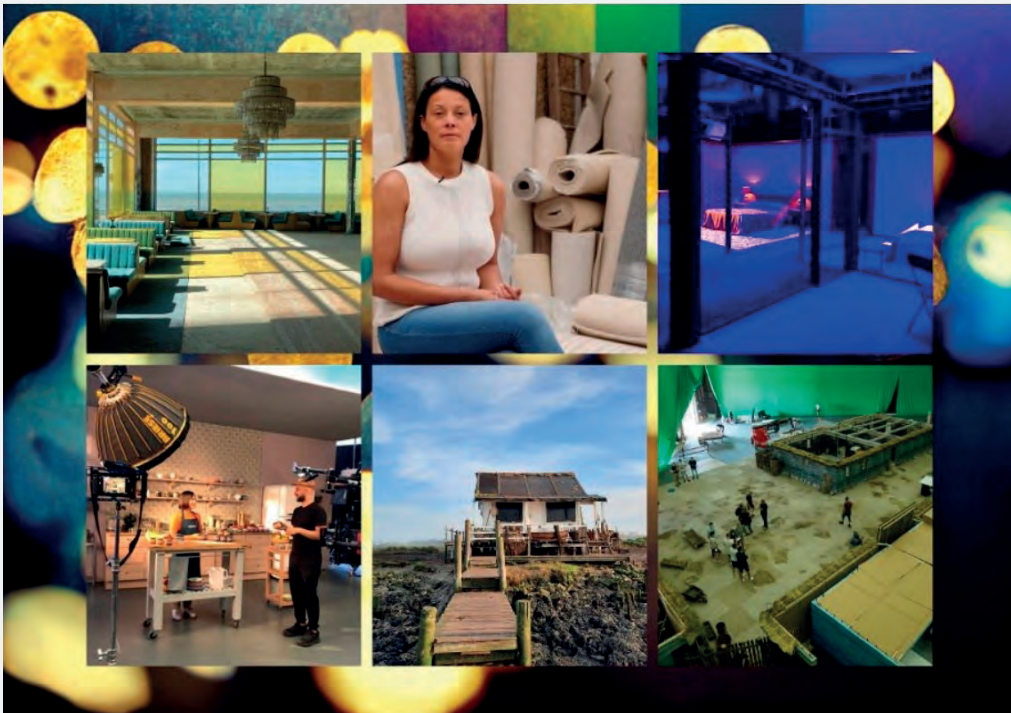
If you have any usable flooring you'd like to donate, please visit our website.

**Council house data:** [www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/housing/social-housing/renting-from-a-local-authority-or-housing-association-socialhousing/latest](http://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/housing/social-housing/renting-from-a-local-authority-or-housing-association-socialhousing/latest)

**Petition:** <https://chng.it/FW7MZt99FQ>

[www.nofloornomore.org](http://www.nofloornomore.org)

Pia Honey is founder of No Floor No More



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