

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Northstate is actively engaged with the Carpet Institute of Australia and its manufacturing membership in seeking permanent and sustainable solutions to post consumer recycling of carpet and associated products.

We consider this approach to product stewardship to be the most responsible since it is not dependant on the effort of any single company or organisation. Recent experiences in North America show that there is a high failure rate in recycling amongst individual efforts in the short term.

Promises and assurances that are made for the take back and recycling of product at the end of its life – typically 10 years, do not and have not materialised.

Achievements and measures that we have and continue to make in reducing the impact from our manufacturing processes on the environment include the following:-

WASTE WISE PARTNER

- ◆ Northstate is inaugural Waste Wise partners with Queensland EPA, is showcased at industry roll out of program as best practice.
- ◆ South Roc (Southern Regional Organisation of Councils) Award for contribution to clean green industry initiatives.
- ◆ Eco access classification by EPA in recognition of operations.
- ◆ Partner with Visy Recycling for Recycling Program.
- ◆ Awarded Q-Build SOA (Standing Offer Agreement) (3 + 3year) supply and install carpeting. Northstate contractors in best practice installations are accurately measured to ensure minimum meterage, recognant of seams and runs, uplifted carpet, current non recycled carpet and off cuts are shredded for needle punching for agricultural weed mats, tickings, bolsters padding and wadding.
- ◆ Obtain Noah's Ark recognition for ongoing commitment and achievements.

GREEN CHOICE

Northstate and its sister company Strudex have been pioneers in post industrial waste processing, with process waste for many years has been stripped, hammer milled and sold into down stream product.

This focus progressed to the current status whereby closed loop re-processing of yarn results in up to 30% recycled mill waste being introduced as VIRGIN RESIN.

PRODUCT DESIGN

Northstate design products for REAL WORLD use that are practical and offer superior performances over their planned life.

ZipperLock™ Technology generates savings by affording longer life in demanding installations.

Independent review by INFOTECH Research for the Carpet Institute's "Resources Efficiency Program 2008" of eleven carpet manufacturers has Northstate's indices including consumption of water, electricity, gas, fibre loss, waste to landfill, waste recycled being superior to industry averages.

By engrossing a Customer Action Request (CAR) format, we can solicit and engage all participants in improvements from the conceptual stage, implementation, through to the ongoing refinement stage.

Examples such as superior air flows in our backing oven has yielded lower energy consumption and faster running speeds. Recycling of packaging material and the adoption of bulk bins yielded not only a greater recycling content but also lower transport costs in fuel and associated inputs.

The adoption of distribution, same day, everyday or bulk drop distribution allows for our customers to be engaged also in far greater energy / fuel savings.

Our goal of closed loop consumption is currently being implemented whereby on site latex compounding, utilising filtration, flocculating of solids and incorporation back into production is at the forefront of the textile industry.

Adoption of adherence to AS3814 yields not only lower energy but lower Co2 and temperature and higher O2 output.

We are all committed to the shared belief of harmonious development of economic, ecological and social priorities fully integrated and intertwined in a sustainable mechanism

That mechanism being Northstate Carpet Mills