



## Environmental Overview

### Summary

In October 1998, Universal Textile Technologies created a task force committed to continuous improvement of our manufacturing process to use and create more eco-friendly materials and products without compromising the high performance of the goods we already produce.

In the years since Universal created this ongoing task force, we have made—and continue to make—enormous progress in establishing important benchmarks for the carpet and turf-backing industry. Today we are known as an industry leader in sustainability and eco-friendliness due to the numerous innovative developments we've implemented in our manufacturing processes and business practices.

### Universal's Key Environmental Objectives

- Work to eliminate wasteful expenditure of raw materials and energy, and continually work to reduce the energy and water we use in processing.
- Recover expended materials and energy by reusing and/or recycling them, including creating marketable byproducts from our waste streams.
- Develop products and processes which use and promote natural and sustainable resources as alternatives to petroleum-based raw materials.
- Develop new options for recycling synthetic turf and carpets.
- Communicate closely with local, state and federal government agencies and with industry organizations in order to develop beneficial programs and products as laws and regulations change and opportunities arise.

### Universal's Eco-Friendly Achievements

#### *Government and Industry*

- Enhanced Universal's Office of Environmental Compliance, our department that works with local, state, and federal agencies.
- Participated in ongoing high-profile industry conferences and discussions about recycling and reclaiming finished carpet products that have polyurethane content.
- Worked in conjunction with the United States Soybean Board on lifecycle costing strategies.
- Assisted in implementing bio-based strategies for the Federal Government with the GSA and USDA, as outlined in the U.S. Farm Bill.
- Worked with the GSA and United Soybean Board to create SIN31-601 for environmentally preferred products, a new product category for procurement used today by all U.S. Federal purchasing agencies.
- Established a program with Yellowstone National Park and the Yellowstone Foundation to collect and recycle plastic bottles at the park for use in Universal's manufacturing process.

- Recognized by the synthetic turf and carpet industry for our BioCel™ and EnviroCel™ backing systems as reliable, eco-friendly customer alternatives.
- Received the United Soybean Board's "Excellence in New Uses" award for the Project Yellowstone partnership with Yellowstone National Parks and Signature Crypton Carpets. This award recognizes industrial companies using soybean oils in new and innovative ways.
- Achieved certification by UL and NSF in 2012.
- Achieved certification, supported by the US. Department of Agriculture, the GSA, and the United Soybean Board, as a bio-based company since 2002.
- Nominated for a 2013 PRNews CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) award in the Recycling Campaign category for Project Yellowstone.
- Received a Platinum Environmental Sustainability award for BioCel™ from ADEX, the largest and most prestigious awards program for product & project design in the architecture and interior design industries.

### ***Energy and Raw Material Conservation***

- Decreased raw material waste by more efficiently managing our processes.
- Developed a process for reducing our internal waste stream as well as recycling our post-manufacturing waste, significantly reducing the amount of manufacturing waste we place in landfills.
- Displaced millions of gallons of petroleum-based polyols by using renewable natural oil-based polyols, thus helping the U.S. economy, improving air quality, reducing energy consumption, and decreasing our company's carbon footprint.

### ***Reuse and Recycling***

- Developed programs for using recycled raw materials, as well as materials including recycled content.
- Developed a 100% secondary recycled process using plastic bottles, improving our products and preventing disposal of millions of bottles in landfills.
- Incorporated the use of recycled PET in the manufacturing process, sourced from discarded plastic bottles.

### ***Eco-Friendly Product Development***

- Developed and produced lightweight performance backing systems that lower transportation fuel costs.
- Established an active program for using bio-based products to create sustainable products and processes which meet the U.S. Farm Bill, formerly known as Executive Order 13101.
- Worked to limit the impact of polyurethane-backed carpet on the environment. (Note: Polyurethane is a totally reacted product that will not adversely affect water or air quality. According to test method SW-846 for the Georgia Priority Pollutants List, Universal-produced

polyurethane contains no detectable volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Polyurethane is non-biodegradable, which leaves us disposition options for reacted product including reuse and/or recycling.)

- Worked to conserve energy and improved lifecycle-costing by using polyurethane, with benefits including increased R-values, no 4-PCH, low VOCs and greater longevity of carpet installations.

For additional information:

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Published 987505.04082