



360° Thinking

CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

GLOBALContract



An Environmental Mindset

Proactively safeguarding the health of the environment and of our workers is, quite simply, the right thing to do.

For environmental programs to succeed, a deep, genuine and ongoing commitment to sustainability must be integral to every aspect of the company's business. Our commitments include comprehensive environmental and health protection initiatives and the dedication of financial and human resources to carry them out. We are committed to choosing and creating materials that support our initiatives and to developing products that embody our beliefs. We know that when we put our beliefs into action, the environment, our employees and our customers all benefit – and so will future generations.

PUTTING IT IN WRITING: OUR POLICIES

We have created an environmental and health policy that guides everything we do. We will:

- Protect the health of our employees and of the end users of our products by making certified low-emitting products and using production processes that generate few pollutants and little waste.
- Use reclaimed materials to create intelligent, long-lasting products.
- Go beyond minimum environmental and health standards, including ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001.
- Employ cradle-to-cradle analysis to ensure the resources we use re-enter the manufacturing cycle.

- Choose environmentally responsible suppliers that meet our sustainability standards.
- Carry out ongoing research and development to forward our environmental goals.

WALKING THE TALK: TANGIBLE COMMITMENTS

Investments in environmental programs are part of the normal cost of doing business for Global Contract; we include them in every operating budget. Meaningful financial support of environmental programs is an investment in our people and our future livelihood, and in the future of our planet. Investments in sustainability are good business, too. Our savings in raw materials and utilities are so significant that major environmental initiatives have paid for themselves in as little as two years.

Global Contract's people genuinely believe in our environmental programs and know they have a role in making our programs successful. Our collective responsibility for protecting the environment is embodied by the Global Contract Environmental Committee, which is responsible for creating environmental programs and monitoring the development of international environmental standards. The committee has the authority to ensure that Global Contract's culture of environmental responsibility is carried through all our operations.

Working with the committee is our Director of Quality and Environmental, a senior company officer who oversees all environmental programs. Our Director



Chanoch
Friedel
PRESIDENT



“We are convinced that it is our social responsibility to help protect the environment for future generations.”



Yuval Popper
GENERAL MANAGER
EVOLVE SYSTEMS

Seeing the big picture means making our efforts to sustain the earth, air and water an integral part of our corporate culture. 360° thinking means that at every stage of every product's life, we ensure that it has the smallest possible negative impact on human well-being and the environment. 360° thinking means going beyond our own walls and working with suppliers, customers and the community to achieve more than we can alone, and building on past successes and developing new technologies to take us into the future.

of Quality and Environmental is responsible for ensuring Global Contract's compliance with environmental regulations and standards and for tracking our environmental impact.

CLOSING THE LOOP: 360° MANUFACTURING

The cornerstones of Global Contract's environmental program are reducing waste and maximizing the use of reclaimed materials. We have developed manufacturing processes that produce almost no waste. The small amount of waste that does occur is reclaimed instead of going to landfill. This is closed-loop manufacturing: we believe that once raw materials enter our manufacturing stream, we are responsible for them throughout their life cycle.

To ensure that resources stay in the manufacturing loop, we choose materials that lend themselves well to 360° manufacturing, such as aluminum, which can be recycled repeatedly without loss of quality and for which a well-developed recycling infrastructure exists (we now recycle approximately 100 tonnes of aluminum every year). Aluminum is three times lighter than steel, which greatly reduces shipping costs and shipping-related pollution. Using reclaimed aluminum saves 95% of the energy needed to smelt new aluminum and reduces smelting emissions, waste going to landfill and bauxite mining. More than 15 years ago we began developing products to take advantage of aluminum's properties – these systems now account for 75% of Global Contract's products.

Global Contract's commitment to sustainability also drove us to find a way to use more reclaimed resources to produce the panels at the heart of every office system. We also wanted to ensure that those resources could be reclaimed at the end of the panel's life. The result is the embodiment of our culture of sustainability: the Evolve office system.

Our sister company, RT Technologies, developed a totally new material for the panel frames – a unique wood-plastic composite made from wood scraps and recycled polypropylene. Global Contract and RT Technologies then pioneered a low-pressure injection moulding system to make the panel frames. Other panel components are also made of recycled and recyclable material to ensure the entire system is sustainable.

For more information on Evolve, visit http://www.globalcontract.com/pdf/Environmental_Success_Story.pdf

OUR 360° COMMITMENT

Global Contract demonstrates our commitment to the environment by using reclaimed resources and sustainable processes to make products that last. We ensure the success of our environmental programs by making financial and human resources support for them a routine part of every budget. We formalize our commitment by complying with tough environmental and health and safety standards. Our business success confirms that our deep belief in protecting human health and the environment is both good business and the right thing to do.



Karen Worthy
DIRECTOR, QUALITY
& ENVIRONMENTAL

“We are committed to providing customers with products that, through their entire life cycle, minimize the negative impact on the environment.”

“Dealers need to know what we do differently. When they see what we're doing, they're very impressed.”

When possible, we ship products flat-packed to reduce the carbon footprint.

Global Contract recycles paper, wood, plastics, aluminum, fabric, leather, steel, cardboard, printer cartridges, foam, fibre and electronic equipment – virtually everything.

Global Contract has reduced emissions of air pollutants by 29% in four years

Approximately three-quarters of all aluminum ever produced is still in use.

Commitment in Action

Global Contract stands behind its sustainability commitments by complying with federal and provincial legislation. We also proactively seek compliance with all third-party environmental and health and safety standards as they emerge, quickly making them part of the way we do business. The benchmark environmental standard is ISO 14001. Global Contract has gone beyond ISO 14001 to conform to other standards, including Greenguard and EcoLogo. The newest standard Global Contract has embraced is the OHSAS 18001 occupational health and safety standard.

ISO 14001: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY

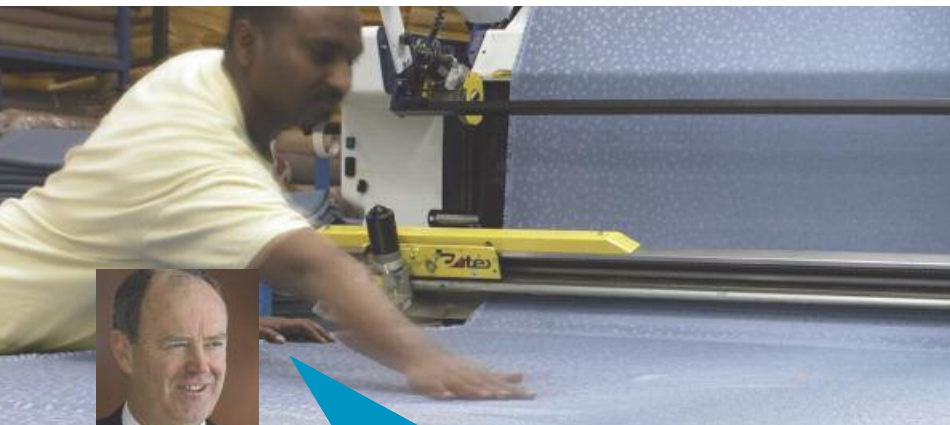
Complying with a demanding international standard such as ISO 14001 confirms for our customers, suppliers, employees and the community that Global Contract's environmental policies are substantial.

The International Organization for Standardization created the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System Standard to encourage companies to protect the land, air and water. The standard sets out the requirements for the creation of an environmental management system (EMS) unique to each company. An EMS enables an organization to identify and control the environmental impact of its activities and products. Global Contract began meeting the requirements for ISO 14001 just three years after the standard was created. ISO 14001's seven main requirements are:

- 1 Develop an environmental policy.
- 2 Establish an environmental management system. Global Contract's Environmental Health and Safety Management System meets the requirements of ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001.

- 3 Identify the company's significant environmental aspects.
- 4 Meet legal and voluntary environmental requirements.
- 5 Set specific corporate environmental objectives and goals.
- 6 Create programs to carry out the company's environmental health and safety policy.
- 7 Evaluate and improve the environmental and health and safety management system. Global Contract does this through internal and external audits.

For more information on ISO 14001, and on our environmental goals and programs, view our full environmental report at <http://www.globalcontract.com/360thinking.pdf>.



Rick Galbraith
VP SALES,
GLOBAL GROUP

“If you don't have Greenguard certification, you're not a player.”



John Cuda
PLANT MANAGER

“Signing on to ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 sets the bar and holds you to something tangible, as opposed to having grand ideas and no framework within which to work.”

Fabric scraps are baled, sold and repurposed

SAFETY ABOVE ALL: OHSAS 18001

Global Contract's most recent step toward protecting human health and safety is certification under Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series OHSAS 18001:2007. Making OHSAS 18001 part of our company policies means controlling and minimizing risks for our employees and for others who visit our facilities. The standard helps us identify, control and monitor risks so we can prevent accidents and dangerous or unhealthy situations and improve our performance.

GREENGUARD AND ECOLOGO: HEALTHY INTERIORS

Complementing Global Contract's ISO 14001 compliance is Greenguard certification, awarded to products with low chemical and particle emissions (off-gassing) that therefore contribute to good indoor air quality. Certification makes it easier for architects, designers and specifiers to select environmentally preferable products and to design healthy interiors.

Global Contract has also chosen to have its products certified under the Environmental Choice Program. End users can recognize certified products by the EcoLogo symbol. EcoLogo-certified office furniture has low emissions of volatile organic compounds and formaldehyde and is manufactured without foam using CFCs or HCFCs, among other benefits.

For a full list of our Greenguard and EcoLogo-certified products, visit <http://www.globalcontract.com/360thinking.pdf>.

COMPLIANCE: AN ONGOING PROCESS

For Global Contract, compliance with voluntary standards is a way of going beyond the law to bring our environmental protection commitments to life, a way of demonstrating our culture of sustainability. As new standards and certification programs are developed, we strive to include them in our 360° thinking. Standards compliance confirms for our clients that we're producing intelligent products, sustainably.



A Breath of Fresh Air: Powder-Coat Painting

Powder-coat painting is Global Contract's first choice for metal finishing because it is a clean electrostatic process that provides a superior finish yet doesn't generate the waste and pollution that conventional wet-line painting does. At Global Contract, 99% of over-sprayed paint powder is recovered and reused. This reduces our costs as it reduces pollution – there is no environmental discharge and no CFCs are used. No solvents or water are used through the entire painting process.



Global Contract and the Kyoto Protocol

In the spirit of the Kyoto Protocol, Global Contract will reduce its carbon footprint by 5% between 2004 and 2009. Many manufacturers believed the Kyoto Protocol's greenhouse-gas reduction target for Canada – a 6% drop below 1990 emission levels by 2012 – was too stringent and would damage the Canadian economy. We know we can reduce our carbon footprint without hurting our business – we've proven we can make intelligent products sustainably.



Natalie Ruvinsky
EVOLVE PURCHASING
MANAGER

“It's a very good feeling for us as employees to know we're providing our customers with a very green product.”



360° Cooperation

As a large corporation, Global Contract has an obligation to take our culture of sustainability outside our own walls and into the community. We extend our environmental programs to include customers by taking responsibility for the disposal of our own products, and to our suppliers by using our purchasing power to support their innovation of sustainable products and technologies. We choose suppliers that meet our environmental standards.

EXTENDING OUR REACH: CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIPS

Businesses like Global Contract must extend environmental programs to include customers. Companies must support the public recycling infrastructure by creating programs to recycle their own products. We take a cradle-to-cradle approach to the resources we use by offering a take-back program to an increasing range of clients. Through this program, components can be returned to Global Contract when clients no longer require them. We refurbish the products for resale or break them down and reclaim the resources they contain, ensuring that resources re-enter the manufacturing cycle.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is a voluntary standard for sustainable buildings. The program enables architects and designers to decrease the impact their structures have on the environment, save energy and water and increase worker productivity. With its clear, stringent standards, LEED eliminates uncertainty over what a “green” building is. We help our customers

meet LEED requirements by providing a wide range of Greenguard-certified products, specified in the LEED Green Building Rating System.

For more information on LEED, and to view some of our award-winning LEED projects, visit <http://www.globalcontract.com/360thinking.pdf>.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY: SUPPLIER PARTNERSHIPS

Our purchasing power supports industry segments that are often new or small, but are vitally important to expanding the sustainability infrastructure. Global Contract’s support of these businesses helps ensure a continued supply of sustainable products and continued innovation of new sustainable materials and processes.

Global Contract also requires our suppliers to provide products that meet our sustainability goals. Suppliers that share our vision of sustainability include:

- Cascades Inc., which provides the recycled kraft-paper honeycomb used in our Evolve panels
- Victor Innovatex, which makes polyester fabric from recycled plastic for our seating and panels
- Flakeboard, which provides Masonite made from waste wood for our Boulevard system
- Formica and Wilsonart International, which supply Greenguard-certified laminate for our casegoods
- Fibrex Insulations Inc., which creates the recycled mineral-board insulation used in our Evolve panels

For more information on our suppliers and their environmental successes, visit <http://www.globalcontract.com/360thinking.pdf>.



Taking the LEED: Global Contract Partnerships in LEED-Certified Buildings

Atlantic Canada’s first Silver-rated LEED-certified building is Nova Scotia Community College, opened in Dartmouth in 2007. Designed by Barrie & Langile Architects in association with Moriyama & Teshima Architects, the five-storey structure features Boulevard, Licence and Viceversa products from Global Contract.



Our Commitment to Non-Obsolescence

Global Contract’s commitment is to continue to innovate and provide continuity to our product lines. Global Contract will commit to a continued supply of products compatible with those purchased today for as long as the original customer owns the product or 25 years in the case of a corporate purchaser.

THE FUTURE: A 360° VISION

Global Contract's initiatives for the future include continued life-cycle analysis for all materials we use in manufacturing to ensure that virtually everything comes full circle and re-enters the manufacturing cycle. We are keeping our customers informed about the sustainability of our products through environmental data sheets. We aim to further improve our waste diversion rate and to reduce our power use and carbon footprint. We are expanding our product take-back program.

Our environmental programs have no finish line. We continue to strive for improvement; we continue to look for ways to create intelligent products more efficiently and sustainably. We will continue to invest in a sustainable future.



We refurbish used products for resale or break them down and reclaim the resources



Bruce Parratt
GOVERNMENT SALES

“ We have won major contracts with the federal government based on our environmental initiatives. ”



Gerry Bell
DIRECTOR, PRODUCT
MANAGEMENT

“ I think what makes Global Contract a great company is the entrepreneurial attitude that people have. ”

Environmental Timeline



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