

Ontera: Getting sustainability covered

Sustainability Advantage Case Study

Ontera Modular Carpets

Ontera Modular Carpets (Ontera) design and manufacture modular carpet. Ontera is a strong advocate of environmental sustainability. Ontera is part of the Cavalier Corporation based in Northmead, NSW and has operated in Australia since 1985.

Industry

Modular carpet designer and manufacturer



Ontera divert over 500 tonnes of used carpet tile from landfill through reuse and recycling initiatives.



Sustainability drivers

Ontera joined the Sustainability Advantage Program to develop and support its prior environmental efforts. The Program aligns with Ontera's Environmental Policy to develop effective solutions to environmental issues that arise through the company's manufacturing processes, products and business activities.

Achievements and savings

Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40 per cent reduction in electricity and gas use (per m² of finished product) in the last five years, saving \$18,000 per annum• Cut greenhouse gas emissions by more than 19 per cent per m² of finished product over the last two years• Cut the power used for factory lighting by 10 per cent
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25 per cent reduction in waste in the last five years• 500 tonnes of used carpet tile diverted from landfill because of local reuse and recycling initiatives• Pilot analysis (with Dunlop Flooring) to assess the viability of providing waste trim as a post-consumer recycled filler for carpet underlay, with the potential to divert 1,100 tonnes from landfill in 2010
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40 per cent reduction in water consumption (per m² of finished product) in the last five years

Steps

Efficient resource use

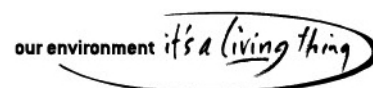
Sustainability Advantage Resource Efficiency module is helping Ontera review and assess opportunities to improve the company's environmental performance.

Ontera is an active partner in the Building Products cluster. Since joining Sustainability Advantage, Ontera has made significant environmental and resource efficiency gains, for example:

- more efficient yarn processing equipment has improved production yield, with expected raw material savings of up to \$500,000 per annum and a 15 month payback period
- tuned the gas burners, cutting total gas consumption by around four per cent, saving \$5,000 per annum.



Environment,
Climate Change
& Water



Other actions which will deliver ongoing savings include:

- a leak minimisation program for the compressed air system to reduce continuous power requirements for by 30 per cent, with expected savings of \$10,000 per annum
- installing light sensors and skylights in the factory. This is expected to save 6,000 kWh of electricity per annum
- encouraging staff to switch off equipment when not in use. This is expected to save \$3,000 per annum.

The company has installed solar powered security lighting in the car park area and revised its car fleet purchasing policy with an increased emphasis on fuel efficiency.

Avoiding landfill waste

Ontera has committed to minimise waste by starting a disciplined review process. Additionally, through the Sustainability Advantage Program, Ontera is looking for ways to accelerate their goal to use raw materials more efficiently and where possible substitute raw materials with recycled materials. For example, the company has been assisted in forging an alliance with fellow Cluster Member Dunlop Flooring to investigate recovery and reuse of Ontera's carpet trim waste. The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW) is providing strategic, financial and in-kind support for Dunlop to trial the use of this waste resource in its manufacture of carpet underlay using a polyurethane foam beam process.

Ontera is currently undertaking a number of other resource recovery initiatives with Sustainability Advantage Program support, including:

- developing a fully recyclable non-PVC carpet tile backing system and a reconstituted polyurethane foam carpet tile cushion backing
- developing a carpet tile backing made of crumbed rubber, with the opportunity to reuse car tyres
- designing carpet tiles for disassembly with an in-built 'zippering layer', resulting in simple separation using a low-energy process
- extending the life of carpet tiles through reuse as an alternative acoustic panel or noise attenuation barrier.

Outcomes

Sustainability Advantage has been invaluable in assisting Ontera integrate its environmental management initiatives and sustainability as core business values, including its

'Sustainability Advantage has been a perfect complement to our existing Environmental Program. It has provided excellent external facility and consultancy input. Most importantly it has provided an invaluable conduit to the recycling opportunity that we are currently pursuing with Dunlop Flooring'.

David Rowlinson, Ontera

Environmental Management System and ISO 14001 processes. The Program has helped Ontera build its credibility, reputation and environmental credentials through networking and representation in industry forums.

Next steps

Ontera is continuing to participate in the Sustainability Advantage Program. As part of its commitment to build its environmental credentials, Ontera undertook a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of its different carpet tile products. This will help the company work strategically with its supply chain and external stakeholders to address climate change risks and opportunities.

More information

Ontera

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Register

Contact DECCW's Business Partnerships

to register for Sustainability Advantage

Call: 02 8837 6000

Email: sustainbus@environment.nsw.gov.au

Visit: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus

Achieve a Sustainability Advantage. Sustainability Advantage is a business support service from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW). It is designed to help your organisation understand sustainability, successfully manage for a better environment and add business value.

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