

sixteen3



SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

2023

Our Belief



Respect for the environment has been at the forefront of **sixteen3**'s ethos since our founding over a decade ago. We believe that caring for the planet is our lifelong responsibility which is why we strive to reduce our environmental footprint in all aspects of our business. From the processes we use and the products we manufacture to the way our products are transported and their future lifecycles, we're continuously working to ensure we undertake the best, most sustainable practices every step of the way.

We understand that everything we do individually and collectively impacts our environment and our shared futures, as well as the futures of generations to come. To honour this philosophy we have devised a set of Sustainability Pledges encompassing the **sixteen3** commitment to a sustainable future.

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Our Pledges

A Commitment to Considered Design **1**

A Commitment to Conscious Manufacturing **2**

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A Commitment to Considered Design

We're aware of the complex challenges that committing to sustainability involves, which is why our design team is invested in researching and innovating to create the best products we possibly can. With a focus on quality, longevity, efficiency, materials and end-of-life considerations, we're dedicated to applying a sustainable mind-set to every stage of the design process. We're proud to use the best in quality materials, 100% FSC certified timber and endlessly recyclable steel, whilst sourcing new pioneering materials in our pursuit to go above and beyond industry expectations.

We know that the environmental footprint of a product is determined at the design stage, this is where we apply our knowledge to ensure every **sixteen3** range is created with an essence of sustainability. Working to not only ensure our new ranges meet the highest standards of sustainable design and innovation, but we also recognise the importance of reviewing and adapting older ranges to guarantee our ever-evolving standards are being sustained across the board.



“With a focus on quality, longevity, efficiency, materials and end-of-life considerations, we’re dedicated to applying a sustainable mind-set to every stage of the design process.”



— Quality Products

“Our sustainable design ethos centres around long-lasting products, built to endure physically but also with a timeless aesthetic appeal. Designing our products to stand the test of time is just one of the ways we can ensure we’re not excessively contributing to the mass of commercial waste which ends up in landfill.”



Material Research

Sustainability is a crucial global movement which is growing and expanding at an ever-increasing rate. New ground-breaking technologies, materials and methods are being developed by the day. To ensure we're in a position to utilise these up-and-coming resources our design team are dedicated to researching and recognising opportunities to further push the sustainability accreditations of our products.

At **sixteen3** we put extra care and attention into sourcing materials for our products. We look for recyclable, recycled and renewable material properties when designing our ranges, this ensures we keep our carbon footprint to a minimum and means our products are as good for the planet as they can be. We source FSC certified timber wherever possible and work closely with our supply partners to ensure that wood products come from well-managed, sustainably forested, sources. We're also leading the way with our use of alternative sustainable materials like Bamboo, Agricultural Fibre Board and Recycled Plastics which offer a plethora of environmental benefits over traditional materials, boasting accolades such as 100% recycled content, 100% recyclability and even negative carbon footprints.

MATERIAL INNOVATIONS

Agricultural Fibre Board

AFB requires minimal energy to produce. The by-products used are already available, meaning fewer processes are required to obtain raw materials. Production is fast compared to conventional composites, straw and reeds require minimal drying time in comparison to wood-based products.

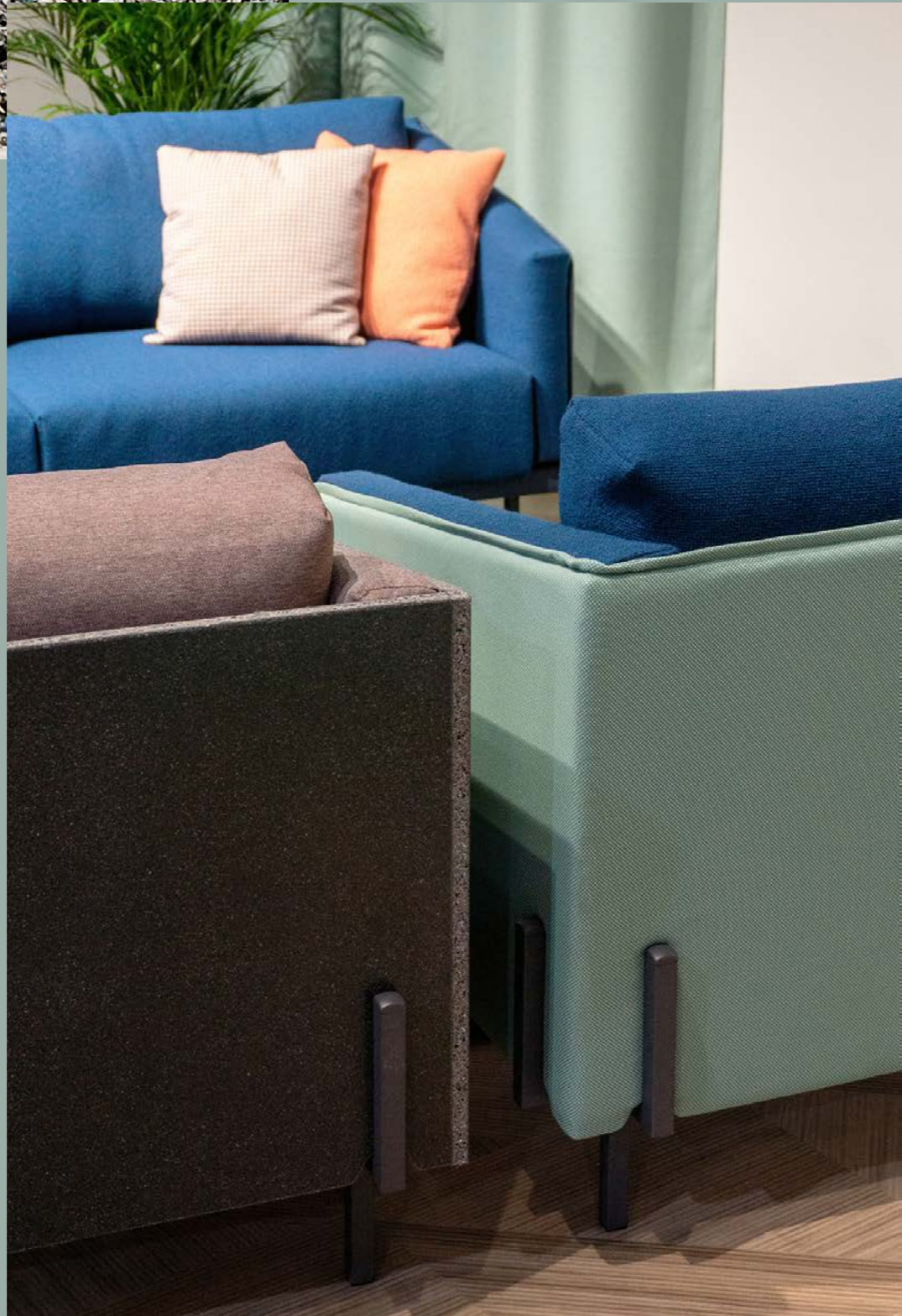
At the end of its life it is 100% recyclable, it's also biodegradable and can be composted.

The carbon-absorbing and renewable properties of the agricultural by-products, combined with the low energy processes and recyclability means AFB is not just carbon neutral, it's carbon negative.

By utilising this cutting-edge material our seating frames have a much lower carbon footprint than ever before. For example, our Sedir chairs now boasts 59% recycled content thanks to the new and improved frame construction, as well as making them 96% recyclable.



“AFB is not just carbon neutral, it's carbon negative.”



MATERIAL INNOVATIONS

Recycled Plastic

Made using 100% post-consumer waste, the Recycled Plastic used in Reece frames directly diverts waste from landfill or incineration.

Made using a mix of plastic types, the board is made in Europe using thermal bonding and forming technology, with no additional chemicals or adhesives.

This raw material has a subtle colour fleck reflecting its roots whilst imperfections and surface scratches add to the aesthetic honesty, providing a contrast to the luxurious upholstery of the seating.

“Made using 100% post-consumer waste, diverting from landfill or incineration.”

MATERIAL INNOVATIONS

Steel

Steel is one of the world's most sustainable materials — durable, forever reusable and the most recycled substance on the planet. Modern steel production processes yield enormous environmental benefits, ensuring the full life cycle of green steel.

Why is steel environmentally-friendly?

1. Longevity and durability
2. 56% Recycled content
3. 100% Recyclable
4. Lower CO2 emissions
5. No harsh chemicals or toxins

“Permanent, forever renewable and the most recycled substance on the planet.”



MATERIAL INNOVATIONS



“Classed as 90–98% sustainable and a natural fit within the bio cycle of the Cradle to Cradle concept.”

Bamboo

Not only does Bamboo provide an attractive and hard-wearing surface finish, but it is also classified as 90–98% sustainable and a natural fit within the bio cycle of the Cradle to Cradle concept.

We are proud to have been the first to bring this super-eco material to use in the commercial furniture market, available across many ranges throughout our product portfolio.

Bamboo green credentials:

1. FSC Certified
2. CO2 Negative
3. 100% Recyclable
4. Fast growing
5. Harvested, not felled
6. Lowest VOCs for wood-based materials





— Innovation & Transparency

“It’s not only the materials we use which affect our carbon footprint, but how we use them.”

Innovative Design

It’s not only the materials we use which affect our carbon footprint, but how we use them. By investing time in designing clever solutions to make our products efficient in the way they’re assembled, shipped and eventually deconstructed, we ensure our products can be considered sustainable in more ways than one. Some of our products are designed to be flat packed which greatly reduces shipping volumes, whilst others focus on simple construction so parts can be easily replaced or updated to extend the products’ life.

Transparency

We want to be as transparent with our customers as we can be. We’ve taken steps to ensure with every new product launch we’re able to provide detailed technical information packs displaying full material breakdowns and recycled/recyclable content percentages. Not only is this vital for new products, but we’re currently in the process of analysing every single existing product range to be sure there are no gaps or grey areas.



PLEDGE 2

A Commitment to Conscious Manufacturing

The way we manufacture our products is undoubtedly one of the most significant factors contributing to our environmental impacts as a business. We recognise that we hold the power to cause significant damage to our planet with the products we create and the methods we use. Careful consideration and planning go into all stages of our manufacturing. The suppliers we work with, how we manage waste materials and championing efficient processes are just some of the methods we employ to be certain we're doing the best we can for the environment.



— British Manufacture

As a manufacturer from the Northwest of England, we take a natural interest in our fellow British businesses. We truly understand the importance of working together and growing together, which is why we're always on the lookout for other British manufacturers and small businesses to work with and advocate. We're proud to say that 95% of our suppliers are British, with 47% of our supplies coming from within a 50 mile radius of our factory.

Championing other British businesses not only benefits the companies involved but also has a greater impact on our local communities and the wider economy. These symbiotic relationships even have a positive impact on our environment. By working with businesses that are local or UK based we can dramatically reduce carbon footprints caused by international shipping.

“95% of our suppliers are British, and 47% of our supplies come from within 50 miles of our Cheshire HQ.”

Tackling Waste



Manufacturing Waste

We're under no illusion when it comes to material wastage, we know in our industry that waste is an inevitability so we do our best to implement clever processes to keep it to a minimum and ensure the waste we do produce is responsibly disposed of.

Our furniture frames are designed to efficiently utilise sheet materials and wood products, whilst CAD material nesting software allows us to effectively calculate cutting layouts to minimise fabric & timber wastage. Wood waste is sent to the recycling plant to be repurposed into sheet materials like chipboard and MDF or converted into fuel for biomass facilities aiding the reduction of fossil fuel reliance. We also have agreements with suppliers to re-process our waste materials, for example, our waste foam is returned to our supplier where it's shredded and re-bonded to create their reconstituted foam products.

“Material waste is an inevitability, but we employ clever processes to keep it to a minimum.”

Considered Packaging

It's important to us that our products are well protected once they leave our warehouse, but at a minimal cost to the environment. We make an effort to keep and reuse packaging from deliveries we've received instead of disposing of it straight away. Any new packaging is designed especially for each product range to ensure materials are kept to a minimum and there's no unnecessary excess and waste, using recycled and recyclable materials where possible. Used packaging can be returned for reuse or recycling, and we use fabric dust covers & blankets for direct-to-site installations whenever we can.

"Our cardboard packaging is FSC® certified and contains a minimum of 75% recycled material."



A Commitment to Eco-friendly Business Operations

We realise that committing to sustainability revolves around ourselves, our practices and our people. To truly be considered a sustainable business we have to practice what we preach and embed a culture of sustainability within every layer of our company. This is why we're committed to regularly reviewing our internal operations, from energy usage and building efficiency to vehicles and waste management we accept that we can always be better and do better.



— Eco-friendly Business Operations

“Committing to sustainability revolves around ourselves, our practices and our people.”

Our Energy

Our premises is run on renewable electricity and lit using ultra-efficient LED lighting for all areas across manufacturing, offices and showroom spaces. By fitting modern electric heating systems in our offices the need for a gas supply is greatly reduced, minimising our reliance on fossil fuels and non-renewable energy. An investment in insulation and the latest energy-efficient Air Curtain technology in our warehouse reduces our heat loss by up to 80% and sets us up for a future of low energy consumption.

Our Vehicles

To ensure our sales team have a low carbon footprint whilst visiting customers across the country we have upgraded our fleet of sales vehicles. Our traditional petrol and diesel cars have been replaced with plug-in hybrid models which are capable of emitting zero tailpipe emissions.

Our Waste

All of our offices, canteens, showrooms and manufacturing areas are equipped with general waste and recycling stations to encourage staff to dispose of waste responsibly. The waste disposal company we work with run highly engineered waste treatment facilities to manage waste in an environmentally-responsible way, they sort our general waste and recycling, utilising materials which can't be recycled to generate electricity and alternative fuels.



Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)

We believe future generations deserve all the benefits of healthy and resilient forests, as such, we are proud to be FSC® Chain of Custody certified (Certificate no. C181375). By choosing to only source FSC® certified timber we can ensure that it comes from forests that are managed in a sustainable, environmentally-responsible manner, preserving their natural surroundings while also supporting local communities.

Find out more about what this means here: [fsc.org/en](https://www.fsc.org/en)

Environmental Certification



Certificate
Number
14506

ISO Quality & Environmental Management

We are fully certified to ISO 9001 Quality Management and ISO 14001 Environmental Management systems.

Together these international standards guarantee that we have the right procedures and processes in place to ensure ongoing product & customer service quality, as well as continuously measuring, reducing & managing our environmental impacts.

Find out more about ISO Standards: [iso.org/home.html](https://www.iso.org/home.html)



Certificate
Number
173

Furniture Industry Sustainability Programme

FISP is an independently certified sustainability programme tailored to the needs of the Furniture Industry supply chain.

FISP promotes best practise to drive social, economic and environmental change, via continual improvement of members' business operations. FISP membership can be used to meet furniture criteria on SKA rating.

Find out more here: [fispfurniture.com](https://www.fispfurniture.com)



PLEDGE 4

A Commitment to a Sustainable Future

It's essential that we take responsibility for our products and ensure that the furniture we produce leaves a minimal trace on the planet. This extends to the future impact our products have, even once they've left our warehouse. We want to make sure that once our products are in the hands of our customers they continue to have a positive impact. This means creating furniture that doesn't emit any harmful pollutants (VOCs) and ensuring that when our products do eventually reach the end of their useful life they can be easily and responsibly disposed of.



Furniture Take-Back Scheme

Furniture should never be considered a disposable commodity. With a bit of clever design, careful planning and the provision of transparent information it's entirely avoidable for products to end up in landfill sites. Many of our ranges are designed around the concept of product circularity and design for disassembly, allowing for any damaged parts to be replaced, and providing the freedom to make updates to colour schemes. This simple design ethos prolongs the life of the furniture and also provides the ability to separate and recycle all components at the end of the product's life.

We offer a Furniture Take-Back scheme whereby aged products can be returned to us for repair or re-upholstery to give them a new lease of life, or as a last resort, broken down for recycling.



“Furniture should never be considered a disposable commodity. With a bit of clever design, careful planning and the provision of transparent information it’s entirely avoidable for products to end up in landfill sites.”

Air Quality & VOCs

The quality of the air we breathe plays a vital role in our everyday health, whether that's in the home, outdoors or at the office. As a society, we're familiar with outdoor air pollution and fumes, but the everyday objects in our indoor environments can also harm our air quality, this is quite substantial when the average person spends over 70% of their time indoors.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can be found in emissions from materials and substances which have an adverse effect on respiratory health. At **sixteen3** we want to ensure our furniture isn't negatively contributing to our customers' environments, so we take extra care to identify the most harmful substances and use alternative methods and materials. Solvent-based lacquers are a well-known culprit where VOCs are concerned, which is why we opt for 100% water-based lacquers and paints.

"We want to ensure our furniture isn't negatively contributing to our customers' environments, so we take extra care to identify the most harmful substances and use alternative methods and materials."



Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

From 1st January 2023, new legislation from the Environment Agency came into effect regarding the storage and disposal of waste upholstered domestic seating containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). POPs are poisonous chemical substances that break down slowly and pollute ecosystems and food chains. From 1st January 2023, this waste cannot be disposed of in landfill sites and requires incineration.

The Environment Agency's investigation found that these Persistent Organic Pollutants were widespread in both textiles and foam elements of domestic seating.

We have worked with suppliers to ensure that none of the products listed in Annex I, Annex II and Annex III of the Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 are intentionally used during the production of any foams or fabrics specified in our seating.



“We recognise that our endeavour to create a sustainable business is never finished. We’re dedicated to pushing our sustainability initiatives as far as we can, perpetually growing and developing our company mindset, processes and products. We’re working on our future environmental action plan by identifying areas for improvement, setting targets and continually researching the latest services and technologies we can utilise to push our sustainable and environmental credibility.”



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