

WESTPOINT HOSPITALITY

Sustainability and Social Responsibility

WestPoint Home (WPH) currently has many good things to celebrate in the area of social responsibility and sustainability. For many years, our Company has continued a policy of being good stewards of the environment – managing chemical use responsibly, recycling waste before it became fashionable, ensuring wise water use, and continually upgrading its wastewater treatment facilities. Currently, WPH can demonstrate that commitment in the following areas:

Water Use – When our Bahrain Plant was acquired in 2006, water consumption in Processing was 83 liters/kilogram of fabric. Bahrain is a very arid country with few water resources. It is critical for the future of the country that water use be closely managed. Since that acquisition, several water conservation measures have been adopted, including the following:

- Recycling of cooling water,
- Reuse of PVA recovery permeate for scouring,
- Reduced water use in production equipment.

After these original measures, water consumption in Processing dropped to 31 liters/kilogram, a reduction of 63 %. This facility was later upgraded with a membrane clarifier and a reverse osmosis system that is now able to reclaim for reuse over 50% of the treated wastewater from the facility. This has reduced the amount of treated wastewater discharged by over 80%.

Chemical Use – WPH strives to avoid the use of harmful chemicals and to minimize the use of all chemicals. The processing plant in Bahrain is certified under the Oeko-Tex® Standard, which demonstrates that potentially harmful chemicals are not used in the manufacturing process. The Oeko-Tex® certification procedure tests for the presence of:

- Pesticides
- Heavy Metals
- Chlorinated Organic Carriers
- Chlorinated Preservatives
- Oeko-Tex® certification also demonstrates compliance with European legislation regarding the use of Azo-dyes.

Our plant in Bahrain also recovers a substantial portion of the sodium hydroxide and polyvinyl alcohol used in its operation. These chemicals are then reused on site. In addition to reducing the amount of new chemicals that must be manufactured, this practice also removes two substantial pollutants from its wastewater stream before it enters the wastewater treatment plant. This reduces the amount of energy required to biodegrade those chemicals and also reduces the amount of pH reduction that must be done.

Waste Recycling – WPH has continued the long history of waste recycling established by WestPoint Pepperell and WestPoint Stevens. WPH strives to recycle every recoverable type of textile waste, including yarn, rags, fibers, batting, etc. We also recycle metal, cardboard, plastic, drums, tote tanks, and other items. Last year, our Chipley, Florida plant was able to recycle 87% of the waste that it generated and our large Bahrain Complex recycled 75% of its waste.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions – WPH began tracking greenhouse gas emissions in 2009 and has shown a 40% reduction in total emissions over the past six years.

Quality of Life for WPH Associates – WPH has received commendations from its customers for the quality of the living quarters provided to its associates who live in the Company housing at its Bahrain facility.

Certifications – All of WPH’s domestic facilities as well as the Bahrain operation are currently certified under the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and the Organic Content Standard (OCS) . The Chipley Plant has recently added certification under the TE Recycled Claim Standard and has preparing for certification under the Responsible Down Standard.

Sustainability Purchasing Guidelines - WPH has established a Vendor Compliance Program that is used to screen all potential suppliers. WPH uses Cal Safety Compliance Corporation (CSCC) to manage social compliance at all vendor locations. Social compliance addresses several issues, including the following:

- Environmental Compliance
- Worker Safety
- Human Rights
- Customs–Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) compliance

WPH requires every vendor to meet the requirements of its vendor compliance program. As discussed earlier, this policy examines the vendor’s labor practices, social compliance, manufacturing capability, security, and safety policies. Companies that do not meet those requirements are not placed on the approved vendor list.

Use of Recycled Material – The WPH Chipley Plant also uses corrugated cardboard made from 35-50% recycled material and 85% of the batting fiber used to make our comforters and pillows comes from recycled PET bottles. For example, the recycled batting in a Nate Berkus or Shabby comforter prevented 25 two-liter soft drink bottles from being sent to the landfill. In 2014, the recycled fiber used by our Chipley plant totaled 1,680,708 pounds – the equivalent of 30,252,744 sixteen-ounce soft drink bottles. This saved 6,218 cubic yards of landfill space and saved the energy equivalent of 21,068,496 cubic feet of natural gas.