

SHARING OUR COMMITMENT

TO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

 NATIONAL **EVERGREEN AWARD**

 **AWB ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD:**
RESOURCE CONSERVATION

 **ENVIROSTARS: 5 STAR RATING**

 **WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNOR'S AWARD:**
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES - POLLUTION PREVENTION

 **KITSAP COUNTY, WA.**
GREENWORKS BUSINESS

 **EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines** 

 LEED FRIENDLY

 **GREENGUARD** CERTIFIED LAMINATES

Environmental ethics permeate all facets of our business, from our own facilities, processes, and practices to the products we deliver our customers. Watson furniture components are manufactured using recycled and recyclable materials and can even help customers meet environmental standards in their own buildings.

An additional element of sustainable product design stems from the inherent durability and flexibility of our furniture. We build adjustable furniture that lasts, which prolongs its life cycle, facilitates re-use, and conserves the resources required to replace it.

At Watson, we are committed to “doing good” rather than simply “feeling good.” Sometimes that means looking deeper at simple solutions or superficially “green” concepts. An example might be “rapidly renewable” surface materials imported via diesel ships from unmonitored foreign sources. For more examples, please visit our website at www.watsonfurniture.com



GREEN FACILITY

: STEWARDSHIP

Watson Furniture’s unique multipurpose facility, called “the Orchard,” was designed to provide a healthy, safe, and sustainable work environment for employees and to minimize its impact on the surrounding natural setting.

WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING – completely comprised of native Northwest grasses, trees, and vegetation that thrive without irrigation or chemical fertilizers and require minimal motorized maintenance activity.

WATER USE & TREATMENT – the Orchard receives water from a nearby well and no offsite wastewater is produced. Black and gray water is processed in a monitored on-site septic system designed to preserve the integrity of nearby natural resources.

ENERGY PERFORMANCE – our building was designed for maximum energy efficiency year ‘round, utilizing large amounts of natural lighting, efficient fluorescent lighting systems, “full loft” ceiling insulation, heat pumps, and heat reclamation processes.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE & RECYCLING – we employ non-intrusive cleaning products in both manufacturing and administrative areas, and we recycle more than 60% of our waste material, from aluminum and ferrous metal to wood debris and paper products.

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

:SOURCING SOLUTIONS



WOOD

The wood fiber substrate material used in our desks and other components is 95% recycled industrial by-product from milling operations and is 100% recyclable. Watson sources wood fibers from FSC certified suppliers, as well as suppliers following Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) guidelines.

ALUMINUM

Recycled content of extruded aluminum tubing used in our Dispatch consoles, ranges from 60-90% and is 100% recyclable.

STEEL

The cold-rolled steel used in our legs, storage, desk supports, etc. has a recycled content of over 80%, originating primarily from automobiles. According to the Steel Recycling Institute, 46% of our steel is made from post-consumer scrap, and 37% is comprised of post-industrial materials. All of our steel is 100% recyclable.

TEXTILES

Textiles delivered in Watson Furniture products (privacy screens, acoustical panels, etc) are comprised of 100% recycled polyester reclaimed from plastic bottles. This material is in turn 100% recyclable.

FROM BOTTLES

Plastic bottles from recycling centers are sorted by color, cleaned, crushed, and chopped into flakes

TO FIBER

The flakes are then liquefied and extruded to create fibers that are stretched for strength and then crimped, cut, or baled.

TO FABRIC

The fiber is made into yarn and then woven into fabric or processed into fiber filling.

LAMINATES

Our high-pressure standard-finish laminates are primarily comprised of phenolic resin and kraft paper. All of our suppliers have achieved GreenGuard Indoor Air Quality certification and provide laminates with approximately 20% recycled content. Customers can specify alternative surface materials with higher recycled content via the Watson Studio* process.

ADHESIVES

Watson uses nontoxic water-based adhesives that emit minimal VOCs. Our laminated products are fabricated using a water-soluble, cold press glue. Our hot-melt adhesive (used for toecaps, etc.) is solvent and carcinogenic free, as well as VOC-free.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Other materials comprising Watson components represent a minor percentage of the overall product. Where possible, alternatives to plastics and other non-recycled materials are utilized, such as in basic edge designs that are finished using a nontoxic water-based sealant. When more durable edge treatments are specified, our thermoplastic flexible PVC edging material is 100% recyclable.

SUSTAINABLE PROCESSES

:SOFTENING OUR IMPACT



Watson Furniture delivers products manufactured with sustainable and constantly improving processes. We are proud of our practices and continue to integrate new procedures that soften our impact on the environment. In all areas of our factory we have worked to “design out” hazardous and non-sustainable materials and processes.

LOCAL SOURCING

Wherever possible, Watson Furniture utilizes local suppliers and resources for all manufacturing and office materials. For example, 100% of all wood substrate material is collected from Northwest milling operations.

WOOD EFFICIENCIES

In addition to using 95% recycled particleboard, our CNC routing and cutting equipment minimizes falldown material through advanced nesting algorithms. All dust and unused wood is recycled through various industrial processes.

METAL PROCESSING

Our no-discharge steam-cleaning process produces water that is reclaimed, filtered and reused. Standard metal components are finished using an electrostatic powder coat baking process that emits no VOCs.

STUDIO MODIFICATIONS

For customers seeking to move beyond our green offering, Watson’s “Studio” modification design process allows additional leeway in materials and designs that can further maximize sustainability.

REUSABLE PACKAGING

Products are protected in shipping with reusable blanket wrapping. Where further protection is required, 100% recyclable honeycomb cardboard is used instead of foam.

LEED FRIENDLY

The LEED - Commercial Interiors Rating System specifically addresses Systems Furniture and Seating under Indoor Environmental Quality. In other standards (LEED - Existing Building & LEED - New Construction), furniture can be applied throughout the entire project. Standard Watson product can contribute to as many as 10 LEED Credits, and with “Studio” modifications, as many as 14 Credits can be supported. For specifics on credits or LEED rating systems, visit our website at www.watsonfurniture.com.

RECOGNITION

Watson Furniture has been broadly praised and has received numerous local and state environmental awards. In 2005, Watson was presented with the prestigious Evergreen Award by the U.S. Government’s General Services Administration and recently added to the EPA’s Comprehensive Guidelines Supplier Database for Non-paper Office Products, Office Furniture.