



# CS' SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY

*An integral part of who we are and how we want to do business*

## THE EARLY YEARS

Since our founding in 1948, Construction Specialties (CS) has been thoughtful about the use of material resources. Our founder, Edward C. Hallock, grew up during the Great Depression when avoiding unnecessary waste and maximizing the utility of all available resources became the abiding ethos of a generation. While these principles may have been initially based more on survival than an intentional “environmentalism,” today the ideas of “reduce, reuse, recycle” are more firmly entrenched within the values of CS than ever before.



As far back as 1991, we installed an onsite wastewater treatment plant at our facility in Mexico to improve our wastewater quality before it even entered the municipal system. We also installed a water purification system to provide clean drinking and cooking water for our employees to take home. Since then we've provided over a million gallons of healthy water for our team members and their families. In 1995, our sustainability efforts received renewed momentum when the potential placement of a waste incinerator plant near our Pennsylvania facilities threatened our community and pushed us to look at our manufacturing processes and impact on the environment in more detail.

Soon after that, CS formed "green teams" to lead our sustainability efforts. We substantially increased our recycling to decrease landfill waste and took significant steps to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Our activities included simple measures like installing high-efficiency lighting and motion sensors to more complex measures such as empowering staff with lean manufacturing principles to optimize processes and material utilization.



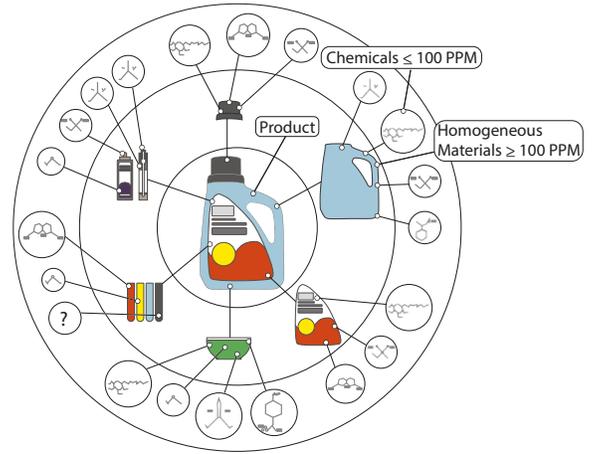
## CHEMICAL AND CARBON FOOTPRINT

With increased awareness about the health implications associated with chemicals of concern in manufacturing processes, CS began a thorough analysis of the chemical inputs in our operations, replacing potentially harmful chemicals and ingredients with safer alternatives whenever possible, thereby reducing our chemical footprint. We expanded our program to examine the chemical inputs in our building products, which started in 2002.

In 2007, CS was invited to join the prestigious BizNGO for Safer Chemicals & Sustainable Materials, a unique collaboration of business and environmental leaders working together to advance healthy materials and safer product chemistry. CS has participated in numerous activities since 2007, including Clean Production Action's Chemical Footprint Project in 2015, a benchmarking tool to help measure a business' progress towards safer chemical management.

Our active participation in sustainability organizations motivates and supports the active measures CS takes to actually "walk the talk". For example, we installed a low-VOC powder-coat paint line for our aluminum louvers and sunshades in 2010, which now allows us to provide our customers with a higher quality product that is also better for the environment. We started tracking our carbon emissions and sequestering carbon on site in 2008 through a 17-acre reforestation project and in 2009 we started purchasing Green-e RECs (renewable energy certificates) to offset our energy usage. Actions like these demonstrate a direct synergy between our intentional environmentalism and our commitment to continuous improvement.





## CRADLE TO CRADLE AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The design philosophy eloquently detailed in McDonough and Braungart's book *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things* inspired CS when it came out in 2002 and reinforced that we were on the right path. CS started partnering with McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry in 2007 and we have since formally subscribed to the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard run by the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute due to its holistic perspective and its focus on continuous improvement. This restorative, "circular economy" mindset ingrained within the Cradle to Cradle (C2C) philosophy continues to be the key element of our sustainability philosophy to this day.

In 2004, CS launched the industry's first and only PVC-free wall protection product, Acrovyn® 3000. By 2009, after extensive product performance testing, we achieved *Cradle to Cradle Silver*® certification for Acrovyn and two other product lines—entrance flooring and expansion joint systems.

Following the principle of product optimization, we enhanced the Acrovyn product line once again in 2010 switching to a recyclable PET-based formulation and achieving *Cradle to Cradle Certified*™ Gold.

Our portfolio of *Cradle to Cradle Certified*™ products has increased to dozens of models in all of our major product lines, including louvers and sunshades, Acrovyn wall protection, Acrovyn Doors, expansion joint systems and entrance flooring among others. Approximately 60% of CS' North American revenue comes from products that are either C2C Silver or Gold certified.

For a full list of CS' Cradle to Cradle certified products, see [http://bit.ly/CS\\_C2C\\_Products](http://bit.ly/CS_C2C_Products)

## TRANSPARENCY

Product disclosure and transparency have been part of our efforts since 2011 when we started labeling our products and providing access to detailed product information. Expanding upon this achievement, CS joined the Health Product Declaration Collaborative in January 2017, a not-for-profit member organization that seeks to improve the building industry's performance through transparency, openness and innovation using an open-standard for product reporting and disclosure. CS actively supports and has since inception, the mindful MATERIALS program, a free online database to help make selecting sustainable building products more transparent for owners, architects, and designers.

Our well-recognized collaboration with renowned architectural firms and sustainability leaders has helped establish CS as industry leaders in sustainability. We're proud to be a member of the USGBC, the International Living Future's Institute as a Living Product 50 manufacturer, the BizNGO, and support the AIA's Committee on the Environment (COTE).





CS' sustainability efforts have been recognized publicly in many ways. We received our 7th consecutive annual "Champion for Change Award" from Practice Greenhealth in 2015. Our sustainability achievements were featured in the 2013 film "The Human Experiment." CS even testified before Congress on the need for reform of Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) which later passed and participated in the United Nation's Environment Programme's Chemicals in Products Project, both in 2010.

### **INTERNATIONAL IMPACT**

Our enthusiasm for sustainability is evident in our facilities around the world. We have ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certifications for our facilities in Pennsylvania, Mexico and the United Kingdom. Our newly-constructed office in Pennsylvania is LEED® Silver and our Toronto team resides in a LEED® Gold building. Our facility in England receives 100% of its energy needs from renewable energy, including the bulk of its daytime needs from the Westcott Solar Park, a 10-acre solar array built on a former World War II airstrip with over 6000 solar panels.



### **ONGOING WORK AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

To further expand the impact and reach of CS' sustainability programs, we established a cross-operational, company-wide Sustainability Council in 2016, including a representative of the Company's Board of Directors. The Council is charged with establishing even deeper sustainability roots in all aspects of our business and continuing to push for new achievements that help us satisfy our customers' design challenges with sustainable solutions.

Notwithstanding all of these sustainability achievements, we realize the many benefits derived from our environmental consciousness flow directly to our employees, customers, local communities and generations to come. Because of the direct responsibility we feel for our many stakeholders, our sustainability work falls directly under the larger umbrella of corporate social responsibility.

CS is a corporate member of numerous important national councils, such as the National Minority Supplier Diversity Council (NMSDC) and Women's Business Enterprise National Council. We have supported our local foodbank in New Jersey for the past 20 years and CS donates annually to other worthy and well-respected groups, such as Doctors Without Borders, an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing urgent medical care to some of the world's neediest people. Sustainability and caring for others impacted by our work is threaded throughout our history, from the "waste-not" mentality of our founder to the recognized leadership and achievements of today's generation. It's become an integral part of who we are and how we want to do business. **At CS, we design for sustainability.**