



# Sustainability Principles

**eco<sub>2</sub>matters<sup>®</sup>**

**Burmatex<sup>®</sup>**

MANUFACTURERS OF CREATIVE FLOORING 

# Introduction

# Burmatex®

MANUFACTURERS OF CREATIVE FLOORING 

I am delighted to share with you Burmatex®'s sustainability principles, **eco,matters®**.

As a team we feel strongly about driving change from within and Burmatex® is committed to tackling our impact on the environment and to provide ongoing innovation to continuously improve our performance.

I personally believe that our global economic systems need to refocus on equitable growth. This is reflected in our new purpose of: "British made flooring solutions creating sustainable value globally".

By incorporating **eco,matters®** into Burmatex®'s business culture, we embark on a new path to delivering a better and brighter future for our customers, staff and generations to come.

In understanding the challenges of the climate crisis and the drain on our planet's resources, it obliges us to act and contribute to making a real difference in our market place.

**eco,matters®** is our commitment to providing the right business focus, trading responsibly and achieving Net Zero in a sustainable manner.

Your support is welcome on our important journey to having a positive environmental impact.

Médéric Payne  
Chief Executive Officer

# eco<sub>2</sub>matters®

## 01 The **eco,matters®** sustainability principles

Our sustainability goals

Our heritage

## 02 Journey to Net Zero

Carbon negative recycled yarn

**BioBase®** recycled backing system

Carbon neutral tiles

Environmental product declarations and independent 3rd party verification

## 03 Positive Environmental Impact

100% renewable energy

Project - Zero Landfill

Recovery Take Back Service

## 04 Social Values & Well Being

Equal opportunities employer

Training and development

Health & safety and well-being

## 05 Beyond Net Zero

# Contents

“We are committed to helping deliver a sustainable future, because what we do matters”

To help us deliver on our commitment, we have developed our sustainability principles, **eco,matters®**

01

# The eco<sub>2</sub>matters<sup>®</sup> sustainability principles

“Sustainability is part of our history”

With a company history founded on recycling, sustainability is at the heart of what we do.

Our eco<sub>2</sub>matters sustainability principles is our commitment to helping deliver a sustainable future. At its core are our sustainability goals.

eco<sub>2</sub>matters<sup>®</sup>

## OUR SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

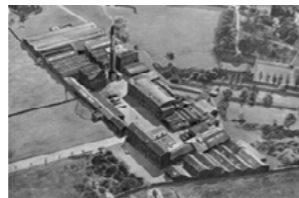
We are committed to achieving Net Zero through the continual removal of carbon from our products and processes.

We believe that what we do matters, that the ecology of our planet matters, and that eco<sub>2</sub>matters<sup>®</sup>

We value our people, our customers, and our partners. This drives our approach to social values & well-being.

## OUR HERITAGE

Originally established in the UK in 1917 as J&F Burrows, we have been recycling for over 100 years. We began by recycling wool and cotton textile waste for resale to the textile industry, for use in the manufacturer of clothing.



Established in 1917 as J&F Burrows, in West Yorkshire, UK



We recycled textile waste for resale and eventually used it to make our own carpet tiles

With the advent of synthetic fibres, we quickly adapted to also recycle synthetic waste, eventually focusing solely on the recycling of nylon and polypropylene. With the development of a new type of carpet, needlefelt (now called fibre bonded), we saw an opportunity to use this recycled material to produce our own finished products.

The Burmatex<sup>®</sup> brand was created in 1967. For over 50 years, the careful selection, reprocessing and recycling of industrial synthetic waste has enabled us to produce sustainable products.

Today Burmatex<sup>®</sup> manufacturers a much broader range of products, including designer loop and low level loop nylon carpet tiles. Still the fundamental principles of recycling and reuse remain at the core of our operation, and form the foundations of the eco<sub>2</sub>matters<sup>®</sup> sustainability principles.



carbon negative recycled yarn

## CARBON NEGATIVE RECYCLED YARN

Yarn is the single biggest source of carbon in a carpet tile so in 2021 Burmatex<sup>®</sup> committed to making all new products from low carbon yarn.

By working with our partners, and through advances in material science, we now have a range of low carbon yarns, including a carbon negative yarn, which we use to reduce the amount of carbon in our products.

Working in partnership with Universal Fibers<sup>®</sup>, they developed Thrive<sup>®</sup> matter, the world's first carbon negative recycled yarn.

## CARBON NEGATIVE YARN IS A TRULY GROUND BREAKING DEVELOPMENT

Carbon negative yarns removes both the carbon associated with the yarn, as well as offsetting at source, the remaining carbon in a carpet tile.

02

# Journey to Net Zero

“By reducing our carbon emissions, and ultimately achieving Net Zero, we can help tackle global warming and climate change”

Yarn is the single biggest source of carbon in a carpet tile

eco<sub>2</sub>matters<sup>®</sup>

02

## Journey to Net Zero

# BioBase™

“Combined with 100% organic, non-vinyl polymer binders and fillers, **BioBase™** contains a minimum of 77% recycled content.”

eco<sub>2</sub>matters®



### BioBase® RECYCLED BACKING SYSTEM

Unique to Burmatex®, **BioBase®** is our low carbon backing system, made using locally sourced recycled organic materials.

Developed as part of a joint research project with Huddersfield University, **BioBase®** includes recycled industrial waste, previously destined for landfill, which we use in our backing system.

Combined with 100% organic, non-vinyl polymer binders and fillers, **BioBase®** contains a minimum of 77% recycled content.

This combination of material science and process technology means **BioBase®** requires less energy during the production process.

All our carpet tile products use our **BioBase®** recycled backing system. As well as being low carbon, this innovative backing system ensures we achieve class 33 heavy commercial and class Bfl-s1 fire safety performance across all our products, and enables us to offer a 15 year warranty as standard.



### CARBON NEUTRAL CARPET TILES

On our journey to Net Zero we must find new ways of reducing our carbon emissions, to help tackle climate change, and reduce global warming.

Ultimately, all our products will be third party independently verified as embodied carbon neutral.

This vital goal drives us to develop such innovations as our unique **BioBase®** low carbon backing system, and to invest in products such as the world's first carbon negative recycled yarn.

By combining these innovations, alongside our improvements in energy and waste management, we are now able to produce carbon neutral ranges.

Using carbon negative recycled yarn enables us to offset at source, any remaining low levels of carbon that remain in the carpet tile.

02

## Journey to Net Zero

“Using carbon negative recycled yarn enables us to offset at source”

eco<sub>2</sub>matters®

02

## Journey to Net Zero

“EPD transparently reports objective, comparable and third-party verified data about products and services’ environmental performances from a lifecycle perspective”

eco<sub>2</sub>matters®



### ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATIONS (EPDs) AND INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY VERIFICATION

EPDs and independent third party verification are an integral part of the **eco<sub>2</sub>matters**® sustainability principles. We have therefore significantly invested in product specific EPDs.

Rather than use generic or product category EPDs, we believe it is important to provide the reassurance of product specific, independently third party verified, Environmental Product Declarations.

This ensures you know the exact carbon footprint and can make an informed decision when deciding which product to use.

All our EPDs are available on both our website [www.burmatex.co.uk](http://www.burmatex.co.uk) and on the International EPD system database - [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com)



### WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We understand that our actions impact the environment, and we are committed to acting responsibly.

100% of our electricity is from certified renewable sources. We continue to make significant progress in reducing our waste through Project Zero Landfill. Our recovery take back service, provides a no landfill option for used carpet tiles.

### 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY

In 2010, Burmatex® made the commitment to only use 100% certified renewable electricity. We are committed to both reducing our energy usage, but also in investing in our own renewable energy generation.

In 2023, Burmatex® invested in solar electricity, through the installation of solar panels at our 11 acre site in Ossett, United Kingdom.

This will generate green energy equivalent to being able to run over 6,000 UK homes for a year\*

\*Source: Ofgem's typical domestic consumption values 2021 decision letter. Based on average UK homes annual electricity consumption of 2,900 kWh.

03

## Positive environmental impact

“Since 2010 Burmatex® has used 100% certified renewable electricity”

eco<sub>2</sub>matters®

03

## Positive environmental impact

“97% of our waste is recycled, and we have Zero Landfill”

eco<sub>2</sub>matters®



### PROJECT - ZERO LANDFILL

In 2021 we commenced Project - Zero Landfill, a company-wide initiative, to further the reduction of waste generation, and to find ways to sustainably process what waste remained. Our ultimate goal was to ensure that no waste went to landfill.

We were able to significantly increase the amount of waste we recycled, as well as diverting 32.7% of our waste from landfill to other streams such as energy from waste (EfW). Importantly, this waste is used to provide energy for local social housing for low income families.

During 2022 Burmatex® reached a key sustainability milestone by diverting all waste from landfill. We achieved this by increasing our recycling to almost 50%, with the remainder continuing to be used to provide energy for local social housing.

With the actions already taken, there is no longer any waste sent to landfill, achieving our goal of Zero Landfill.

A small amount of waste (3%) will continue to be used to generate energy for local social housing, with 97% of our waste being recycled.

Continuing to further reduce waste remains one of our key objectives.



### RECOVERY TAKE BACK SERVICE

At Burmatex®, we design products to support the circular economy, and by using our recovery take back service, you help support it too.

With class 33 heavy commercial performance, backed by our 15 year warranty, our products are made to last.

When it's time to refresh your floor, the recovery take back service gives your used carpet tiles a new lease of life. Working with our partners, we work to find your used tiles a new home, such as helping local community organisations requiring low cost flooring.

Where, due to their condition, reuse is not an option, their high recycled content enables us to recycle them for reuse into other applications, such as for use as equestrian surfaces.

By using the recovery take back service, you can ensure none of your used carpet tiles end up in landfill.

To find out more, please contact your local Burmatex® Business Account Manager, or our Service Centre.

03

## Positive environmental impact

“By using the recovery take back service, you can ensure none of your used carpet tiles end up in landfill.”

eco<sub>2</sub>matters®

04

## Social values & well-being

“Burmatex® has recently rolled out an Employee Assistance Programme to support employees”

eco<sub>2</sub>matters®



### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Employing from the local community is a major focus of Burmatex® connecting to our heritage of where the business started and what was the essence of its core historical industrial value. Almost 90% of our factory employees reside within 10 miles of the site, with the average distance our employees travel to work being only 5 miles.

### TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

We are continuously encouraging agility and excellence (two of our four values) to help drive the sustainability agenda. Therefore learning and development opportunities are central to reskilling and upskilling employees to help us deliver our strategy. This investment is evidenced through Open University courses through to apprenticeships. Training is monitored and encouraged, with the company currently engaging with the Federation of Small Businesses to discover new pathways to sustainability based training and resources.

### HEALTH & SAFETY AND WELL BEING

The well-being of our people is paramount and at the forefront of our new strategy. Burmatex® has recently rolled out an Employee Assistance Programme to support employees with engagement in areas such as exercise and financial well-being, and also to provide qualified support through counselling services. The service provides us with a clear direction in which to signpost employees who require support, as well as a multitude of preventative methods and early intervention to foster a proactive approach to mental health care.



Burmatex® is committed to a sustainable future, and in achieving Net Zero. Net Zero is a key step on the journey, but is not the final destination.

Our Beyond Net Zero strategy continues this sustainability journey, to carbon negative products and beyond.

Sustainability is a key business objective, and helps drive our decisions for the future. Our immediate focus is on achieving Net Zero, to play our part in helping achieve a sustainable future.

Our Beyond Net Zero strategy helps ensure our investment decisions are guided by sustainability principles. From investment in material science, to new machinery technology and processes, we are already working on how we can continue to work on the development of future products.

**We are excited to share this journey with you.**

05

## Beyond Net Zero

“Sustainability is a key business objective”

eco<sub>2</sub>matters®

Burmatex® Head Office  
Victoria Mills, The Green,  
Ossett,  
West Yorkshire,  
WF5 0AN,  
United Kingdom

**Tel:** +44 (0) 1924 262525

**Email:** [sales@burmatex.co.uk](mailto:sales@burmatex.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.burmatex.co.uk](http://www.burmatex.co.uk)

# Burmatex®

MANUFACTURERS OF CREATIVE FLOORING 

## eco<sub>2</sub> matters®