



# SUSTAINABILITY

## REPORT 2022

ESG data **Independently Verified** for BES 6001 v3.1  
Framework Standard for Responsible Sourcing





# CONTENTS >

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STRIVING FOR A  
BETTER FUTURE

4

OUR **7 STEP**  
PROCESS

18

ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENTS

78

CORPORATE SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY

100

# STRIVING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

## Welcome

This is Polyflor's 17th annual sustainability report, covering the company's environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance for 2021. The data for this report has been independently verified for BES 6001 v3.1 to provide our stakeholders with complete transparency.

As a responsible manufacturer, Polyflor endeavours to reduce and minimise the environmental impact across all operations. Whilst reporting this and highlighting our focused objectives and guiding policies, integrity is important: Reporting remains impartial, and indications are made regarding future improvements.

"Sustainability at Polyflor is not the responsibility of just one person: It is very much a team effort throughout the entire company and involves listening to our customers and other external driving forces. Sustainability is driven by our board of Directors across all areas of the business and includes our environmental objectives and processes or quite simply, encouraging employees to 'do their bit' at home, in the community and in the workplace.

"Polyflor has always been industry leading with regards to its products and sustainability. We have used harvested rainwater for production since 1915 and have been recycling vinyl since we pioneered it in 1950. Polyflor was an early adopter of BRE with products first assessed on a Life Cycle Analysis in 2005 and we were the first commercial flooring manufacturer to achieve the BRE's standard for Responsible Sourcing, BES 6001, for many of our products. Other firsts as a flooring manufacturer included achieving GreenTag LCARate certification and rolling out a recycling initiative inclusive of site collections and distributor drop-off sites to suit all customer and waste volume requirements.

"Despite ongoing uncertainty throughout 2021, Polyflor continued to show resilience whilst balancing economic and environmental sustainability. Polyflor achieved many significant sustainability accomplishments for 2021, including a total 11% reduction in GHG emissions intensity, which indicates increased efficiencies. Pleasingly, we recycled 34% more than in 2020 and impressively, 71% more post-consumer waste vinyl was recycled back into our flooring, aligning to our circular economy principals.

"Our results and progress for 2021 were positive, however, we will strive to make further improvements throughout 2022-2023 and beyond."

**Mark Halstead**  
Group Chief Executive, James Halstead PLC



# Our Sustainability Journey...

...from 1915 to present day

**1915**

Lodge water is used on site to harvest rainwater for production.

**1950**

Post-production vinyl is recycled.

**1992**

ISO 9001 quality certificate attained.

**1998**

Polyflor launches low maintenance PUR for reduced environmental impact.

**2000**

Polyflor gains ISO 14001 environmental certification.

Polyflor signs up to the Vinyl 2010 commitment.

**2005**

Products are individually assessed by BRE Global, achieving A+.

First VOC emissions tests.

**2007**

Polyflor joins Recovinyl.

**2009**

Polyflor co-founds Recofloor, the waste vinyl flooring recycling scheme.

Recyclable paper packaging replaces plastic roll wrap.

Polyflor products go onto Ecospecifier database.

FloorScore® VOC certification is achieved.

**2015**

Winner of 'Made in the North West - Green Company 2015'.

Floor Cleaning & Maintenance Course launched to promote sustainable cleaning and maximise longevity.

BS OHSAS 18001 is achieved.

**2014**

Economiser installed on steam boiler increasing boiler water feed temperature to boiler, improving efficiency.

Camaro Loc PUR is launched - adhesive free for reduced environmental impact.

**2013**

Product Specific and Generic EPD's are available.

Secura is launched - a Luxury Vinyl Sheet with PUR, available in multiple widths to reduce waste, which can be loose laid on areas up to 24m<sup>2</sup>.

SA 8000 certification is achieved.

BES 6001 certification for Responsible Sourcing is obtained.

PVC Best Practice on Polyflor's homogeneous flooring ranges, verified by NCS International Pty Ltd.

**2012**

Expona Simplay, loose lay LVT is launched. Adhesive free for reduced environmental impact.

3rd party EN15804 EPDs available.

Indoor Air Comfort Gold VOC certification is available.

AFSSET indoor air quality labelling starts.

Recofloor has first Annual Awards Ceremony. certification is achieved.

**2011**

Polyflor's new fleet has Euro V compliant engines for reduced emissions.

Polyflor joins Vinyl Plus.

Polyflor improves its carbon footprint, reducing energy use by 43% and reducing carbon emissions by 15,236 tonnes.

**2010**

Products achieve GreenTag LCARate certification.

Recofloor is set up in Australia and New Zealand.

**2016**

Recofloor wins the Let's Recycle Award for Excellence in Recycling & Waste Management.

Polyflor South Africa launches first official recycling scheme for the local vinyl flooring industry.

Bloc PUR is launched - a low maintenance and solid colour sheet flooring to minimise wastage.

**2017**

All Polyflor's HGVs are replaced with Euro VI engines for lower emissions.

Silentflor is launched - low maintenance, low VOC, environmentally certified and recyclable.

**2018**

Recofloor has a record year, recycling 570 tonnes of waste vinyl flooring from the UK. Recofloor Australia and New Zealand recycle 18.5 tonnes, more than double the previous year.

Palettone PUR is launched: 85% natural material and phthalate-free; 25% recycled material and 100% recyclable; certified for low VOC and positive LCA.

16% decrease on energy - lowest figure in 7 years.

Modern, electric forklift trucks replace diesel ones.

**2019**

Energy reduced by 6%.

Recofloor's 10-Year Anniversary.

**2020**

100% renewable electricity used.

21% decrease on water usage.

Fast Track collection of adhesive free ranges is launched.

**2021**

11% reduction in GHG Emissions Intensity.

71% more post-consumer vinyl recycled.

96% of total waste recycled or repurposed.

Over 100 years of minimising our footprint

# Our Vision

Polyflor’s vision is to minimise carbon emissions, as well as being socially and economically responsible. The vision of our business model is fully encompassed by the Three Pillars of Sustainability, which focus on synergy between Environment, Society (people) and Economics.

## The Three Pillars of SUSTAINABILITY








# Key steps to achieve a more SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



# Our Credentials Guide

## Sustainability & CSR

Environmental and Corporate Social Responsibility management ensures continual development and progress, where it matters. The external audits and certification listed, assure that this is our priority and that we will continue to report transparently on key metrics regarding our culture, operations and stakeholder engagement.






ISO 14001		<b>ISO 14001</b> sets out the criteria for an Environmental Management System (EMS) and maps out a framework for a company to follow in setting up an effective EMS.
ISO 9001		<b>ISO 9001</b> is a certified quality management system (QMS) for organisations who want to prove their ability to consistently provide products and services that meet the needs of relevant stakeholders.
BES 6001		<b>BES 6001</b> is a framework Standard from BRE Global, for Responsible Sourcing, along with an associated independent third-party certification scheme. <b>BES 6001</b> will help organisations manage and reduce the impacts throughout the supply chain. The scheme is recognised by the BREEAM family of certification schemes and the Code for Sustainable Homes where credits can be awarded for construction products independently certified through <b>BES 6001</b> .
SA 8000		<b>SA 8000</b> is an international certification standard that requires organisations to develop, maintain and apply socially acceptable practices in the workplace.
ISO 45001		<b>ISO 45001</b> is a framework for an occupational health and safety management system.

## What this means for you

Our certification gives you peace of mind on matters that matter to all of us as businesses and consumers. We all want to purchase best quality products and services from ethical, responsible and caring companies.

## Environmental Life Cycle Analysis

Environmental LCAs are important in understanding a product's environmental performance over its entire journey, from materials sourced and used to the end of life. Every product has an environmental impact. An LCA therefore, helps identify each critical step, associated impact and performance.

BRE		The <b>BRE</b> (Building Research Establishment) is an independent organisation which evaluates the environmental impact of a product. Using a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) over a building life of 60 years, materials are assessed on their impact against a series of environmental criteria and performance is rated from A+ to E. Individual assessments relate to specific production data for the product, whereas generic ratings are derived from industry-wide production data and averaged.
IBU EPD		Polyflor's product specific <b>EPDs</b> are verified by <b>IBU</b> (Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.) - an independent, environmental organisation which works closely with construction and environmental authorities in Germany. Product specific <b>EPDs</b> available on <a href="http://www.ibu-epd.com/en/published-epds">www.ibu-epd.com/en/published-epds</a>
ERFMI EPD		Generic <b>EPDs</b> are available via <b>ERFMI</b> (European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute), which provide transparency on environmental impacts. Generic <b>EPDs</b> available on <a href="http://www.ibu-epd.com/en/published-epds">www.ibu-epd.com/en/published-epds</a>
INIES FDES		<b>INIES</b> provides environmental and health declarations of products for evaluating the performance of construction works. The <b>INIES FDES</b> is an independent third-party audit. To view <b>FDES</b> , visit <a href="http://www.inies.fr">www.inies.fr</a>
GreenTag		<b>GreenTag</b> is Ecospecifier's Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) and Polyflor's products are certificated to meet <b>GreenTag</b> requirements.





## What this means for you

Our products' LCAs give you a better understanding of all the associated environmental impacts and how they perform, helping you to compare products and make informed choices for specification.

# Our Credentials Guide

## Recycling

Recycling has always been important to us and continues to be a top priority. In operating our own recycling schemes as well as being part of external recycling initiatives, we are committed to minimising this sector's environmental impact and embracing Circular Economy principals.





<b>Recofloor</b>		Polyflor is co-founder and owner of <b>Recofloor</b> the UK's leading recycling scheme for smooth and safety offcuts and uplifted smooth vinyl flooring. This scheme is also used in Australia, New Zealand and Iceland.
<b>Polyflor RVF SA</b>		The <b>Polyflor Recycling Vinyl Flooring</b> scheme is an independent recycling scheme in South Africa, collecting waste Polyflor vinyl flooring.
<b>AgPR</b>		We work with <b>AgPR</b> (Arbeitsgemeinschaft PVC-Bodenbelag) to reclaim recycled vinyl flooring waste from Germany/EU.
<b>Recovinyll</b>		<b>Recovinyll</b> is a PVC recycling scheme, set up to encourage companies to recycle post-consumer PVC. The aim of the scheme is to increase the amount of PVC recycled by establishing sustainable collection and processing arrangements.

## What this means for you

Using one of our recycling schemes, or an affiliated scheme helps to avoid the concern of needlessly sending waste to landfill. You are improving your carbon footprint and could be saving money too. The Recofloor scheme, for instance, could save up to 70% for arranged collections (compared to landfill), or it is FOC when using one of our participating distributors. Recycling your Polyflor flooring helps with site waste management plans and may contribute towards credits for 'waste' on a BREEAM assessment.

## Health

We want our floor coverings to be healthy for the environment and for our customers. Our ranges are non-shedding and do not harbour dust. They do not contain harmful substances; are REACH compliant and are certified to assure very low VOC emissions for best indoor air comfort and quality.

<b>IAC</b>		Indoor Air Comfort ( <b>IAC</b> ) product certification by Eurofins, provides compliance to low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) emissions requirements of European specifications. <b>Indoor Air Comfort</b> Gold certification shows a higher level of compliance, meeting criteria of many voluntary specifications issued by most relevant ecolabels and similar specifications in the EU. This is 'best in class' and good for indoor air quality, posing no risk to health.
<b>FloorScore®</b>		<b>FloorScore®</b> product certification by SCS Global, ensures that certified flooring meets strict indoor air quality (IAQ) emissions criteria of LEED; CHPS; The Green Guide for Health Care, and is recognised by a long list of healthy building programmes.
<b>Afsset</b>		<b>Afsset</b> (L'Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire de L'Environnement et du Travail) tests construction products compliance to the French Government's regulations regarding VOC and formaldehyde emissions.
<b>M1</b>		<b>M1</b> is the short version name of the Finnish voluntary emission classification of building materials. <b>M1</b> is the lowest VOC emission class of that system.
<b>REACH</b>	<b>REACH</b>	<b>REACH</b> is a European Union regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & Restriction of Chemicals. No harmful substances added, such as formaldehyde; asbestos and heavy metals. Plasticisers used by Polyflor are not classified substances and do not need authorisation under <b>REACH</b> . A range of mostly non-phthalate and ortho-phthalate plasticisers used across Polyflor's vinyl collection.

## What this means for you

You will also improve well-being and comfort with beautiful designs and clean indoor air quality, attainable through our low VOC products with further reduced VOC emissions from the maintenance regime.

# Our Credentials Guide

## Environmental Listings

Polyflor products are listed on various databases specifically for sustainable products, making specification options easier for green build projects.


<b>DGNB</b>		Our EPDs are listed on the <b>DGNB</b> database <b>DGNB</b> (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen e.V. / German Sustainable Building Council), which promotes sustainable and economically efficient buildings for the future.
<b>BASTA</b>		Polyflor has registered, approved products on the <b>BASTA</b> database, <b>BASTA</b> is a non-profit organisation owned by IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute and The Swedish Construction Federation.
<b>Ecospecifier</b>		Polyflor is registered to <b>Ecospecifier</b> , a guide to eco and health preferable products, materials and technologies for the built environment.

## What this means for you

You will also improve well-being and comfort with beautiful designs and clean indoor air quality, attainable through our low VOC products with further reduced VOC emissions from the maintenance regime.

## Memberships & Associations

We like to be in the mix and keep abreast of current or potential issues and challenges, both within the industry and on wider environmental matters. This enables us to engage with stakeholders and react better to customer demands.

<b>VinylPlus</b>		<b>VinylPlus</b> is the voluntary sustainable development programme of the European PVC industry. It aims to create a long-term sustainability framework for the entire PVC value chain.
<b>PVC Stewardship (Australia)</b>		Polyflor Australia is a signatory to The Vinyl Council of Australia Product Stewardship Program. This program has voluntary commitments focused on Best Practice Manufacturing, Safe and Sustainable use of additives, Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management, Resource Efficiency and Transparency and Engagement. The commitments ensure that the entire process from raw materials through to end of life of vinyl products is reviewed and addressed to minimise environmental and safety issues within the vinyl industry, on a local and global scale. Visit <a href="http://www.vinyl.org.au/sustainability/stewardship">www.vinyl.org.au/sustainability/stewardship</a>
<b>Kaléi</b>		<b>Kaléi</b> works with the government and informs its members on regulations and standards and partakes in environmental policy, with a commitment to sustainable development.
<b>UKRFA</b>		<b>UKRFA</b> (United Kingdom Resilient Flooring Association – UK trade association for the resilient flooring sector.
<b>ERFMI</b>		<b>ERFMI</b> (European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute – ensures the maintenance of high ethical standard within the industry.
<b>SAVA</b>		The Southern African Vinyls Association ( <b>SAVA</b> ) is a representative body for the local vinyl industry fulfilling an active role in the sustainability of the industry.

## What this means for you

By our involvement and networking with these key stakeholder organisations, we are part of these communities and can stay on top of issues that matter most to you and better meet your demands.



# Sustainable Performance

For many decades Polyflor has been recognised as a leading global manufacturer of high quality, high performance sustainable floor coverings. We will continue to do good as a responsible and ethical manufacturer, whilst looking to continually improve.

## POLYFLOR'S SUSTAINABILITY KPI'S FOR 2021\*

\*Data increases or decreases are compared with 2020.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2021, the company's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions increased by 595,711 (KG CO2e), or **7%**. However – and most significantly - Polyflor's GHG emissions intensity was reduced by **11%**, as production was lower but less efficient in 2020. This was a further **2%** decrease on 2019.

### Suppliers

- Achieved **92%** for bulk deliveries above the minimum load size of 23 tonnes (against **>90%** target).
- **47%** of our suppliers were within a 50-mile radius.
- **98%** of our suppliers have Modern Slavery Act Compliance certification.

### Production

- **100%** renewable electricity used.
- Direct Greenhouse Gas Emissions (from natural gas) increased by **8%**.
- Reduced Energy Intensity by **9%**.
- **24%** increase on water usage (this was less than 2019 and 2018).
- Net waste as a percentage of tonnes manufactured was just **0.7%** (against our target of **1.5%**).
- 9427 tonnes of total site waste recycled or repurposed (a **34%** increase.)
- **96%** recycled or repurposed waste as a percentage of total site waste (best performance to date).
- 8629 tonnes of post-production vinyl recycled or repurposed (a **28%** increase.)
- 36 tonnes of glass were recycled into some of the Polysafe ranges.

### Logistics

- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were reduced by **14%** per tonne dispatched and **6%** per mile travelled.
- Kilometres travelled by the Polyflor fleet increased by **15%** (**-2%** against 2019).
- Fuel consumption (litres) increased by **8%**.
- **8%** increase of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transportation.
- **38%** increase in bulk load orders.
- Polyflor's backhaul operations removed 606 HGV journeys from the road.

### Closing the Loop

- 386 tonnes of post-consumer waste vinyl recycled back into Polyflor vinyl (**71%** increase).
- 7329 tonnes of recycled vinyl used across Polyflor ranges.
- **30%** more post-production and post-consumer waste recycled and repurposed.
- Recofloor collected 578 tonnes of vinyl waste flooring, an increase of **36%** on previous year and 78 tonnes over target.
- 26 new companies/fitters joined Recofloor.
- Recofloor hosts its 10th Award Ceremony to reward its dedicated members.

### Environmental Assessments

- Affinity 2<sup>55</sup> PUR achieved A+ certification on individually assessed BRE LCA certification.

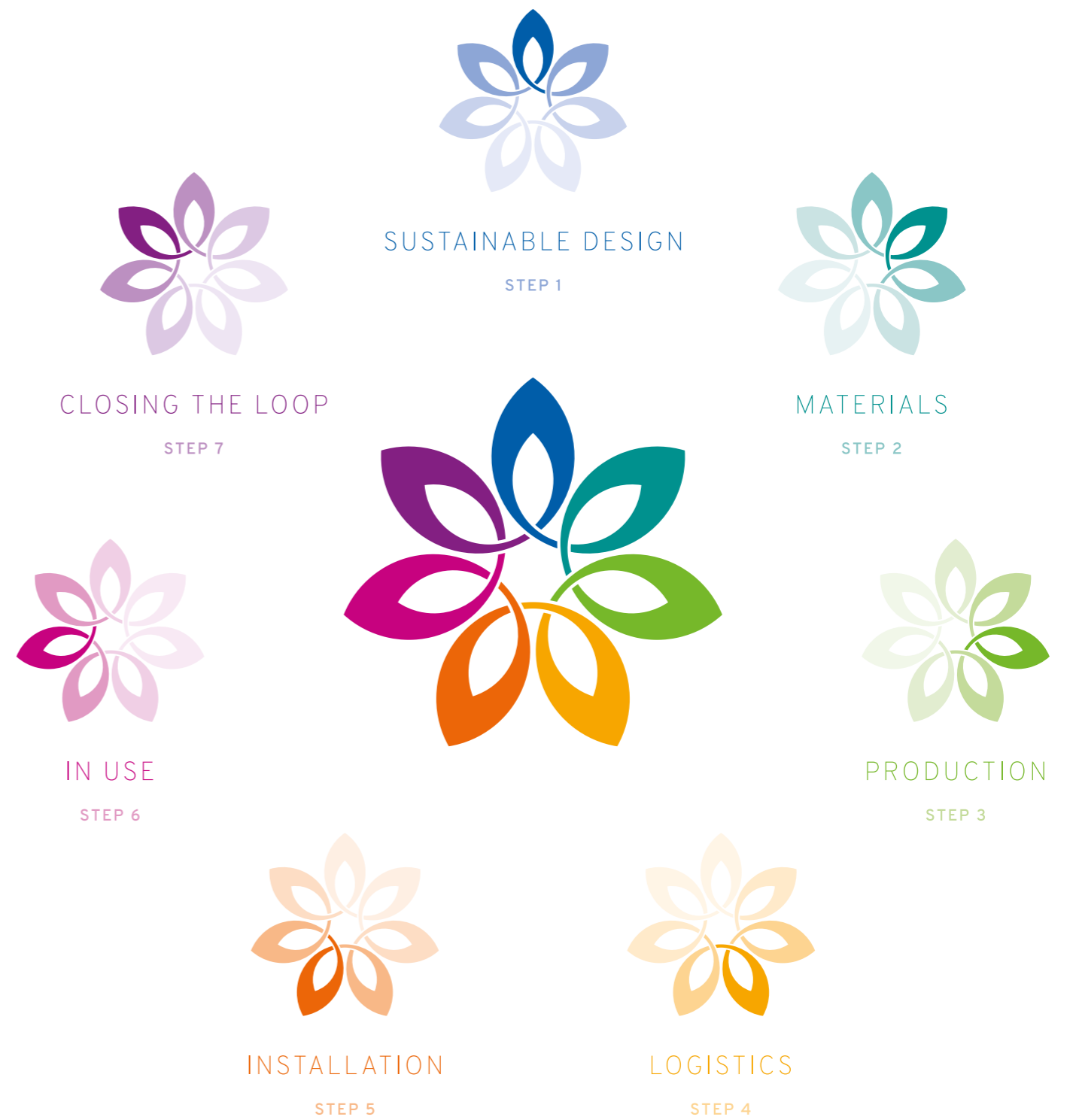
### CSR

- Polyflor hosted 20 floor fitting courses on and off site, training 111 delegates.
- **145%** increase in new recruits.
- **117%** increase in labour turnover, due to retirements.
- Increase of **7%** female employees and **43%** female managers.
- **9%** increase on 25-Year Club membership.
- Commutes were reduced for some employees, who worked from home, saving a further 78 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Polyflor supported 8 charitable projects, donating nearly £16,000.

## Our BIGGEST Achievements



# OUR 7 STEP PROCESS



# Focus on LCA

Life Cycle Assessment or Analysis (LCA) is a comprehensive way to identify environmental impacts throughout a product or service's life.

When it comes to looking at a product's environmental performance, it is easy to be impressed with headline grabbing statements and emotional communications. Importantly, we must consider scientific fact and rational information when forming opinions, rather than making decisions based on perception. An LCA provides us with the measured and scientific approach we should take when considering environmental factors and places all flooring on a level playing field.

The benefits of using an LCA methodology enables the specifier to have a better understanding of all the environmental impacts and not just one aspect in isolation.



LCA is a method to measure and evaluate the environmental impacts associated with a product, system or activity, by assessing the energy and materials used and released to the environment over the life cycle.  
UK Green Building Council

*“Is this product better than that product ‘for planetary and human health?’ It is only at the product level that a valid answer is possible. Only at the product level can we answer questions like: what sort of impacts do the raw materials have; what energy sources are used during manufacture; what are the cleaning, maintenance or replacement schedule requirements; what end of life reuse or recycling options are available, or how ethical is the supply chain?”*

*“We need to stop genericising ‘materials’ and start putting individual products and processes under the microscope, making our product selections based on detailed knowledge of the WOL (whole-of-life) impacts of each range and each brand as they compare to one another.*

*“In our experience of doing just that and hundreds of LCAs for products to be certified, sometimes the results are counter-intuitive. What we think based on commonly accepted norms is more ‘sustainable’ is demonstrably not always so.”*

**David Baggs,**  
CEO & Program Director, Global GreenTag International Pty Ltd.  
CEO & Technical Director, Integreco Pty Ltd., a Sustainable Project & Product Consultancy

DESIGN FOR  
**LONG  
LIFE**

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DESIGN FOR THE  
**CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY**

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**BRE A+**  
RATED PRODUCTS



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

STEP 1

## **Future Proofing**

Polyflor embraces technological enhancements whilst producing functional and aesthetic products which will perform for years to come. Embracing the circular economy from the outset, to minimise waste, is also crucial.

# Product Development & Design

We are continually reviewing alternatives and new ideas to improve our environments. Sustainability is always at the heart of our design process.

## OUR GOAL

**Contribution to the Built Environment:**  
To develop products that improve the quality and sustainability of the built environment.

## OUR GOAL

**Contribution to the Built Environment:**  
To develop "loose lay" (adhesive free) products with reduced environmental impact for ease of recycling.

## Designing for the Circular Economy

Using Circular Economy principles, the design function must consider the following attributes of the floor covering to ensure ongoing best practice for sustainability.

## Material sourcing and manufacturing

Healthier and local materials are sourced to improve the embedded carbon footprints of our ranges. To reduce our carbon footprint further, minimising waste begins here with the use of post-production and reclaimed post-consumer vinyl waste in our ranges. Recycled glass is also used in some of our Polysafe ranges. We also consider how our products can be packaged at design phase, to minimise packaging waste and use sustainable materials.

**In a circular economy we stop waste being produced in the first place.**

*"As Group Design Manager it is crucial to innovate, and with each project comes specific, essential requirements. From the outset, the goals should always be to embrace technological enhancements whilst producing a functional and aesthetic product that can perform for years to come."*

*"As an established, commercial business we are tasked with meeting customer desires in tandem with our sustainability goals. Therefore, the development process enables us to be alert to, but avoid any unnecessary trends, minimising rapidly dated designs to increase*

## Installation

Adhesive free ranges play a big part within the circular economy, as loose lay or lock options minimise environmental impact through reduced embedded CO<sub>2</sub> and can be reused (loose lay) or more easily and effectively recycled. Therefore, the product offering in our Fast Track collection has increased over recent years to reflect this.

## In Use

All new ranges are launched with market leading, low maintenance benefits built in to minimise use of water, chemicals and energy – helping to reduce our customers' carbon footprint, natural resources and costs.

## Reusing or Recycling

Polyflor ranges have always been recyclable, so since the 50's post-production waste has been reused. The increase of our loose lay offerings eases the facilitation of recycling uplifted vinyl (with the click products (loc ranges)), but importantly, our easy-to-install loose lay products can be reused as well as recycled.

*longevity – style not fashion. This philosophy of minimising waste whilst maximising the lifecycle of the material is critical to our development process.*

*"A logical and correct understanding of each project provides the opportunity to both conserve resources and enhance the user experience, continuing to lead us on a more sustainable path."*

**Craig Moorhouse**  
Group Design Manager, James Halstead PLC

# Design for Life

More recent product launches have PUR and low VOC certification as standard and include aesthetics and features with a 'design for life' approach. For instance, aesthetics can be a relevant consideration for sustainability, as some decorative patterns or plainer designs help minimise waste and future-proof interiors, improving longevity.

## Optimise waste reductions with non-directional patterns or plain designs

### Palettone PUR

Smooth homogeneous sheet flooring with elegant, tonal highlights. Designed to stand the test of time aesthetically and performance-wise, demonstrating outstanding durability and abrasion resistance, achieving the highest abrasion wear rating Group T (EN 660 Part 2), EN ISO 10581 Type I.

### Polysafe Stone fx PUR

Virtually invisible aluminium oxide particles are intergrated throughout the performance layer to provide a safety flooring which is both functional and timelessly beautiful. These carborundum-free safety particles ensure that Polysafe Stone fx PUR offers full HSE compliance and sustainable wet slip resistance, achieving 36+ on the pendulum wet tests.

### Polysafe Verona PUR: Pure Colours

The tonal decoration of this safety flooring will not date with a uniform appearance and matt surface finish, the collection is perfectly suited for installation within a wide range of environments but has been optimised with dementia friendly design schemes in mind and is DSDC certified. Our Pure Colours collection provides enhanced sustainable slip resistance of 45+ (slider 96) to ensure the underfoot safety of occupants for many years to come.

## Adhesive free for CO<sub>2</sub> reductions and reuse

### Polysafe QuickLay PUR

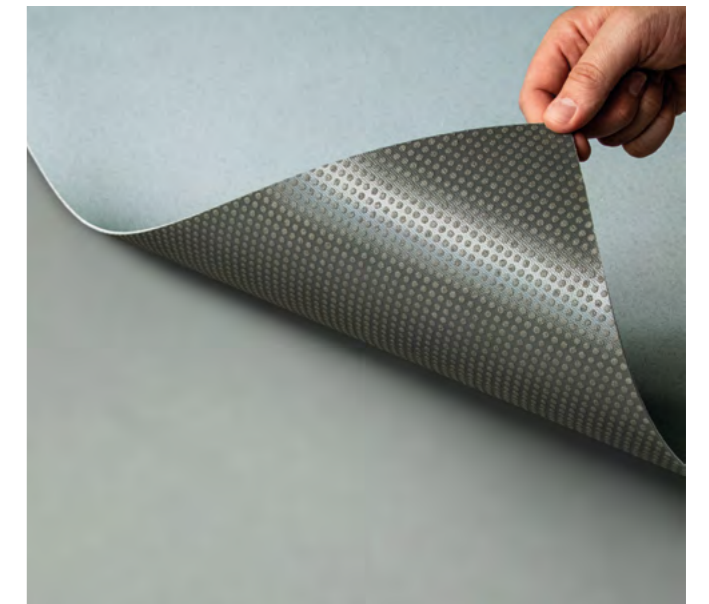
This loose lay safety flooring is designed for adhesive free installation and can be laid over a variety of existing subfloors. Polysafe QuickLay features contemporary understated colours with a decoration of tonal hues, optimised for specification within dementia friendly design schemes. Other areas of sustainability and longevity include enhanced sustainable slip resistance of 45+ (slider 96) and exclusive Polysafe PUR reinforcement for optimum appearance retention and superior cleaning benefits. Simply lift to reuse, repurpose, or recycle.

### Expona Simplay PUR

Expona Simplay PUR is a collection of loose lay tiles replicating the natural beauty of wood, designed to reduce installation time and provide easy access to under floor utilities – so there's no need to pull up and replace. Featuring PUR to assist a low maintenance regime during in-use, at the end this product can be reused or recycled.

### Camaro Rigid Core PUR

An interlocking vinyl tile range, this luxury flooring uses classic wood designs for use in heavy commercial and residential interiors. This range is adhesive free, it can easily be recycled at the end of its life.



# BES6001

## RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

UP TO 3.5 ADDITIONAL BREEAM POINTS

UP TO

**85%**  
NATURAL  
MATERIAL

UP TO

**40%**  
RECYCLED  
CONTENT

**47%**  
OF SUPPLIERS WITHIN  
**50**  
MILES

**REACH**  
**COMPLIANT**  
NO RESTRICTED  
SUBSTANCES

**36** TONNES OF  
**RECYCLED**  
**GLASS**

IN POLYSAFE PRODUCTS, THAT'S

**72,000**

WINE BOTTLES



MATERIALS

STEP 2

### Responsible Sourcing

Polyflor floor coverings contain a combination of ingredients which are clean, REACH compliant, sustainable, and recycled. The materials we use in our flooring are responsibly sourced and audited for our BES 6001 certification.

# Benefits of Vinyl

Through modern manufacturing, vinyl has a low environmental impact and combined with its exceptional functionality and performance characteristics across many applications, no other material can perform as well or cost effectively as this multi-faceted champion.

## Versatility

Chemically inert, safe, hygienic, and shatterproof, vinyl is necessary in everyday life and is vital in many industries, including healthcare: It is irreplaceable for most of its lifesaving applications such as surgical tubing, oxygen masks, containers for IV and dialysis fluids, IV sets, nasal cannulas, examination and surgical gloves, blood vessels for artificial kidneys, mattress covers and training manikins...

Vinyl, or PVC, is the most widely used polymer in building and construction applications with up to 70% of global annual PVC production used in this sector across many everyday building products, including pipes, cables, and windows for all construction projects. It is also present in facades, roofing and seating in stadiums all over the world.

Whether it is rigid or flexible, PVC is used in a range of long-life applications with lifespans ranging from 30 to 100 years in construction products such as cables, pipes and window profiles. PVC products are also low-maintenance and can remain in use for a long time before they reach end-of-life. Significantly, the unique composition of vinyl creates an extremely practical and durable flooring, which can have a life span in excess of 20 years. In fact, we have known cases of our flooring lasting for over 50 years.

**Vinyl products contribute to greater building energy efficiency, cost savings, construction safety, lower embodied carbon and design versatility.**

*“PVC makes a major contribution to the quality, safety and cost-effectiveness of construction materials, as well as contributing to lower environmental impacts of completed projects. It is the most widely used polymer in building & construction applications and over 60% of Western Europe’s annual PVC production is used in this sector.”*

PVC Europe

## Environmental

Vinyl is an environmentally sound choice: Over its whole life cycle, vinyl floor covering performs comparably or better than alternative materials across a range of environmental impacts.

- Vinyl flooring is energy efficient to manufacture, using less energy than other plastics and linoleum.
- Due to its incredible durability, it has a long service life, greatly reducing short-term replacements and subsequent energy consumption.
- Polyflor products’ ease of maintenance significantly reduces energy intensive cleaning, plus the need for harsh chemical cleansers, polish, strippers and water usage is massively reduced, if needed at all.
- Vinyl is 100% recyclable and can be recycled many times over without losing any of its performance properties. If it is not recycled, vinyl has a high calorific value and may be safely incinerated generating energy recovery.

## Health & Safety

Modern, clean PVC is a safe choice and is the most thoroughly researched and tested plastic, meeting all international health and safety standards as per the intended application.

- Vinyl is inherently fire resistant and once removed from an ignition source will self-extinguish. The fire resistance of vinyl is typically higher than lino or rubber.
- It can provide the best slip resistance for underfoot safety.
- Vinyl has low VOC emissions.

**PVC is not a main contributor of dioxin emissions. Dioxins are toxic chemicals which occur as an unwanted by-product of some chemical reactions during manufacture or incineration, applicable to any product using heating or thermal processing. They also occur naturally in the environment, with natural fires and wood biodegradation. Power stations and the steel industry are the biggest man-made producers of dioxin emissions, with leisure items such as fireworks and BBQs also contributing. The annual dioxin concentration of the UK PVC industry is less than 140mg per annum, whereas a single tugboat in the North Sea is 70mg per annum.**

# 10 PVC SUSTAINABILITY KPIs in Construction



# Polyflor Materials

Ensuring that we get the right balance between what is best for product performance, the environment and what our customers want is critical and something which is constantly evolving.

## OUR GOAL

### Resource Use:

To recognise the need to source & use raw materials in the most appropriate & sustainable manner.

## 1. PVC Polymer

Polymer is made up of 57% salt (chlorine) and 43% oil (ethylene); salt being one of the world's most abundant natural resources.

Chlorine has an established place in the natural world: The sea, plants and animals all contain and produce vast quantities of chlorinated molecules. Chlorine is also a chemical used within the manufacture of essential, everyday items. For example, 85% of medicines contain chlorine or use it in the production process. Chlorine is not emitted during production and remains chemically bound within vinyl throughout its lifecycle. Ethylene comes mainly from gas or oil, but from biomass also. Ethylene is also natural, given off by ripening fruit. Just 4% of barrel oil is used for all plastic products globally and vinyl flooring uses only a tiny fraction of this. Most oil is used for heating and travel consumption.

## 2. Filler

The level of fillers used in Polyflor vinyl can account for as much as 72%. Fillers come from calcium carbonate, such as chalk and limestone, which is a natural and sustainable material due to the abundance of it in the earth's crust.

## 3. Plasticisers

Plasticisers are added to enhance the product performance characteristics through a range of operational temperatures and softening the vinyl is important in making it flexible and versatile. Plasticisers are safe to use and not classified under REACH. (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & Restriction of Chemicals)

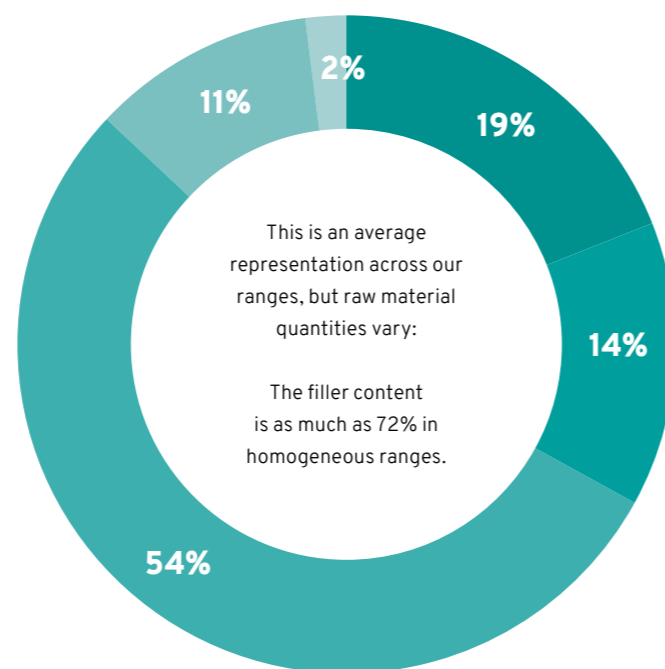
## 4. Other Materials

A small percentage of other ingredients such as stabilisers, pigments and inks are also used. All raw materials used by Polyflor are REACH compliant. Polyflor follows the strictest industry regulations ensuring no harmful substances to human health or the environment are used.

### Recycled Content

Vinyl flooring is easily recycled, which subsequently minimises the use of raw materials. Polyflor flooring is 100% recyclable and contains up to 40% recycled content, which can be a combination of post-production vinyl, post-consumer vinyl and recycled glass (used with aggregates in Polysafe flooring). In 2021 we used 7329 tonnes of recycled vinyl across our ranges and 36 tonnes of recycled glass in Polysafe products – that's 72,000 wine bottles.

## Average Representation of Polyflor Materials



19% PVC (57% Salt)

14% PVC (43% Oil)

54% Natural Fillers (Up to 72%)

11% Plasticisers

2% Other Materials (Renewable plasticiser, stabilisers, inks, pigments)

## Our Sustainable Ingredients 2021

- Up to 40% recycled content included.
- 386 tonnes of recycled post-consumer vinyl used.
- 6943 tonnes of recycled post-production vinyl used.
- 36 tonnes of recycled glass in Polysafe products = 72,000 wine bottles.
- Polyflor products contain up to 85% natural materials.

*“As the first resilient flooring manufacturer to achieve the BRE’s BES 6001, we are well placed to give our customers confidence that the products they are offered are responsibly sourced. Our clear objective is to use sustainable and responsibly sourced raw materials.”*

*“Polyflor ranges are made using natural content, such as calcium carbonate, as well as other sustainable ingredients, such as vinyl and crushed glass, derived from internal and external waste streams. Furthermore, all raw materials considered undergo rigorous scrutiny and are safe and REACH compliant.”*

*“We are committed to manufacturing flooring which is safe for the environment and people: Good material resource management is key in doing this and ensuring a sustainable future.”*

**Paul Smallman**  
Technical Director, Polyflor Ltd.



# Responsible Sourcing

Responsible Sourcing includes social, ethical and environmental factors and how they are considered throughout the supply chain and design process. This is an important aspect of a product's life cycle, involving strong organisation and leadership, compliance, and solid relationships.

Responsible Sourcing is defined in BS8902 – Responsible sourcing sector certification schemes for construction products – Specification as: 'The management of sustainable development in the provision or procurement of a product.' Sustainable development is further defined as: 'An enduring, balanced approach to economic activity, environmental responsibility and social progress.' **Source: [www.greenbooklive.com](http://www.greenbooklive.com)**

## How We Source Responsibly

Polyflor is certified to and rigorously audited on all aspects of responsible sourcing. Following on from our Quality Management System (QMS) ISO 9001, we achieved ISO 14001 in 2000. This sets out the criteria for an Environmental Management System (EMS) and maps out a framework for a company to follow in setting up an effective EMS. All environmental aspects, including the supply chain, are considered.

Most recently production achieved BES 6001 for responsible sourcing, and SA 8000 for decent and socially acceptable practices in the workplace.

## What is BES 6001?

The BES 6001 standard, from BRE Global, is a means of securing certification to demonstrate through independent, third-party certification, that products certified against the scheme have been responsibly sourced. BES 6001 does not focus on a company's site, but products or ranges manufactured at one or more sites.

BES 6001 is a framework standard for Responsible Sourcing which sets out requirements under three main headings: Organisational Management; Supply Chain Management and Environmental and Social Responsibility Management. To meet the standard, companies must satisfy certain compulsory elements. Additionally, there are higher levels of compliance that can result in a higher performance rating being awarded.

Depending on a company's performance against the criteria, ratings are awarded on a Pass; Good; Very Good and Excellent basis. **Polyflor sets the bar high, having been the only certified floor covering manufacturer to achieve an Excellent rating for Version 3 of the standard.** By achieving Excellent, Polyflor has satisfied the compulsory sections and conforms to the highest levels of compliance, which has been a massive undertaking for the company - involving production, all other internal departments and its supply chain. Certification is available on [www.greenbooklive.com](http://www.greenbooklive.com).

## The Importance of BES 6001

The UK Contractor's Group (representing over 30 leading construction companies who together account for a third of the UK construction industry turnover) state that: 'UKCG members support and give preference to procuring products which are able to demonstrate compliance with a recognised responsible sourcing scheme, certified by a third party.'

BES 6001 is just that. It is an increasingly important and valuable standard for customers who are looking to procure flooring with sound environmental credentials and traceability, from socially aware and ethical suppliers. Without doubt, the standard can help customers make better informed decisions when selecting suppliers.

The hard work and challenges set out by the BES 6001 framework has driven us to scrutinize our own supply chain more than ever before with greater commitment to using trusted, local suppliers who are ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certified. Additionally, stringent and demanding environmental objectives have been set and managerial procedures and policies improved.

BES 6001 has also given Polyflor more direction with regards to social responsibility management – with a focus on internal procedures regarding employees, as well as how the company engages with our local communities and stakeholders in general.

Furthermore, the use of Polyflor products with BES 6001 certification and individual BRE ratings can potentially contribute significantly to the available points in section MAT 03 of a BREEAM Assessment. Where many companies typically contribute 1 point through an environmental management system such as ISO 14001, Polyflor can provide an additional 3.5 points for its BES 6001 Excellent certification. For more information on this, refer to the 'Maximising BREEAM Credits with Polyflor' pages in this document. BES 6001 also secures additional credits within the Code for Sustainable Homes.



## The Vinyl Council of Australia Product Stewardship Program

Polyflor Australia is a signatory to The Vinyl Council of Australia Product Stewardship Program. This programme has voluntary commitments focused on Best Practice Manufacturing, Safe and Sustainable use of additives, Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management, Resource Efficiency and Transparency and Engagement. The commitments ensure that the entire process from raw materials through to end of life of vinyl products is reviewed and addressed to minimise environmental and safety issues within the vinyl industry, on a local and global scale. Visit [www.vinyl.org.au/sustainability/stewardship](http://www.vinyl.org.au/sustainability/stewardship)

*"The ultimate goal of sustainable sourcing is to build strong, long-term relationships with suppliers. Improving performance on environmental, social and ethical issues is vital to developing such relationships."*

**Source: Ecovadis**

# Our Supply Chain

## OUR GOAL

### Supply Chain Management:

To communicate and work constructively with the supply chain to deliver sustainable policies and practices.

ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 are recognised globally and are standard practice for many organisations. As such, Polyflor prefers approved and trusted suppliers who are ISO 9001 and 14001 certified or have robust environmental procedures and where possible are local to our manufacturing sites. Polyflor also uses Quality Assessment Questionnaires, following up with regular meetings and audits.

Additionally, we have a responsible sourcing policy, plus SA 8000, ISO 45001 and BES 6001 certification for responsible sourcing. SA 8000 is an international, auditable social certification standard for decent workplaces, across all industrial sectors. It is based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, conventions of the ILO, UN and national law, and spans industry and corporate codes to create a common language to measure social performance. BES 6001, as already highlighted, helps us manage and reduce impacts throughout the supply chain.

**Polyflor's parent company, James Halstead PLC, has a Modern Slavery Act Statement, underlining the steps taken to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains. Go to [www.polyflor.com](http://www.polyflor.com) for more information.**

As part of our ongoing BES 6001 objectives, we assess our suppliers on their business procedures and ethics as well as their commitment to the reduction of environmental impacts. With regards to the environmental impacts associated with suppliers' transport operations to and from our business, we encourage the use of energy efficient vehicles and adequate driver training to improve vehicle fuel efficiencies. For main suppliers, Polyflor's target score of more than 90% should be achieved on the following criteria: Supplier vehicles used to deliver raw materials to site have modern Euro V or Euro VI energy efficient engines and suppliers ensure that adequate driver training has been given to ensure maximum fuel efficiency. In 2021, Polyflor's suppliers achieved beyond our targets with an impressive score of 96% for both criteria.

Another objective is purchasing in bulk to minimise the transport impacts of our products, ensuring >90% of bulk deliveries are above the minimum load size of 23 tonnes. In 2021 we achieved this with 92%.

## Proximity of Suppliers



We also work with suppliers with the closest possible proximity to the Polyflor production sites. Our target is 85% of raw materials to be supplied within 500 miles of the factory. However, unlike previous years, we did not achieve this in 2021, with 74% of raw material suppliers being within a 500-mile radius.

In 2021, 99% of Polyflor's raw material suppliers achieved ISO 9001 (a 1% decrease), 89% for ISO 14001 (3% decrease), 82% achieved ISO 45001 (a decrease of 7%) and 98% held Modern Slavery Act Compliance certification (a 1% reduction).

Due to economic circumstances out of our control and the need to respond with a narrower availability of suppliers and materials, we encountered a number of shortfalls in 2021. To reiterate, nothing has changed with regards to our objectives, nor did we seek out a change in our own supply chain for any commercial gain outside our policies. Finally, the commitments shown by our suppliers to improve are encouraging.

# SUPPLY CHAIN Summary 2021

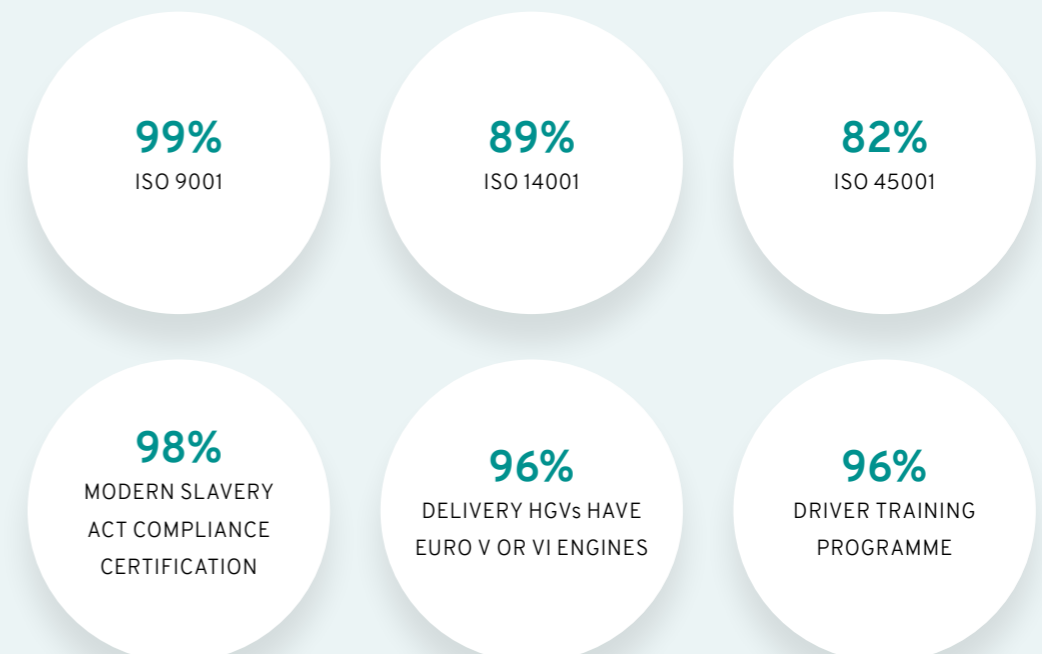
## Polyflor



Database of approved and trusted suppliers, many of whom are local to our manufacturing sites.

Engagement Supplier Surveys and Quality Assessment Questionnaires are used and followed up with regular meetings and discussions with existing suppliers.

## Our Suppliers (>90% Target)



We use local printing companies with sound environmental credentials, using solvent free inks, plus FSC and Carbon Capture® accredited paper sources.

# 96%

OF TOTAL WASTE WAS  
RECYCLED OR  
REPURPOSED

# 9,427 8,629

TONNES TONNES  
OF TOTAL WASTE  
RECYCLED OR  
REPURPOSED (+34%)  
OF POST-PRODUCTION  
VINYL RECYCLED OR  
REPURPOSED (+28%)

# 100%

RENEWABLE  
ELECTRICITY USE

# ISO 14001

CERTIFIED MANUFACTURING

REDUCED  
ENERGY INTENSITY BY **9%**

**96%** WATER SUPPLY  
FROM RECYCLED WATER

# 12,073

TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub>  
SAVED SINCE 2017, =

# 2,360

CARS OFF THE ROAD  
FOR ONE YEAR



## PRODUCTION

STEP 3

## Protecting Resources

Our flooring is energy efficient to manufacture and minimises environmental impact and carbon emissions. We apply 'The 3 Rs' as we look to continuously reduce, recycle and reuse resources. Our use of renewable energy has also increased dramatically.

# Energy Use

There is a direct connection between energy use and the environment. Energy consumed equals emissions being released into the atmosphere, which is why energy efficiency is crucial and why Polyflor sets out to minimise its energy consumption where possible and use renewable energy.

## OUR GOAL

### Polyflor Climate Change and Energy:

To use energy efficiently throughout the production process, reduce fossil fuel consumption and utilise renewable sources of energy to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

Byproducts which come from traditional methods of power generation, include carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. Carbon dioxide, which accounts for most of the emissions, is a greenhouse gas. Carbon dioxide absorbs the sun's warmth and keeps heat in our atmosphere when it is released into the air. This 'greenhouse effect' is a naturally occurring phenomenon and required for survival on earth. However, as power plants burn more fuel to create more energy, the extra carbon waste traps too much heat, which can be detrimental. The known effects of greenhouse gas emissions include rising temperatures; heat waves and drought; higher sea levels; smog and acid rain; abnormal weather patterns and increased intensity of natural disasters.

In terms of climate change, vinyl has a low carbon footprint, which can be observed in EPDs (environmental product declarations).

## 2021 Performance

Due to the result of the company's hard work and compliance to its Climate Change and Energy Goal for 2021, Polyflor achieved many positives regarding its production's energy and emissions. Energy use increased by 10% compared to 2020, but down by 7% against 2019, which would be a closer and fairer comparison, due to production output being significantly up in 2021, compared with an unprecedented lower output in 2020. Importantly, energy intensity was 3.85 KwHr per m<sup>2</sup> of energy use, this was a reduction of 9% and 1% compared to 2020 and 2019 respectively, thus highlighting how production was running more efficiently.

Direct GHG (natural gas) emissions increased by 8% to 7,454 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2021. Indirect Greenhouse Gas Emissions remained the same at zero, given 100% of our electricity supply used on site was renewable, and aligned with our goal to utilise renewable sources of energy.

In 2021 Polyflor's production saved **548 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>**. That's the same as **66,660,170 smartphones** being charged or **118 petrol passenger vehicles** being driven for the year. Since 2018, Polyflor has saved **12,670 tonnes of carbon emissions** – the same weight as **100 blue whales**.

## How we are Improving

A selection of Polyflor's ongoing investment in energy-saving equipment and projects - from which, the environment is now reaping the rewards - is highlighted below:

- Replaced old chillers on 2 production lines with energy efficient modern chillers with free cooling technology, which can reduce energy by up to 70%.
- Installed LEAP ESP (low energy abatement plant) on 1 of the production lines.
- More daylight ports were installed to maximise natural lighting.
- Existing lighting was replaced with new LED lighting, operated with sensors, throughout the production halls and warehousing.
- Weekend switch off schedules were issued for Whitefield plants.
- Energy incidents are raised and corrected.
- Objectives, such as air leak, steam trap and thermal imaging surveys are carried out at regular intervals.

## DON'T FORGET!

Typical lifecycle of 20-25 years meaning fewer replacements = less energy to produce flooring for the life of the building.

## Summary 2021

- 100% renewable electricity used.
- Energy intensity was 3.85 KwHr per m<sup>2</sup>, a 9% improvement on 2020
- Direct GHG (natural gas) emissions increased by 8% with 7,454 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- No change to Indirect GHG emissions with 0 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> 548 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> saved

# Water Use

Water is a natural resource which must be protected. Water usage can be high in many manufacturing plants, but Polyflor has taken numerous steps to ensure that this is minimised and that we continue to adhere to our Trade Effluence License.

## OUR GOAL

### Polyflor Water:

To use water efficiently to minimise demand on potable water supplies and treat process water and site run-off effectively to mitigate against pollution risks.

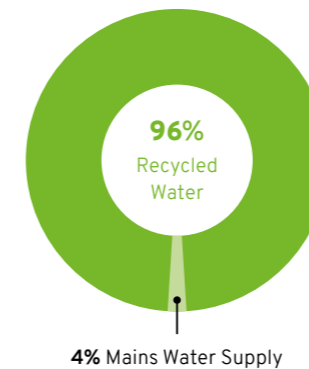
At the Whitefield site, rainwater is collected and stored in a designated area known as 'lodge water' and is used for cooling. Following its use, it is returned into the lodge. Lodge water is used to substitute mains water supply, and so just 4% of water consumed by manufacturing coming from the mains supply.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**500+ Carp**  
live in lodge water

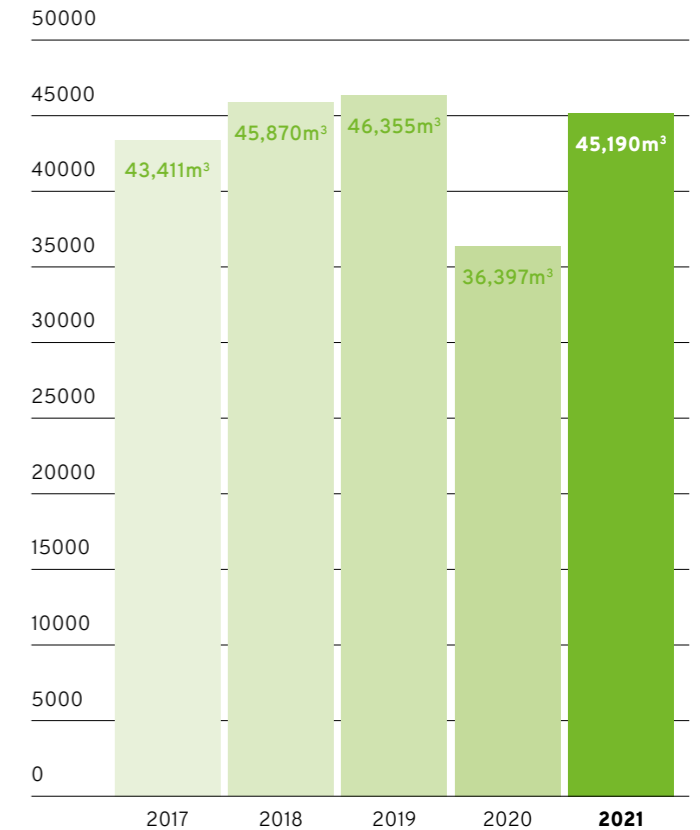


## Water Source



Water used on site from the mains supply is largely for steam and cooling tower usage and is linked to overall production volumes. 2021 saw a 24% increase compared to 2020, although less water was used than 2019 and 2018. Again, this highlights the challenges faced in 2020 and consequent drop in production. We believe the figure should fall again in 2022, as there was a water leak at the start of 2021. This was repaired with subsequent monthly reductions in the second half of the year.

## Total Water Used



## How we are Improving

Across our sites we have many steps in place to minimise water usage throughout production, including the following:

- A filtering system filters lodge water for one of the cooling towers, with the aim of substituting mains water with lodge water for process cooling. This will potentially reduce annual mains water usage by 10%-15%.
- Part of Whitefield's factory's guttering is linked up to an underground water collection tank that has a 22,000-litre water collection. Our target to harvest 30% of the rainwater from the roof has been surpassed and we are now collecting 50%. This water is used on a jet washing facility, but may also be used elsewhere, such as the cooling towers and production line. Based on average rainfall, the system can harvest 1.3 million litres of water per year.
- Optimisation of steam pressure.
- Improvement of the efficiency of pumps and automatic controls.
- Regular steam trap surveys.
- Optimisation of cooling water temperature.

# Waste Management

Waste Management continues to be an important part of Polyflor’s ongoing sustainability objectives within its BES 6001 and ISO 14001 management systems. Waste minimisation from the outset is pivotal with recycling and repurposing being integral to Polyflor’s waste management process.

## OUR GOAL

**Polyflor Waste Management:**  
To manage all waste streams effectively by adopting the waste reduction hierarchy and minimise waste incinerated and disposed of to landfill without energy or material recovery.

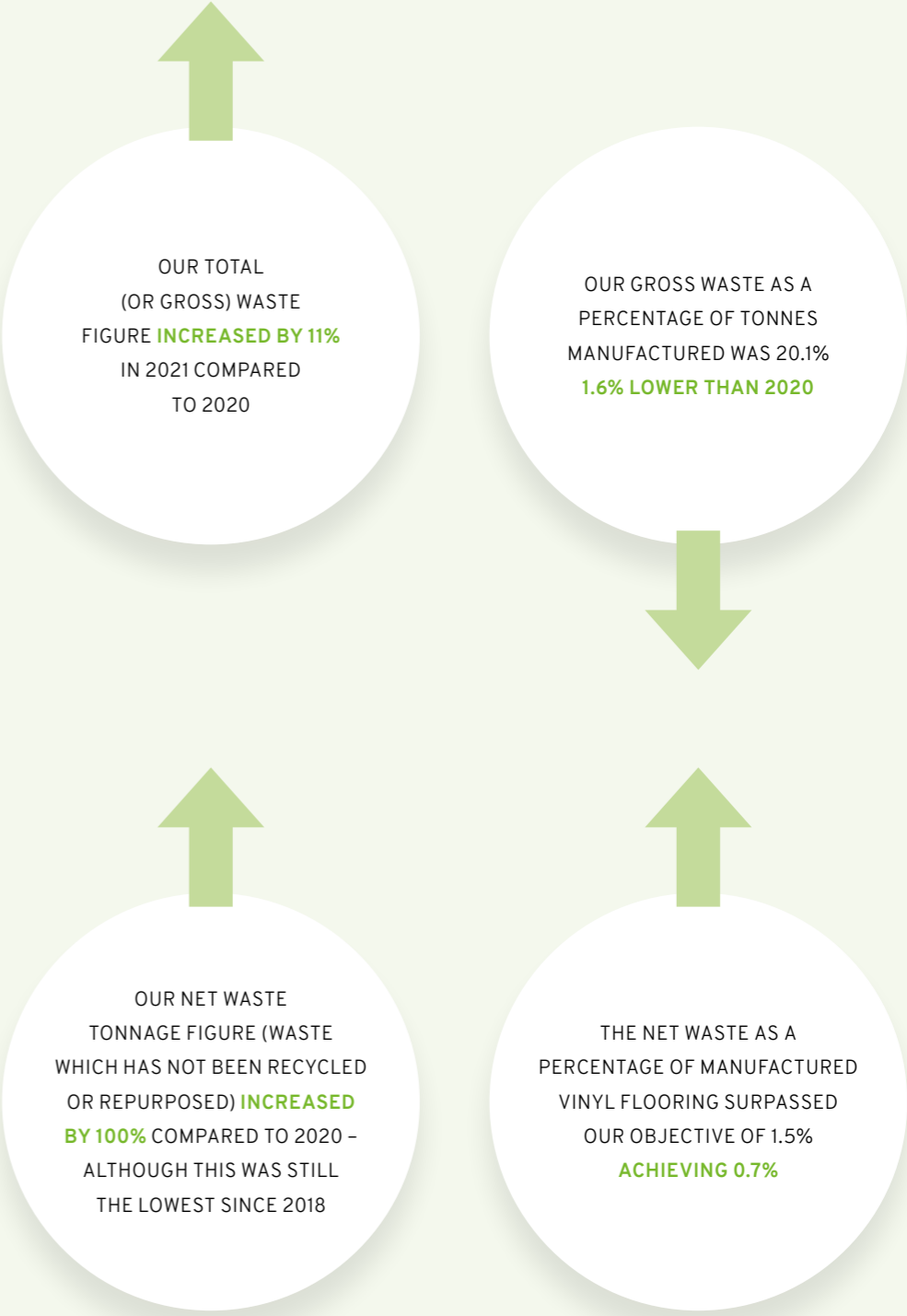
## Polyflor Waste Hierarchy

In accordance with BES 6001, Polyflor’s objectives to reduce waste to landfill in 2021 included recycling post-production waste and returned post-consumer waste; actively managing and promoting the Recofloor vinyl take-back scheme and applying a Waste Hierarchy to all Polyflor waste streams. Moving waste streams up the hierarchy is important but limiting the potential for waste at the outset will continue to be a priority, working to the ethos of ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’.

PREFERABLE	<b>Prevention</b>	Using less material in design and manufacture; keeping products for longer; re-use and using less hazardous materials
	<b>Preparing for Reuse</b>	Checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing whole items or spare parts
	<b>Recycling</b>	Turning waste into a new substance or product. Includes composting if it meets quality protocols
	<b>Other Uses</b>	Includes anaerobic digestion; incineration with energy recovery; gasification and pyrolysis which produce energy and materials from waste
AVOID	<b>Disposal</b>	LANDFILL AND INCINERATION WITHOUT ENERGY RECOVERY

All post-production waste vinyl is recycled, either back into new Polyflor flooring or sent to a third-party recycler.

# Polyflor WASTE FACTS 2021



# Recycling

Polyflor has been recycling vinyl since the 1950s, when we pioneered the manufacture of homogeneous flooring. It has always been considered a natural part of the manufacturing process.

Post-production waste vinyl is generated on site from scrap material produced during and after production, this comprises vinyl chippings, clean trims and offcuts as well as recovered dust.

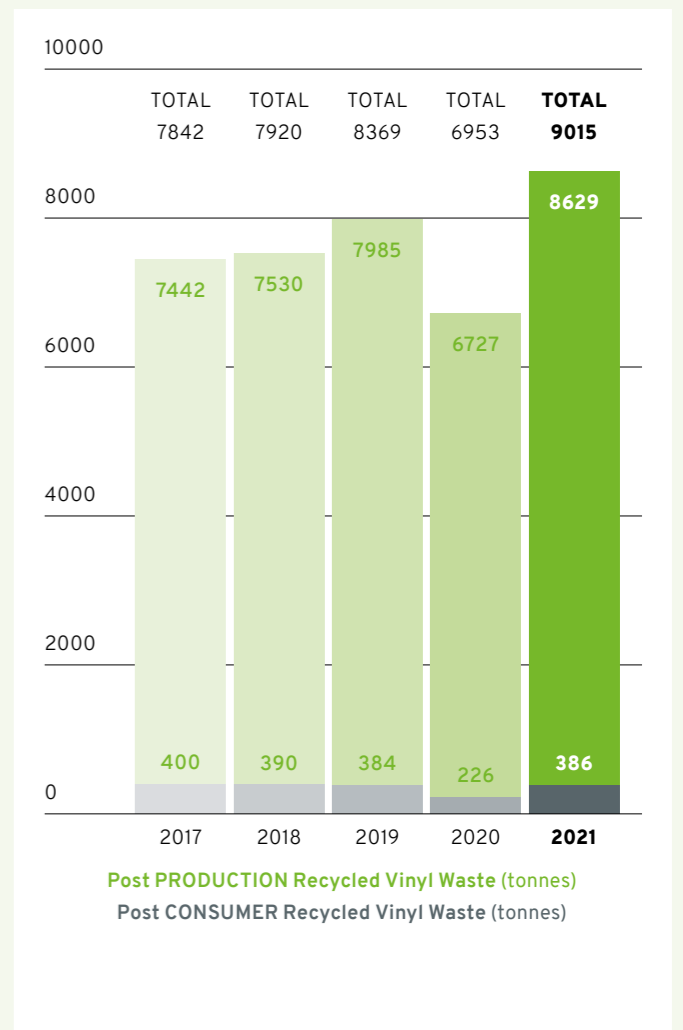
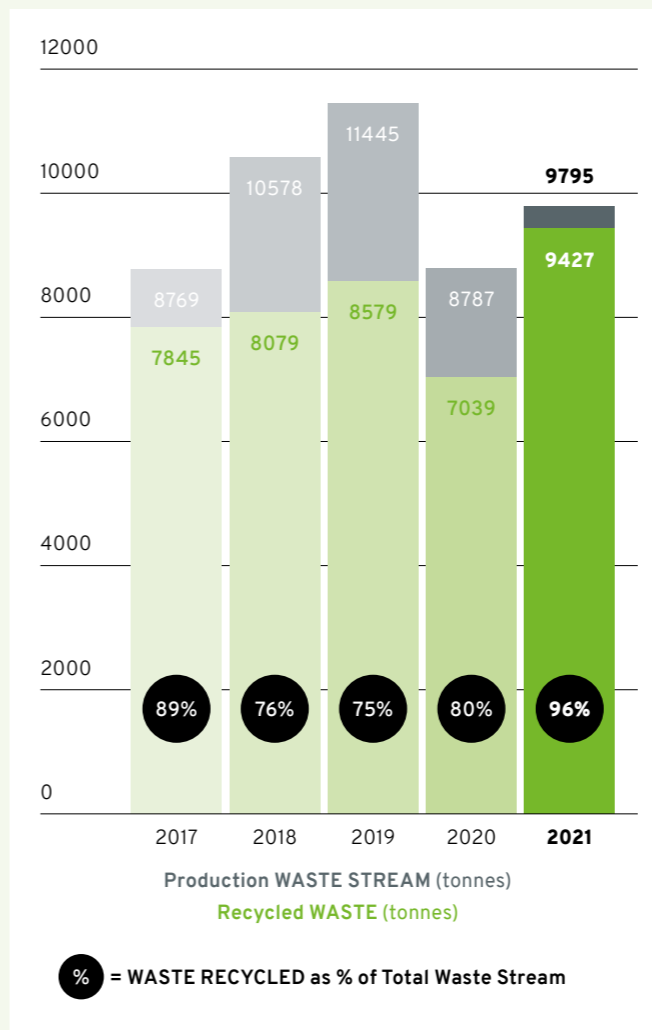
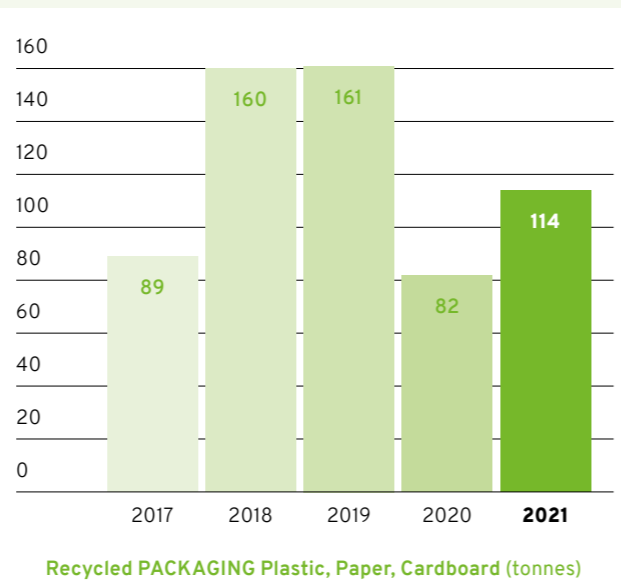
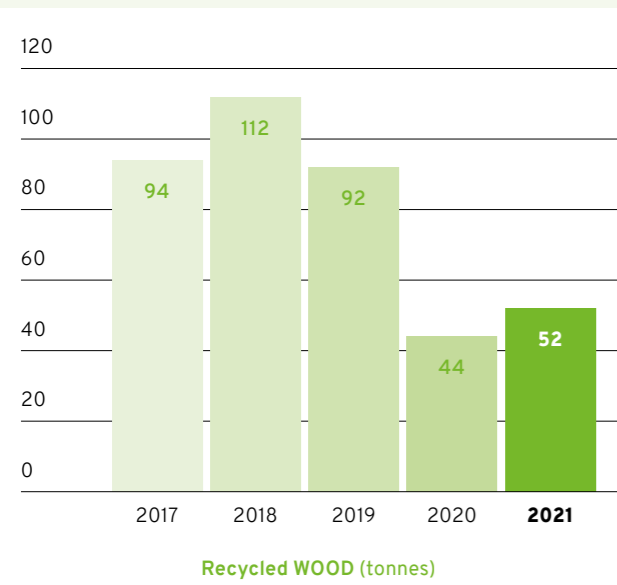
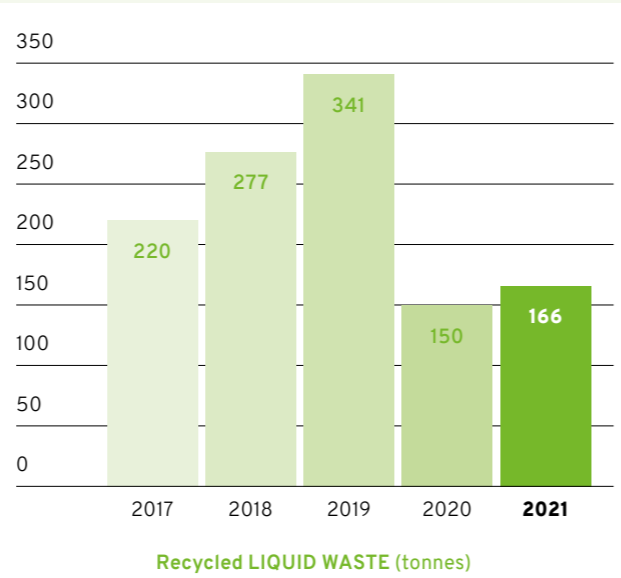
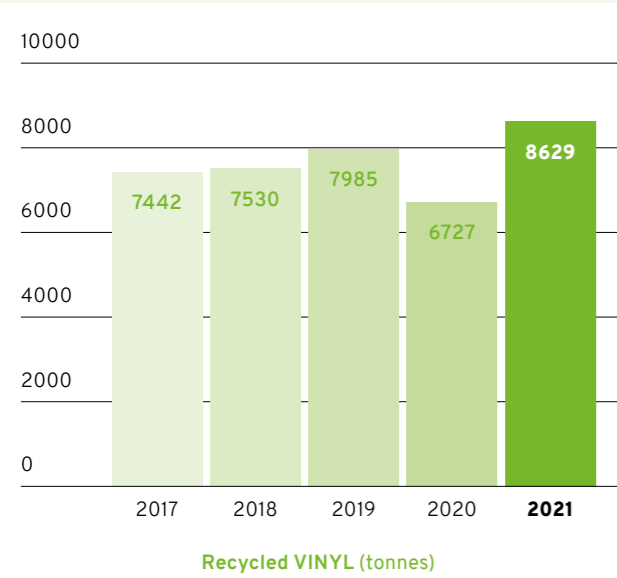
In 2021 we also recycled 36 tonnes of post-consumer waste glass combined with aggregates and used in the production of some of our Polysafe products. **That is the same as around 72,000 wine bottles diverted from landfill.**

Post-consumer vinyl waste is returned to Polyflor via the Recofloor recycling scheme, which operates throughout the UK, Eire, Australia,

New Zealand and most recently, Iceland. Post-consumer waste that is recycled back into Polyflor flooring is fully controlled and REACH compliant.

It is evident that there can be few materials better suited to recycling than vinyl flooring. Vinyl is 100% recyclable and can be recycled many times over without losing performance properties. Furthermore, **recycled vinyl requires 85% less energy to manufacture than virgin PVC.**

It is important to note that as a business with electrical and electronic equipment to dispose of, we are fully compliant with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive and therefore recycle such waste accordingly.



**Our vinyl flooring**

**100%**  
RECYCLABLE

UP TO **40%**  
RECYCLED MATERIAL CONTENT

**25%**  
AVERAGE RECYCLED CONTENT ACROSS RANGES

**5%**  
AVERAGE POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT

**In Summary**

2021 remained a positive year for our waste management process. Polyflor recycled 34% more than the previous year and 10% more than 2019. In fact, more was recycled in 2021 than the previous 5 years. However, production and waste figures also increased. Significantly, the gap between total waste and waste recycled was extremely narrow, with 96% of the total waste stream being recycled or repurposed.

Recycling for all our production waste categories, including vinyl, packaging, wood and liquid all increased significantly. With regards to reclaim, post-consumer tonnages recycled in 2021 increased by 71%.

For total vinyl waste recycled in 2021 (both post-production and post-consumer waste) tonnages rose by 30% compared to 2020 – our biggest volume in 5 years.

Investment is repeatedly made to improve storage and handling facilities for waste on site. This will continue, and recycling will remain an important part of our waste management process, including the support provided to the Recofloor recycling scheme and other international schemes.

# EFFICIENT FLEET

DISTRIBUTED IN OUR OWN FLEET OF HIGHLY EFFICIENT HGVs WITH MODERN VI ENGINES

**606** HGV JOURNEYS

REMOVED THROUGH BACK HAULING

**+38%** INCREASE

IN BULK LOAD ORDERS

**-14%** REDUCTION

OF CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS PER TONNE DISPATCHED

PRODUCT WRAPPED IN  
**RECYCLED &  
RECYCLABLE**  
PAPER

**ELECTRIC  
FORKLIFT  
TRUCKS USED**



LOGISTICS

STEP 4

## Reducing Footprints

We are responsible within the supply chain, and our floor coverings are distributed efficiently through our own well managed fleet and distribution network. We recognise social and environmental impacts of all transportation, therefore adopting appropriate strategies to minimise our carbon footprint.

# Warehousing & Packaging

The appropriate storage and packaging of Polyflor's vast product portfolio is important to us and our customers. Minimising waste, CO<sub>2</sub> and using sustainable packaging, whilst ensuring that our product remains in the warehouse and arrives undamaged is critical.

## Warehousing

Polyflor has 3 warehouse units to optimise stock handling for greater supply chain efficiency. At these sites, energy efficient LED lighting has been installed to reduce environmental impact. In 2019, Polyflor replaced 16 of its diesel forklift trucks with electric ones and any remaining diesel FLT's are under review for replacement this year. Each year an electric forklift truck saves 3,025 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to the diesel FLT's and additional benefits include being cleaner and quieter, for improved air quality and reduced noise pollution on and around the sites.

## Packaging

Ongoing objectives for BES 6001 include assessing current and new packaging to ensure it has the best fit in terms of recycled content and recyclability, as well as minimising double wrapping or potential for damage.

Polyflor flooring is packed in the most effective manner to provide necessary protection, whilst minimising waste. We have minimised the use of plastic, with most of our product packaging being a mix of FSC, recycled and recyclable paper and cardboard. Plastic shrink wrap is still used for palletisation, but recycling of various elements of our packaging waste is organised on site.

## CE & UKCA Marks

As a manufacturer of high-quality vinyl flooring, it is Polyflor's responsibility to clearly label its product with the CE & UKCA Marks and declare conformity with all the legal requirements to achieve the markings. Polyflor therefore ensures the validity for that product to be sold throughout the European Economic Area (EEA).

EN 14041, the European standard relevant to the CE mark for floor coverings, has been adopted and is now legally binding. Essential characteristics specified within EN 14041 include:

- Reaction to fire
- Content of dangerous substances
- Emission of dangerous substances into indoor air
- Water tightness
- Slip resistance (EN 13893)
- Electrical behaviour
- Thermal resistance (thermal conductivity)

Once the product is placed on the market with a CE mark the manufacturer must issue and sign a Declaration of Performance, made available in the official language(s) of the member state into which the product is intended to be sold.

As with the CE mark, the UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) marking is a new UK product marking that is used for goods being placed on the market in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland). The UKCA mark, BS EN 14041, works in the same way as the CE mark and covers most goods which previously required the CE marking.





# Transport & Logistics

The efficient distribution of our products is imperative to our customers. It is important that we achieve this whilst acting responsibly within the supply chain and minimising our carbon footprint.

## OUR GOAL

### Transport Impacts:

To recognise the social and environmental impacts of all transportation and the need to adopt appropriate strategies to reduce adverse impacts, including but not limited to i) Fuel usage / efficiency; ii) Normal emissions to air, land and water; iii) Accidental emissions to air, land and water; iv) Noise; v) Packaging.

## Distribution Network

As a UK manufacturer, Polyflor distributes product from its central distribution centre in the North-West of England through a network of distributors throughout the UK and around the world – responsible for regional and local delivery. This model ensures efficiency through the transportation of full, bulk loads.

## Transportation

Polyflor operates its own transport fleet in the UK which is frequently maintained and updated to ensure the most fuel-efficient vehicles are used. As such, all Polyflor HGVs have modern Euro VI engines. In addition to improving the HGV fleet, further reductions of the fleet's environmental impact are achievable through driver efficiencies, using the shortest routes possible and increasing bulk loading and backhauling volumes. Alternative transport methodologies and technology are constantly reviewed.

*“Polyflor always stipulates, when purchasing new vehicles for the distribution fleet, that any replacement vehicle must be the most fuel efficient with lowest emission available. This is irrespective of current legislation requirements resulting in Polyflor becoming early adopters and running cleaner engine vehicles before the legislation deadline.”*

*“Our environmental impact is further reduced through effective tyre servicing and maintenance: Tyre pressure plays an important role in this. Around 30% of fuel consumption can be attributed to truck tyres. Therefore, we aim to maximise tyre life and reduce the amount of new tyres purchased, plus tyres that have a low remaining tread depth or have been regrooved are more fuel efficient than brand new tyres.”*

**Dave Southern**  
Operations Director, Polyflor Ltd.

**A benefit of vinyl flooring being much lighter than other flooring materials produces a positive outcome in transit, reducing fuel consumption.**

## 2021 Overview

Polyflor continued to perform well in relation to logistical operations and will continue to do so in line with ongoing BES 6001 and ISO 14001 environmental objectives. These objectives are reinforced within UK Transport Planning – all personnel within the department are conversant with SEMP 3, Schedule of Requirements for Transport Procedures and the Reduction of Transport Impacts.

## Monitoring our Fleet & Logistics

The 19 vehicles in Polyflor's fleet collectively travelled 1,677,944 kilometers and used 460,798 litres of fuel. Compared to 2020, the kilometers travelled by our fleet increased by 15% and carbon emissions (kgs) increased by 8%. This is attributed to the unprecedented decline in journeys made throughout 2020, due to the peak of Covid-19. However, compared to 2019, the distance travelled by our fleet decreased by 2%. Improving logistics efficiency was largely credited to the phenomenal 38% increase in bulk load orders.

Furthermore, Polyflor's backhaul operations removed 606 HGV journeys from the road network in 2021, 8 additional HGV journeys saved when compared to 2020.

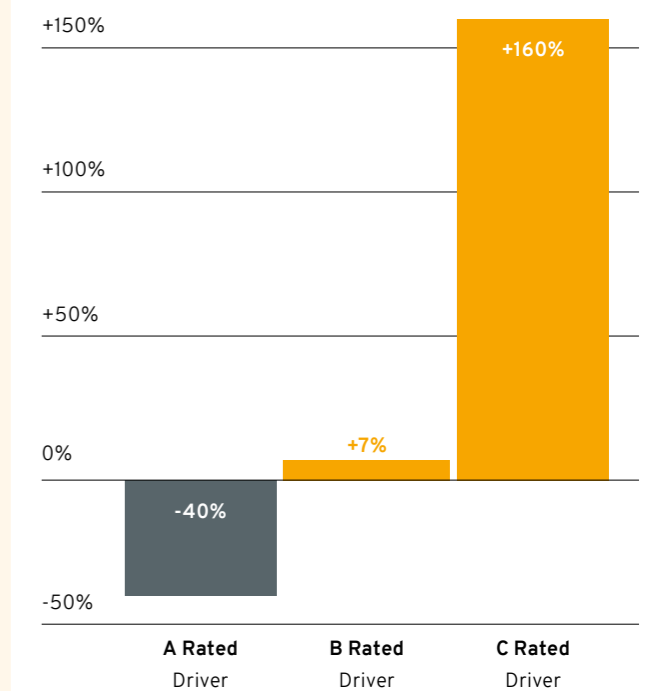
Renewing all the fleet to Euro VI engines, meant that changes to the telematics reporting criteria were implemented to improve miles per gallon. Polyflor HGV fleet replaced all 14 Articulated Units in November 2020, to increase MPG figures and further reduce carbon emissions. Despite increasing fuel (litres) consumption by 8%, distance travelled by 15% and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 8%, the important take away is Polyflor reduced carbon emissions per tonne by 14%, from 33.50kgs to 28.95kgs. Also, carbon emissions per mile were reduced by 6%, 1.18kgs from 1.25kgs.



**Based on the new emissions levels, it would take over thirty Euro VI engines to create the same NOx levels as one Euro 0 engine from 1993.**

## Monitoring our Drivers

The telematics function within the Polyflor HGV fleet monitored and assessed vehicle and driver efficiencies. As part of this function, driver CPC Training and MAN Driver Training were used to facilitate Polyflor's driver assessment process. In 2021, our total number of active drivers went from 24 to 31, with an overall KPI 'C Rating' on the MAN KPI system being achieved. Even though there was an increase of B rated drivers against the previous year, there were some driver performances which fell short of usual expectations, due to driver shortages and the increased use of agency drivers as a result.



# TRAINING ACADEMY

ENSURING BEST PRACTICE

POLYFLOR HAS PROVIDED  
FLOOR FITTING TRAINING TO

**1,560** INDUSTRY ASSOCIATES  
OVER THE LAST 11 YEARS

## ADHESIVE FREE FLOORING

RANGES CAN BE REUSED OR RECYCLED

CAMARO™ Polysafe™ QuickLay PUR  
**LOC** Designatex  
INTERLOCKING LVT COLLECTION Textile backed luxury vinyl sheet flooring

EnCORE™ EXPONA™ SIMPLAY  
RIGID LOC Secura  
ACOUSTIC LUXURY VINYL FLOORING luxury vinyl sheet flooring



INSTALLATION

STEP 5

### Sustainable Fit

Polyflor is reducing environmental impacts associated with installation through healthier adhesives, adhesive-free installation and promoting correct installation for a long-lasting, well performing vinyl floor covering.

# Sustainable Planning & Installation

Polyflor continues to develop and improve ways to plan and install flooring ranges, with sustainability in mind.

## Planning

Effective planning using Polyflor's range of BIM objects enables cost efficiencies throughout the design process: It allows the specifier to review how different variables affect the function and performance of the product, facilitating a more-informed product selection, which can improve the installation and in-use phases, and economic sustainability.

While accelerating project delivery timings and reducing order errors, it increases the accuracy of specifications and critically minimises wastage.

## OUR GOAL

### Contribution to the Built Environment:

To develop "loose lay" products with reduced environmental impact for ease of recycling.

## Installation

Polyflor has increased the use of sustainable adhesives and adhesive-free vinyl flooring. In fact, Polyflor launched a 'Fast Track' collection, comprising adhesive-free loose-lay or click ranges including Camaro Loc, Expona EnCore Rigid Loc, Expona Simplay, Secura, Polysafe QuickLay and Designatex. The Fast Track collection does not require adhesives, providing additional environmental benefits, such as the embedded carbon footprint and further reductions in VOC emissions. Furthermore, the loose-lay ranges (excluding the click ranges - Camaro Loc and EnCore Rigid Loc) are reusable as well as recyclable.

With the use of solvent free adhesives across our collection of floor coverings, Polyflor is continually in collaboration with the recommended adhesive manufacturers which offer benefits on the health of the installer, the environment and life cycle of the product. Many of Polyflor's approved adhesives meet the EC1, EC1 plus and/or Blue Angel certification, this ensures they meet the requirements of LEED and BREEAM.

## Training & Best Practice

Polyflor currently offers various training courses at our purpose-built Training Academy in Manchester. This is aimed at improving the skill and knowledge sets of installers - this in turn increases the longevity of the floor covering as a quality installation is imperative to ensuring a Polyflor product achieves and exceeds its expected 20-year life. A correct installation facilitates a longer life for the product, reducing repair or renewal costs. More information is on the next page.

Additionally, the Polyflor Technical Information Manual is available on the Polyflor website which relates to BS8203, the installation of resilient floor coverings code of practice. This is a guide on how to install the floor covering to appropriate standards, aimed at enhancing the knowledge of installers, architects etc.

Visit [www.polyflor.com/technical](http://www.polyflor.com/technical) for more information.



# Polyflor Training Academy

Ensuring that we go one step further as a responsible company, it is important that we go beyond producing best quality product and add to our value chain by encouraging best practice throughout the flooring sector also.

Correct installation is crucial to the performance and longevity of Polyflor vinyl flooring. This has significant value economically and sustainably.

The established Training Academy, based at Polyflor Head Office, Manchester, contributes positively to the value chain and continued to deliver high quality 1-4 day training courses throughout 2021 at the purpose-built facility. Again, this was done safely, ensuring plenty of space for each delegate.

Clearly there were periods where we were unable to carry out training, due to Covid-19. However, once courses were opened-up again, they were done so safely with no more than 4 attendees per session, to enable safe, distanced working practices.

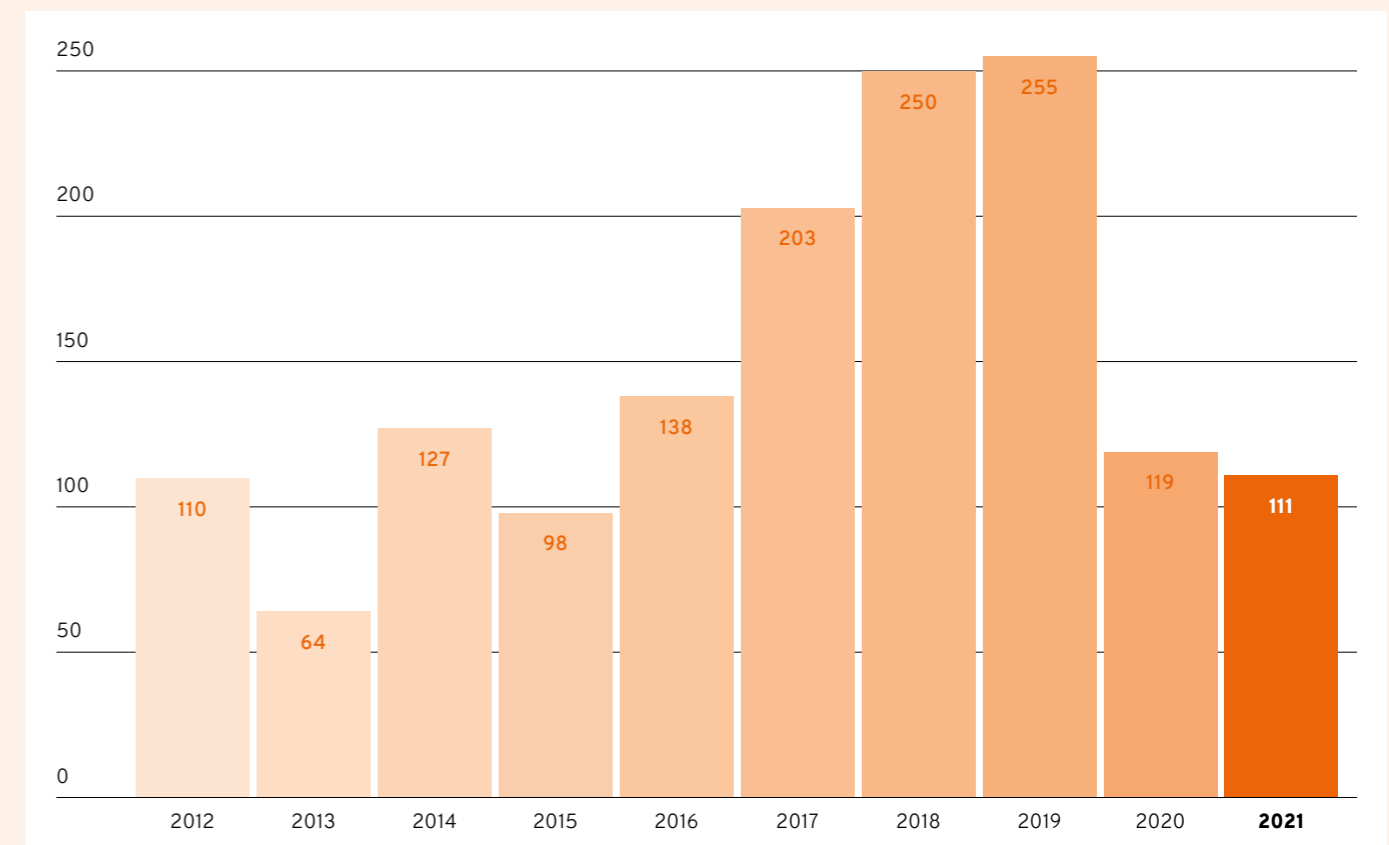
The comprehensive training courses from Polyflor, are suited to most skill levels, whether a floor layer with previous experience of laying

resilient flooring or an apprentice just starting out in the trade. The courses prepare for everyday scenarios and offer a comprehensive insight into laying the perfect vinyl floor; preparing sub-floors; conditioning; using the correct adhesives to setting-out and fitting.

Throughout 2021 Polyflor ran 20 courses - the same as 2020. Of which, 17 were on site courses and 3 were off site. In total 111 delegates attended - a decrease of 7%, but still a respectable number, given the extenuating circumstances. Of the 17 on-site training courses held at Whitefield's Training Academy, 81 delegates were trained, inclusive of 1 Polyflor employee. 30 delegates were trained off-site.

**Over the last 11 years Polyflor has provided valuable floor fitting training to 1,560 industry associates.**

## Polyflor Training Academy Attendee Figures



# POLYFLOR PUR

LESS ENERGY & CHEMICALS  
LIFETIME POLISH FREE

**55% LESS WATER**

UP TO

**60% MAINTENANCE  
COST SAVING**

**20-25+**  
YEAR LIFE

ON MANY RANGES.  
EXTREMELY DURABLE  
WITH FEWER  
REPLACEMENTS  
REQUIRED

**LOW  
VOC**

INDOOR AIR  
COMFORT GOLD;  
FLOORSCORE;  
AGB; AFSSET; M1



IN USE

STEP 6

## Zero Compromise

Accounting for at least 80% of our flooring's environmental impact, the in use phase is an important element of the life cycle, given the typical 20-25 year lifespan of most of our products. Low maintenance and low VOC, our floor coverings are fit for purpose without compromising on the environment.

# Fit for Purpose

Choosing a quality, fully functional and beautiful floor covering which will stand the test of time is important. Polyflor delivers on this whilst also achieving zero compromise on the environment. A truly fit for purpose flooring, meeting all expectations.

## Zero Compromise

Accounting for around 80% of a resilient floor covering's environmental impact, the in-use phase is important within a product's life cycle, given the potential 20 to 25-year plus lifespan. Therefore, all aspects of this phase are considered, ensuring product is not only timelessly stylish but designed with the latest standards and requirements in mind. Polyflor flooring is functional and practical with low maintenance assured, whilst also safe for human and environmental health with low VOC a prerequisite.

- **Positive environmental credentials and benefits are built into our flooring.**
- **Other elements, whether underfoot safety, hygiene, ease of maintenance, durability or aesthetics work hand in glove with the environmental performance of the product.**

## Use Areas

The majority of Polyflor 2.0mm floor coverings obtain the highest Use Area Classification of 23/34/43 to EN 685, making them suitable for heavy domestic, very heavy commercial and heavy or light industrial use. In comparison, a greater thickness is required for linoleum to achieve a similar recommendation, but even at 2.5mm thick it is not recommended for class 43 areas. Under the Agrément (UPEC) system only 3.2mm thick linoleum had the same wearability as most of the accredited Polyflor products.

Another of vinyl's strengths is its much greater resistance to water, whereas many alternative materials are not suitable for use in areas where there can be the extensive contact with water. Vinyl is impervious and can be thermally welded with the joints fused together and is inherently more flexible and easily self-cured. This flexibility also means that vinyl has much better recovery from indentation.

## Longevity

Effective maintenance and longevity are elements of the product's lifecycle that Polyflor are keen to constantly develop and improve. So much so, Polyflor offers a Floor Cleaning & Maintenance Course to promote sustainable cleaning processes and educate how to maximise Polyflor floor coverings' longevity.

Polyflor vinyl floor coverings are exceptionally durable with a lifespan of 20-25 years or more, if suitably maintained. Although in many instances it has been known to last much longer than this:

Polyflor Standard XL was installed in 1974 at Palmerston North Hospital, New Zealand, where it still looks great today!

In 1968, 650m<sup>2</sup> of Polyflor Standard XL in Black Cherry and Mushroom was installed in the George Civic Centre, South Africa, where it has stood the test of time for 50 years and still looks great. In fact, this floor received an award for the 'Longest Lifespan Installation' at the South African Flooring Awards in 2014. With great installation and proper maintenance, it is proven just how durable Polyflor vinyl flooring is.

## Safety Performance

Health & safety within the environment is an important factor to consider when selecting a floor covering, particularly with key concerns surrounding slips and trips as well as fire performance.

## Fire Performance

Vinyl is engineered to provide the best fire performance characteristics of all resilient flooring materials. Vinyl flooring is slow to ignite in a fire compared to other materials – the chlorine content makes it flame retardant. In fact, a fire which is large enough to ignite vinyl would have already produced fatal levels of carbon monoxide from other burning materials before any danger from burning vinyl flooring.

Regarding fire safety classification, vinyl flooring typically outperforms linoleum, achieving class Bfl to EN 13501-1 (8kw/m or greater) with linoleum achieving class Cfl to EN 13501-1 (4.5kw/m or greater).

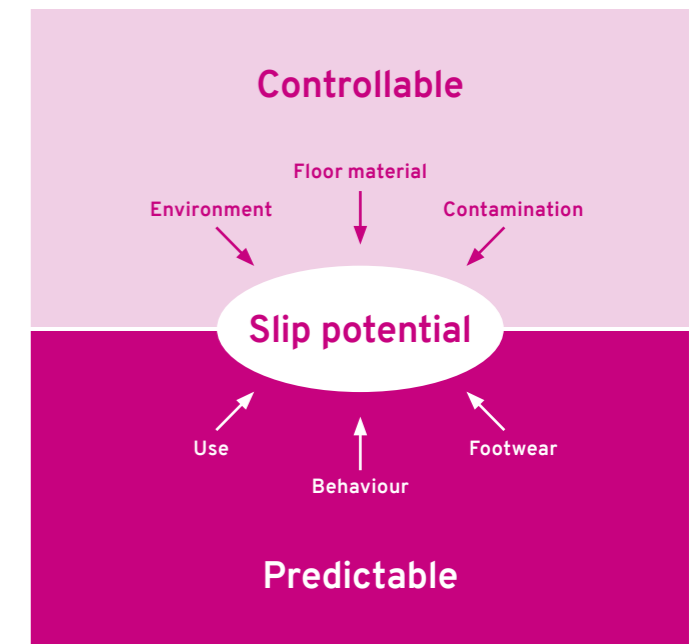
## Sustainable Slip Resistance

Polyflor safety flooring can be used in a variety of internal use areas and this also includes locations where hazards are potentially much higher, for instance in kitchens, stairwells and showers where slipping is likely if incorrect flooring is specified and where the consequences of doing so are the most dangerous.

Polysafe flooring is fully compliant with both Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and UK Slip Group Guidelines, offering sustainable wet slip resistance. Using the portable Pendulum Test machine which is advocated by the HSE to measure slip resistance, Polysafe ranges all meet a value in the wet of least 36+, thereby achieving a low slip potential. The Pendulum is the accepted test to denote a floor's classification as a safety floor rather than relying purely on the ex-factory R values offered by the Ramp Test. Meeting the European standard for particle-based safety flooring – EN 13845, all Polysafe ranges pass the 50,000 cycles abrasion test to the standard, ensuring longevity of slip resistant performance. Ranges are also independently assessed by the British Board of Agrément to provide an assurance of performance for the guaranteed life.

The use of Polysafe flooring helps to reduce the potential for accidents and injuries due to its slip resistance properties. The particles contained within the full performance layer of the product create foot to floor contact in wet conditions and are made up of a combination of aggregates including quartz, aluminium oxide, silicon carbide and recycled glass. Polysafe's distinctive surface emboss also combines with these particles to provide the required roughness to ensure continual friction in wet areas. All recent additions to the Polysafe portfolio meet all the usual Polysafe credentials but include particles that are carborundum-free and virtually invisible once installed to ensure both a high clarity and safe surface.

For Polysafe, design and functionality go hand in hand with ease of cleaning and most ranges in the collection featuring the exclusive Polysafe PUR maintenance enhancement to provide superior cleaning benefits and the optimum in appearance retention.



## Slips and Trips

- Slips and trips are the single most common cause of major injuries in the UK workplace, accounting for 1 in 3 major injuries every year.
- Over 8,500 major injuries are suffered each year at a cost to the economy of £750 million each year.
- A cost of £512 million is felt by employers in lost production and other costs each year.

Source: HSE research

**At Polyflor we are clear in our belief that there is no reason that our customers need to compromise on performance, choice or budget in order to use products with the lowest environmental impact.**

# Low Maintenance

Ease of maintenance is an important factor when selecting a floor covering. End users want to keep their flooring in excellent condition and enhance longevity, but also benefit from a cost-effective and simple cleaning regime.

## Simply Market Leading Low Maintenance

A poor maintenance regime damages aesthetics, impairs performance, shortens the durability and creates hygiene problems in critical areas. The in-use phase of the resilient flooring life cycle accounts for around 80% of its environmental impact, given Polyflor floor covering's potential 20-25-year life span. Therefore, this can be greatly affected.

In recognition of this, Polyflor provides low maintenance options throughout the product portfolio. We use a straightforward approach to avoid confusing our customers: Our easy to clean PU and PUR ranges ensure the use of polish, water, strippers and chemical cleansers are significantly reduced, thus contributing to significant maintenance cost savings for the life of the floor. Our PUR message is as simple as the maintenance regime.

All new ranges are launched with market leading maintenance benefits built in and existing ranges have had these benefits added, where not originally in place. Continuously improving technologies enables flooring to raise the standard in terms of durability, maintenance and performance, sought by the customer.

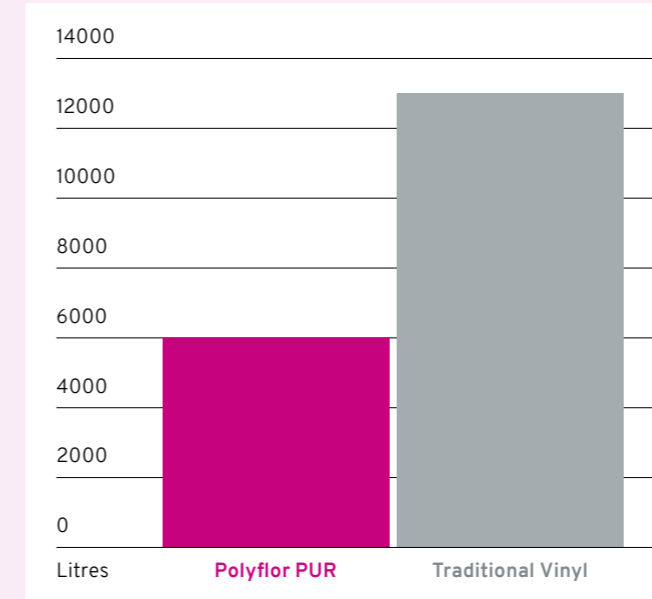
The non-PUR (open surface) product required a wearing surface, achieved by applying two or three coats of emulsion polish on the surface to enable the same cleaning regime as a PUR treated product. The polish, therefore, creates a smooth surface that doesn't collect dirt easily, akin to a PUR. Traditional polish application in a busy environment, such as a hospital, would require the polish to be stripped off and reapplied three to four times a year. In doing so, a polish stripper (chemical alkaline stripper) must be utilised with plenty of water for rinsing the ensuing residues off the surface ahead of applying new polish. PUR does not require polish and therefore uses over half the amount of water.

Daily and periodic maintenance also use less water and chemicals; if PUR floors are kept clean as we recommend, then daily cleaning is typically a damp (not wet) mop using a (chemically neutral) cleaning agent.

## 55% Less Water

### WATER USAGE

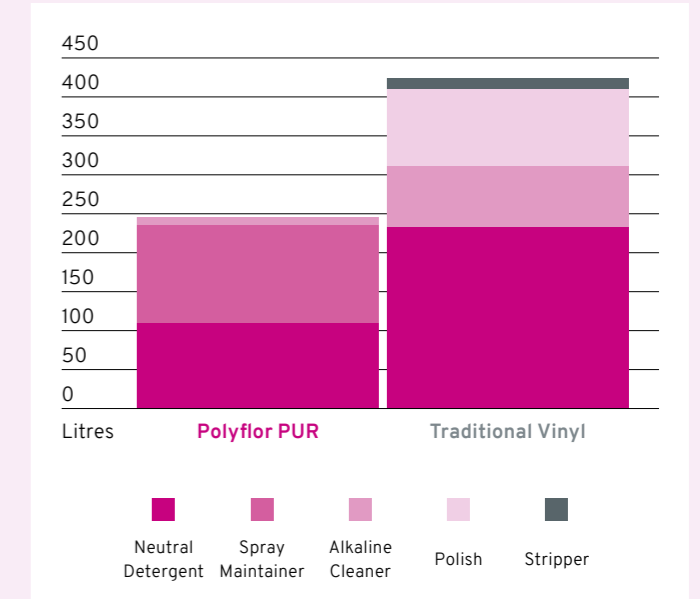
1 year 1000m<sup>2</sup> Polyflor PUR vs Traditional Vinyl (Litres)



## Polish Free for Life

### CHEMICAL USAGE

1 year 1000m<sup>2</sup> Polyflor PUR vs Traditional Vinyl (Litres)



## A simple approach to market leading low maintenance

### Our Low Maintenance Features

- PUR reinforcement is cross-linked and UV cured for superior cleaning benefits, enhanced protection and optimum appearance retention.
- Environmentally sustainable using less energy, polish, water and cleansing chemicals.
- Polyflor homogeneous PUR is polish free for life and Polysafe PUR should never be polished.
- Polysafe PUR achieves superior cleaning benefits and facilitates easier soil release, whilst enabling optimum appearance retention.
- Economically sustainable, with up to 60% maintenance cost savings over a 20+ year life when compared to untreated vinyl flooring.\*

\*48% cost saving for smooth PUR ranges and 60% for Polysafe PUR ranges. Calculations based on tests carried out by the BCC. Cleaning operations of PUR product against a non-coated product were costed.

## Creating Clean & Hygienic Environments

More than ever, it is crucial that our environments are clean and hygienic. Vinyl sheet flooring can be welded at the seams, forming an impervious base that facilitates ease of cleaning by eliminating gaps and cracks where dirt and bacteria can gather.

Polyflor flooring also stands up to the test, where much needed hand gel dispensers are housed. Polyflor homogeneous PUR, heterogeneous

PUR, LVT PUR and Polysafe safety PUR ranges are compatible for use with the most-commonly used alco-based hand gels, some of which have a very high concentration of ethanol.

Discuss this further with our experienced Customer Technical Services Department by emailing [tech@polyflor.com](mailto:tech@polyflor.com).



## Floor Cleaning & Maintenance Course

Adding to the Value Chain, Polyflor continued its free, Floor Cleaning & Maintenance Course, aimed at facilities management staff and others in the healthcare, education, housing, retail and commercial sectors. The day-long course aims to educate how to get the best from a Polyflor vinyl floor covering by using the correct cleaning methods and products. Correct maintenance facilitates a longer life, reducing costs and frequency of purchasing new flooring.

# Indoor Air Quality

The VOC emissions of our flooring ranges are all below the very strictly set, accepted levels. Products have been tested by independent laboratories with certificates available upon request.

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) is an important consideration at specification. However, increased emphasis is now being made on major contributors such as poor ventilation, rather than building products such as flooring, which generally have insignificant VOC emissions.

**A recent report, 'Every Breath We Take: the lifelong impact of air pollution', by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), warns of hidden dangers that everyday products such as personal hygiene, DIY, cleaning, faulty boilers, fly sprays and even air fresheners contribute to poor indoor air quality.**

**Dr Andrew Goddard, the Royal College of Physicians lead for the report, said: "Taking action to tackle air pollution in the UK will reduce the pain and suffering for many people with long term chronic health conditions, not to mention lessening the long term demands on our NHS."**

Our flooring ranges have passed key international standards, but we continuously look to reformulate our ranges to ensure their VOC emissions are kept to the lowest levels achievable. Polyflor ranges have undergone many independent and rigorous VOC tests and have approval certification for the following: AGB; Swedish B.P.D (FLEC test); Finland M1 test; Afsset A+ and FloorScore®. The most recent test

method by Eurofins, is 'Indoor Air Comfort'. This test method is the most comprehensive and stringent within the industry, worldwide, and tests for all known emissions. Polyflor products tested to date have achieved Indoor Air Comfort Gold. Additionally, Polyflor products conform to health and safety standard EN 14041:2004 via an E1 Declaration, which confirms that formaldehyde is not used in any Polyflor vinyl products.

Polyflor vinyl is favoured for its superior 'cleanability' over other flooring products and is used in the strictest of hygiene zones throughout hospitals. An additional benefit of Polyflor's low maintenance PUR products is the minimised VOC emissions from reduced cleaning chemicals.

Along with positive VOC test results there is no evidence to suggest that vinyl flooring contributes to common allergies such as asthma or dust allergies. It is non-shedding, where most allergies are caused by airborne dust (clean room test certification for non-shedding is available on most ranges).

IAQ should be considered when selecting building products and for the reasons provided, Polyflor vinyl flooring makes a significant contribution towards creating indoor environments with very low VOC emissions: Low VOC emissions is a prerequisite of the WELL Building Standard™. Our certified products will also contribute towards the Health & Wellbeing (HEA 02) Credit on a BREEAM® project, the EQ Credit: Low Emitting Materials on a LEED® project and points on the IEQ-VOC section of a Green Star® project.

## Polyflor IAQ Benefits

- No negative contribution to indoor air quality.
- Passed all the most stringent international VOC emissions tests, including Indoor Air Comfort Gold, FloorScore®, M1 and Afsset.
- E1 Declaration conformance to EN 14041:2004.
- Reduced VOC emissions by low maintenance routine (less cleaning chemicals).
- Adhesive free ranges reduce emissions further.
- Meets WELL Building Standard®.
- Contributes to BREEAM®, LEED®, and Green Star® projects.



# POLYFLOR IS A COFOUNDER OF RECOFLOOR

TAKE WASTE POLYFLOR  
TO DISTRIBUTORS'

DROP OFF SITES

# FOC

# 70%

# COST SAVING

THROUGH  
ARRANGED  
COLLECTIONS

# 100% RECYCLABLE

POLYFLOR VINYL IS 100% RECYCLABLE AND  
CAN BE RECYCLED BACK INTO NEW FLOORING  
OR OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS TRAFFIC CONES

# 5,970

TONNES OF  
POST-CONSUMER  
WASTE VINYL  
COLLECTED  
SINCE 2009 =

53,304 ROLLS OF  
POLYFLOR VINYL  
(2,132,143m<sup>2</sup>)

ENOUGH TO COVER

# 299

FOOTBALL  
PITCHES

THAT'S

# 7,003

TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub>

EQUAL TO TAKING

# 1,828

CARS OFF  
THE ROAD



## CLOSING THE LOOP

STEP 7

### Recycling

We have been recycling our post-production waste vinyl since the 1950s and now collect and recycle post-consumer waste vinyl too. Many of our floor coverings can be reused, but if not, they are all 100% recyclable through the Recofloor take back scheme or other initiatives and outlets.



# Stewardship Commitment

A concern we all have is that plastic (and any other waste) should not be in our seas and oceans, this has a massive ecological impact and the UK, along with other developed nations, must set an example of best practice. Polyflor is committed to being part of the solution, not the problem.

## The Circular Economy Package

The Circular Economy Package has introduced new European regulation to recycle 70% of waste and to decrease landfill by targets of 30% and 50% in 2020 and 2025 respectively. It is expected that landfill bans for recyclable waste will be binding by 2025.

Polyflor is fully committed to the recycling of its post-production waste and its post-consumer waste, supporting voluntary industry-wide commitments. Polyflor is an active member of Recovinyl, a scheme which provides financial incentives to support the collection of PVC waste from the non-regulated PVC waste streams. Recovinyl is also an initiative of VinylPlus®, another European initiative of which Polyflor is a member. VinylPlus® is the new ten-year Voluntary Commitment of the European PVC industry, which looks to tackle all sustainability challenges for PVC. Each of the challenges is based on The Natural Step System, with step one focusing on Controlled-Loop Management. Key objectives for this stage include recycling 900,000 tonnes per year of PVC by 2025 and 1 million tonnes by 2030.

In 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 810,775 tonnes of PVC waste were recycled through VinylPlus®, the voluntary commitment to sustainable development of the European PVC industry.

The resilient flooring industry in Europe is represented by the European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute (ERFMI), of which Polyflor is a member. For PVC alone, ERFMI members recycled more than 130,000 tonnes in 2019.

Revinylfloor is the circular economy platform for PVC flooring managed under the umbrella of ERFMI, which is working towards post-consumer technologies to tackle vinyl flooring waste. Revinylfloor has received co-funding from VinylPlus® to help develop a more circular economy for

PVC flooring and pursue research in the identification, sorting and recycling of PVC floor coverings.

ERFMI is currently involved with several projects aligned with Circular Plastics Alliance principles, which are seeking solutions for legacy additives in vinyl flooring that present challenges for recycling post-consumer material. ERFMI's involvement includes contributing expertise to the EU project Circular Flooring, which is researching recycling end-of-life PVC floor coverings using the Fraunhofer CreaSolv® Process. The project runs until May 2023 and aims to assess the technical and commercial feasibility of this recycling process for PVC floor coverings at an industrial scale.

*"We and our members are very committed to working towards achieving a circular economy for our industry and that's one of the cornerstones of our roadmap. We are working with the other signatories from across the plastics value chain to reach the goals laid down in the Circular Plastics Alliance."*

**Jane Gardner**  
Managing Director, ERFMI



## Polyflor's Commitment

In a bid to address and tackle the waste problem within the construction industry, Polyflor tackled this head on by becoming a proud co-owner of Recofloor, the waste vinyl flooring recycling scheme which is available throughout the UK with operations in Australia, New Zealand and Iceland. By providing an accessible and efficient facility for waste vinyl to be reclaimed and recycled, Recofloor helps prevent post-consumer waste from going to landfill and contributes to Polyflor's value chain.

**Recycling for Polyflor is easy and something we have been doing since day one, back in the 1950s.**

Polyflor also uses recycled glass, which is post-consumer waste combined with the aggregates into many of the Polysafe ranges. In 2021 36 tonnes of recycled glass went into some Polysafe products – that's 72,000 wine bottles.

Polyflor will stay committed to recycling end of life vinyl through VinylPlus® and the Recofloor scheme, as well as other international schemes. We will also continue to invest significantly in the systems for collection, sorting, granulation and storage to ensure capacity and capability for dealing with the anticipated growth in the volumes of post-consumer waste we recycle. Naturally we will continue to recycle our own post-production waste vinyl, as we have done since the 1950s.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**36 Tonnes**

of recycled glass went into some Polysafe products in 2021

That's the equivalent of

**72,000 Wine Bottles**





# Recofloor

In line with Circular Economy principles, Polyflor has a take-back scheme which uses reverse logistics to recover and recycle its post-consumer waste vinyl flooring.

The Recofloor scheme significantly helps minimise the environmental impact of our products' life cycles and the industry's as a whole, not only through closing the loop and preventing landfill but also reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Over the last 12 years, Recofloor has been playing a valuable role in assisting floor fitters with efficiently recycling their waste vinyl flooring. Opportunities have been created for distributors to add value to their service by becoming drop-off sites for Recofloor. It has helped specifiers reach their sustainability objectives towards achieving zero avoidable waste, whilst also helping them work towards their carbon net zero goals.

## About Recofloor

- Polyflor is a cofounding and funding member of Recofloor, the industry's leading vinyl take-back scheme for recycling end of life post-consumer vinyl flooring in the UK.
- Polyflor invests a great deal into Recofloor and helps drive its success by continually promoting it and engaging with customers.
- Through Recofloor, Polyflor can recycle smooth (homogeneous, heterogeneous, LVT, loose lay) and safety installation offcuts, smooth uplifted flooring and old stock roll-ends and samples.
- This material is recovered and recycled into new flooring or other useful products such as traffic cones.
- Customers must register with the scheme and then request branded collection containers for their waste vinyl.
- Regardless of waste material volumes, there is an outlet accessible for everyone:
- **Small volumes** - Drop-off sites at distributors are available FOC.
- **Large volumes** - Collected on pallets directly from live projects on timed collections or collected from contractors' sites. There are collection fees but compared to the standard landfill cost of £98.60 per tonne, these nominal fees can save up to 70%.

For more information go to [www.polyflor.com/sustainability](http://www.polyflor.com/sustainability)

Alternatively contact Recofloor directly on 0161 355 7618 or [www.recofloor.org](http://www.recofloor.org)

*"At the construction site 8% of the material is assumed to be wasted."*

**BRE Global**

*"Recofloor is much more than just a collection scheme; its whole ethos also forms a core part of many companies' sustainability commitments in the flooring sector."*

**Carla Eslava**  
Recofloor Scheme Manager

*"Typical installation wastage for vinyl sheet flooring is around 15-20%, while 3-5% of LVT is wasted. So, a lot of material would end up in skips and landfill. This is now being recycled and obviously being put to good use and turned into new vinyl flooring. For me, Recofloor is a particularly good scheme. If everyone does a little bit for the environment, then it's building a better future for the next generation."*

**Adam Conway**  
Contracts Director at Westcotes Flooring Company

# WHAT WE Take Back

✓  
**POST INSTALLATION**  
CLEAN VINYL OFFCUTS  
(SAFETY AND ALL SMOOTH  
INCLUDING LVT)

✓  
**OLD STOCK VINYL**  
ROLL-ENDS &  
SAMPLES (SMOOTH  
OR SAFETY VINYL)

✓  
**SMOOTH UPLIFTED**  
FLOORING DEPENDING  
ON CONDITION  
AND QUALITY

✓  
PLEASE ENSURE  
MATERIAL FOR  
COLLECTION IS AS  
**CLEAN AS POSSIBLE**

## Recofloor's Journey

Since 2009 Recofloor has achieved a great deal and is now the industry leading facilitator for efficiently reclaiming vinyl flooring, with 500+ members on board and 58 registered distributors nationwide, acting as drop-off sites for the scheme.

2010 was a real turning point for the scheme, which saw Recofloor winning the CIWM (Chartered Institute of Wastes Management) Award for Environmental Excellence in the category of SME Innovative Practice. Since then, Recofloor has won numerous awards including the prestigious Gold Award in the International Green Apple Environment Awards 2013, for Environmental Best Practice. Recofloor's 'Cost Calculator', was a great initiative and continues to help contractors calculate how much it would cost to send their waste to landfill and the savings they will generate by using Recofloor instead.

Volumes are consistently strong, with 5,970 tonnes having been collected since the scheme started in 2009. This volume equals 2,132,143m<sup>2</sup> or 53,304 x 20m rolls of Polyflor Palettone PUR floor covering - that's enough vinyl waste flooring to cover 299 football pitches. This has had a positive impact on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions too, saving over 7,003 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> - the same as taking 1,828 cars off the road.

Our customers are the true stars, who have embraced and supported this unique scheme. Distributors' involvement has contributed to Recofloor's success: By acting as drop-off sites for their customers, distributors have increased the accessibility of Recofloor making it even easier for contractors to dispose of their waste vinyl flooring and today, there are 58 drop-off sites nationwide. The drop-off sites have also facilitated Recofloor's collection and recycling process. Furthermore, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been reduced by minimising needless drop-off and pick-up journeys.

## Recofloor Timeline 2009 - 2021

- 2009** Recofloor is co-founded by Polyflor
- 2010** Winners of the CIWM Award for Innovative Practice (SME)
- 2011** First year that more than 450 tonnes are collected in a year
- 2012** First annual Recofloor Awards Event
- 2012** BCE Award winner for Environmental Leadership
- 2013** Green Apple, Gold Award winner for Environmental Best Practice
- 2014** Recofloor reaches the milestone of 2000 tonnes collected
- 2014** Winners of M.E.N Environmental Awards
- 2015** Over 100 new members join Recofloor
- 2016** letsrecycle.com winners for Excellence in Recycling & Waste Management Awards
- 2017** Recofloor reaches the milestone of 3,000 tonnes collected
- 2018** Recofloor recycles record 570 tonnes in a year
- 2020** Recofloor reaches the milestone of 5,000 tonnes collected
- 2021** The 10th Recofloor Awards honour its dedicated members

## Recofloor Awards



**WINNER**

Let's Recycle Award - Excellence in Recycling & Waste Management 2016



**WINNER**

MEN (Manchester Evening News) Environmental Business of the Year Award 2014



**WINNER**

Gold International Green Apple Environment Awards 2013, for Environmental Best Practice



**WINNER**

BCE (Business Commitment to the Environment) Premier Award 2011



**WINNER**

CIWM (Chartered Institute of Wastes Management) Award for Environmental Excellence in the category of SME Innovative Practice, 2010

# 5,970

**TONNES OF POST-CONSUMER WASTE VINYL COLLECTED SINCE 2009**

ENOUGH TO COVER

# 299

**FOOTBALL PITCHES**

THAT'S

# 7,003

**TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub>**

EQUAL TO TAKING

# 1,828

**CARS OFF THE ROAD**



Yes please  
 No thanks

For installation, clean vinyl off-cuts  
 Safety flooring off-cuts  
 Old stock vinyl roll-ends (either smooth or safety)  
 Smooth uplifted flooring - depending on condition and quality - contact Axion (0161 355 7618) to discuss

**Separate bags MUST**  
 General waste and rubble  
 Other flooring, including laminate, carpet and linoleum or flooring with jute/fabric backing  
 Cushion flooring  
 Wood  
 Blades  
 Asbestos

**For more information:**  
 0161 355 7618



## What Happens to the Collected Material?

Returning clean offcuts via Recofloor is the best and most sustainable way of ensuring that they can be recycled, and the material gets another life.

The scrap material is either collected from distributors in the large bins, or we collect from a live site or contractor's premises in the bulk bags we provide. This material comes back to Polyflor for sorting and gets categorised accordingly.

The returned installation offcuts, loose lay uplift and roll ends or sample waste can be reprocessed and recycled back into new flooring, ensuring a 'circular' flow of materials. Generally, this contributes to around 25% of our floor coverings' content.

Uplifted smooth and any post-consumer vinyl flooring not suitable for recycling into new flooring can also be reprocessed and used again. This waste vinyl is recycled into downgraded products such as traffic cones, traffic management products, fencing blocks and advertising sign bases where it is given a long and useful 'second life', stopping it going into landfill.

The uplifted waste goes to third parties, such as Bury-based plastic manufacturer, Melba Swintex, which manufactures temporary traffic management products. Material also goes to Oldham-based Heyside Plastics Ltd, where its two factories recycle 300 tonnes of waste vinyl and produce 300 tonnes of new products from that material per week - thousands of traffic management products, including traffic cone bases, speed bumps and fencing blocks are manufactured on a weekly basis.

8mm chips are extruded to form a 'dough' at a temperature of 200°C. This hot ball of black plastic is then weighed and compression-moulded on the tool to form one of the mentioned products.

*"The material arrives at our back door in Recofloor bulk bags and is shredded or granulated into 8mm chips. These are extruded, compression-moulded and formed into new products that leave through the front door. It's an end-to-end recycling and manufacturing process."*

**Matt Pryce**  
MD, Heyside Plastics Ltd.

# Recofloor in 2021

## 2021 Key Targets

- To collect at least 500 tonnes of flooring
- Manage the development and launch of a new website
- Continue with the overhaul of bins
- Launch Recofloor Awards to recognise members efforts during 2021
- Maintain scheme awareness and provide support and updates to members

## 2021 Actual

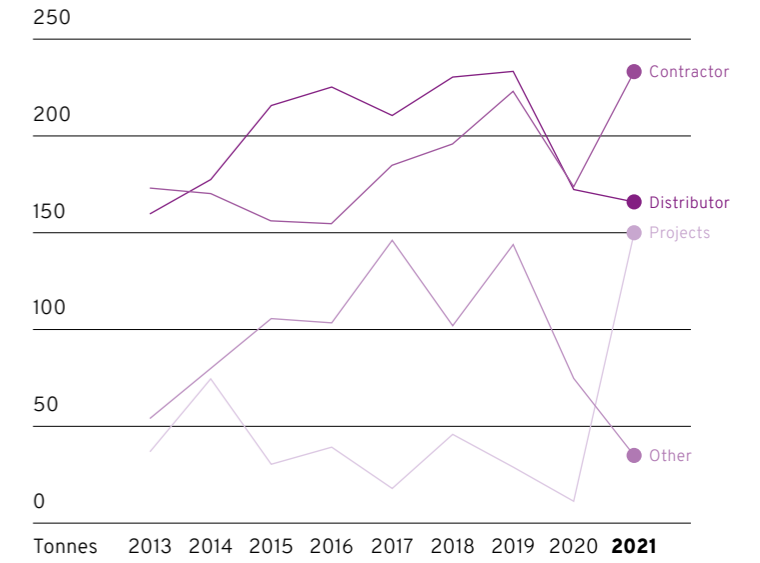
Typically, Recofloor has increased tonnage volumes collected year on year. Our goal was to achieve over 500 tonnes despite the continued socio-economic factors of 2021. Pleasingly, we hit 578 tonnes, which was a 36% increase on 2020. The 578 tonnes collected is a testament to Recofloor's ongoing commitment and to those of our customers.

*"The Recofloor service is very convenient for us, especially for contractors who want to drop off small amounts of flooring and it all helps to save money."*

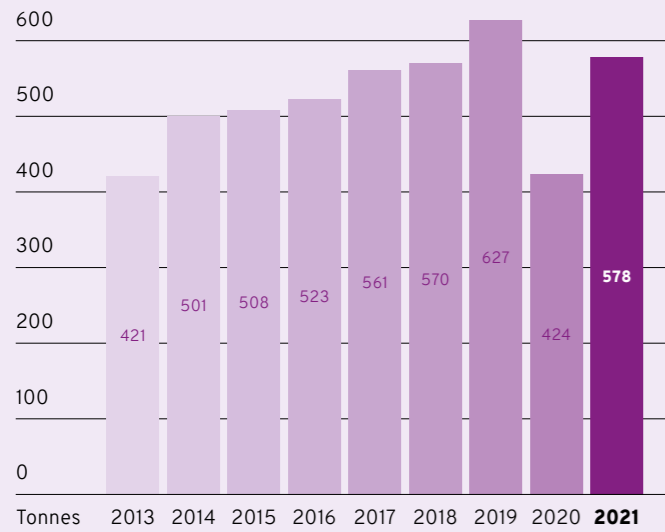
**Nathan Campling**  
Director, Eden Flooring and Interiors

## Volume by Type of Site 2013-2021

Contractor and distributor engagement remained the main driving force of the volumes collected, although distributor volumes declined by 28%, probably attributed to the change in circumstances. On a positive note, contractor volumes increased by 34% compared to 2020, collecting 228 tonnes – again, this was the highest figure in Recofloor's history. Significant spikes came from 'other' and project, which increased by 100% and 159% respectively, compared to the previous year. 60% of this volume came from one Nightingale Hospital alone.

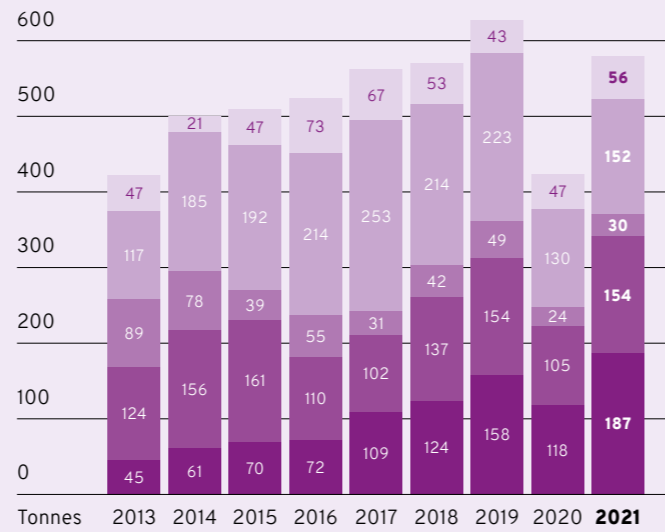


## Tonnes Collected 2013-2021

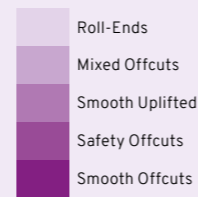


Volumes collected during 2021 were 36% higher than in 2020. The graph above shows the total figures since 2013.

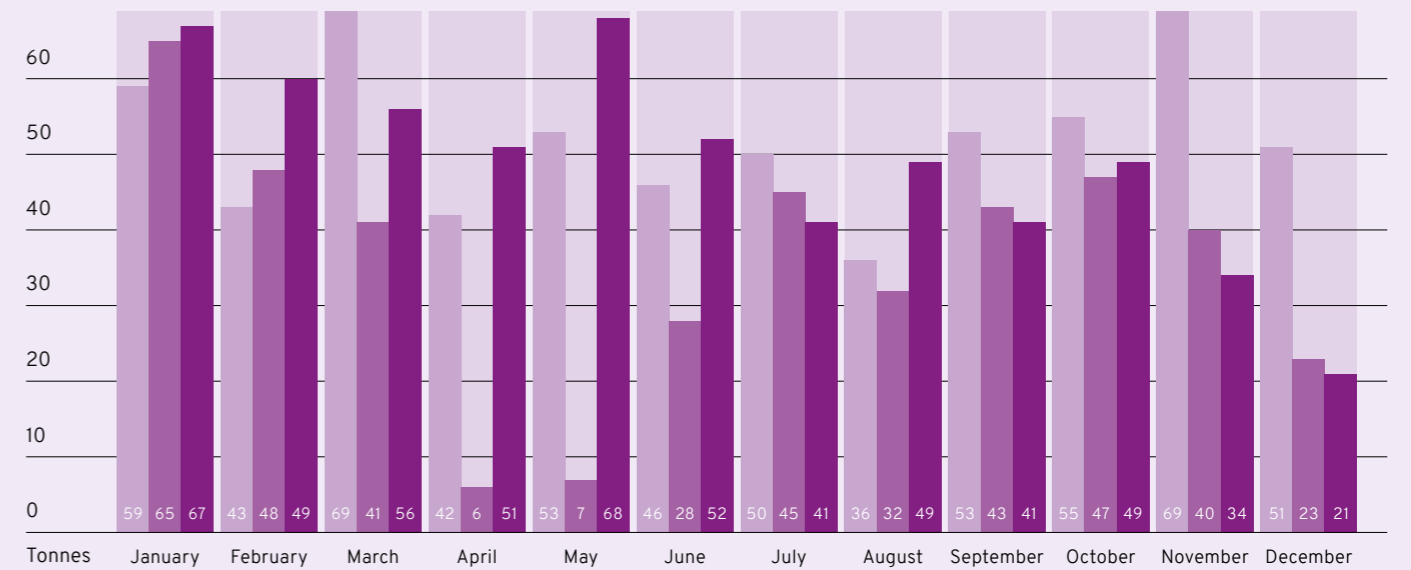
## Type of Material Collected 2013-2021



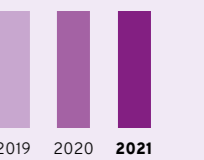
Post-installation offcuts remained on average to be over 94% of the total volumes collected. The biggest growth came from the collection of smooth offcuts, a 58% increase on the previous year, but by far the biggest collection of this type since 2009.



## Tonnes Collected by Month 2019-2021



This shows the monthly volumes collected over the last three years. The best month in 2021 was May, which was also the highest recorded due to a pre-agreed collection from a Nightingale hospital of 21 tonnes.



# Recofloor 2021 KPI Roundup

Recycling PVC flooring through Recofloor is estimated to save 1.17 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> for every tonne of flooring recycled.

## Collections & Logistics

578

TONNES WERE COLLECTED IN 2021,  
16% INCREASE ON 2021 FORECAST

95%

OF MATERIAL COLLECTED WAS  
POST-INSTALLATION OFFCUTS OR  
ROLL-ENDS; 1% HIGHER THAN IN 2020

69%

OF VOLUMES COLLECTED CAME FROM  
CONTRACTORS AND DISTRIBUTORS

## Members

26

COMPANIES/  
FITTERS JOINED  
THE SCHEME

500+

MEMBERS  
REGISTERED

## Marketing

LAUNCHED NEW RECOFLOOR  
WEBSITE AND INCREASED  
WEB TRAFFIC BY

45%

CREATED NEW LINKEDIN  
ACCOUNT TO INCREASE  
SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

The main awards event was cancelled due to Covid-19. However, award winners were announced by social media and trophies and certificates were sent by post.

## Why Take Part?

- The drop-off sites are free of charge. For non-timed collections and timed collections from live projects there are nominal fees of around **£30** and **£60** per tonne respectively, which could save our members up to **70%** by recycling through Recofloor, rather than landfilling (costing **£98.60** per tonne)
- Recofloor ties in with site waste management requirements
- Certificates of commitment are awarded to impress and gain new contracts
- Recofloor Awards – Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates are issued to members who have significantly recycled, as well as awards for numerous categories such as ‘Distributor of the Year’; ‘Contractor of the Year’ and ‘Construction Project of the Year’
- Customers are keen to see their waste flooring recycled
- Recofloor can be specified as an outlet for vinyl waste in tenders
- Could help achieve extra points on BREEAM & LEED assessments
- Recycling PVC flooring through Recofloor is estimated to save **1.17** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> for every tonne of flooring recycled

## 2022 Key Targets

- Target set to collect 600 tonnes of waste vinyl flooring
- Continue with the overhaul of the bins for the Southern members
- Celebrate the Recofloor Awards to recognise members’ efforts during 2021
- Engage through communication campaigns to strengthen awareness of Recofloor to stakeholders

*“Easy to use, Recofloor saves us money on skips and diverts waste from landfill.”*

**Julian Normie**  
Managing Director, Bramhall Flooring

*“It’s surprising how much waste can be generated. Sorting our installation waste is an important daily task at the warehouse; 12 fitters striving to make a difference to our environment. The Recofloor brand is a huge part of our business, which carries a lot of weight with larger building companies. For example, Skanska recognises our commitment to recycling as we can show them our Recofloor certificate as evidence that we are 100% committed to recycling our vinyl flooring waste.”*

**Mark Purnell**  
Managing Director, Fantasy Flooring

# Recofloor Awards

For the 10th year running, the annual awards rewarded members for their hard work and efforts in recycling vinyl waste flooring.

Unfortunately, given the ongoing circumstances of 2021, we were unable to host a physical awards ceremony as we had planned. As always, it was important to acknowledge our members’ commitments and identify top performers and present them with awards, so we opted for an online announcement through social media, posting out awards and certificates accordingly.

## 2021 Award Winners & Highly Commended



### CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

Winner

New Homes Flooring Ltd

Highly Commended

Kilworth Flooring & Furnishing Company Ltd



### DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

Winner

Lee Floorstok Ltd, Liverpool

Highly Commended

HFD Ltd, Bridgend



### DROP-OFF SITE USER OF THE YEAR

Winner

Absolute Flooring (SW) Ltd

Highly Commended

Penny Lane Builders Ltd



### PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Winner

Commercial Flooring Contractors Ltd, WRU National Centre of Excellence



### RECOFLOOR CHAMPION

Winner

Will Stanway, Kilworth Flooring & Furnishing Company Ltd

Highly Commended

Nigel Smith Fitwell Flooring Ltd



### RECOGNITION AWARD

Winner

3D Flooring Supplies Ltd, Cardiff



### LONGSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Winner

3D Flooring Supplies Ltd, Taunton



### BRAND AMBASSADOR

Winner

Fantasy Flooring Ltd

Highly Commended  
Mariusz Janczewski,  
First Call Flooring

# Recofloor Awards

## CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR



*“The Vinyl Take-Back Scheme is at the heart of our Recycle Centre. After investing a tremendous amount of time and resource into our Recycling Centre, with the assistance from Recofloor and other amazing companies, we are now able to offer a drop-off service for businesses to recycle selected materials free of charge. As our Recycle Centre grows, so will our contribution to Recofloor. We will continue to do ‘our bit’ to build a more sustainable economy. It’s a fantastic scheme and we are delighted to be awarded Contractor of the Year!”*

**Chester Fernandes**  
New Homes Flooring Ltd

## DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR



*“We are pleased to be able to offer our customers dedicated points for the disposal of vinyl waste at both our Liverpool and Manchester depots. As Winners of the 2021 Distributor of the Year award, we recognise the importance of caring for our environment; since joining the Recofloor scheme we have recycled over 60 tonnes of vinyl waste and will continue to support the scheme into the future with our commitment to recycling and reduction of waste to landfill.”*

**Harry Bevan**  
Lee Floorstok Ltd, Liverpool

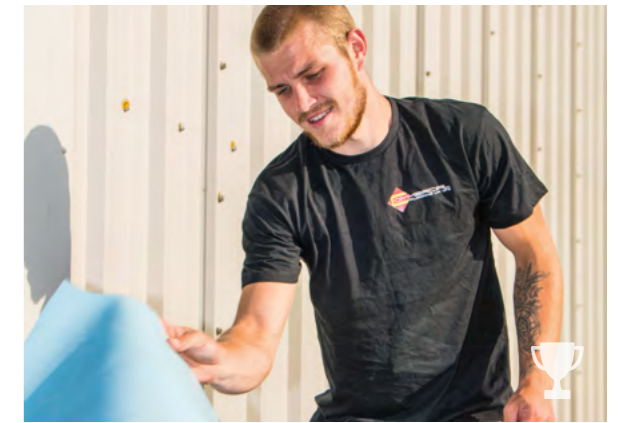
## DROP OFF SITE USER OF THE YEAR



*“It was a pleasant surprise to hear that we had won and that our efforts had been recognised. We were put forward by one of our distributors, Fitwell Flooring, due to the sheer volumes of recyclable material we were delivering to them for recycling through Recofloor. We use Recofloor because we appreciate how important it is for every supplier, manufacturer and contractor to do their bit in helping the environment where possible. Using the scheme allows you to promote your company in a positive way by showing you recycle in any way you can.”*

**Ben Clarkson**  
Absolute Flooring (SW) Ltd

## PROJECT OF THE YEAR



*“Having continually used Recofloor for many years, it was an obvious choice to deploy the scheme on these hospital projects. Recycling is part of our ethics, so it makes complete sense to recycle this flooring and prevent it from being landfilled.”*

**Chris Hutchings**  
Commercial Flooring Contractors Ltd

## RECOFLOOR CHAMPION



*“As a smaller player, it’s great to be recognised for our efforts in preventing recyclable waste material from being landfilled. If we can do a positive thing, and if enough smaller companies take part too, then we can really make an impact. We are flying the flag for recycling!”*

**Will Stanway**  
Kilworth Flooring & Furnishing Company Ltd

## RECOGNITION AWARD



*“We have been a proud working partner of Recofloor since 2011 and we continue to work hard with our customers to maximise the amount of floor coverings being recycled in our area. We are extremely grateful to be recognised for our efforts over the years, and we look forward to carrying on the special working relationship we have into the future.”*

**John Jones**  
3D Flooring Supplies Ltd, Cardiff

## LONGSTANDING SERVICE AWARD WINNER



*“We strive to be a greener business and together with Recofloor we are working hard in conserving the environment and keeping the planet greener. Since 2011, we have helped recycle over 40 tonnes of vinyl flooring by being a Recofloor drop-off site for our customers.”*

**Glyn Sparks**  
3D Flooring Supplies Ltd, Taunton

## BRAND AMBASSADOR



*“More and more customers are supportive of what we do with our waste materials. We are always proud to tell the story of our journey with Recofloor; this has made our company more successful with both existing and new clients. It just makes sense, and from recycling more in the office I recycle more at home too. It has rubbed off on me. We will continue to promote and work together with Recofloor to focus on the future and well-being of the planet.”*

**Mark Purnell**  
Fantasy Flooring Ltd

# Recofloor Case Study

Project: **Louisa Jordan Hospital – Decommissioning**

Location: **Glasgow**

SQM: **12,300m<sup>2</sup>**

Product: **Polyflor QuickLay PUR**

“At the start of the pandemic MacGregor Flooring Company were asked to be part of the team responsible for turning the Scottish Exhibition Centre into a temporary hospital, which was later named the Louisa Jordan Hospital. Due to the nature of this project and the extremely tight time frames that we were working under there were no product specifications or detailed tender documents to work with. In tandem with our partners, we proposed the use of the Polyflor QuickLay product as we knew this could be reused or recycled, which was extremely important as this was only a temporary hospital.

“In May 2021, we were drafted back in to lift the flooring that had been laid at the start of the pandemic. In total we lifted around 12,300m<sup>2</sup> of product. 800m<sup>2</sup> was reused gifted to local charities within the Glasgow area. The remaining 11,500m<sup>2</sup> was recycled via the Recofloor scheme. Our team worked across the course of a week to re-lift the material, palletise and wrap it to keep it safe before collection.

“Although, it may have been easier to dispose of the lifted material, this was never an option for us at MacGregor Flooring Company.

“We proudly recycle materials wherever we can and are always looking for new ways to recycle more.”

MacGregor Flooring Company

**2 Recorded Recofloor collections**

22 PALLETS = **7.62** TONNES  
 41 PALLETS = **13.22** TONNES



# International Schemes

At present, our collections predominantly come from within the UK where transport to our factory is straightforward, using the same delivery vehicles as they return to site. In international markets there is progress in recycling, even where distances are large, and logistics of any recycling operation are more complex. National legislation and local attitudes also play a major part in the implementation and success of recycling.

## South Africa

Polyflor has delivered on the recycling commitments made as a member of the Southern African Vinyl Association (SAVA):

“We have made a firm commitment to increase responsibility and sustainability within the PVC industry as a whole. However, one of the key challenges outlined within this product stewardship programme has been the commitment to increase recycling. We are proud of Polyflor for taking the lead in such an important industry action.”

**Delanie Bezuidenhout**  
 CEO of SAVA

Polyflor SA will continue to develop its scheme, look at new collaborations and provide contractors with specially branded bags for them to place their offcuts in and return to the company’s head office, where the waste will be weighed and recorded before it is collected by recyclers.

In SA, footwear continues to be the biggest market application (43%) for recycled, flexible PVC, followed by pipes (23%), flooring and cables (both 12%). Other applications for recycled PVC include speed bumps, traffic cones, vehicle mats and rubber edging used around pet bowls. **Source: Engineering News SA**

## Central Europe

In Germany, the AgPR (Arbeitsgemeinschaft PVC-Bodenbelag) vinyl recycling facility has been in use for 30 years and collects post-consumer floor covering waste in Austria, France, Germany and Switzerland. From this waste, AgPR produces a finely ground powder, which is used to produce new PVC construction products. If suitable it is sent to AgPR shareholders, including Polyflor, one of its four shareholders. [www.agpr.de](http://www.agpr.de)

## North America

There are over 100 vinyl recyclers in the U.S. and Canada. The Vinyl Institute’s website provides a recycling directory that identifies recyclers by state and province. Polyflor vinyl can be recycled through many of these channels. Go to [www.vinylinfo.org/recycling-directory](http://www.vinylinfo.org/recycling-directory) for more information.

## Scandinavia

A long history in Scandinavia of recycling, assisted by legislation to ensure waste is segregated on site, means there is a higher volume of post installation waste. In Norway and Sweden, Polyflor uses established schemes, to collect and recover vinyl waste from site. This material can be delivered to Polyflor on return transport for recycling, but typically (and more practically) the waste is sent to other local vinyl flooring manufacturers for them to recycle into new flooring. In Germany the AgPR (Arbeitsgemeinschaft PVC-Bodenbelag) - [www.agpr.de](http://www.agpr.de) - vinyl recycling facility has been in use for a number of years, offering an outlet for post installation vinyl waste for many manufacturers and contractors. This waste is then supplied to various vinyl flooring manufacturers in Europe, including Polyflor.

## Recofloor Australia & New Zealand

Australia and New Zealand continue to use Recofloor bins made from recyclable material, which can be reused to collect further waste vinyl flooring or recycled. The bins can be sent out to customers to their place of business and once the bins are full, they are collected. Alternatively, waste vinyl flooring can be taken to one of the 5 drop-off sites in Australia and 9 drop-off sites in New Zealand. Via empty containers, the collected waste material is shipped back to Polyflor in the UK and recycled accordingly, which logistically is relatively straight forward. 2.5 tonnes were collected and recycled in 2021.

“The Recofloor Programme assists in a number of ways. OzFlor was the first Contractor in Australia to take up the Recofloor Programme and we have found that during large project negotiations, the Environmental benefits of this scheme have often got us over the line. With the vinyl waste being 100% recyclable, it can also contribute to a building’s GreenStar rating. The bins don’t take up too much space in my warehouse and I would highly recommend this programme to anyone wanting to reduce vinyl waste costs and excess landfill.”

**Brett Grogan**  
 Managing Director, OzFlor Pty Ltd., Australia

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

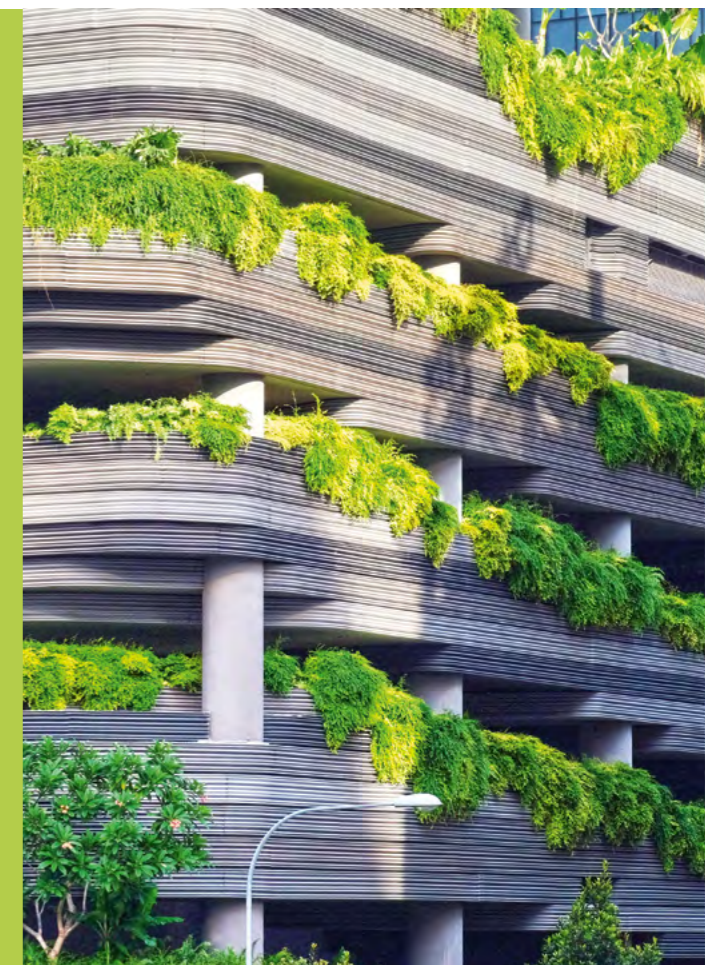
## PRODUCT ASSESSMENTS

80



## GREEN BUILDINGS

90





# PRODUCT ASSESSMENTS



Polyflor’s product ranges predominantly have BRE specific ratings and achieve A+ in major use areas such as health and education. Where products have not been individually assessed, BRE generic ratings are available, again achieving A+ in key areas.

Using a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) approach over a building life of 60 years, materials are assessed according to their impact on the following criteria:

## Climate change

## Water extraction

## Mineral resource extraction

## Stratospheric ozone depletion

## Human toxicity

## Ecotoxicity to freshwater & land

## Nuclear waste

## Waste disposal

## Fossil fuel depletion

## Eutrophication

## Photochemical ozone creation

## Acidification

The complex data derived from the given criteria is calculated into ecopoints, which are then represented by ratings from E to A+ with an A+ rating being the highest achievable environmental rating. Using these ratings sets a benchmark for environmental excellence and ensures that reliable and comparable information is available between competing products, eliminating the confusion of varying claims and counter claims, making specification much easier.

National Scheme Operators (NSOs) develop and own country specific local schemes but are affiliated to BREEAM. BRE Global is the national scheme operator for the UK and broader international and European schemes (BREEAM), the Dutch Green Building Council is the national Scheme Operator for the Netherlands (BREEAM NL), the Instituto Tecnológico de Galicia is the NSO for Spain (BREEAM ES) and the Norwegian Green Building Council is the NSO for Norway (BREEAM NOR). These schemes comply with the requirements established by the Code for a Sustainable Built Environment.

## BRE Individually Assessed Ratings

Independent, third-party certification is always important as its impartiality reassures customers that our products will perform as expected and is why Polyflor has had most of its product ranges individually assessed by BRE Global.

Each product certificated by BRE Global has undergone an LCA (life cycle analysis) therefore looking at its environmental performance throughout every stage of its life. Generic ratings are a good guidance, but are based on European production averages, whereas individual certification ensures accuracy of LCA data specific to the product and manufacturer.

The BRE Global rating scheme is categorised by end use areas, as the environmental impact in each can vary. Various products are available in the different sectors, which are subject to a pre-determined spread of ratings across the categories A+ to E. Therefore, more options may be available within the domestic sector. Additionally, life spans vary depending on the sector which affects the environmental impact: For example, an assumption that domestic flooring is replaced more frequently due to trends.

Polyflor’s safety, homogeneous, heterogeneous and LVT ranges have been individually assessed by BRE Global to measure their environmental impact. The ratings are A+ to E, with A+ being the best rating, having achieved the lowest ecopoints. A better rating helps to maximise a building’s BREEAM score, which is achievable through our 34 A+ ratings.

Product Type	Product Range	Cert.	Health	Education	Retail (fashion)	Retail (durability)	Office	Domestic
HOMOGENEOUS	Palettone PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Pearlazzo PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Prestige PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Classic Mystique PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	2000 PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	XL PU	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Standard XL	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
HETEROGENEOUS	Expona Flow PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Bloc PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Forest fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Silentflor PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Acoustix Forest fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Designatex PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Secura PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
SAFETY	Polysafe Verona PUR: <i>Original</i>	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Verona PUR: <i>Pure Colours</i>	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Standard PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Stone fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Wood fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Wood fx Acoustix PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Mosaic PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Vogue Ultra PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Astral PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Expona Control PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A	A	A
	Polysafe Quattro PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Hydro Evolve	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Hydro	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Apex	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Ultima	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A	A	B	
LVT	Expona Commercial PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Expona Bevel Line PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Expona Design PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A	A	B
	Affinity2 <sup>55</sup> PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Camaro PUR	ENP429	-	-	A+	A+	A	A
	Colonia PUR	ENP429	-	-	-	-	-	A

For verification and more information on our certification and environmental profiles, visit [www.greenbooklive.com](http://www.greenbooklive.com) and click on the 'search GBL' link: Enter 'Polyflor' into the Company Name search box enter the BRE certificate number 472; 415 or 429 (without the ENP prefix) into the 'Cert No' search box.

## BRE Generic Ratings

Where Polyflor products have not been individually certificated by BRE Global, generic ratings are available. As these products have not been individually assessed, the product data provided to the BRE is generic – it is industry standard data from key European manufacturers.

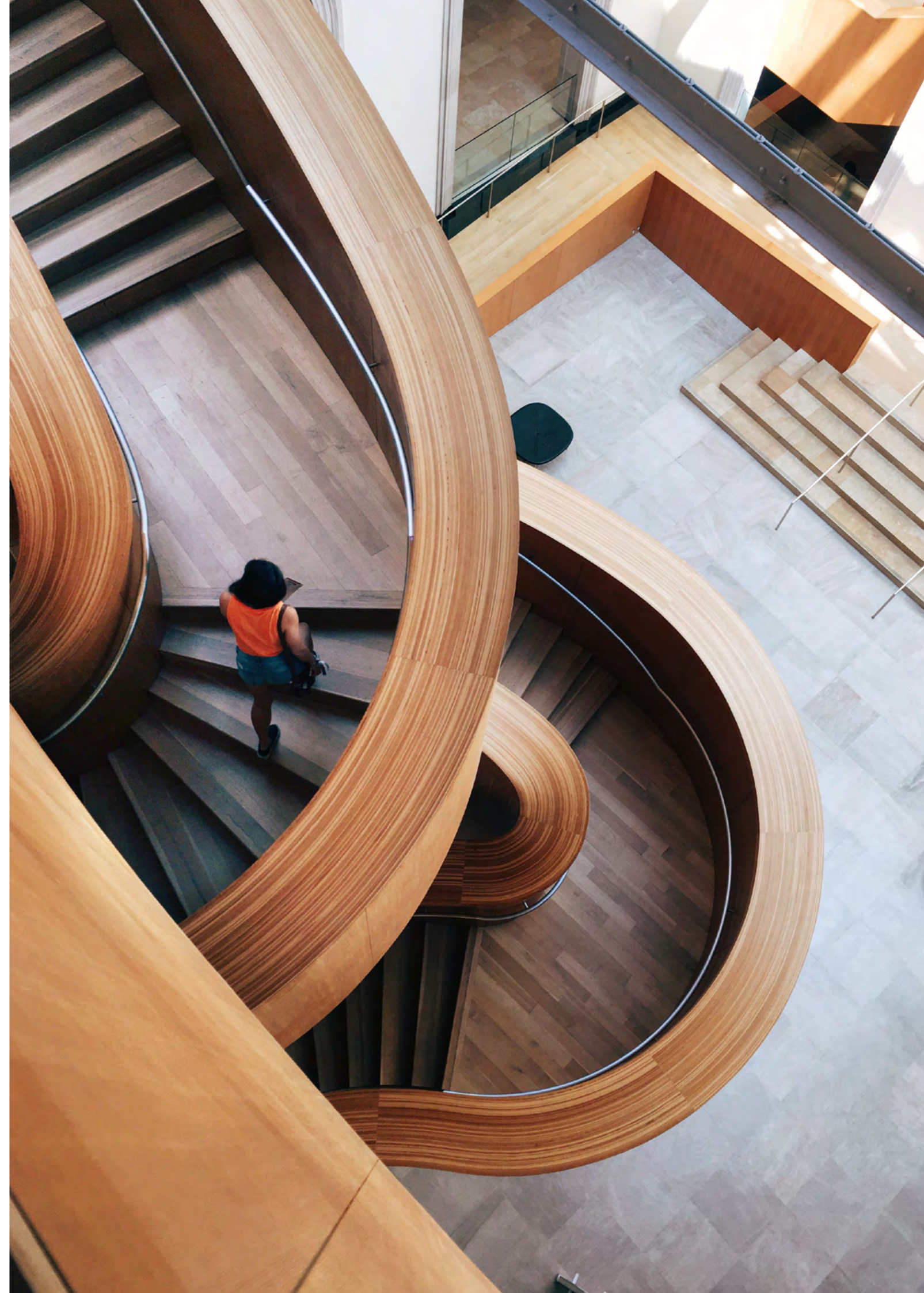
Generic ratings apply to specific categories of flooring installed into defined use areas. For example, homogeneous flooring to EN 10581 standard rated 34/43 for use area and installed in a healthcare environment. On average vinyl flooring achieves a generic BRE Global A+ rating for most types of vinyl across the categories shown below:

Standard	HOMOGENEOUS EN 649 EN ISO 10581	HETEROGENEOUS EN 649 EN ISO 10582	LVS EN 653	ACOUSTIC EN 651	SAFETY EN 13845	LVT EN 649	RUBBER (PROFILED) EN 12199
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	-	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>
Element	821570038	821570039	-	821570053	821570055	821570054	821570057
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	-	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>
Element	821570065	821570066	-	821570010	921570010	821570013	821570015
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	-	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>
Element	821570038	821570039	-	821570041	821570043	821570042	821570045
<b>RETAIL</b>	<b>A+/A+</b>	<b>A+/A+</b>	-	<b>A+/A+</b>	<b>A+/A+</b>	<b>A+/A+</b>	<b>A+/A+</b>
Element	821570038	821570039	-	821570053	821570055	821570054	821570057
<b>DOMESTIC</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>
Element	821570065	821570066	821570002	821570010	921570010	821570013	821570015

For more detail about how these ratings are arrived at by BRE Global visit [www.bre.co.uk/greenguide](http://www.bre.co.uk/greenguide)

The following Polyflor ranges are not individually assessed by BRE Global, but can be included within the appropriate generic ratings:

HOMOGENEOUS	SAFETY	LVT	RUBBER (PROFILED)
Palettone SD	Polysafe QuickLay PUR	Expona Simplay PUR	SaarFloor Noppe Stud Tile
Finesse SD	-	Camaro Loc PUR	-
Polyflor SD	-	-	-
OHmega EC	-	-	-
Polyflor EC	-	-	-
Conductive ROF	-	-	-
Polyflex Plus PU	-	-	-



Environmental assessments or 'Green Labels' legitimately help specifiers make informed decisions on the environmental profiles of construction products. Environmental Product Declarations are the next step.

There are many different green labels to choose from worldwide. This proliferation can make it difficult to make a choice and get the clearest and most up to date environmental information, confusing the global market. Specifiers are ever more discerning over green claims and want reliable, consistent data. With that in mind, the European working group CEN TC 350 created the standard EN 15804 Sustainability of Construction Works - Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) - with the aim of creating ONE worldwide harmonised standard for reporting of environmental performance.

**EPDs provide transparent information about Polyflor products and their impact on the environment, based on the following 7 Environmental Impact Indicators:**

- Global Warming Potential (GWP)
- Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP)
- Acidification Potential (AP)
- Eutrophication Potential (EP)
- Formation of Potential of Tropospheric Ozone (POCP)
- Abiotic Depletion Potential of non-fossil fuels (ADP)
- Abiotic Depletion Potential of fossil resources (ADP)

## Good to Know

- EPDs communicate verifiable, accurate, non-misleading environmental information for products and their applications, expressed in information modules which allow easy organisation and expression of data throughout the life cycle of the product
- The standard provides a way to develop a Type III environmental declaration of construction products and is part of a collection of standards intended to assess the sustainability of construction works. It provides core product category rules (PCR) for the Type III declarations
- EN 15804 creates harmonisation of schemes such as BREEAM (UK), DGNB (Germany), FDES / HQE (France) and Green Tag (Australia)
- Since 2013, EPDs are part of the Construction Products' Regulation (CPR)
- Our EPDs are available via product specific IBU EPDs, generic ERFMI EPDs and INIES FDES

## EPD benefits

A benefit of specifying a product with an EPD is that it supports the environmental goals of the stakeholders from design to use, but importantly, the construction or retrofit projects including SKA Ratings and HQE. Specifically, extra points can be gained on BREEAM and LEED assessments:

- One bonus 'uplift' point can be awarded for the use of one of our ranges where a product specific BRE environmental profile or 3rd party verified EN 15804 (ISO 14025) compliant EPD is available.
- Polyflor ranges can contribute to the LEED v4 score through specific environmental product declarations (EPD), which can provide 1 point; or generic EPDs which may contribute 0.5 points.

## Polyflor EN 15804 EPDs

Products can be individually assessed, or generic profiling is available. Polyflor contributes to the EN 15804 generic data set for the creation of ERFMI EPDs and INIES FDES. The following categories all have EPDs and most have FDES:

- EN 10581 PVC Homogeneous
- EN 10582 PVC Heterogeneous (compact)
- EN 651 PVC Heterogeneous (foam backed)
- EN 13845 PVC Safety Flooring
- EN 10582 Luxury Vinyl Tiles
- EN 1817 Rubber (smooth)

Polyflor has product specific EPDs for several LVT product ranges. The datasets used on generic and specific EPDs have been independently verified by Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. (IBU) and both generic and product specific EPDs are written to the rules and standards according to EN 15804 and ISO 14025. Polyflor EPDs are listed on systems such as the IBU and DGNB (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen e.V. / German Sustainable Building Council) navigator databases. INIES FDES are available on the INIES database.

## How to access Polyflor EPDs

- For generic and product specific EPDs, visit [www.polyflor.com/sustainability](http://www.polyflor.com/sustainability) or [www.ibu-epd.com/en/published-epds](http://www.ibu-epd.com/en/published-epds)
- To view FDES, visit [www.inies.fr](http://www.inies.fr)

Product Type	Ranges	IBU Product Specific EPD	ERFMI Generic EPD	INIES FDES	
Homogeneous	Palettone PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	Pearlazzo PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	2000 PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	Classic Mystique PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	Prestige PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	Standard XL	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	XL PU	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	Polyflex Plus PU	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	Palettone SD	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	Polyflor SD	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	Finesse SD	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	OHMEGA EC	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	Polyflor EC	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
Heterogeneous	Polyflor ROF	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018	
	Forest fx PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013211-E	3-1407:2018	
	Expona Flow PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013211-E	3-1407:2018	
Safety	Bloc PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013211-E	3-1407:2018	
	Polysafe Quattro	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe QuickLay PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Astral PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Mosaic PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Vogue Ultra PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Standard PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Wood fx PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Wood fx Acoustix PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Stone fx PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Verona PUR: <i>Original</i>	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Verona PUR: <i>Pure Colours</i>	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Hydro	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Hydro Evolve	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Ultima	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Polysafe Apex	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Expona Control PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-	
	Acoustic	Silentflor PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013311-E	3-1408:2018
		Acoustix Forest fx PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013311-E	3-1408:2018
	LVS	Secura PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013411-E	-
Designatex PUR		-	EPD-ERF-2013411-E	-	
LVT	Expona SimpLay PUR	EPD-JHA-20140178-ICA1-EN	-	3-1414:2018	
	Expona Design PUR	EPD-JHP-2013111-E	-	3-1414:2018	
	Expona Commercial PUR	EPD-JHP-2013211-E	-	3-1414:2018	
	Expona Bevel Line PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013511-E	3-1414:2018	
	Affinity 2 <sup>55</sup> PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013511-E	3-1414:2018	
	Camaro PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013511-E	3-1414:2018	
	Colonia PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013511-E	3-1414:2018	
	Camaro Loc PUR	-	EPD-ERF-2013511-E	3-1414:2018	
	Camaro Rigid Core PUR	-	EPD-ERF-20180185-CC11-EN	3-1414:2018	
Expona EnCore Rigid Loc PUR	-	EPD-ERF-20180185-CC11-EN	3-1414:2018		

The Ecospecifier Global GreenTag<sup>Cert™</sup> scheme operated by Global GreenTag P/L is a third-party ecolabel programme that rates sustainable products for the built environment.

The assessment of products is based on a life cycle approach and measuring the impact of products and their ingredients, outlined in the following critical areas:

- Reduction of energy & greenhouse gases
- Habitat & land degradation
- Toxicity to land, air & water
- Resource depletion & efficiency
- Human health & ethical employment

Due to the strong performance in minimising the environmental and other impacts in these categories, Polyflor products are also listed on the Ecospecifier database ([www.ecospecifier.com.au](http://www.ecospecifier.com.au)) of environmentally preferable building materials, providing architects, designers and specifiers an easier and effective way to select an environmentally sustainable floor covering.

Polyflor was the first commercial vinyl floor covering organisation to achieve Global GreenTag LCARate<sup>™</sup> certification across its key ranges. GreenTag's LCARate<sup>™</sup> is an EPD and is a sustainability rating system based on life cycle analysis (LCA) and EcoPOINT score. The LCA ratings are split into four categories for easy product selection: Bronze (Good); Silver (Very Good); Gold (Excellent) and Platinum (World Leading). Polyflor's ranges perform very well, achieving LCARate<sup>™</sup> Silver PLUS and Gold PLUS (the 'PLUS' denotes the link to additional certification via the GreenRate<sup>™</sup> system).

In addition to the Global GreenTag LCARate<sup>™</sup>, Polyflor achieves GreenRate<sup>™</sup> level A across these certified ranges. Maximum points are scored in the Materials 'Sustainable Products' and IEQ-VOC sections of the Green Star<sup>®</sup> rating tools. For example, a GreenRate<sup>™</sup> Level A achieves 100% of available credit points in sustainable products and refurbishment products.

Product Type	Product Range	LCA Rate <sup>™</sup>	Green Rate <sup>™</sup>	EcoPOINT
HOMOGENEOUS	Palettone PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46
	Pearlazzo PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.47
	Prestige PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.47
	Classic Mystique PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.48
	2000 PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.48
	XL PU	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46
	Standard XL	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.37
HETEROGENEOUS	Expona Flow PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.50
	Bloc PUR	Silver PLUS	Level A	0.52
	Forest fx PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.50
	Acoustix Forest fx PUR	Silver PLUS	Level A	0.53
SAFETY	Polysafe Verona PUR: Pure Colours	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.50
	Polysafe Standard PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46
	Polysafe Wood fx PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.47
	Polysafe Wood fx Acoustix PUR	Silver PLUS	Level A	0.53
	Polysafe Vogue Ultra PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.44
	Expona Control PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.39
	Polysafe Quattro PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46
	Polysafe Hydro Evolve	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.48
	Polysafe Apex	Silver PLUS	Level A	0.58
	LVT	Expona Commercial PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A
Expona Design PUR		Gold PLUS	Level A	0.44
Affinity2 <sup>55</sup> PUR		Gold PLUS	Level A	0.44
Camaro PUR		Gold PLUS	Level A	0.44

To view certificates visit [www.globalgreentag.com/certified-products-australianz](http://www.globalgreentag.com/certified-products-australianz)



# GREEN BUILDINGS



Polyflor's vast range of products, technical support and best value flooring, means you can maximise your BREEAM score without any compromise on performance, choice or budget.

Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) is the longest standing and most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings in the UK, with brand recognition globally.

Credits are awarded according to performance in 10 different categories for measuring sustainability: Management; Health & Wellbeing; Energy; Transport; Water; Materials; Waste; Land Use & Ecology; Pollution; Innovation (extra). They are then added together to produce an overall score for the building on a scale shown opposite:

## Materials

The Materials section makes up 12.5% of the overall scoring, offering 12 credits in total. Polyflor contributes to MAT 01 and MAT 03.

### 6 CREDITS total for MAT 01

(depending on building type)

#### MAT 01: Life Cycle Impact

##### Aim:

To recognise and encourage the use of construction materials with a low environmental impact (including embodied carbon) over the full life cycle of the building.

##### 3 points:

Using BRE A+ rated product – Polyflor can contribute towards a maximum 3 points for floor finishes when one of our A+ rated products is used. Note: 2 points are available for A rated product and 1 point for B rated product.

##### 1 point:

Bonus 'uplift' point – This can be awarded for the use of one of our ranges where a product specific BRE environmental profile or 3rd party verified EN 15804 compliant EPD is available.

Points awarded for each material type are then added up and weighted to award credits for this section of the project.

**Polyflor products can contribute to the maximum available material points in the MAT 01 section for floor coverings.**

### 3 CREDITS total for MAT 03

#### MAT 03: Responsible Sourcing for Materials

##### Aim:

To recognise and encourage the specification of responsibly sourced materials for key building elements. 80% by mass of materials that make up elements must be responsibly sourced.

##### 3.5 points:

BES 6001 'Excellent' – Polyflor can contribute 3.5 points for the use of ranges which are certified to BES 6001, achieving 'Excellent'.

##### 1 point:

EMS certified – Polyflor can also contribute 1 additional point for having ISO 14001 environmental management system certification.

Use of Polyflor ranges with BES 6001 'Excellent' and ISO 14001 certification, contribute 4.5 out of a maximum of 5 points (90% of available points) towards the award of 3 credits in MAT 03. Floor finishes are considered with all other fittings such as windows and doors on a mass basis for the fittings part of the credit.

The data from the whole building is then weighted and buildings achieving greater than 54% of the available points are awarded a maximum of 3 credits.

**Use of Polyflor ranges can significantly contribute to credits in MAT 03.**

## 1. Outstanding

Less than top 1% of UK new non-domestic buildings (innovator).

## 2. Excellent

Top 10% of UK new non-domestic buildings (best practice).

## 3. Very Good

Top 25% of UK new non-domestic buildings (advanced good practice).

## 4. Good

Top 50% of UK new non-domestic buildings (intermediate good practice).

## 5. Pass

Top 75% of UK new non-domestic buildings (standard good practice).

Polyflor products can contribute to the award of BREEAM credits within the following categories – Materials, Waste and Health & Wellbeing

## Waste

The Waste section makes up 7.5% of the overall scoring, offering 7 credits in total. Polyflor can contribute to the credits available to flooring for WST 01 and will contribute towards a maximum score for 'diversion of resources from landfill'.

### 4 CREDITS total for WST 01

plus 1 Exemplary Level credit

#### WST 01: Construction Waste Management

##### Aim:

To promote resource efficiency via the effective management and reduction of construction waste.

##### 1 credit:

Diversion of Resources from Landfill – Use the Recofloor take-back scheme in conjunction with a site waste management plan (SWMP) to remove waste vinyl flooring from the construction project. This can contribute towards the available credit on a BREEAM assessment.

##### Exemplary Level Credit:

Available where demolition and non-demolition waste is kept to under challenging volumes/tonnages (85% by volume and 95% by weight) and diverted from landfill. Use of the Recofloor scheme can help achieve this for flooring demolition waste and non-demolition waste, as the material is taken back and recycled.

**Use of Polyflor materials and the Recofloor Scheme demonstrates diversion from landfill, potentially contributing towards 1 credit for diversion of resources from landfill and 1 exemplary level credit.**

## Health & Wellbeing

The Health & Wellbeing section makes up 15% of the overall scoring, offering 10 credits in total. Polyflor can contribute towards 1 credit for HEA 02: Indoor Air Quality.

### 6 CREDITS total for HEA 02

#### HEA 02: Indoor Air Quality

##### Aim:

To recognise and encourage a healthy environment through specification and installation of appropriate ventilation, equipment and finishes.

##### 1 credit:

Minimising sources of VOCs and formaldehyde – Polyflor can contribute towards this credit through demonstrating conformance to EN 14041:2004. Polyflor floor coverings are REACH compliant and do not contain formaldehyde, conforming to the E1 declaration. All Polyflor products have low VOC emissions.

**The use of Polyflor materials can contribute towards 1 Health & Wellbeing credit for minimising sources of VOC and Formaldehyde.**

# SKA Rating®

Operated by RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors), SKA Rating is an environmental assessment method, benchmark and standard for sustainable fit-outs. Where BREEAM® and LEED® focus on the environmental impact of the whole building, SKA is a benchmark and standard for non-domestic fit-outs, including Retail, Office and Higher Education.

Around 11% of the UK construction sector is involved in fit-outs and many buildings, particularly for retail and office, can have up to 40 fit-outs during their lifecycle.

SKA rating helps landlords and tenants assess fit-out projects against a set of sustainability good practice criteria, comprising of over a hundred measures, incorporating energy, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, materials, waste, water, wellbeing, pollution and transport. The percentage score for the assessment across the given criteria, provides the fit-out project with a Bronze; Silver or Gold label. These ratings are reached by achieving 25%; 50% and 75% respectively, of the measures in scope.

Along with Polyflor's many credentials including ISO 14001, BES 6001, plus its low maintenance and low VOC emissions, Polyflor products can positively contribute to SKA assessments within the Soft Flooring category and can potentially meet all or at the very least (and the minimum requirement), one of the following criteria:

- ✓ Are reused; Some Polyflor ranges can be reused, including loose-lay products, Expona Simplay PUR and Polysafe QuickLay PUR.
- ✓ If new, are manufactured with at least 50% recycled content (measured by mass) and 100% recyclable content (designed for deconstruction with components that can be recycled; Some Polyflor products may contain around 50% recycled material and are all 100% recyclable.
- ✓ Have an A or A+ rating in BRE's Green Book Live database for the office / retail / education scheme; The majority of Polyflor products are individually assessed by BRE and achieve A and A+ ratings.
- ✓ Have an A or A+ rating in BRE's The Green Guide to Specification for the office / retail / education scheme; Polyflor products without Green Book Live ratings achieve generic A and A+ ratings.
- ✓ Are manufactured from 50% renewable and natural products; Some Polyflor products contain up to 85% natural material, which includes renewables. This can include fillers used, for example.
- ✓ Are supplied with an environmental product declaration, written in accordance with ISO 14025 standards; The vast majority of Polyflor ranges have EN 15804 EPDs written to standard ISO 14025.

For more information about SKA Ratings, please contact us at [info@polyflor.com](mailto:info@polyflor.com) or visit [www.rics.org](http://www.rics.org)



# LEED®

Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED®) is a sustainable building certification programme that rewards best-in-class building strategies and practices. Stringent criteria are set which a building project must meet to achieve LEED® certification. In doing so, specifiers will seek to use the most sustainable options available for the project.

There are four levels of certification available:

Certified	Silver	Gold	Platinum
40-49	50-59	60-79	80+ points

Polyflor can contribute to points on a LEED® project. The number of points achieved throughout the entire build establishes the level of LEED® certification for that project.

In 2017, the top 10% of LEED® certified companies achieved a Platinum rating, with 44% certified companies achieving a Gold rating; 30% achieved Silver and 14% obtained a Certified rating. Today there are more than 96,000 LEED projects in 167 countries and territories.

## How Polyflor can contribute on a LEED® project

### Materials & Resources

#### MR Credit:

##### Construction and Demolition Waste Management

Polyflor is 100% recyclable and post-consumer waste, including offcuts and smooth uplifted waste can be recycled. Alternatively, our Expona Simplay, Secura and Designatex can be reused as they do not require adhesive for installation.

The Recofloor scheme (of which Polyflor is a founding and funding member) complies with site waste management legislation and diverts vinyl flooring waste (offcuts and uplifted) from going to landfill. Recycle or salvage 50% of the waste for 1 point, or 75% for 2 points.

#### MR Credit:

##### Building Product Disclosure and Optimisation Sourcing of Raw Materials (Bio-based Content)

Polyflor flooring contains up to 85% sustainable materials and uses bio-based ingredients. **1 point available.**

#### MR Credit:

##### Building Product Disclosure and Optimisation Environmental Product Declarations.

Polyflor can contribute to the LEED® credit through its product-specific environmental product declaration (EPD), which can provide **1 point**; or **0.5 points** for a generic EPD.

#### MR Credit:

##### Building Product Disclosure and Optimisation Sourcing of Raw Materials (Recycled Content).

Polyflor flooring contains up to 40% recycled material, which typically includes post-consumer waste from the project site as well as pre-consumer (or post-production) waste, including process and sampling waste for instance. **1 point available.**

### Indoor Environmental Quality

#### EQ Credit:

##### Low Emitting Materials Option 1, Product Calculation CDPH Compliant Option 2, Budget Calculation CDPH Compliant

Polyflor can contribute to both options of this credit through certification of its low emitting products. VOC certification is available via Indoor Air Comfort, Indoor Air Comfort Gold and FloorScore® certification (Polyflor's certificates are available online at [www.polyflor.com](http://www.polyflor.com), [www.eurofins.com](http://www.eurofins.com) and [www.scscertified.com](http://www.scscertified.com)). Along with other materials used on the project, Polyflor products can contribute towards **1-3 points.**

For quick referencing and ease of specification, Polyflor has LEED® Points PDFs available digitally, across all product ranges. Request via [info@polyflor.com](mailto:info@polyflor.com) or speak to our Customer Technical Services Department on **+44 (0)161 767 1912.**



# WELL Building Standard™

The WELL Building Standard™ (WELL) is a performance-based system for measuring, certifying and monitoring aspects of a building that impacts human health and wellbeing.



The 3 aspects relating to Polyflor floor coverings include Air, Comfort and Mind.

Polyflor complies with its principals.

## Air

The WELL Building Standard™ (WELL) determines requirements in buildings that reduce or minimise the sources of indoor air pollution.

### 01 Air Quality Standards:

Indoor air pollution can lead to a variety of symptoms and health conditions. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), combustion by-products and airborne particles can trigger nausea, headaches, asthma, respiratory irritation and allergies.

**Polyflor meets these conditions and can supply confirmation letters and VOC certification including FloorScore®, AGB, AFSSET and Indoor Air Comfort Gold, for example.**

### 04 VOC Reduction:

Indoor air quality can be compromised by VOCs that off-gas from materials in the building. This can include paints, adhesives, cleaning products and other every-day items such as air fresheners and personal care products.

**Polyflor floor coverings are low VOC. Certification meeting the CDPH includes FloorScore®.**

## Comfort

Indoor air comfort is important and is therefore a WELL focus for reducing the most common sources of physiological disruption, distraction and irritation. Goals are to enhance acoustic, ergonomic, olfactory and thermal comfort to prevent stress and injury and facilitate comfort, productivity and well-being.

### P4 Impact Reducing Flooring:

Footfall noise from adjacent spaces can lead to occupant dissatisfaction. Constructing interiors to accommodate for footfall noise can greatly reduce its negative impact on acoustic comfort. In common spaces, especially corridors in open environments where there is heavy foot traffic, this feature minimises disturbances.

**Polyflor offers acoustic flooring options including Silentflor; Acoustix Forest fx PUR; Polysafe Wood fx Acoustix PUR; Secura PUR and Designatex PUR. Acoustifoam, our foam backing sheet, can also be used in conjunction with many other Polyflor sheet floor coverings.**

## Mind

The WELL Building Standard™ identifies policies that can be implemented to positively impact mood, sleep and stress levels, in order to improve occupant health and well-being.

### 87 Beauty and Design I:

Integrating aesthetically pleasing design into a building or space can provide occupants with pride and joy from their surroundings. This can improve occupant mood and create a calming environment.

**As well as functionality and sustainability, Polyflor floor coverings come in a variety of beautiful designs to stimulate the senses. Visit [www.polyflor.com/products](http://www.polyflor.com/products) for more information.**

### 98 Organisational Transparency

By transparently sharing their sustainability & CSR policies and investment decisions, organisations enable stakeholders to determine if their personal values are shared by the organisation, and also engage.

**Our sustainability & CSR policies are online. Sustainability & CSR performance and Objectives, as outlined by the ISO 14001 and BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing frameworks, are included within this Sustainability Report. For additional information visit our dedicated sustainability page at [www.polyflor.com/sustainability](http://www.polyflor.com/sustainability)**

For more information on the WELL Building Standard™ please visit [www.wellcertified.com](http://www.wellcertified.com)

HQE™ is the French and international certification awarded to building construction and management, as well as urban planning projects. It promotes best practice and sustainable quality in building projects.

HQE™ certification aims to verify and approve the performance of a building and the four critical areas considered by the certification scheme, which include energy, environment, health and comfort. The performance levels attained are stated and endorsed in a certificate issued upon completion of the project. Within this overall building assessment, product and material lifecycles are considered.

Certification for the entire lifecycle of a building (applicable for non-residential buildings; residential buildings and detached houses as well as urban planning and development) covers the entire process, from planning and construction, through use. Throughout the lifecycle, sustainability is considered over four key aspects:

- ✓ Quality of Life
- ✓ Respect for the Environment
- ✓ Economic Performance
- ✓ Responsible Management

#### How Polyflor complies with HQE™

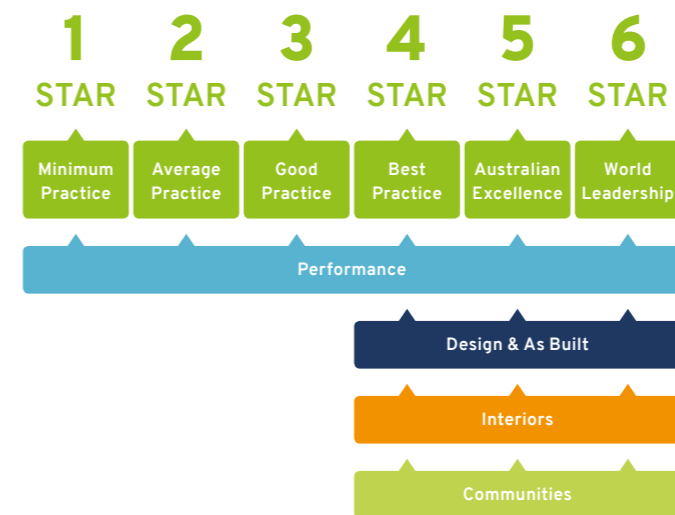
Many of Polyflor floor coverings comply with and contribute to HQE™ projects, by using the INIES FDES, a lifecycle assessment tool much the same as an EPD.

Many Polyflor ranges also have Afsset certification for low VOC emissions and some ranges are adhesive free for even better reduced emissions.

In our Australian and New Zealand markets, Green Star® rating tools reward sustainability outcomes and encourage moving beyond standard practice. Green Star® provides a framework of best practice benchmarks and rates the environmental and sustainable performance of a building.

A Green Star® rating provides independent verification that a building or community project is sustainable and demonstrates leadership, innovation, environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Projects are assessed against a range of environmental impacts, which include Management; Indoor Environment Quality; Energy; Transport; Water; Materials; Land Use & Ecology; Emissions and Innovation.

All types of buildings, new and old, can achieve Green Star® ratings. The rating tools to enable this are as follows:



#### Green Star – Performance:

Increasing levels of operational efficiency within existing buildings.

#### Green Star – Design and As Built:

Sustainable design and construction of public and private buildings, including hospitals, retail and industrial centres, offices, plus schools and colleges.

#### Green Star – Interiors:

Transforming interior fitouts of all buildings from shops to hotels.

#### Green Star – Communities:

Improving the sustainability of projects within the neighbourhood and community.

Green Star® projects (Design, As Built, Interiors and Communities) can achieve a Green Star® certification of 4 to 6 Star Green Star®. Buildings assessed using the Green Star® Performance rating tool can achieve a Green Star® rating from 1 to 6 Star Green Star®.

## How Polyflor can contribute on a Green Star® project

Polyflor has achieved maximum rating points in the Green Building Council Australia (GBCA) and New Zealand Green Building Council (NZGBC) Green Star® rating tools. Using Polyflor products certified by the Global GreenTag<sup>cert™</sup> third-party certification scheme can help the specifier achieve maximum points in the Materials ‘Sustainable Products’ and IEQ-VOC sections of the Green Star® rating tools.

As audited by NCS International Pty Ltd, to meet the GBCA best practice guidelines, Polyflor also achieved PVC Best Practice accreditation for its homogenous, ESD and wall cladding product ranges. This is a major achievement, outlining Polyflor’s commitment to best practice manufacturing and the sustainable and safe use of additives, through responsible sourcing of its ingredients. For this reason, potential for points on a Green Star® assessment is further improved.

*“In 2010, Global GreenTag<sup>cert™</sup> launched with a world-first standard that required PVC to be mercury-free, use non-endocrine disrupting plasticisers, and require full on-site audit of LCA data and environmental licenses and emissions to ensure only BAT (best available technology) products were certified.*

*“Since then, numerous BAT PVC products have been certified, mostly at Silver or Gold level, and can easily be compared to other flooring types with both similar, but also worse, eco-point scores and ratings. Then the collaboration between the Vinyl Council of Australia (VCA) and GBCA recognised BAT under the Best Practice PVC Standard (BPPVC) Guidelines adopted in 2011.”*

#### David Baggs

CEO & Program Director of Global GreenTag International Pty Ltd; and CEO & Technical Director of Integreco Pty Ltd, a Sustainable Project & Product Consultancy

CORPORATE  
SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY



# Economic Sustainability

Over the last 100 years the expansion of Polyflor's parent company, James Halstead PLC, has been managed by four generations of Halstead's. Established by James Halstead himself in 1915, the company's original trade was the waxing and showerproofing of cloth for raincoats, before expanding into flooring in 1934. Today, Polyflor is an increasingly successful company, providing economic and environmental sustainability.

Polyflor is a major employer in Greater Manchester and Teesside, providing jobs within sales, marketing, graphic design, human resources, I.T, purchasing and finance, as well as production, engineering, technical, warehousing and distribution. Our business ethics ensure that we minimise risk wherever possible, given the responsibility we have within the supply chain and to our employees.

As a supplier we try to ensure timely deliveries and as a customer, timely payments, without imposing unrealistic payment terms. As a medium sized UK manufacturing company, we continue to pay fair salaries to our employees as well as paying tax in the UK, thus fully supporting the UK economy.

The company's strategic focus remains on flooring, although the strategy evolves over time, focus on sustainable growth is undiminished. This, therefore, underpins job security for Polyflor employees and benefits all stakeholders in the business.

Despite the difficulties faced by many in the market during recent times, due to economic pressures, Polyflor remained resilient and profitable. Polyflor is a global organisation with a dominant market share in the UK and listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange with a nine-figure turnover, where it celebrates over 70 years as a listed company, but also a company with a record sales turnover.

Healthy stock holdings supported sales as these efforts were greatly appreciated by the trade, including ProCure22 (the Construction Procurement Framework administrated by NHS England) with an award for outstanding support to the NHS during the pandemic. Given our reliability for quality product, stock availability and service, we were awarded "Flooring Manufacturer of the Year", in the recent CFJ (Contract Flooring Journal) Awards. This was particularly gratifying as the voting for this award was by the floor laying contractors (the Contract Flooring Association) who install our products.

We are proud to have been associated with many projects around the world, as we trade with almost every country. Some of these projects include Knattspyrnufélagið Fram – perhaps the largest football stadium in Iceland, the shipyards in Odesa, the Solonko Sovyak Dentistry Center in Lviv and the International Airport of Boryspil located in the oblast of Kyiv.

## Investment & Growth

Polyflor's economic sustainability, growth and success are largely attributed to the depth of its customer focus. Polyflor has strong

relationships throughout the supply chain and does not price-fix or undermine pricing structures, ensuring economic sustainability for our customers globally.

In Malaysia, we incorporated a new company and took on the trade of our former long-term distributor in November 2020. This will now act as our base for the South Asia markets of Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Polyflor's ongoing commitment to Research and Development through advanced technology has resulted in the creation of innovative and market leading products, with New Product Development at the core of Polyflor's business philosophy, ensuring product is always meeting demands and on trend.

Investment also continued in Recofloor, the UK's leading recycling scheme for waste vinyl flooring. Our dedication and investment are implemented through financial and operational support across the scheme. Recofloor is a cost-effective solution for managing waste. It is free if waste is taken to a distributors' drop-off site, or a nominal cost is applied if waste material is collected from a specified site - this offers a saving of up to 70% when compared to landfill, which is financially beneficial for our customers, as well as promoting circular economy principals.

## Polyflor's Value Chain

It is important to Polyflor that we go beyond what is expected as a manufacturer, encouraging best practice throughout the flooring sector and adding value in pivotal ways.

Our established Training Academy contributes to the value chain and continued to deliver high quality training courses throughout 2020 at its purpose-built facility as well as off-site locations. Further to this, Polyflor also continued its free Floor Cleaning & Maintenance Course, aimed at educating how to get the best out of flooring by using the correct cleaning methods and products to facilitate a longer life and reduce ongoing costs.

In addition to providing training and education in getting the best out of our flooring, we believe that product stewardship is key, which is why we fully engage with all our customers to manage their waste Polyflor material and recycle, with Recofloor being a cornerstone of this principal.

# Governance

Polyflor Ltd. is part of James Halstead PLC, with UK headquarters based in Manchester. The James Halstead Group employs around 820 people, has 2 UK production sites and 21 sales distribution sites worldwide.

Polyflor Ltd. has a board of 8 directors who report to Mark Halstead, Group Chief Executive and the executive board of James Halstead PLC. Mark Halstead is the fourth generation of the family to head up the business, following his Father, Geoffrey Halstead's official retirement in December 2017, after 70 years with the company.

Polyflor's directors are responsible and accountable for the compliance of policies which form the basis of our Code of Conduct. This promotes equality, trust and integrity and ensures legal, regulatory and ethical compliance.

## Standards of Conduct

### Employees

We will treat employees fairly and use employment practices based on equal opportunity for all employees. Recruiting, employing and promoting employees on the basis of objective criteria and the qualifications and abilities needed for the job to be performed in line with the Equal Opportunities Policy.

### Customers

We will provide high quality and value, competitive prices, and honest transactions to those who use our products. We will deal lawfully and ethically with our customers.

All employees are expected to behave respectfully and honestly in all their dealings with customers and the general public in accordance with the principles set out in this Policy.

### Suppliers

We will deal fairly with our suppliers. We will seek long lasting business relationships, without discrimination or deception. In those dealings, we expect those with whom we do business to adhere to business principles consistent with our own.

### Communities

We are committed to fostering good relationships with the communities in which we work. We will abide by all national and local laws, and we will strive to improve the wellbeing of communities through the protection of natural resources, through the encouragement of employee participation in charitable affairs.

### National and International Trade

We will seek to compete fairly and ethically within the framework of applicable competition. We will comply with all applicable export control laws and sanctions when conducting business around the world.

# Commitment to our Employees

As a major employer, Polyflor has a responsibility to its employees, ensuring their health and wellbeing as well as reducing labour turnover, which remains low. In fact, Polyflor has 25 and 40-year clubs for all employees who have been employed by Polyflor for the respective number of years, some of whom have worked for Polyflor for their entire careers (almost 50 years), joining straight from school. Retaining an experienced and knowledgeable workforce is extremely important to Polyflor.

Polyflor recruits internally and from the local, surrounding areas, advertising through local media, job centres, recruitment agencies and online. We offer graduate training programmes, internships and apprenticeships, in support of younger people wishing to develop their employment skills.

As standard practice, Polyflor has numerous training and development programmes; total compliance to the Equality Act 2010; employment health & safety policies and procedures are in place, along with employee benefits available to all staff including a pension scheme, as well as enhanced maternity and paternity pay. Polyflor engages with all its staff through annual Performance and Development Reviews, emails and circulated letters.

## Recruitment & Retention

- Low staff turnover with 25 and 40-year clubs.
- Positions are advertised internally and externally.
- We employ graduate trainees, interns and apprentices with requirements reviewed on an annual basis.

- Employees are typically local and represent the social demographic of the local area.
- Maternity and paternity policy with flexible return to work.

## Employee Health & Safety

- SA 8000 and ISO 45001.
- We circulate a 'handling stress at work' policy.
- A health & Safety Management procedure is in place – in accordance with HSG65, Health & Safety Executive Document Guidance.
- Potential safety risks and incidents are reported for action and avoidance.
- Accident reporting is in line with ISO 45001 guidance - all work-related injuries are recorded and followed up with a risk assessment and remedial action.
- No fatalities have ever been recorded in the company's history.
- A Pedestrian Policy is in place including demarcated pedestrian pathways and crossings and high visibility vests are issued to employees or visitors who walk around our warehousing facilities.
- Ear plugs are used in production, within hearing protection zones in various locations around the factory.
- Occupational Health – medical and fitness checks for new employees as well as ongoing health checks for employees, particularly Polyflor fleet drivers.
- Work zone assessments are conducted by Polyflor's occupational health nurse.

## Training & Development

- Polyflor's training is audited to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001.
- An induction programme is undertaken by new employees, including an environmental induction.
- Annual appraisals identify areas of strength and opportunities or targets.
- Professional development is encouraged through courses and training where both employee and employer benefit.
- Promotion or opportunities in different departments are often distributed internally throughout the business, although obtaining the right skill set is important so positions are advertised to external candidates.
- Polyflor engages with all staff regarding environmental issues, directly through email or letter as well as indirectly through [www.polyflor.com](http://www.polyflor.com), social media and this annual report which is circulated throughout Polyflor.
- Polyflor's Training Academy for floor fitting skills is accessible to employees, which improves their understanding of Polyflor flooring and provides transferable skills for their own homes.

## Equality

- Equal opportunities & diversity policy.
- Modern Slavery Act Statement.
- Anti-bullying and Anti-discrimination policies.
- Anti-ageist, 33% of employees aged 56+ with 63% of all employees being 46+.
- Ratio of women to men is 19% to 81%.
- Ratio of females to males in management positions is greater at 10 to 40, respectively. 11% of female employees are managers with 11% of male staff also holding management and supervisory positions (this was 9% and 15% in 2020).

## Employee Benefits & Wellbeing

- Pension Scheme for every employee after 3 months of employment with Polyflor.
- Life insurance for all full time employees.
- Company social club for all employees.
- Break out zones, with seating and facilities to buy or prepare food are available on all sites.
- Areas to sit outside are accessible at all Polyflor sites.
- Employees able to undertake voluntary work.
- Bike sheds and shower facilities are obtainable at the Whitefield site.

## 2021 Update

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	+/-
<b>EMPLOYMENT &amp; TURNOVER</b>						
Total Employees	477	493	485	471	<b>463</b>	-2%
New Recruits	21	43	45	13	<b>54</b>	145%
Labour Turnover	13%	8%	11%	6%	<b>13%</b>	117%
<b>CONTRACTS</b>						
Full Time Employees	461	482	473	456	<b>460</b>	1%
Part Time Employees	16	11	12	15	<b>3</b>	-80%
Temporary Employees	5	24	10	9	<b>25</b>	178%
Apprenticeships	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	100%
<b>EQUALITY</b>						
Male Employees	394	412	400	390	<b>376</b>	-4%
Female Employees	83	85	85	81	<b>87</b>	7%
Male Managers	53	57	57	57	<b>40</b>	-30%
Female Managers	8	9	7	7	<b>10</b>	43%
<b>RETENTION</b>						
Internal Promotions	2	4	7	6	<b>5</b>	-17%
Employees Undergone Training Programmes	100	95	103	471	<b>463</b>	-2%
Total Employees in 25-Year Club	69	41	73	80	<b>87</b>	9%
New Members in 25-Year Club	13	1	11	7	<b>7</b>	0%
Total Employees in 40-Year Club	10	10	11	11	<b>11</b>	0%
New Members in 40-Year Club	2	1	1	0	<b>0</b>	0%
<b>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b>						
Loss Time Accident (LTA)	6	14	16	4	<b>11</b>	175%
Actual Days Lost through LTA	96	133	111	27	<b>79</b>	193%

# Commitment to our Employees

Total accidents across all our UK sites were greater than 2020, but the same as 2019. Nothing serious was reported and just included 9 minor incidents which incurred loss time (LTA) and 7 cases of illness, working from home as a result.

However, overall Polyflor's key performance indicators for Human Resources were positive for 2021. Most significantly and encouraging for economic sustainability, was the 145% increase in the company's new recruits, including a new apprentice who joined our Training Academy. As a result, 7% more female employees were recruited; 43% more females were appointed into managerial roles.

Training and development of employees remained exceptionally high throughout 2021 and included some of the following:

- Covid Awareness & Covid Refresher Training
- Induction Programme Training
- Forklift Truck Refresher & Instructor Training
- 45001 Auditor Training
- First Aid at Work Training
- CPC Training
- CIMA Qualification

In 2021, some employees were able to work from home, where feasible. In doing so, commutes were avoided. For staff who would have normally driven in, this resulted in a saving of 78 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

**As testament to Polyflor's success in retaining valued and experienced employees, 7 new members joined the 25-Year Club, increasing its total by 9% with 87 members.**

**The 40-Year Club remained the same, with 11 members, but cumulatively, the 25 and 40-Year Clubs made up an amazing 21% of Polyflor's workforce.**

\*CO<sub>2</sub> figure based on the average passenger vehicle emitting about 411 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per mile. This number can vary based on two factors: the fuel economy of the vehicle and the amount of carbon in the vehicle's fuel.



## Meet the Team

Name: **Adam Bean**

Job Title: **Business Admin Apprentice (Training Academy)**

Start Date: **October 25th, 2021**

### Q. What do you like about working for Polyflor?

*"I like that it is local to me and has stayed loyal to its Whitefield roots. I love the fact that sustainability is such a major cornerstone in this company. It is one of the main things that stood out to me when applying."*

### Q. What do you enjoy about your role?

*"It's very versatile and always keeps you on your toes. For someone who always likes to be active I would say this is the perfect role for me. Every aspect of the job is challenging you no matter how little it is. The only way to improve is with a challenge and that is another reason why I enjoy this job so much. It is always pushing to challenge you and the others around you."*

### Q. What new skill sets have you learnt or developed?

*"I would say I have grown more as a person in general. All my skills have developed tremendously ranging from communication skills to manual handling. At the end of the day, nobody ever stops learning so it is my choice and my goal to fulfil my everlasting potential."*

### Q. What do you hope to achieve in the next 12 months?

*"To help the Training Academy grow more and get the best out of everything. The long-term goal is to finish my apprenticeship and get offered a job here at Polyflor."*



## Meet the Team

Name: **Tracy Sneyd**

Job Title: **Customer Service Manager**

Start Date: **January 4th, 1988**

### Q. What was your first role when you joined Polyflor?

*"When I first joined Polyflor my initial role was in the warehouse office as a clerk based in Whitefield. I believe there were bets placed as to how long I would last, being the only female employed in the warehouse at that time, with 3 months being the maximum ...Think I won that bet some 34 years later!"*

### Q. How has your role changed over the years?

*"As the warehouse expanded the Royton site was purchased and my base moved from Whitefield in 2010. My work at Royton evolved and I became firstly the Assistant Distribution Manager and then the Warehouse and Logistics Manager. I also obtained my national and international CPC qualification."*

*"After 30 years working in warehouse and transport, in 2018 I moved to the UK and Export Sales Department, becoming the Customer Service Manager after my predecessor's retirement. This was a new challenge which I feel I embraced head on and have made a positive contribution to the department."*

### Q. What have been your biggest challenges and positives?

*"In honesty, with Brexit and Covid and consequent issues, this has been the most challenging couple of years, but as a department we have worked and developed together. The export team have risen to the Brexit challenges and their efforts and dedication are a credit to Polyflor."*

*"Not forgetting the UK sales team and all in the warehouse - all of whom have made my journey a memorable one. I would like to thank everyone who I have worked closely with over the years and who have mentored and guided me."*

*"I always like new challenges and am keen to keep learning and continue my journey at Polyflor - perhaps not another 34 years though!"*



# Commitment to our Communities

As a responsible manufacturer, Polyflor has a duty of care to ensure that the impact of day-to-day operations from its business to the local community is minimal. We also want to 'give back' wherever we can and support our local heroes... Let's do good.

## Good Neighbours

As such the company has procedures and policies to address issues which may arise in line with ISO 14001 and BES 6001, including a robust complaints procedure, where these issues are regularly reviewed at Environmental Steering Meetings. It is the responsibility of the Directors to initiate a project in instances where the source of a complaint is persistent and requires a solution. Where a complaint form is received, the company has a formalised procedure as per its BES 6001 objectives to respond and action within 7 days of receiving it. The recording of these complaints is audited and reported on annually.

Polyflor's Whitefield site is the original production site and located within a residential area (the site is over 100 years old and older than many of the nearby houses). For this reason, continued efforts to reduce noise pollution and emissions remain important for harmonisation between this production site and its neighbouring residents. As well as ensuring HGVs turn off engines during evening and early morning deliveries and collections, investment has also been made into acoustic engineering and into new electric forklift trucks, to help minimise noise levels.

Despite Polyflor's best efforts to prevent complaints in the first instance, they can fluctuate year on year, with the nature of complaints (some unjust, some ongoing) sometimes being difficult to control. Polyflor strives to minimise such complaints and continues to interact closely with its communities. 3 complaints were received in 2021 and were promptly handled - this was a 40% reduction against 2020 and significantly down by 67% on 2019. 2 of the complaints related to noise issues and 1 for engine idling. Given the proximity of the 100s of residents to this 24-hour (Monday to Friday) production site, we believe this is acceptable, but of course we do everything possible to prevent complaints from the outset.

## Good Support

As part of ongoing CSR commitments, Polyflor continues to liaise with and support the local communities in which it operates. It is particularly important to give something back to local communities - our (often unsung) heroes who make a massive difference - as well as contributing to causes further afield. Polyflor encourages its staff to engage with charitable organisations and events, as well as supporting individuals on a charitable basis, either financially or enabling volunteer work.

In 2021, Polyflor supported 8 charitable projects by donating nearly £16,000 worth of flooring to numerous individuals, groups and organisations locally in the UK, including Polysafe to Society Inc, Salford; Polysafe to Ossett United Youth FC; 143m<sup>2</sup> of Polysafe Verona PUR flooring to Bury Hospice and 120m<sup>2</sup> of various Polysafe ranges

to Emerge, Manchester, for their expanded warehousing which also supports the food bank charity, FareShare.

When Polyflor is involved in donating flooring to charitable projects, the marketing, sales and distribution teams invest a lot of time through support and communication: They work together in arranging a suitable product, ordering and despatch. There is a duty of care in ensuring the right flooring is specified and delivered in a timely manner and followed up with appropriate customer aftercare.

Further to this allocated time for organising donated flooring, Polyflor staff also accrue hours for individual voluntary initiatives, which Polyflor supports. In 2021, 50 hours were accrued in the UK for voluntary work, which was a 400% increase on the previous year. Some of the voluntary work carried out included:

- Helping the Royal Voluntary Service, with one employee helping with a 'check in and chat'.
- Volunteering for Springwater Park in Whitefield (across the road from Polyflor's Manchester-based production site) [www.lovespringwaterpark.wordpress.com](http://www.lovespringwaterpark.wordpress.com)
- Managing Brightmet Wanderers Hurricanes Under 11's Football Team, who train every Wednesday at St Catherine's Academy, Bolton, and play every Saturday morning in the Bolton & Bury Community Partnership League. As part of the managerial role, all voluntary work and funding is done by our employee and team coach. They also provide the team with extra training kits and winter coats on top of the standard kit.
- One employee has been a member of Cleveland Mountain Rescue Team for 18 years and has held Team Leader and Callout Officer positions over that time. The team responds to around 50-70 callouts per year and covers an area including half of the North York Moors and the Tees Valley area, including semi urban and urban areas of Middlesbrough and Hartlepool. Running costs for the team of around 50 volunteers is approximately £42k per year.



Emerge, Manchester

# Polyflor's Highlights

Let's do good

## Reuben's Retreat

Having already donated flooring to the first phase of this inspiring charity's premises in Glossop, Derbyshire, several years ago, Polyflor was approached to supply more flooring to the second phase of the development. The charity, which is converting an old cottage hospital, is undergoing extensive renovations, and has just seen the opening of a new activity wing which includes a hydrotherapy pool, accessible changing areas, and a sensory room.

Over the past nine years, Reuben's Retreat has helped more than 1,400 individuals through a range of therapeutic activities, counselling, support groups, fun events, and short breaks. We were therefore pleased to support a charity which helps families of complexly poorly children and families of child loss. Reuben's Retreat is a place for families to make special memories and to receive support in a safe, compassionate, and loving environment. [www.reubensretreat.org](http://www.reubensretreat.org)

We supplied Polysafe Stone fx PUR, Expona Flow PUR and Polysafe Hydro, as well as necessary weld rods, and are confident the 235m<sup>2</sup> of Polyflor flooring will help create a stylish and relaxing environment.

## The River Manchester

### "Bringing hope, changing lives"

The River Manchester received The Queens Award for Voluntary Services in 2019, in recognition of supporting people fleeing domestic abuse and those marginalised by poverty. The charity offers furniture for new accommodation, training and emotional support at their base in Manchester.

[www.therivermanchester.org.uk](http://www.therivermanchester.org.uk)

Polyflor provided The River Manchester with 58m<sup>2</sup> of safety flooring for the launch of their new café-come-shop in December 2021, helping them create a clean and modern floor space.

*"We are literally jumping for joy, and this will be a really big help to get our cafe going!! Yipee!"*

**Lydia Chan**  
Chief Executive



The River Manchester

*"In December alone, 573 individuals were able to benefit from the new facilities and we see first-hand what a difference they can make to the day-to-day lives of families. We're more grateful than we can say, as we look ahead to the exciting next phase of our development."*

**Nicola Graham**  
Reuben's mum and the charity's founder

*"We are so grateful for your continued support! It really does make a huge difference."*

**Stacey Kirkpatrick**  
Senior Fundraiser

## Since providing the floor covering in 2021, it has helped in various ways:

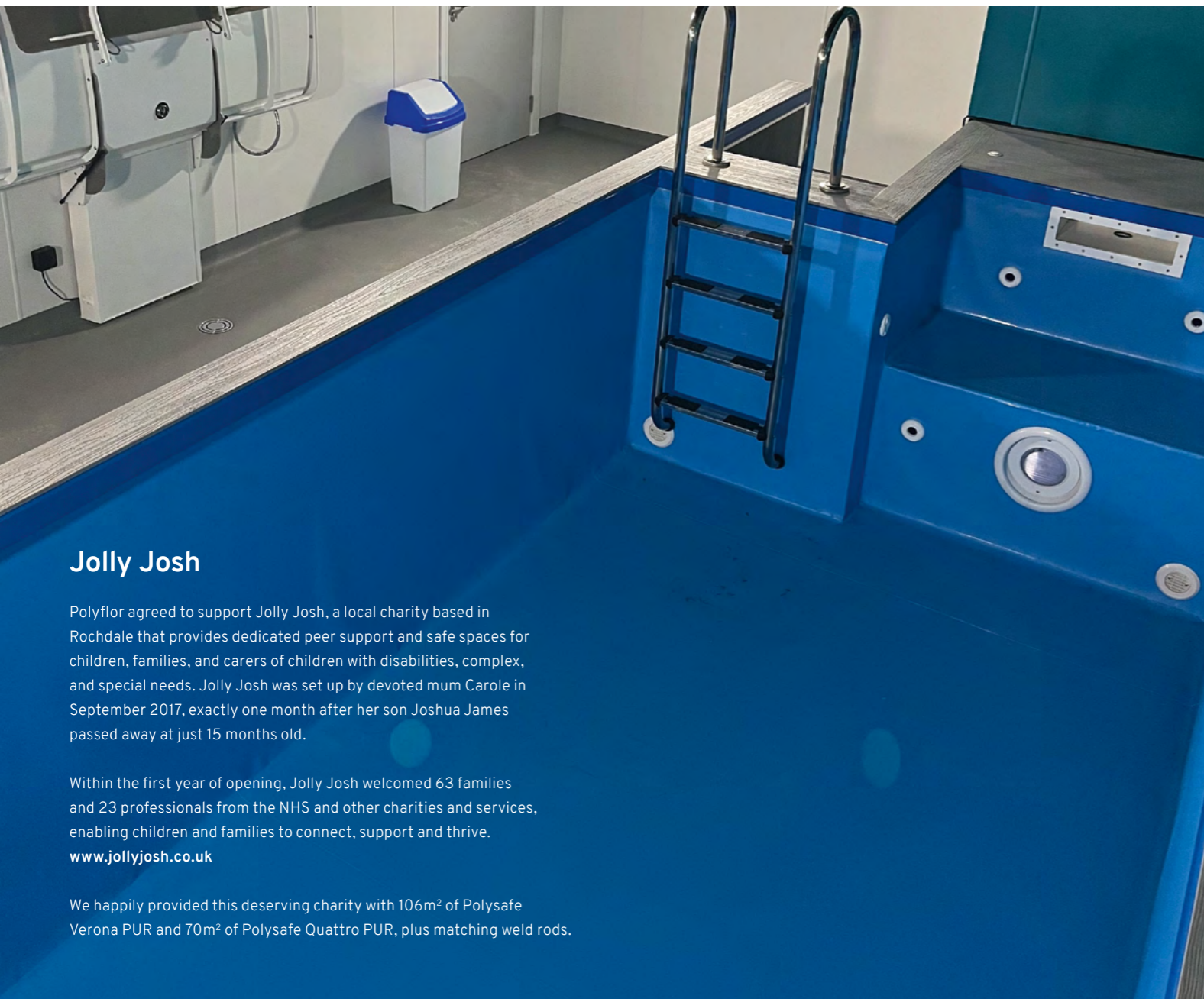
1. A 'soft' launch event was held on December 10th to tie in with the 16 days of action against domestic abuse, with 70 people attending that evening.
2. In January, they began using the space as a training place for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and a counselling safe space.
3. The café was officially launched in April 2022.
4. Since launching the café, it has been used as a training place for beneficiaries, to empower them with catering skills and rebuilding their confidence.
5. The flooring also enabled The River Manchester to use the space for preparing food parcels.



The River Manchester

# Polyflor's Highlights

Let's do good



## Jolly Josh

Polyflor agreed to support Jolly Josh, a local charity based in Rochdale that provides dedicated peer support and safe spaces for children, families, and carers of children with disabilities, complex, and special needs. Jolly Josh was set up by devoted mum Carole in September 2017, exactly one month after her son Joshua James passed away at just 15 months old.

Within the first year of opening, Jolly Josh welcomed 63 families and 23 professionals from the NHS and other charities and services, enabling children and families to connect, support and thrive. [www.jollyjosh.co.uk](http://www.jollyjosh.co.uk)

We happily provided this deserving charity with 106m<sup>2</sup> of Polysafe Verona PUR and 70m<sup>2</sup> of Polysafe Quattro PUR, plus matching weld rods.



# Doing Good Internationally

Polyflor New Zealand once again sponsored the Westpac Rescue Helicopter and supplied flooring to the Women's Refuge for their new premises.

Polyflor South Australia were proud to have donated XL PUR (base colour) & Palettone (assorted colour pattern work) to help refurbish The Women and Children's Hospital School in North Adelaide.



The Women & Children's Hospital School, North Adelaide



The Women & Children's Hospital School, North Adelaide



The Women & Children's Hospital School, North Adelaide



The Women & Children's Hospital School, North Adelaide



# About this Report

This report provides an overview of Polyflor's sustainability performance for the 2021 calendar year and enables us to communicate to all stakeholders, be accountable for our sustainability activities and identify where improvements should be made.

## Report Boundary

The environmental data reported is required as part of our BES 6001 sustainability objectives and framework, relating to our 2 UK production sites. In compliance to our BES 6001 Excellent rating, the methodology used for significant environmental aspects is outlined herewith.

## Polyflor Environmental Impacts Assessment - Methodology

### General

Polyflor has assessed its operations and as a result has identified environmental impacts of the business.

### Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of Polyflor Senior Management to systematically examine their business operations and identify possible and actual effects on the environment.

### Control Measures

- Internal procedure titled "Environmental Aspects Identification and Assessment".
- Register of Environmental Aspects.
- Environmental Aspects Identification and Assessment Form.
- Register of legal requirements.
- Environmental Objectives.

## Identification of Environmental Aspects

Polyflor has identified 18 non-significant aspects and 15 significant aspects. Identification of all Environmental Aspects consider the following:

- Possible and actual effects on the environment.
- Type of activities carried out.
- Use of materials and utilities.
- Generation of solid and liquid waste.
- Discharges to sewer or surface waters.
- Emissions to atmosphere.
- Energy consumption.
- Transport and distribution.
- Noise emissions.
- Packaging.
- Housekeeping and visual impacts.
- Effect of fire.
- Effect of flooding.
- Electrical failure.
- Spillages on site.

## Significant Environmental Aspects

- EA8 Transport of goods and materials to the Polyflor sites.
- EA9 Energy Use – steam generation.
- EA10 Emissions to air from safety flooring manufacture.
- EA12 Environmental noise and vibration from site.
- EA13 Generation of waste for off-site disposal or reclamation.
- EA14 Disposal of foul water.
- EA17 Packaging of final product.
- EA18 Distribution of product from site.
- EA24 Effect of liquid spillage from site.
- EA25 Use of cooling towers on site.
- EA26 Presence of asbestos in building materials on site.
- EA27 Presence of chiller systems.
- EA33 Demolition and building on site.
- EA36 Climate change and energy.
- EA37 Water abstraction.

## Assessment of Significance

Environmental Aspects are assessed based on environmental risk.

The severity score will be based on the following:

- 1-4 = Trivial effect.
- 5-8 = Minor effect.
- 9-12 = Major effect.

The likelihood will be based on the following:

- 1 = Improbable occurrence.
- 2 = Possible occurrence.
- 3 = Occasional occurrence.
- 4 = Regular occurrence.

The significance is calculated from multiplying the severity by the likelihood. An aspect is considered significant if the significance score is greater than 25.

## Environmental Aspect Identification and Assessment Form

Each aspect identifies the following criteria.

- Description of the area of activity.
- Description of the environmental impact.
- Specific activities associated with impacts.
- Mitigation strategies (objectives).
- Legal requirements.

## Review of Environmental Aspects

Environmental aspects are reviewed periodically by senior management to assess the following:

- Progress of associated objectives and targets.
- Associated activities.
- Necessary updates/changes.
- Need for identification of new aspects.
- Significance Score.

## Auditing of Environmental Aspects

All significant aspects are audited to ensure:

- Compliance to legal requirements.
- Compliance to management system requirements.

Polyflor is compliant to legal and management system requirements and remains accredited to ISO 14001.

## Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is important to Polyflor and facilitates a two-way process for communication and insight, as outlined within our BES 6001 parameters. The stakeholder consultation process and its activities generally involve meetings, feedback procedures and surveys, audits, representations and regular contact and involvement with the following: Employees; customers; suppliers; trade unions; industry associations; local communities; shareholders; government and financial organisations.

We value your opinions and would welcome feedback on this report. Please get in touch at [info@polyflor.com](mailto:info@polyflor.com)

# Verification Statement

Over the years, certification to BES 6001, the framework standard for responsible sourcing, has become increasingly significant in the construction industry. BES 6001 requires construction product manufacturers to demonstrate levels of achievement against a series of clauses, some of which are compulsory and others being deemed as deserving of additional credit when the company goes above and beyond the compulsory level. Depending upon the score achieved by the organisation, it is possible to gain a Pass, Good, Very Good or Excellent rating. Higher levels of performance are achieved (in part) through external verification of particular clauses of the BES 6001 standard. This is particularly important for those organisations wishing to certify to an Excellent rating, as this rating cannot be achieved without this verification.

This is the external verification statement for BES 6001 environmental and social activities, based on data as reported by Polyflor in their 2021 Sustainability Report.

## Nature and scope of verification

CM Environmental has carried out an independent verification of the Polyflor KPIs and can confirm that they have not, in any way, been involved in the preparation of this data, nor has any bias or conflict of interest. The verification study has included a number of environmental and social issues which relate to specific clauses of BES 6001.

The scope of the data verification included the company's Whitefield Head Office and its Riverside, Teesside, facility.

The purpose of the verification exercise was to ensure that the information conveyed to stakeholder and other interested parties is accurate and supported by appropriate documented evidence.

The specific clauses of BES 6001 relevant to this verification exercise include the following:

- 3.4.1 Greenhouse gas emissions
- 3.4.3 Resource use
- 3.4.4 Waste prevention and waste management
- 3.4.5 Water use and abstraction
- 3.4.9 Employment and skills
- 3.4.10 Local communities

## Statements of the independence of the verifier



CM Environmental has been providing support to a large number of clients involved in the manufacture of construction products since 2013. Although a small company, the team has many years' experience in supporting companies, both large and small, in a range of services including Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001), Responsible Sourcing (BES 6001) and also a range of Quality Management issues (ISO 9001) and Health and Safety Management (ISO 45001).

The verification exercise was carried out by Christine Morris, who has experience of Responsible Sourcing in the construction products industry and is approved by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) as an independent KPI data verifier.

## Conclusion

Based on the procedures followed by CM Environmental during this independent verification exercise, there has been no evidence that the data supplied to the Polyflor Sustainability Report, for the period 1st January to 31st December 2021, has not been obtained based on reliable basis, that the information is not adequately presented, or that significant deviations or omissions exist. Verified figures can be used in support of sustainability reporting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Morris".

**Christine Morris**  
CM Environmental 4 August 2022



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