



Planex Sustainability Report 2023

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MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT

Planex has been designing and manufacturing specialised steel storage systems since 1973.

The built environment of the Planex Factory and Showroom displays underpinning environmental commitment as do the factory processes, design, manufacture and delivery of product. Published Policies demonstrate environmental commitment to staff and interested parties. External endorsement of commitment through certification to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 Management Systems has been upheld since initial certification in 1996.

Concurrently, Planex has maintained product validation with both Furntech AFRDI Blue Tick product testing and Good Environmental Choice accreditation on a range of products since 2009.

Commitment was extended to AFRDI Green Tick (AFRDI 150 Sustainability Standard) at Platinum level in 2018, recognised as Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) Green Star Level A for both Linea sliding door cabinets and the xLocker2 range of lockers - a first for an Australian steel furniture manufacturer.

PLANEX IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WIDER ENVIRONMENT

Planex is an Australian Manufacturer of specialised powder coated sheet metal products which employs 40 people. Planex services multinational, corporate, educational and government clients. Planex was an early adopter of responsible manufacture and is in turn promoting quality Australian products backed by verifiable sustainable processes. During the last 18 months Planex initiated programs to improve waste stewardship related to the powder coat processes, for waste powder generated both in-house and industry-wide.

Planex products made from steel rather than alternative materials present unique desirable properties such as strength and longevity, particularly when designed and manufactured with attention to, modularity, reuse, re-purpose and ultimately disassembly for full recycling.

Planex focuses on smart and functional designs of adaptive storage for the evolving workplace complemented by environmental commitment which is measured and analysed to achieve continuous improvement.

Our commitment to the environment extends to benefit the nation by including employment of local people in Hallam and surrounding suburbs, which amount to over 200 people in Australia. Indirectly, Planex is committed to buying goods and services sourced and made within Australia, which in turn helps to support other local SMEs keeps money onshore and also helps local employment.

It is worth considering the embedded energy costs of cheaper imported products in the triple bottom line of the environment, people and profits. Planex products reduce the environmental impact as they are designed and manufactured for longevity here using premium Australian steel to outlast cheaper imports. Buying imported goods even with environmental certification may be cheaper in the short term, but environmentally counterproductive if they need to be transported thousands of kilometers from overseas and in the process generate unnecessary Greenhouse Gasses (GHG) - this defeats the purpose of credible green credentials.

Following the supply shocks of the Covid years it is critically important to support Australian companies and communities by:

- Providing ongoing jobs that keep the local economy functioning normally with money from real living wages.
- Provide employees with opportunities for skills and professional development.
- Have a positive flow-on effect on our local suppliers by contributing in keeping Australian manufacturing operations from going offshore.
- Reduce capital leaving Australia to pay for imported products thereby assisting our balance of payment and minimising the impact of currency fluctuations on our customers.
- Contribute to keeping a strong core of manufacturers going so that, when the economic climate improves, there is something solid on which to rebuild - It is easier to recover from a sound base than to start again from nothing.
- We are still seeing the impact of manufacturing offshoring and the dangers associated with this short-sighted practice. We feel we need to do our part to slow this process down.

REPORT SCOPE

This is Planex version 7 of the publicly available Sustainability Report and includes data from 2010. Earlier annual reporting is available. The report is based on 'A Framework for Public Environmental Reporting - An Australian Approach March 2000' and the data is collected and analysed within the certified ISO 14001 Management System.

This report relates to Planex environmental and sustainability programs, objectives and performance data.

MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE, POLICIES AND SYSTEMS

Management Systems and Programs

Planex has maintained certification to ISO 9001 Quality Management since 1996, to ISO 14001 Environmental Management systems since 2007, and has integrated the principles of the global safety standard ISO 18001 within the Management System. In 2017 Planex transitioned to the new standards ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015.



Aspects related to Planex processes have been identified and programs devised to minimise the impact of the processes.

Process	Aspect	Program	Initiatives 2010-2023	Action
Manufacture - Electricity use	Energy use impacting on resources	Monitor and measure power and usage Use technological solutions to ensure effective power use	Install and monitor power factor correction LED lighting - 2015 Solar energy - initiated installation 2015; fully commissioned early 2016	Completed
Manufacture - Gas use	Gas use impacting on resources	Optimise gas efficiency	Awarded gas assessment and gas efficiency grant from Sustainability Victoria 2017 Improvements to gas use have so far given 9% efficiency, equating to 50 tonnes fewer GHG emissions, with work continuing	Completed Ongoing
Manufacture - Powder coating	Release to air	Prevent dust to atmosphere	Reverse pulsing extraction system/no venting to atmosphere. Powder reuse strategy (see below *)	Completed
Manufacture - Water use in iron phosphate pre- treatment and in factory	Resource use - water	Reduce water at phosphate machine by 50% Provide training on water conservation	Rinse water reused in process Installation of conductivity meter and solenoid to ensure fresh water added only when required. Ongoing maintenance Implement daily recording of water use	Completed
Manufacture - Discharge to storm water	Harm to waterways	Maintain pH, heavy metal, phosphate, and discharge limits within the Trade Waste Agreement (South East Water No 8067)	Monthly and Quarterly third-party monitoring (3 separate companies) End of shift monitoring Minimize / substitute hazardous substances	Completed
Manufacture - Waste from production	Degradation of land	Heat-treat (i.e., solidify) the waste powder from powder coating plant to prevent its dispersal when sent to landfill	Supplier evaluation and records control Reduce impact on landfill (see below *)	Completed
Manufacture - Waste from production	Resource use	Optimise steel thickness / sheet size through design. Collect and recycle metal waste. Reduce bin size from 3 m3 to 1.5 m3 Polymers - Reclaim / recycle polypropylene & PET off-cuts Re-use waste powder: Initiate and drive R&D projects with Monash University, UNSW and major manufacturers for using it in the circular economy Re-use scrap metal mixed with waste powder to manufacture new components in house (counterweights)	CNC machining & automated processes to reduce error & waste Supplier contracts Staff training & audits Segregation and specific recyclers Maintenance of electrostatic powder coating line Offer unused powders to external users * Use waste powder to make new components in-house to reduce landfill, energy, GHG emissions and labour costs Initiate plans for industry-wide reforms on the fate of waste powder (cooperation with powder manufacturers & users). Winner of 2 Commonwealth Government Innovation Connections Grants, in partnership with Akzo Nobel, DuluxGroup, DooGood and AISF, to fund 2 projects: The first at Monash University Department of Chemical Engineering to show that pyrolysis can be used to recover resources from this waste	Completed Ongoing Ongoing

Process	Aspect	Program	Initiatives 2010-2023	Action
Manufacture - PET Sound deadening material	Release to air	Prevent volatile organic compounds (VOC) into atmosphere	Use of Acupanel™ which is free of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) Planex test certificates	Completed
Packaging	Resource use Degradation of land	Recycle plastic Reuse or reclaim Policy Training	Supplier contracts Courier controls Install cardboard crusher	Completed
Office / Administration / Sales	Resource use	Electronic vs paper Recycle paper Toner cartridge / recovery of batteries & electronic components	Green and recyclable materials used Maintenance services undertaken	Ongoing
	Noise suppression	Design of office cabinets that feature noise suppression technology		Completed
Delivery / Transport	Resource use Harm to water ways and air	Optimise loads through line haul Truck size to fit order size Company vehicle policy	Supplier contracts. Client and delivery contract liaison. Vehicle selection with commitments to quality, safety, optimal fuel usage. Green and recyclable materials used & maintenance services undertaken	Ongoing
Materials Efficiency	Waste powder coat powder	Turn waste powder into new components (counterweights)	Awarded Materials Efficiency grant from Sustainability Victoria 2018. 2/3 of waste diverted from landfill & giving a reduction of GHG emissions by 30 tonnes per year	Completed
Environmental	Sustainability	TAKE2, a Victorian Government initiative on collective climate change	Planting native grasses, flowering shrubs & other vegetation on our property to absorb carbon emissions and to assist local fauna	Ongoing
		Other programs supporting sustainability	Policy review, audit program, hazard and incident reporting, emergency management, complaint handling, staff training plan and management review of environmental objectives and targets	Ongoing
Technical Briefs (TB)	Information for Stakeholders	TB001: Heat dissipation xLocker2 TB002: Sound absorption xLocker2 TB003: Sound absorption Linea TB004: Aesthetics versus practicality TB005: Improving materials efficiency	Summaries of R&D by Planex	Ongoing

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Energy

Gas and power usage is directly related to production. In the construction of the purpose-built factory, Planex implemented various short and long-term strategies to be more efficient.

The strategies included:

- Installation of a Power Factor Correction system that controls the amount of power drawn by a load to optimise efficiency, reduce line current losses and ensure reliable clean current delivery.
- Installation of automated machinery for cutting, punching, folding and spot welding that has allowed some off-peak lights out production, as well as improved efficiency in the use of steel sheets, with reduced waste.
- Auto rinse and paint lines, drier and ovens have been installed and are subject to ongoing and preventative maintenance.
- In 2015 all warehouse 400W high bay metal halide lamps were replaced with 100W and 150W LED lights. All office fluorescent and quartz halogen down lights were replaced with LEDs. These measures gave 2 main benefits: significant reductions in electricity usage, lower maintenance costs because LEDs last longer, and hence less resources needed from the environment.
- The investment by Planex in 2015 in a solar power system resulted in a substantial reduction of electricity drawn from the grid.
- The solar power facility was fully commissioned in early 2016. Since its installation, the electricity drawn from the grid has been significantly reduced. Annually, including the cloudier months average saving is in the order of 30%. This is equivalent to Planex not emitting 134 tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere - equal to the gases released by about 30 average passenger cars driven for a year, or by one average car driven for over 500,000 km.
- Where switching off of machines, computers, monitors and office lighting is not automated, training and audits ensure awareness of energy consumption.
- Gas usage fluctuates year to year in relation to production output.
- Late 2017 Planex was awarded gas assessment and a gas efficiency grant by Sustainability Victoria to improve gas usage in the factory. Upgrades were made to the powder coat line Pre-Treatment Bath, Curing Oven, and Dry Off Oven. By early 2019 a 9% efficiency gain was reached which means that the factory's GHG emissions were reduced by over 50 tonnes during 2018/2019, on top of the reduced GHG from the solar power system. Further modifications to the ovens continued during 2019/2020 and in 2023, in order to further improve gas efficiency. Planex previously solidified its waste powder into blocks using ovens before disposal; the recent powder recycling initiatives (see below) now mean that gas used in this process is minimised, as are GHG emissions.
- Mid 2018 Planex was awarded a materials efficiency grant to re-use waste powder coat powder. Now, Planex makes its own counterweights for its furniture rather than buying new steel counterweights. This innovation means Planex reduces its GHG emissions by 30 t/year, landfill by 3.6 t/year of waste powder and significant labour costs.
- The total contribution in the reduction of Planex's GHG emissions from solar, plus gas and materials efficiencies, exceeds 200 t/year.
- Planex initiated a collaborative R&D project to potentially divert all waste (powder coat) powder from landfill into a resource to extract energy and materials for industrial use - i.e., to use it in the circular economy. The project involves university research and major manufacturers of powder coat powder. In mid-2020 Planex was awarded a Commonwealth Government grant in partnership with the powder coat powder manufacturers Akzo Nobel and DuluxGroup, and the powder coat industry representative body AISF. The project is supported by an Innovation Connections grant through the Federal Government's Entrepreneurs' Program.

With the monitoring techniques that were introduced since 2006, confidence is placed in on-going review of strategies to reduce energy consumption.

Water

Process water used is related to quantity of steel processed for powder coating.

A target to reduce pre-treatment water usage by 50% was met in 2009 through installation of a conductivity meter to ensure fresh water is only used on demand. Pumps are kept in good condition to ensure efficient use of water. A managed contractor relationship provides confidence that reduction of water use will continue to be an achievable environmental initiative of Planex.

Waste Management

In accordance with our commitment to prevention of pollution, Planex selects material inputs to ensure that reclamation, reuse or recycling of waste occurs. To this end polypropylene is used in preference to PVC; iron phosphate is used as pre-treatment and electrostatic powder coating is used in preference to solvent based painting techniques. The powder coating process and the industry using it generates a portion that is unavoidably wasted. Planex identified this waste as the last of its major material inputs needing a better fate. We highlighted the issue in our article, <https://www.sustainabilitymatters.net.au/content/waste/article/powder-coating-an-unacknowledged-waste-stream-1089554543>. (In fact, the dumping of it as a powder and not a solid, is a very common practice and it exposes the environment to what is essentially a ready-made source of micro- and nano-plastics.) Planex uses most of its waste powder to make new components. The 1/3 of the waste that remains was still an amount that needed an answer. Therefore, Planex initiated and is driving three research projects that provides real opportunities for using this waste used in the circular economy (two projects completed and one will reach completion by end of 2023). Through these projects Planex has been able to divert from landfill and re-use, over three years-worth of its waste powder. See Stakeholder Engagement, below.

The range of waste reclamation extends from steel and aluminium, to polymer, cardboard, paper and pallets. Steel is sourced from suppliers that have a recycled steel content of 15-20%. For example, Planex uses Bluescope sheet steel with 24.2% recycled content, which comes from 17.4% as pre- and post-consumer content plus a 6.8% content of steel that is recycled but originating from within Bluescope's operations.

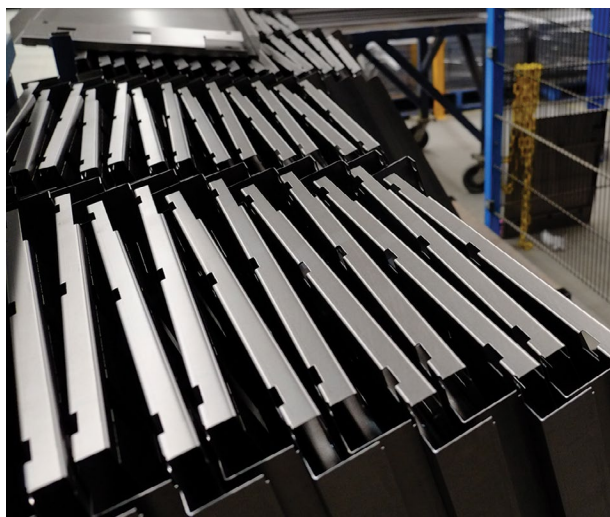
Optimum recycling has been achieved through using all ACUPANEL offcuts internally in the assembly area, on trollies and as acoustic screens in sections of the plant.

In 2013 a major success was the halving of the landfill bin size. Through contract management the cost of disposal was minimised and there was heightened awareness of waste segregation and overall reduction in landfill volume.

Correct disposal of office waste such as batteries, E-waste, and toner cartridges is something of paramount importance and all employees contribute to management of such waste. Moreover, employees are encouraged to bring phones, small batteries and toner cartridges from home for Planex to recycle through its waste management channels.

Delivery contractors return protective packaging and cardboard for reuse / recycling by Planex.

Planex accepts products returned at their end of life and may either rework the product or dispose of through its partnership with steel recycler Future Metals Pty Ltd.



Trade Waste

A contract with an external supplier ensures statistics are generated for water quality in accordance with the Trade Waste Agreement. Employees on the production rinse line are involved in trade waste and water monitoring through recording statistics on water use, temperature and pH at the change of shifts. This practice has been in place since 2005.

Quarterly third-party checks are also made with results graphed and reported to management. During this period, Planex has not breached its trade waste obligations.

Packaging

Choice of packaging ensures use of recycled cardboard, low density polyethylene bags and protective film. Measurement of good practice is maintained for cardboard packaging and boxes are returned and reused. Plastic recycling and cardboard crushing is undertaken to ensure efficient baling of recycled materials for which data from waste receipts is collated.

Summary of Environmental Performance

The sum of Planex initiatives in energy efficiency, waste management, water minimisation, trade waste management, dematerialisation, design for disassembly, and take-back for reuse/recycling is aimed at minimising the company's carbon footprint and reducing pollution.

The performance of initiatives is shared with employees through noticeboard displays, training and meeting communication. Planex's underpinning philosophy of design and manufacture of a quality product supports its environmental performance as the product is durable, is designed to last many years and is made from materials that are readily recycled.

Future Strategies

Following the installation of the solar panels, further savings on the use of electricity are planned. For example, exhaust fan usage in the powder coat area will be reduced by installing partitions to enclose the powder coating plant, which will reduce convection currents. This quarantining of the powder coating plant is estimated to result in 3 out of the 5 exhaust fans no longer being required, reducing the venting of hot air, the amount of natural gas required to heat the powder coating process will be reduced.

A long-term option to reduce mains water usage is to harvest storm water from the roof to tanks.

During 2017 and 2018 Planex was assisted by the Victorian Government's statutory authority, Sustainability Victoria, to help the company use gas, electricity, and waste powder coat powder more efficiently.

Compliance Requirements

Planex subscribes to an environmental legal requirement updating service (Environment Essentials) and updates its procedures and training program accordingly. The company measures and monitors processes in accordance with the National Pollutant Inventory and Australian Packaging Covenant. No breaches or penalties have been applied by the EPA or WorkSafe.

The primary compliance requirement is Planex Trade Waste Agreement with the water authority - South East Water.



PRODUCT PERFORMANCE

Product Stewardship and Lifecycle

Planex product longevity is supported by the eminently recyclable nature of steel. Each product has been assessed for its component parts and eco-preferred content by mass. Through design, bonding is minimised and disassembly promoted. A Stewardship Policy supports return of products to Hallam for disassembly or recycling beyond its 10-year warranty period. Polymer components have identifying marks that assist segregation of polymer class and recycling.

To ensure longevity, replacement parts are available for a wide range of components in excess of 10 years from the date of delivery.

We encourage our clients to Re-Use, Re-Purpose or Re-Cycle our products. Giving a product a second life helps to divert from landfill. In partnership with our Product Stewardship delivery partner, Egans Asset Management, we offer customers immediate landfill diversion and maximum resource recovery and re-utilisation.

As of 2024 all Planex products will have a QR code linked to the Planex year of manufacture sticker. The QR code will direct customers on different options for disposing of products that are no longer required to ensure a circular economy. Planex will help customers to manage this process.

Planex's design and manufacturing philosophy supports its environmental credentials by ensuring that our products must not only be versatile, elegant and original; they must also be durable. They are designed to last many years and be made from materials that can be readily recycled. We apply a test we call built-out obsolescence to all our products. It means that we want them to have longevity, to be repurposed as required, and not end up as landfill. This is in contrast to products that are made using principles of product obsolescence or inbuilt obsolescence where manufacturers intentionally make things that do not last a long time, or are designed to fail: products that either break or stop functioning earlier than consumers would expect. Product obsolescence is an avoidable manufacturing practice that contributes to wasting resources. The Victorian Parliament's Legislative Council - Environment and Planning Committee in 2019 reported on the topic of planned obsolescence. For example, it says "Products should be made to last and be able to be repaired and reused. This ensures we are maximising the use of resources and reduces pressure on the waste and resource recovery system." and "... companies design products to break down quickly. Peter Allan, the Director of Sustainable Resource Use stated at a public hearing that certain items that should be built to last, such as bicycles and clothing, are rapidly becoming single use items." (https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/SCEP/Recycling_and_Waste_Mgmt/Report/Inquiry_into_recycling_and_waste_management.pdf).

The longevity of Planex products helps address the problem of product and in-built obsolescence.

Products

Designed for

Longevity

Not Landfill

Designed for

Disassembly

Approved Supplier

For the NSW Govt under the
Office & Education Furniture Contract
Deed of Standing Offer
Department of Health 2020:2023

0

Zero VOC

Emissions from products

Green Credentials

Products have third party assessment

Our products are

Specified

By **Leading Australian**
Architects & Designers

Our product stewardship policy supports

100% Return

of product for disassembly or recycling
beyond the 10-year warranty period

Replacement parts available
in excess of

10 Years

from delivery date

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

External Recognition and Activities

In late 2017 Planex applied for and was awarded 2 grants from Sustainability Victoria. The first grant (\$13,000 on a dollar by dollar basis) funded an independent Energy Assessment to take a snapshot of the current situation and identify potential energy efficiency improvements.

The second grant (\$35,360 on a dollar-by-dollar basis) enabled potential improvements uncovered by the energy audit to be acted on. This consisted of installing equipment specifically tailored to minimise heat loss in our process ovens, increase oven efficiency and overall reduce gas use and costs while still maintaining current production levels.

In mid-2018 Sustainability Victoria awarded Planex a materials efficiency grant totaling \$12,655 from SV and co-funded by Planex, to re-use waste powder coat powder. Now, Planex makes its own counterweights for its furniture rather than buying new steel counterweights. This innovation means Planex reduces its GHG emissions by 30 t/year, landfill by 3.6 t/year of waste powder, and significant labour costs. The total contribution in the reduction of Planex's GHG emissions from solar, plus gas and materials efficiencies, is over 200 t/year.

In July 2020 Planex was awarded a Commonwealth Government grant to potentially divert all waste powder (that is generated from powder coat processes) from landfill and use it as a resource to extract energy and materials for industrial use - i.e., to use it in the circular economy. The research at Monash University is a collaboration with 4 industry groups: Akzo Nobel, DuluxGroup, and Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing. The funding is from the Innovation Connections grant through the Federal Government's Entrepreneurs' Program valued at \$49,292; the industry group will co-fund the project with an additional \$49,292, totaling \$98,584.



In September 2022 Planex was awarded a second Commonwealth Government grant to again, potentially divert all waste powder (that is generated from powder coat processes) from landfill and use it as a component in the manufacture of Green Ceramic™ tiles. The idea is to use the waste in the circular economy in making new building materials. The research at SMaRT (UNSW) is a collaboration between 5 industry groups: Planex, Akzo Nobel, DuluxGroup, DooGood Australia and Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing. The funding is from the Innovation Connections grant through the Federal Government's Entrepreneurs' Program valued at \$47,603; the industry group will co-fund the project with an additional \$47,603, totaling \$95,206.



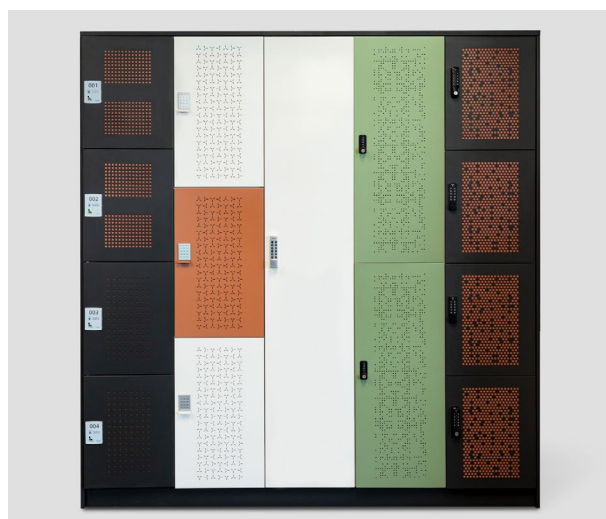
Planex minimises the environmental impact of our manufacturing through design excellence, design for disassembly, quality finish and material selection that promises our products that will stand the test of time.

Planex has achieved the following design awards:

- Inaugural IDEA Award 2003 “Furniture” category for Planex Fatfile Range
- Design Institute of Australia [Qld] 2004 Award of Merit “Furniture” category for Planex Fatfile Range
- Design Institute of Australia [Qld] 2004 Award of Merit “Design is Good for Business” category for Planex Fatfile Range
- Design Institute of Australia [Qld] 2004 Award of Merit “Ecologically Sustainable Design” category for Planex Fatfile Range
- Australian Design Award 2004 “Furniture category” for Planex Fatfile Range
- Australian Design Award 2004 DIA Furniture award category for Planex Fatfile Range
- RAlA Victorian Chapter Architecture 2004 award, Australian Interior Design Award “High Commendation and Architectural Excellence in SouthEast sector “ in the category of “Best Commercial and Industrial building”
- DRIVENxDESIGN product design 2017 silver award “Office” category for xLocker2 System
‘Acknowledging creative and innovative design within commercial office applications’
- Good Design Award Winner 2019, xLocker2 for product design/made in Australia

Planex Website (awards won by web developer Evolution7):

- Create Awards ‘Best Website’ Finalist 2015
- Melbourne Design Awards 2015: Silver Award



Employee Relationships

Planex has approximately 40 employees with diverse cultural backgrounds. These groups are catered for in a variety of ways including leave requests, dietary needs and respect of cultural and religious beliefs.

The Employee Guide issued at induction describes special leave arrangements. Planex is open to negotiation on working hours and special needs for family related matters.

In today's economic landscape it is not enough to speak about the economy from a fiscal position only. It needs to be viewed from an economic, environmental, and social/cultural position where well-being is considered as important as the financial viability of the business.

Many of our staff have been employed at Planex over many years working their way up from apprentice to become highly skilled in software operating the automated machinery. We continue to support the Australian economy through the employment of local tradespeople and skilled university graduates in engineering and design. Planex is also undertaking research with Monash University and University of NSW for novel ways to reduce waste powder ending up in landfill and looking at ways this material can be recovered and used as a valuable component for use in the circular economy. These two projects use Australia's academic and industry know-how in world-first initiatives. See Product Performance, above.

Social Engagement

Procuring product from Planex means you are supporting Australian-made and in turn, sustaining the Australian economy.

As previously noted, our materials are sourced locally, we manufacture for disassembly and all polymer parts are labelled for segregation and sorting. Furthermore, our high-volume products are durability and 'fitness for purpose' tested by AFRDI-Furntech.

Planex believes in supporting all people and is proud to support the incorporation of indigenous culture and story within our range of products. In 2019 Planex initiated a collaboration with Lucy Simpson*, who designed three perforation patterns for selected products. These designs enable the telling of aboriginal stories within the built environment, as part of a living culture. These designs have become part of the Planex offering and as such provides Lucy with a royalty payment based on use. Planex is committed to supporting the indigenous community by building meaningful relationships with individual indigenous designers and the broader community where possible.

*<https://www.gaawaamiyay.co/>

Planex directly supports Australian companies that provide local goods in our supply chain. The goods range from core products that are used at the start of our production line (sheet steel), through to the final stages of manufacture (e.g., powder coat finishing). With its staff of 40 employees, Planex indirectly supports their families and the local communities that rely on such people.

Planex is one of the few manufacturers that make all of our products in Australia from Australian materials. We only source from Europe a few highly engineered parts not made in Australia. We design for longevity over landfill and all products can be disassembled for reuse, repurposing and recycling. Our products are between 95% - 99% Australian Bluescope sheet steel which has a minimum of 24.2% recycled content and is 100% recyclable. In many respects because of the materiality, it follows first nations principles of what comes from the earth can return to the earth with minimal harm.

https://www.planex.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Sustainability-FAQ-02_2022.pdf

As a Participant in the UNGC Planex commits to fulfil its stated targets for sustainable manufacture. Sustainable Development Goal 12 (i.e., Responsible Consumption and Production) is one of the 17 SDGs that Planex can influence meaningfully by implementing two Ambition Benchmarks "Zero waste to landfill and incineration" and "100% sustainable material inputs that are renewable, recyclable or reusable". Management staff have completed the United Nations Global Compact SDG Ambition Accelerator Program in 2022.

Supplier Relationships

Supplier relationships and contracts are used to foster environmental compliance and pollution prevention. Planex manufactures locally and does not use components supplied by entities that use modern slavery. Long standing relationships with delivery companies sees the optimum load size being met. Planex delivery contractors either return packaging to Planex or provide evidence of responsible disposal.

The Planex Purchasing department partners with component suppliers to guarantee supply of MSDS for all material inputs where appropriate. Planex undertakes to check the MSDS CAS numbers against listed substances on the IARC website (Group 1 and Group 2A) and against toxic substances referred to on the Rotterdam Convention, Annex III.

Water reduction strategies were partnered with a service contractor who has assisted with problem solving as well as ongoing monitoring.

Investment in production and robotics equipment has followed from advice sought on world's best practice in quality manufacture.

Communication with Stakeholders

Key interested parties of Planex environmental initiatives are its clients. Through tender applications clients request evidence of quality, safety and environmental certification. Increasing recognition of Furntech AFRDI product testing, Good Environmental Choice Certification and Green Star have encouraged Planex to commit to these third-party endorsements of its sustainability initiatives.

Communication to stakeholders is via tender response, the website, exhibitions and sales activities. Planex has introduced Technical Briefs in its website. They provide information and data on selected topics that may be useful to the reader. They also substantiate the fundamental principles behind Planex products – design, engineering, scientific testing and care for the environment.

Customer issues are promptly addressed through Planex Customer Issues Register. Client satisfaction is identified and reported on at management level.

This ESG Report and web site are key areas where stakeholders may be kept abreast of Planex product, environmental and social initiatives.

Report Authorised by Jean-Pierre Jardel, PhD



Managing Director Planex Sales Pty Ltd

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Head Office / Manufacturing

191 Princes Highway Hallam

VIC Australia 3803

PO Box 125 Hallam 3803

Tel: +61 3 8795 1100

Fax: +61 3 8795 1122

Email Head Office: info@planex.com.au

National Sales and Distribution

Adelaide

Brisbane

Canberra

Hobart

Perth

Sydney

Tel: +61 3 8795 1100

Email: info@planex.com.au

www.planex.com.au