SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE

Kian®

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TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

To most people, sustainability means recycling, reducing waste and carbon emissions, and using eco-friendly materials and renewable fuel sources.

It's more than that, however.

It's about meeting our own needs while prioritising efforts to conserve the Earth's finite natural, economic and social resources so that the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is not compromised.

At KIAN, the three pillars of sustainability – profit, people and planet – are part and parcel of who we are and how we do business.

OUR AIM

We want to make furniture items that endure, using processes and materials that avoid detrimental effects to the environment. Our commitment to sustainable business practices means that we can do that right from the product design conception phase, through to delivery, assembly, disassembly and the recycling stage at the end of its life.

Our efforts are focused on how we can:

- Reduce wastage of raw materials
- Control product quality and durability
- Limit emissions and reduce pollution
- Properly dispose of discarded furniture
- Recycle packaging materials

PROFIT & PEOPLE PLANET

KIAN's goal is to contribute towards a more sustainable tomorrow by reducing pollution, preserving the environment, and ensuring the well-being of people, all without sacrificing financial profitability.

PROFIT

We recognise that our success principally depends on our financial performance and the profit we generate for all stakeholders. As a company that seeks to positively impact the environment and society, our business strategies not only consider profit maximisation, cost reduction and risk mitigation, they also include sustainability initiatives.

For KIAN, part of our drive towards success is to form long-term, mutually profitable relationships with providers within our supply chain who adhere to sustainability practices, commited partners who share the same vision for a greener world.

PEOPLE

In working towards achieving some of the 17 SDG (17 Sustainable Development Goals), we began with Goals 3 and 8 – those that are the most important to us – because they prioritise the good health and well-being of our employees, and on providing decent work. We practise fair hiring, comply with labour laws and regulations, and encourage volunteerism within and without the workplace. We also ensure safe working conditions and environments for our people, and that they have sufficient rest. Every year, our factories and facilities are professionally audited by external parties to make certain that we are complying with industry regulations, standards and policies in order to protect the health of our customers and the people who make our products.

We continually open new operation centres on every continent to lessen transportation costs, narrow the distance to our markets, create employment opportunities, and provide skills training to unskilled labour, thereby aiding in the economic growth of the countries where we operate.

PLANET

We strive to be responsible in our consumption and production (Goal 12 of the 17 SDG). Having our own in-house manufacturing capabilities gives us the flexibility to plan, to know in advance, and to dictate the production quality. Because we ourselves helm the controls, we can make responsible choices of sustainable, ethically sourced materials, reduce energy consumption, and streamline our shipping practices.

We also can and do engage in a continuous production life cycle, a circular system in which actions carried out during one phase of production result in positive impacts on the environment in the later stages of the product. Wastage is minimised; production cast-offs are put back into the recycling process as pellets, repurposed as stuffing for furniture items or used as part of packaging.

FROM INTENT TO ACTION

So how are we carrying out our objectives?

We do it by steadily implementing our sustainability initiatives in several spheres of our operations, especially in manufacturing and delivery.

SHORTENED DISTANCE

Freight transportation, whether by land, sea or air, contributes to CO_2 emissions and waste. A major portion of our products are produced near to the regions where they are sold. In addition, to limit pollution, we've set up more than 20 local KIAN sales and service centres in over 100 (and counting) countries worldwide to reduce the distance to our constantly growing global list of customers. For quick access to our products, we have also established global supply chains that serve markets which include China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Spain, Türkiye and Egypt.

GREENER PACKAGING

Robust packaging material is essential for ensuring that goods are well-protected during transportation. KIAN uses 100% recyclable and biodegradable corrugated cardboard packaging to minimise our carbon footprint. Compared to other packaging materials, the use of corrugated cardboard contributes up to 60% reduction in CO_2 and oil emissions. We continue to look for more possibilities of making packaging materials more sustainable.

USE OF ECO-FRIENDLY MATERIALS

Our R&D department continuously seeks new perspectives, new techniques, the right materials and more sustainable manufacturing processes in our endeavour to improve our sustainability performance. For consumer safety and quality, many of our products are tested by independent bodies to comply with the relevant international standards for eco-friendly materials.

PLASTICS

The proliferation of plastic items floating in the oceans is a danger to marine life. We help to mitigate marine plastic pollution by only using Ocean Plastic (OP) in the making of our chairs. OP consists of recycled ocean-bound plastic that has been ethically gathered from coastlines. These plastic items are then processed into polypropylene pellets and used to fabricate strong and sturdy chairs.

THE BIG DIFFERENCE

Ocean Plastic (OP) is a generic term that describes all plastic waste that has ended up in the ocean. It is also commonly used to describe plastic waste that is found within 20km of the coastline (ocean-bound) as these plastics are more than likely to end up in the ocean. OP is used plastic.

Virgin Plastic (VP) is derived from fossil fuels, of which crude oil and natural gas are primary sources as they provide a cheap alternative to plastic made from plants.

USE OF ECO-FRIENDLY MATERIALS

WOOD

An increasingly wide range of FSC-certified wooden furniture collections is available. The wood is sourced from responsibly managed forests.

STRAWBOARD

For every cubic metre of strawboard used in furniture in place of plywood, there is a reduction of 1.66 tons in CO_2 emissions and 18 mature trees are saved. Composed of 95% agricultural straw, strawboard items contain no formaldehyde additives or plastic resin. It is also CARB-compliant and has no VOCs.

FABRICS

Our eco-friendly range of fabrics uses GRS-certified fibres made from recycled ocean-bound plastics. These fabrics are also recyclable and meet OEKO-TEX® 100 standards.

ALUMINIUM

Aluminium does not oxidise (does not rust, does not release CO_2) and thus has a much longer lifespan. It's also 100% recyclable.

STEEL

All the raw materials for our steel are sourced from suppliers which carry ISO 50001, ISO 14000, RoHs and EU Reach certifications. Our steel is 100% recyclable.

HIGH PRESSURE LAMINATES

A high pressure laminate (HPL) is produced by saturating multiple layers of kraft paper with phenolic resin, then fused together under intense heat and pressure. Our HPLs are eco-friendly and adhere to stringent US and European sustainability standards. Any leftover bits of HPL are repurposed as Paper Terrazo.

VINYL

This fireproof and anti-bacterial material also meets the standards of OEKO-TEX® 100 and EU Reach for the protection of human health and the environment since the use of toxic chemicals is very much reduced. Its durability as a material also ensures high-performance resistance against wear and tear.

REPURPOSED MATERIALS

NATURAL RECYCLED KRAFT

Comprising 100% recycled pulp, burlap fibres from recycled coffee bags and coffee bean chaff, kraft paper can be recycled up to 7 times. It's unbleached and makes an excellent environment-friendly choice for packaging and as laminates.

RECLAIMED DENIM FIBRE

Off-cuts discarded by blue jeans manufacturers find new life as reclaimed denim fibre, an innovative composite material made from 60% recycled cotton fibres. Used as hard-wearing and durable laminates, each laminated board features the classic denim twill weave.

PAPER TERAZZO

Scraps and off-cuts of solid colour HPL laminates are shredded and combined to form paper terrazzo. There is no wastage of these leftover materials.

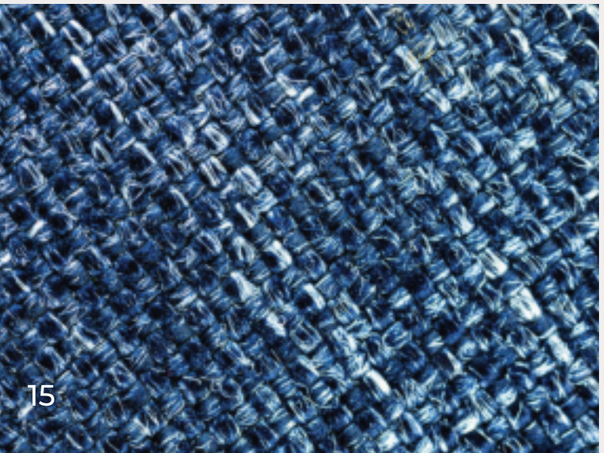
SURFACE TREATMENTS

WATER-BASED LACQUER

We use a water-based lacquer for FSC-certified products. It emits fewer harmful chemicals and pollutants and has lower VOC content, which contributes to a healthier working environment and better indoor climate.

POWDER-COATING

Our coatings for metal products do not contain VOCs or heavy metals such as Lead or Chromium (VI). The absence and non-use of such toxic metals in our manufacturing processes protects the respiratory health of our workers.



ASK US

If you’re interested in how you can work with us to make our Earth a greener place to call home, let’s have a chat. Contact us today at hello@kian.com!

GLOSSARY

17 SDG - 17 Sustainable Development Goals
An urgent universal call to action in a global partnership to end poverty, improve health and education, reduce inequality, spur economic growth, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity

C2C – Cradle to Cradle
The global standard for products that are safe, circular and responsibly made based on material health, product circularity, clean air and climate protection, water and soil

CARB – California Air Resources Board
The lead agency for climate change programmes which oversees all air pollution control efforts in California to attain and maintain health-based air quality standards

EPD – Environmental Product Declaration
A standardised method of quantifying the environmental impacts of a product or system using the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) framework

EU Ecolabel
A label of environmental excellence that is awarded to products and services which meet high environmental standards throughout their life-cycle: from raw material extraction, to production, distribution and disposal

EU REACH - Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals

FSC - Forest Stewardship Council

Greenguard
Certifies products and materials for low chemical emissions and serves as a public resource for choosing healthier products and materials for indoor environments

GRS - Global Recycled Standard
A voluntary product standard for tracking and verifying the content of recycled materials in a final product

HPD – Health Product Declaration
Contains standardised, accurate and consistent reporting of product contents and associated health information for products used in the built environment

IAQ - Indoor Air Quality
Refers to the quality of air within buildings and its impact on the comfort and health of indoor building occupants as air can contain various airborne pollutants that result from interactions between building materials and furnishings as well as activities within the building

ISO 14000
A set of standards created to help companies around the world reduce their adverse impact on the environment

ISO 14001
Used by an organisation seeking to manage its environmental responsibilities in a systematic manner that contributes to the environmental pillar of sustainability

ISO 50001
A standard that provides a practical way to improve energy use, through the development of an energy management system (EnMS)

LCA – Life Cycle Assessment
A methodology for assessing environmental impacts associated with all the stages of the life cycle of a commercial product, process or service

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
Green building certification system. Provides a framework for green building design, construction, operations and performance

OEKO-TEX® 100
A globally standardised, independent testing and certification system for textile raw materials, intermediate and end products of all processing stages and accessory materials used. Provides a high level of protection of human health and the environment from the use of chemicals. Allows free movement of substances on the EU market

RoHs - Restriction of Hazardous Substances
Regulation which controls the use of 6 hazardous materials used in the manufacturing of electronics and electrical equipment (EEE)

VOC - Volatile Organic Compounds
Organic chemicals that have a high vapour pressure at room temperature

Kian®

Better Design, Better Value, Better World

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