



Green Statement



We both are in organizations obviously concerned about the environment and the legacy we leave our children. No ethical organization wants to contribute to the demise of our planet. You obviously, as a reader of this letter, want to know whether Sitmatic is part of the problem or part of the solution. We make this commitment to you: throughout our organization, from product design, through manufacturing and into aftermarket services, if there is a feasible way to conduct our business in a more ecologically responsible way, we will.

No False Promises

Many manufacturers make claims that may sound ecologically sensitive, but in fact are simply normal business practices. Does our steel have recycled content? Of course, but it is impossible to buy steel today without high recycled content (the steel industry's own number is 66%). How about our aluminum? Certainly, it has a higher recycled content than steel and is very easily recycled, but that is the nature of aluminum. The glue we use is HVOC free and uses citrus-based solvents, but with a factory in California, it would be against the law to use solvent-based adhesives. Is the fibre board in our auditorium tables made from wood byproducts? Certainly, but try to buy fibre board that isn't. Do we now mark all of our plastic parts with their recycle content? Absolutely, but we sell world-wide and we can't sell into the EU without those codes.

Quality

What do we do to help the environment? We build extraordinary durable chairs by using more steel than plastic and these components last a lifetime. Because of this quality we do something most other seating manufacturers can't do - we warrant all our chairs for 24-hour usage with no weight limit. And to make sure that a chair is not discarded for a minor problem, we expressly include labor. So just with a phone call, the chair returns to a servicable life.





Renewal

Because of this quality, our most significant contribution to sustainability started 18 years ago and has become part of our corporate infrastructure. It is our popular "Chair Renewal" program, which allows us to completely remanufacture our seating to like-new condition. Yes, our components last a lifetime, but unfortunately fabrics and foams do not. When the foam flattens and the fabric is in shreds, for a fraction of the cost of a new chair, we keep our client's chair out of the waste stream and return to them a seemingly brand-new product. This we do for a fraction of the cost and a fraction of the materials required to manufacture a new chair.



To the Future

You may now guess that our chairs end up in some incredibly hostile environments: police stations, military bases, around-the-clock call centers. As we design we constantly look to alternative components that are inherently more easily recycled. As these components are ready for the intense usage clients demand of Sitmatic seating, we will incorporate them into our product. Many areas already show good promise. Aluminum, where technically possible, is our newest material of choice. As we select new fabrics, non-backed and recycled PET and polyesters, are our first selections. We do not, and will not, use PVC in our chairs. We always use CFC free foams. We do not, and will not, use rainforest hardwoods in our product. Mahogany and teak are beautiful woods but they need to be homes for birds, not ornamentation in an office.



Everyday Life at Sitmatic

We want to make every Sitmatic employee, from administration through production ecologically sensitive. And it starts everyday with their morning coffee. Styrofoam cups are banned from the factory premises. Instead employees enjoy their morning coffee in a porcelain coffee mug.



We recycle 100% of our corrugated waste, mostly created from inbound raw material packaging. This amounts to over one truckload per day. It would be easier and cheaper just to dispose of it, but that's not right. Our outbound chairs are shipped blanket-wrapped whenever possible, eliminating the cartons altogether. When we do carton, the cartons contain no staples. This means installers can fold the boxes perfectly flat to be easily carted off for recycling. Our cartons consist of 25% recycled material and of course are 100% recyclable.

Our factory has 50% more skylights than is required and the walls are painted white to reduce energy consumption. (Of course this makes good business sense as well)

Our Promise

We commit ourselves that all future designs will use as much recycled and recyclable content as possible and any manufacturing processes we, or our subcontractors employ, will be as environmentally friendly as possible. And if you think we could do a better job, or you have an idea for us, please drop me a note at paul@sitmatic.com. After all, we're in this together.

Paul Makielski

Paul Makielski
President