

Hill's Panel Products (HPP) - Environmental Policy

HPP was formed in 1991 with the sole aim of supplying components to the furniture industry. Since that time the company and product range have expanded significantly to cover a vast spectrum of full and processed sheet material, vinyl wrapped furniture doors and furniture fittings.

HPP has around 250,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing and warehousing space over two sites (Oldham & Sheffield); continual investment ensures production processes use the latest technology to minimise errors and promote maximum efficiency of material usage, thereby reducing waste generation.



HPP is fully committed to ensuring the nature of its business and the potential impact it has on the local environment is mitigated as much as practically possible, and will endeavour to continue to develop & implement energy efficient processes, machinery and best practices as applicable.

HPP also recognises its responsibilities and influence extend beyond the physical Oldham & Sheffield site boundaries.

At the heart of HPP is a fully integrated IT system that ensures all orders are handled/modified as little as possible, minimising errors, improving workflow, preventing waste from incorrect orders and optimising material usage and turnaround times.

Waste Recycling/Reuse/Reduction

HPP works closely with its waste handling contractor to ensure excess material from production processes is correctly sorted for reuse/recycling or for off-site processing. It is HPP's policy to further reduce waste generation and to increase reuse/recycling opportunities where possible and where practical.

HPP is constantly assessing and evaluating methods to reduce packaging waste and to implement sustainable sources of packaging, for example by replacing non-recyclable polystyrene protective corners for pulped cardboard versions.



Less than 1% of HPP's total waste output ends up in landfill; the rest is either recycled or recovered. A dedicated team of employees is responsible for recycling, ensuring all waste streams are collected, separated & stored appropriately ready for collection.



Environmental Certifications/Licences

HPP holds both **FSC** (Forestry Stewardship Council **FSC-C011348**) and **PEFC** (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification **PEFC/12-37-2290**) Chain of Custody status, ensuring its trade with FSC and PEFC-certified suppliers goes towards safeguarding wood-based products and their sources. HPP is committed to the standards and guidelines set down by the both the FSC and PEFC and actively participates in FSC AND PEFC audits across both its sites in Oldham and Sheffield.

HPP's dedicated waste contractor is registered and licensed (Broker/Dealer - Upper Tier) by the Environment Agency and is bound by the regulations set down by the Agency for the handling and control of waste in a safe and responsible manner.

Energy Use

Energy use across the business is carefully monitored and controlled. For example some lighting within warehouse spaces is controlled by motion-detector timers. In areas where there is automated machinery (e.g. the board storage facility) lighting levels are reduced, except for maintenance and emergency use.

Across the business all employees are actively encouraged to switch off lights and computers/non-essential electrical items when leaving their working areas.

HPP has also implemented extensive use of solar panels on several of its warehouse and offices, where it has been deemed practicable and structurally safe to do so.

HPP has recently (Aug 2022) replaced existing biomass boilers at the Oldham site with new units, allowing greater capacity of waste wood material to be used, improved efficiency and fewer atmospheric emissions. Heat generated from the boilers is used in manufacturing processes as well as heating production areas, removing the need to use gas or electricity sources.



Social Responsibility

HPP is mindful of its close proximity to residential areas, and actively works with local Environmental Health officers to determine on-going improvements, site developments and day-to-day running of sites have minimal impact on local residents and other businesses in the vicinity. Day-to-day noise generated by the business is kept to an ambient minimum during normal working hours. Outside of normal working hours noise impact is reduced where possible by turning off waste board shredding machinery, and vehicle reversing alarms are replaced with a high-intensity LED light to indicate reversing vehicles.

Logistics/On-site vehicles

HPP's fleet of vehicles (LGVs and smaller vans) for logistics purposes and material handling are managed by effective route planning, a vehicle renewal policy and fuel usage monitoring. HPP actively seeks to further reduce the environmental impact of these vehicles. At the end of their operating lifecycle existing vehicles - where possible - are replaced with updated, fuel-efficient and operationally optimised versions.



For example, more efficient and capable gas-powered forklift trucks have been brought in to replace the older fleet of diesel vehicles. HPP is currently in the process of transitioning its company car fleet to electric vehicles, as lease and EV availability dictates, with a longer-term project of having EV charging points on site.

Working alongside the route planning operation is HPP's real-time delivery tracking system, which assists in the reduction of physical paperwork and supports HPP's trade customers work more efficiently by allowing them to be on site as a certain time to take receipt of a delivery.

Company Ethos & Staff Training

Regular training and team briefings ensure employees of all grades are kept informed of any developments within the business. Efficient and environmentally-sound practices are ingrained within the ethos of the business. It is expected that all staff and contractors do their utmost to ensure HPP maintains and develops its environmental obligations and responsibilities.

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