Inteplast Group addresses the people, planet, and financial stability of today, while protecting the needs of the future. We prioritize global sustainability throughout all aspects of business operations.
By minimizing our impact on the environment, meeting economic requirements, and maintaining exceptional social responsibility, Inteplast Group holds itself accountable for the necessary integration and improvement of sustainability in all aspects of the company.

**Sustainability Defined**

Inteplast Group defines sustainability as addressing the people, plant, and financial stability of today, while protecting the needs of the future and is also informed by the standards of research applicable to sustainable practices (National Research Council). These components within our company’s application and definition of sustainability require significant attention in economic, environmental, and social areas as they pertain to plastics manufacturing.

Economically, we adhere to fiscally sound practices, including the closing of our financial reports on the first day of each month, so that the fiscal strength of our company remains verifiable and accessible to all staff and stakeholders.

We are committed to protecting the environment and to enhancing our ecological awareness through continuous product development, natural resource conservation, and materials management.

Socially, Inteplast Group provides employees with very competitive compensation packages. The company also participates significantly in the communities that surround the more than 50 locations in North America.

**Why Should We Pursue Sustainability?**

It is clearly established within the organization that the employee is the most important asset (Young “Safety”). Sustainability supports the well-being of our workforce and their families, which in turn stabilizes and contributes to thriving communities and institutions. Operating within these parameters results in the company’s success in the many markets that it serves.
Corporate Overview

Established in 1991, Inteplast Group is the largest manufacturer of integrated plastics in North America offering a wide range of quality products designed with a commitment to excellence and integrity. Our offerings to markets span diverse product lines that include stretch films, BOPP films, plastic bags, PVC sheets and many other plastic products. At Inteplast, every customer benefits from our high standards in quality, and our consideration of people and our accessible resources.

Inteplast’s state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities across North America are supported with the most innovative technology available. Our superior engineering capabilities include advanced automation, computerization and robotics. We provide customers with high quality products at the optimal value.

Through numerous, cross-market product lines, we are a single source for suppliers, institutions, and leading companies focused on delivering the best to their patrons. We work to develop new products and offer more flexible shipping options to accommodate customers. Our dedication to producing quality goods and ensuring customer satisfaction is evidenced in trade publication sales rankings and would not be possible without our commitment to our workforce, surrounding communities, and the environments in which we all live.
Environmental

Inteplast Group maintains an air quality registration at each of its manufacturing locations. With the nature of the specific plastics manufacturing processes, nearly all facilities operate within exemption statuses. The operations’ facilities also typically maintain a zero visible emission strategy.

The Group’s Environmental Policy speaks clearly about the environment and sustainability – our products are to be designed to “…provide an alternative to the use of precious natural resources” (Young “Environment”).

Our extensive product lines are designed and made with minimal resource consumption which aligns with lean manufacturing practices. Water is managed in closed loop systems, which reduces waste, and process parameters are optimized for efficient electricity and gas usage.

Each site also maintains storm water and waste water controls according to local environmental agencies. As a member of Operation Clean Sweep for more than five years, Inteplast Group focuses on the control of the resin pellet and aims for zero pellet loss on a daily basis (Baron).
Materials Management

Inteplast Group facilities have plastic reclaim/reprocessing centers in each facility, which allow operations to capture and recycle edge trim, start-up film, off-grade material and other non-prime grade material. This process immediately reintroduces recovered plastic into the extrusion process, resulting in 100 percent materials utilization.

At every location, Inteplast Group’s goal is the same: minimize waste destined for the landfill. These efforts yield significant benefits for the environment and particular natural resources. In 2019, Inteplast Group’s recycling strategy diverted more than 2,200 tons from landfills. The impact to the environment is measured as follows:

- More than 25,000 trees saved
- Over 9,000 barrels of oil made available for other purposes
- Preserved more than 10,000,000 gallons of water
- Nearly 9,000,000 kW-hrs of energy saved
- 18,000 cubic yards of landfill space avoided

Our manufacturing facilities use the 4Rs system -- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repurpose -- as part of their sustainable efforts. Appropriate 4R streams have been established for many items such as plastics, corrugated and paper cores, fluorescent bulbs, electronics, waste oil, metal, tires, paper, and reclaimed road-based material.

Product design and formulation is perhaps the area that best represents the company’s sustainable approach. The Group’s Vision Statement speaks to the responsibility of producing a product that meets customer’s needs, as well as addressing social responsibility and sustainable development (Young “Vision”). Products are down gauged, yet are resilient. Nearly 100 percent of our products are recyclable. Based on the design of a product and our customers’ specifications, recycled resin content in our plastic goods ranges from zero to 100 percent. Inteplast manufactures items that are efficient alternatives for comparable wood-derived counterparts, which are usually not waterproof or mold and mildew-resistant, and require more frequent replacement.
Health & Safety

The key component of Inteplast Group’s health and safety program is the Target Zero program – a clear and concise goal of eliminating harm or danger from the work space, which in turn leads to the elimination of injuries.

For 2019, Inteplast Group, which staffs more than 7,000 employees, reported a 12 percent reduction in OSHA DART cases (where an injury creates days away from work, restrictions, or a transfer to a different function). Inteplast Group, using OSHA’s safety standards and definitions for injuries, reports a recordable incidence rate of 2.0 for 2019. The average recordable incidence rate across related industries is 3.6. The collective mindset of zero injuries continues to flourish and is the goal for 2020.
**Program Goals**

**Waste**
- Analyze and measure waste being sent to landfill
- Establish waste streams for items that can be recycled, reused, or repurposed
- Annually target at least 10% in reduction in landfill-bound waste
- Waste-to-landfill vs. recycled/reused/repurposed ratio is calculated monthly with a target of 40% (or less) in waste-to-landfill ratio per year

**Natural Resource Management**
- Electricity, water, and gas, along with other resources will be optimally used.
- A 0.1 to 3% annual reduction in natural resource consumption per pound
- All utilization of natural resources is analyzed, measured, and included in all management reports

**Air and Water**
- Each facility will comply with all regulatory agency policies and comply with or renew any permits
- Each facility will actively pursue continued reductions in both air and water emissions.
- Processes will be designed to incorporate closed-loop water systems allowing repeated use prior to disposal.

**Community and Social Sustainability**
- Inteplast Group’s approach to employees and community is personal. A genuine concern for the well-being of individuals and our environment drives a social platform that honors the value of people. Even within the plastics industry, we share best practices for other businesses that may be in harm’s way (Kavanaugh; “Safety”; “Storm”).
- All levels of staff engage with surrounding communities through participation in support programs such as United Way, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Senior Citizens Centers, Boys and Girls Scouts, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Club, Lion’s Club, veterans’ organizations, and more.
- Inteplast Group locations host community members and organizations at the manufacturing facility to promote meaningful partnerships via Manufacturing Day events, school visits and tours, civic and government agency visits, etc. (Gallion; “It’s A Recycling Extravaganza in Inteplast’s Coloring Book”; “Inteplast Manufacturing Day Is a Hit”).
- Inteplast Group abides by all internationally accepted practices, guidelines, and law that address human rights, fair employment practices, promotion of environmental responsibility, and accepted business ethics that protect against corruption.
- Working with government and industry organizations, Inteplast Group has pursued environmental excellence awards that require the applying facility to scrutinize all aspects of its operation. The most recent award was granted by the International Association of Plastics Distributors for environmental excellence, the second of its kind from the organization.
Supply Chain Partners
Collectively Making a Difference

Impacting the future positively will require unified efforts from all entities within the supply chain. Inteplast Group collaborates with suppliers and customers on projects that benefit the environment (Wells). In-house technical department team members strategize with the sales team and customers so that optimum product specifications are created. The result is typically a customer-approved product that is manufactured efficiently and utilizes the minimum amount of plastic. The feedstock supplier plays a major role in this process, optimizing the resin characteristics, which yields thinner gauged material. That is the kind of partnership that does not sacrifice sustainability.

Sustainability is a broad term designed to capture the human endeavor of preservation. For generations to come, we expect cleaner beaches, water, air, roads – yes, a cleaner world where we all are good stewards of what has been given to us. Sustainability dictates the requirements of today that will define the conditions of tomorrow.

Inteplast Group looks forward to the many initiatives planned for 2020 that will create quantifiable and valuable impact to the environment.
“People, community, and the environment – taking care of the present and future so that we all can enjoy what has been provided to us.”

- Inteplast Group
Other Resources

www.opcleansweep.org/ - Learn about proper resin pellet, flake, and powder management.

www.earthday.org/take-action/footprint-calculator - Discover your personal impact on the planet.


References


