



Think Sustainability  
Think Pregis™

## *Pregis Sustainability*

### *Frequently Asked Questions*



#### **1. What is "sustainability"?**

Sustainability encompasses practices that help to sustain and support the natural elements of the world by limiting the amount of material placed in the waste stream (all waste generated from residences and businesses). Examples of sustainable practices in packaging include recycling, energy conservation, and source reduction.

#### **2. What are the relevant sustainable packaging terms and what do they mean?**

Pregis has created a glossary of sustainable packaging terms commonly used in practice today. Please visit [www.pregis.com](http://www.pregis.com) to download a copy, or contact your local Pregis representative.

#### **3. How is the environment negatively impacted by the waste stream as it exists today?**

Increasing industrial emissions have raised carbon dioxide levels and other green house gas emissions which are impacting the atmosphere and sea levels to an alarming extent. This affects the stability of the polar ice caps, as well as the evolution of a wide variety of species on this planet.

In addition, society as a whole is consuming at unsustainable levels, and it is estimated that many people in the world will find it harder to meet all their clean water needs.

#### **4. What drivers contribute to the heightened profile of sustainable packaging?**

Many countries around the world have already adopted legislation pertaining to packaging material and these forces are moving towards the U.S. In addition, higher petroleum costs, limited supply, and companies such as Wal-Mart have also played a dominant role in the push for more sustainable packaging options.

#### **5. Do Pregis products have recycled content?**

Astro-Bubble® Green air cushioning contains up to 40% recycled content, with a minimum of up to 20% post consumer resin and up to 20% post industrial resin.

- **"Post Consumer"** refers to products used by the consumer and then separated from the waste stream for the purpose of recycling.
- **"Post Industrial"** material includes trim or scrap generated during manufacturing or converting processes, prior to use by an end consumer.

Using post consumer material provides the added benefit of creating markets for recycling by consumers. Our line of recycled-content products will expand over time to meet the increase in demand for more sustainable packaging products.



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Pregis routinely recycles materials generated from product manufacturing to avoid direct disposal into landfills. These materials are reformulated back into the production of our quality products. Examples include our Polyplank® Engineered plank foam, which uses up to 99% recycled content.

#### **6. How recyclable are Pregis products?**

Pregis manufactures a wide variety of protective packaging products. Specific plastics such as Polyethylene and Polypropylene are inherently 100% recyclable. In addition, paper solutions are not only 100% recyclable but also 100% biodegradable. Pregis recyclable products include:

- Microguard® and Microfoam™ PP sheet foam.
- Astro-Foam™ PE sheet foam.
- Astro-Bubble™ and Astro-Cell® PE air cushioning.
- EP-Flex™ LDPE Roll-stock film
- GeoSpeed™ 100 Kraft paper packaging system
- Hefty Express™ mailers

In addition to the above, Pregis does not use any thermo set resins, which have the ability to impede plastics recycling.

Packaging manufactured by combining different materials such as paper, non-woven, adhesives, or cohesive with plastic will add complexity to the recycling process. Recyclers should be contacted for their individual specifications.

#### **7. How do your recycled bubble and or foam degrade in a landfill and how long does it take to totally disintegrate?**

While paper and certain plastics may degrade with prolonged exposure to ultraviolet light, most packaging materials are eventually sent to a landfill or incineration facility. Research shows that in modern landfills, paper does not degrade or break down any faster than plastics. Due to the lack of air, water and sunlight, and other important elements necessary for the degradation process to occur, nothing completely degrades inside a landfill.

Since Pregis products are typically discarded in municipal channels, they are optimized for end-of-life disposal whether through burning cleanly in an incinerator, recycled, or through carbon sequestering in a sanitary landfill.

#### **8. Where can I recycle Pregis products?**

Pregis has created a comprehensive list of recycling companies called the “Pregis Recycling Connection Guide” to help customers locate recycling facilities in their area. This allows the best opportunity for businesses involved in the recycling industry to evaluate the materials available and set up a comprehensive collection



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program. Please visit our website, [www.pregis.com](http://www.pregis.com) to download the "Pregis Recycling Connection Guide" or contact your local Pregis representative.

Many recyclers are equipped to process multiple materials such as paper, glass, metals and plastics. Before making a decision to collect a recyclable material or invest in processing equipment, companies should first determine what specifications the recycler requires.

#### **9. Is there any difference in recycling Mono or Coex bubble?**

Recycling of any air cushioning bubble is generally dependent on segregating the material into bags, or bales, making sure to remove any tape, paper or other contaminants.

Mono bubble is manufactured using only Polyethylene resin. Coex bubble contains a co-extruded nylon material, which provides additional strength in packaging applications and may contribute to the ability to reuse the packaging, but might not be accepted for recycling in all areas. Recyclers should be contacted for their individual specifications.

#### **10. How does your paper offering compare to your plastic offerings?**

Pregis offers packaging made from both paper and plastic, providing the best products in terms of performance for our customers packaging and sustainability needs. Utilizing the correct type, size and volume of material should be key factors in deciding what packaging products to use. Pregis' product line includes Hefty Express® Air Kraft mailers, AirSpeed™ inflatable packaging, GeoSpeed™ paper, Astro-Cell® air cushioning, Microfoam® and Microguard™ polypropylene foam, Astro-Foam® polyethylene foam, and PolyPlank® engineered foam.

#### **11. What is Pregis' Carbon Footprint?**

Carbon Footprint, calculated in tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, gives a measure of how much we are contributing to global warming, and enables us to set goals for reducing our emissions and tracking our success. Pregis is currently exploring ways that we can offset the carbon footprint of our products.

#### **12. What are some best practices that Pregis recommends at the office and at home to help conserve energy?**

- Try to use Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) in desk lamps vs. incandescent lights.
- Switch off all unnecessary lights; turn off fluorescent lights when leaving an area for more than five minutes.
- Use natural lighting when possible.
- Use task lighting and turn off general lighting where it is feasible to maintain sufficient lighting levels for safety and productivity.



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- Turn off display and decorative lighting.
- Unplug equipment that drains energy even when not in use.
- Turn off office equipment, especially printers, copiers, and monitors at the end of the workday.
- Close or tilt window blinds to block direct sunlight to reduce cooling needs during warm months.
- Photocopy only what you need. Save large copy jobs for non-peak office hours such as early in the morning or late in the day.
- Always use the second side of paper, either by printing on both sides or using the blank side as scrap paper.
- Use durable coffee mugs instead of disposable cups.
- Start an office recycling program for a number of every day items including:
  - Office paper
  - Newspaper
  - Magazines
  - Phone books
  - Plastic bottles soda cans
  - Glass bottles
  - Cardboard
  - Batteries
  - Computers
  - Monitors
  - Cell phones
  - Ink cartridges.
- Carpool, bike, or use mass transit when commuting to work.
- To save gas: drive the speed limit, accelerate and decelerate slower, and be sure tires are properly inflated.
- Maintain your car or truck for fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and regularly check and replace your vehicle's air filter for better performance.
- Check your vehicles tire pressure regularly. Under-inflation increases tire wear, reduces your fuel economy, and leads to higher greenhouse gas emissions.
- When filling up, don't top off the tank; topping off can release gas fumes into the air canceling out the benefits of the pump's anti-pollution devices. Stopping short of a full tank keeps gas from spilling on the ground and reduces pollution.



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- Refueling your vehicle during cooler parts of the day or evening can help in preventing gas fumes from heating up and creating ozone.
- Do not idle your car In winter months for more than 30 seconds; additional time wastes fuel and increases emissions.
- Moving the thermostat down 2 degrees in the winter and up 2 degrees in the summer saves 2,000 pounds of CO2.
- At home, wash clothes in cold or warm water verses HOT to save an estimated 500 pounds of CO2 per year. After washing dishes in hot water, rinse in cold water, and don't run the dishwasher until it is full.
- Save energy, increase efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by cleaning air filters on your home heating and cooling equipment. When replacing older equipment, research high efficiency models.
- Landscaping your yard with energy efficiency in mind can help reduce energy bills. For example, strategically planted trees can shade a home reducing cooling costs in warmer months. Over an average lifetime of 40 years, one tree absorbs about 665 pounds of carbon dioxide. Trees have other benefits too, like reducing storm water runoff and providing wildlife habitats.
- Check to see if the power management feature is activated on your computer. Be sure to turn off your computer and monitor at night for energy-savings.

<sup>1</sup> Material Source, BeGreenNow.com. Reprinted with permission.

#### 13. How are recyclable plastic materials classified?

Plastic materials all fall into one of seven categories. In 1988, the Resin Identification Code was established to help identify the various types of plastics.



- **#1 PETE or PET (polyethylene terephthalate):** Commonly used for beverage bottles and frozen food trays. Recycling opportunities for PET beverage containers are widespread.
- **#2 HDPE (high-density polyethylene):** Commonly used for food containers such as milk and juice jugs, liquid detergent bottles, trash bags and cereal box liners.



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- **#3 VINYL (vinyl):** Used in clear food packaging, shampoo bottles and medical tubing. Also used extensively in building and construction.
- **#4 LDPE (low-density polyethylene):** Used in food packaging such as bread, frozen food bags and shrink wrap. Also used for dry cleaning bags, trash bags, wires and cable.
- **#5 PP (polypropylene):** Used to make ketchup and medicine bottles, some dairy containers and molded automobile parts.
- **#6 PS (polystyrene):** PS foam is used as packing material and to make disposable food and drink containers. Solid polystyrene is used to make hard plastic items, such as glasses, containers and disposable cutlery.
- **#7 (other):** Other plastics and difficult-to-recycle composites of multiple types of plastic and other material.

#### **14. What is Pregis' philosophy on sustainability?**

At Pregis, our Sustainability Taskforce adopted a definition originated in the Brundtland Report by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987: "Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

At Pregis, we believe respect for the environment is both a good business practice and the right thing to do when considering the three P's – people, prosperity and planet. Our philosophy is to focus on what we know, but strive to minimize the environmental impact of our products. Implementing sustainability driven initiatives is part of the value commitment we provide to our employees and customers.

#### **15. What are some guidelines associated with 'Green' advertising claims?**

- Environmental claims must be supported by specific information. For instance, if a package has a recycling claim, it must be apparent how much is recycled and whether the product, packaging or both are recycled.
- Products claimed to have recycled content in must have within them components that have been recovered or separated from the waste stream that are then melted down, grouped up into raw materials and then used to make new products.
- Claims that state a product's packaging has been reduced by x% should specify exactly what has been reduced, by how much and compared to what.

#### **16. Does Pregis have any 3<sup>rd</sup> party environmental eco-seals, seals-of-approval and/or certifications?**

At this time, Pregis does not have any 3<sup>rd</sup> party environmental certifications. However, we are currently in the process of reviewing options and their value to our customers.