

## **The Environment**

Fiberweb remains committed to developing and promoting products and processes that reduce waste and negative environmental impacts. This includes both the efficient use of materials and energy in design and product development, and an awareness of the effect on the environment of manufacturing processes.

Fiberweb encourages each of its facilities to develop its own environmental programmes and to work toward reducing our environmental footprint. For a number of years, we have focused on identifying and improving performance in key areas of environmental impact, which include waste reduction, energy consumption, water consumption, the use of recycled and biodegradable materials, and packaging.

Although businesses are encouraged to report all environmental impacts, key performance information is collected twice a year through the Environmental Index, an electronic data collection system, and reported annually.

## **Sustainability and the Supply Chain**

Fiberweb continues to work actively with suppliers and customers to design and develop products that promote sustainable development principles and that do not adversely impact the health, safety, and environment of our broader communities. This is achieved through centralised procurement or, where this is impractical, local sourcing. Additionally, Fiberweb is actively marketing and developing a number of products utilizing renewable and recycled materials. For example, EcoFabrics is a line of nonwovens bi-component fabric combining the environmentally conscious and renewable Ingeo™, which is made from natural renewable fibres, with a coating of polypropylene to enhance performance. EcoFabrics can be used to create sustainable performance products while contributing to the eco-friendly global movement at the same time. In addition, Fiberweb offers traditional carded fabrics that are made from blends of 100 percent renewable fibres, including Ingeo™ fibres, rayon, and cotton. The fibres are compostable in standard composting facilities. In addition, the nonwoven material manufactured from these fibres reduces fossil fuel consumption and generates less carbon dioxide (greenhouse gases) than the alternatives.

During 2007, Fiberweb made a substantial investment in a new polyester recycling plant at Old Hickory. The plant has the capacity to recycle approximately 14 million pounds of polyester per year, thereby saving roughly 21 percent of the plant's overall polyester requirement. Old Hickory continues to see improvement, with the amount of waste being sent to a landfill decreasing from 675 U.S. tonnes in the second half of 2007 to 200 U.S. tonnes in the first half of 2008. The reduction brought about by this major recycling initiative will have a significant impact in terms of energy, environment, cost, and sustainability.