



**SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT 2022**

GEOFABRICS®
Sustainable solutions





**THE EARTH IS CORE
TO OUR BUSINESS**





20
MILLION
plastic bottles
recycled and
material reused

Our decisions & initiatives are guided by these UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The earth is core to our business.

We work to protect, contain and secure the physical environment using smart geotextile and geosynthetic products. We help our clients mitigate environmental risk through world leading research and innovative product development.

Recycled material

Providing a use and a market for recycled material is integral to developing a circular economy. By incorporating recycled material into products such as bidim® Green, Tracktex® Green, Sealmac® Green, LamGrid Green and Megaflo® Green, Geofabrics is helping to reduce waste to landfill.

Through technology and our enterprise software IFS, we are navigating the complexities of our supply chain, transparently tracking the number of recycled bottles used and calculating our progress to report. Over the past 18 months, we have utilised the recycled material from almost 20 million bottles.

Geofabrics is a proud member of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC). We are providing more sustainable products for infrastructure businesses to incorporate into their projects, reducing their own impact on the environment.

Reducing energy intensive material use

When used in infrastructure projects, geotextiles have the additional benefit of reducing energy use and carbon emissions as they are lighter and less energy intensive to produce than traditional construction materials such as steel, cement, lime or aggregate. The use of geotextiles can also reduce the need to transport and use high quantities of quarried materials and aggregates while achieving the same result.

Containing contaminants

Contaminated sites and landfills which may contain PFAS & other contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) can be contained and sealed using a hybrid clay liner such as Sorbseal®. This protects the surrounding environment and waterways from dangerous contaminants that don't break down.

Erosion & revegetation

Geotextiles can be used to prevent erosion to coastal shorelines caused by extreme weather events such as heatwaves, cyclones and floods. The increase in intensity and frequency of these events is being influenced by climate change.

We have been working with coastal communities and developing countries in coastal protection for many years. In 2018, Geofabrics won the AusTrade Australian Export Award for Environmental Solutions. Recognised for the positive environmental impact our Australian made Elcorock coastal protection system had in projects in Tuvalu and New Zealand.

Geosynthetics are also used to promote revegetation and surface protection against wind and water in the rehabilitation of mining sites.

Energy saving

While we are utilising recycled material in manufacturing, we are also implementing changes to reduce our own impact. We have installed solar systems and LED lights across the business, improved the energy efficiency of production and reduced waste.

Product Packaging

Our Sustainable Packaging Policy ensures excessive packaging is avoided or reduced to optimise material efficiency. We have a goal to achieve 100 per cent recycled packaging and 50 percent recyclable packaging for Australian manufactured products. We are a signatory of the Australian Packaging Covenant and report to APCO annually.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

We are guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals and are making changes where we can have the most impact.

1978



GEOFABRICS LAUNCHED

1987



BIDIM LAUNCHED



AWARDED AUSTRALIAN EXPORT AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS FOR ELCOROCK

2018



2020

RECYCLED MATERIAL INTRODUCED TO BIDIM GREEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VISY



RECOGNISED IN AFR'S MOST INNOVATIVE COMPANY LIST FOR MANUFACTURING AND CONSUMER GOODS FOR BIDIM GREEN



AWARDED AFR'S #1 MOST INNOVATIVE COMPANY FOR MANUFACTURING AND CONSUMER GOODS FOR SORBSEAL

HIGHLY COMMENDED IN IFS CHANGE FOR GOOD AWARDS FOR BIDIM GREEN

PLASCORP

GEOFABRICS ACQUIRED PLASCORP



GEOFABRICS ACADEMY LAUNCHED



AUSTRALIAN MADE FOR BIDIM GREEN

2021



2022

20 MILLION RECYCLED BOTTLES USED IN MANUFACTURING MILESTONE REACHED

Member 2022

Social Traders

BUYER FOR GOOD

GEOFABRICS JOINED SOCIAL TRADERS

Local manufacturing

Geofabrics are the only geosynthetic manufacturer in Australia. We employ more than 100 local manufacturing staff, have over 1,000 active regional suppliers and return more than \$10 million per annum into the regional communities in which we operate.

Apart from providing a more reliable supply chain, shorter lead times and more flexibility, local manufacturing allows us to have more control over decisions that affect the environment. Local content, sustainability and creating local jobs are key pillars driving the Geofabrics business.

Geofabrics recently acquired Australian manufacturer Plascorp, which also has its own manufacturing sites. In total, Geofabrics now has five manufacturing plants and 350+ staff spread across three countries.

Three key products, Megaflo Green Panel Drains, Elcorock® Geotextile Containers and Filterwrap® Non-Woven Geotextiles now carry the recognised Australian Made logo to inform customers they are locally produced, supporting local jobs.

We endeavour to work with organisations and suppliers that operate in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. We assess their supply chains and operations in line with our Social Procurement Framework and Modern Slavery Policy. Geofabrics is committed to diversity and support of minority groups throughout the supply chain.

We are compliant with the Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018 and ensure our key suppliers also comply. Preventing and addressing modern slavery throughout the world is central to our unwavering commitment to running a safe, socially responsible and environmentally friendly business. We are committed to meeting and exceeding our obligations and ensuring our strong corporate and social responsibility.

We have been the recipient of various State and Federal Government grants and funding to increase manufacturing of innovative and sustainable products such as bidim Green, SorbSeal and Megaflo Green.

We are committed to continuous improvement in our manufacturing and sustainability

- Year on year per unit reduction in energy use at our Albury site
- Implemented smart lighting system at Albury site reducing electricity use by approximately 400MWh every year
- Capital expenditure program to reduce electricity usage at our manufacturing plants through energy efficient compressors
- Goal of implementing solar panels at manufacturing sites to further reduce use of electricity from the grid
- Increase year-on-year of recycled material used in manufacturing and packaging
 - Use of Australian sourced PET & HDPE recycled plastic materials
 - More than 2 million plastic bottles, on average, are saved from landfill every month
 - Megaflo Green is made in NSW, from 100% recycled locally sourced, plastic material
- Promote and endorse the use of recycled packaging for our Australian manufactured products
- Reduction year-on-year in waste produced by manufacturing
- Reduced transportation impact with increase in locally produced product



10,000 tonnes = 9.2 jobs

Every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled into bidim Green creates 9.2 Australian jobs

Proud member of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC)



bidim Green, Sealmac Green and Megaflo Green are now available on the ISupply directory



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At Geofabrics, we see our responsibility beyond the projects we work on today, but also, to create a better world for today’s community and the generations which follow. I am passionate to encourage my colleagues, our suppliers and our customers to embrace a business model that respects the world we live in, its people today and the communities of the future.

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Dennis Grech, CEO & Managing Director

Geofabrics is the only geotextile manufacturer in Australia, with plants in Albury and Ormeau. We pride ourselves on providing unrivalled service to our customers. We can recommend the best geosynthetic product to achieve the objectives of your project and ensure it’s available when you need it.

Over 40 years of experience allows our technical staff to provide practical support, based on local conditions. We are proud to have been recognised in the Australian Financial Review (AFR) Most Innovative Company list in 2020 with bidim Green.

In 2021, Geofabrics ranked #1 in AFR’s Most Innovative Company for Manufacturing and Consumer Goods for Sorbseal.

With a view to the future, we are committed to improving the sustainability of our business by reducing waste to landfill, lowering our carbon emissions and investing in our people.



VISIT **GEOFABRICS.CO** OR CALL 1300 60 60 20 (AU)
OR **GEOFABRICS.CO.NZ** OR CALL 0800 60 60 20 (NZ)

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