PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP POLICY

IBP P-18

What is product stewardship and why it is important?

"Product stewardship is an approach to waste management that allows organisations to take greater responsibility for reducing the environmental and human health impacts of their products. Product stewardship is a crucial element in meeting Australia's recycling and waste management challenges.

Each step in the life cycle of a product, from design to post-consumer management, can result in waste and sometimes human health impacts. By adopting product stewardship approaches, organisations have more control over the environmental and health impacts of manufactured goods and materials across their whole life cycle, from design and manufacture to use and disposal".

Island Block & Paving's commitment to product stewardship

Island Block & Paving Holdings Pty Ltd (ABN 99 100 841 932) is committed to producing sustainable masonry products within the circular economy stream (see Figure 1). Products at the end of their long service life are managed so they are recycled in a meaningful way, with a focus on preventing and managing product waste. Reducing waste and creating a circular economy — an economy that emphasises reuse, repair and recycling to minimise environmental and health impacts — has been a focus of the business for 30+ years and will continue.

To ensure compliance, Island Block & Paving is committed to maintaining Global GreenTag certification Level A, Platinum HealthRate certification and CarbonRate carbon-neutral / carbon-zero certification across the "Sustainable Products for the Future" range, and to operating under ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 45001.

Island Block & Paving produces a range of building products known as the "Sustainable Products for the Future" range. These products include bricks, retaining wall blocks, building blocks and pavers. All these products include 37.6% recycled container glass aggregates collected from kerbside recycling, as a replacement for natural aggregates. This recycling conserves natural resources, reduces cement consumption (therefore CO2 emissions) and energy footprints.

Benefits from incorporating post-consumer recycled materials:

- Reduced landfill.
- Reducing the resources and energy required to source new materials.
- Conserving natural aggregates.
- Reducing total Portland cement usage therefore reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Island Block & Paving's Environmental Policy is P-03 (current issue).

Island Block & Paving's circular economy (cradle to grave)

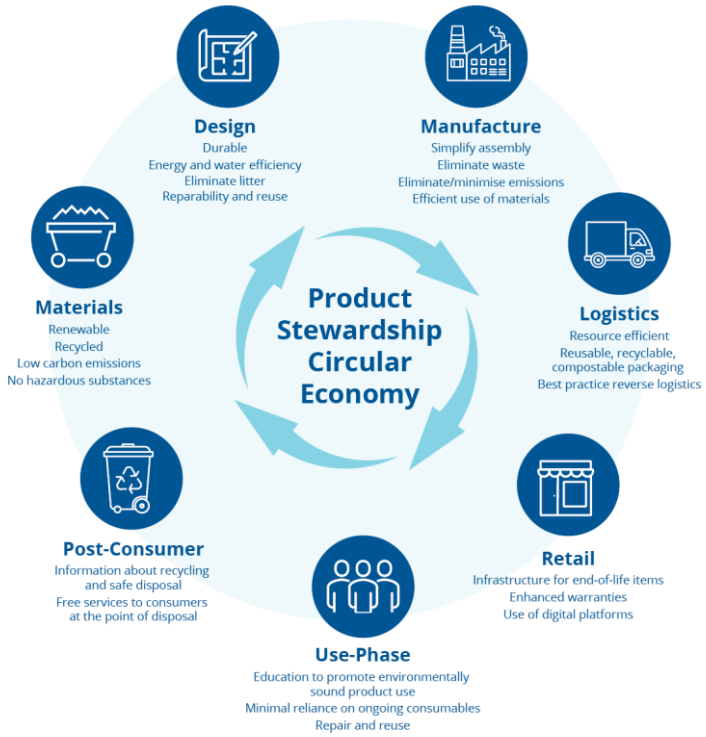

Figure 1 — Product stewardship circular economy.

Design

- Design, research and development has a focus on using recycled aggregates such as recycled glass.
- Use of hazardous materials is controlled per ISO 9001:2015 and the current SDS index (REG-SDS).
- Products are designed to be as light as possible to minimise materials, emissions, wastage and product weight for customer handling.
- All products have a 15 MPa minimum strength allowing them to be reused at the end of their life cycle.

Materials

- Recycled materials in manufacture include 37.6% recycled glass aggregates and 20% of the cement content is replaced with milled slag. Refer to the current Global GreenTag certificate on file (do not rely only on a 2021–22 public PDF).
- 37.6% conservation of natural resources achieved by using recycled glass.
- 37.6% reduction of container glass going into landfill.
- Use of hazardous materials is always controlled per ISO 9001:2015 and the GreenTag Platinum HealthRate declaration for the Sustainable Products for the Future range. Keep the current HealthRate file on record.
- Minimising cement usage is achieved by using cement replacements such as milled slag.

Manufacture

- 100% of material waste generated in manufacture is stockpiled on site and recycled per ongoing arrangement with quarrying company Hazell Bros Pty Ltd and crushed into aggregates for reuse.
- Minimise packaging waste in manufacture; no product packaging is used.
- A reduction of energy consumption is achieved by using natural curing methods in kilns.
- 100% captured water is used in manufacturing.

Logistics

- Manufacturing transport within Island Block & Paving — factory to on-site yard storage — is controlled with efficient yard design to minimise distances from manufacturing plant to kilns to pallet storage locations prior to sale.
- Customer collection points / loading areas are central to the yard layout, so transport distance is minimised.
- Transportation via trucks to customer delivery addresses is streamlined by going direct to site and using the largest trucks available to reduce handling.

- Repurposed wooden pallets are used in manufacturing; all pallets are returnable to Island Block & Paving for recycling within the production system.
- Interstate transport costs are minimised by using smaller lightweight purpose-made 24 tonne capacity trailers that reduce shipping costs and emissions.

Retail

- To minimise site cutting and site handling Island Block & Paving provide as light a product as practicable and many different sized masonry products including full size, ¾ size, ½ size and ¼ size units. Unit sizes support handling and waste reduction. Product is manufactured to the applicable requirements of AS 3700 and AS/NZS 4455.
- Corflute packaging is recyclable at Island Block & Paving sales outlets via purpose-made recycle bins.
- Island Block & Paving manufactured products have a 30-year durability / serviceability warranty as set out in P-06 Product Warranty Policy (current issue). Do not use the 2019 website PDF of P-06.
- Island Block & Paving where possible focus on paperless marketing. Website, QR codes, instructional DIY videos and all brochures and technical support are online at https://www.islandblock.com.au/
- All masonry products (bricks, blocks, pavers) are a minimum of 15 MPa in strength, with a typical service life of 50–100 years, and have many options available for re-use at the end of their life cycle. Typical uses are crushed aggregates for road base, construction fill, drainage material, decorative garden rocks. Major councils Australia-wide accept used masonry products for recycling at waste transfer stations.

Use phase

- Promotion to customers and the public on the benefits of buying products with recycled content.
- Island Block & Paving products are manufactured to meet Australian standards for breaking load (strength), abrasion resistance (wear) and slip resistance as published in current technical data. No ongoing product maintenance is required aside from water cleaning periodically.
- Island Block & Paving, via experienced technical representatives, provide a technical support service to customers. Services include design advice, plan take-offs and project set-out advice to ensure minimal wastage and the correct Island Block & Paving product is selected.
- Commitment to a circular economy and promoting positive recyclability at the end of a product's life cycle.

Post-consumer

- Educate customers on the positive recyclability of masonry products at the end of a product's life cycle.
- Educate customers on typical uses at the end of the life cycle, namely crushed aggregates for road base, construction fill, drainage material, decorative garden rocks.
- Major councils Australia-wide accept concrete masonry products for recycling, as well as recycling companies such as Hazell Bros and the Alex Fraser Group.
- Due to the product strength and lifespan of masonry bricks, blocks and pavers, there is a market for used products, including on-selling via Facebook Marketplace and Gumtree.

Figure 2 — Brick / block / paver waste stockpiled for crushing and reuse.

Figure 3 — Corflute recycling bin at an Island Block & Paving sales outlet.

Related documents

IMS-001; P-01 Quality Policy; P-03 Environmental Policy; P-06 Product Warranty Policy Version 6; P-11 Business Values Policy Version 6; P-17 Conditions of Sale; current Global GreenTag, HealthRate and carbon-zero certificates.

Review

Reviewed at least annually at management review, and when GreenTag, carbon-zero or recycled-content figures change.