

## **Environmental Sustainability and the Environment**

As North America's largest user of scrap tire rubber, ECORE has made a thriving business out of finding creative ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. The company manufactures and markets high quality, innovatively designed cork, cork/rubber and recycled rubber products throughout the world.

Each year, our company recycles 80 million pounds of scrap tire rubber, more than 2,000 trailer loads, conserving 1 million barrels of oil in the process to make high-quality products that are distributed internationally. That's enough to provide heating oil to 60,000 homes for a year!

At ECORE, we respect the environment and understand that all resources are limited. To that end, we appreciate and celebrate the positive impact our products have on people and the planet. We support the use and reuse of industrial and post consumer waste and the development of systems to reclaim and reuse our own products after their useful life. In addition, our products pass the strictest indoor air quality tests and assurance methods for low emissions of total volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and our recycled rubber products are PVC and plasticizer free.

Because of their positive environmental attributes, many of the building products we produce, especially our ECOsurfaces and Everlast recycled rubber flooring, have the potential to contribute points to The United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. The LEED program is an effort to provide a national standard for what constitutes a "green building."

Our interest in promoting product sustainability and environmental initiatives extends well beyond our own corporation. We currently partner with Nike through their Nike Regrind program. Through this effort, Nike collects worn athletic shoes from consumers via a global recycling effort and processes them into a rubber grind. ECORE blends this material with our premium SBR to create recycled rubber matting and a unique underlayment for poured urethane floors. Profits from the Nike Grind program go towards providing disadvantaged communities all around the world with high performance athletic surfaces where sports are played. We are committed to this initiative and growing these types of relationships as we progress into the future. As we move forward, our intent is to build upon our deep expertise in manufacturing recycled rubber products, to develop innovative solutions that enhance the quality of life through an array products and product systems for the commercial, construction, consumer, industrial and specialty markets.

In the process, we remain committed to operating our business and facilities in a manner that uses resources wisely and protects the quality of our environment and the health and safety of our associates, families and communities. To that end, our energy efficient manufacturing processes use minimal water and little or no heat, and we reuse our scrap to minimize waste.

In addition, we have adopted energy efficient approaches to lighting our plants, and have changed every bulb in our manufacturing facilities from inefficient metal-halide bulbs to

energy-saving, incandescent light bulbs. Even though these incandescent light bulbs are brighter, they use less energy and are more cost effective. This is good for our business, our environment and the safety of our workers.

We plan to expand our commitment to the environment in the future by developing and implementing sustainable green building policies, standards and practices while attaining greater levels of ecological responsibility and resource-efficient technology. As we improve and refine our knowledge and capabilities, we will strive for environmental excellence in our responsible use of resources and application of effective environmental practices.

