

COMMITTED TO CSR

CREATING SUSTAINABLE
HABITATS AND IMPROVING
DAILY LIFE.





FOCUSSING ON CLOSED LOOP PROJECTS

At Saint-Gobain we seek to understand the learnings and challenges with moving progressively to a circular economy in the construction industry.

In Scotland, with our partner CMS, we have worked with them to collect glass windows that are due to be upgraded. The old glass is separated from the frames, transported to our glass factory in Eggborough for reuse in the manufacture of new glass which is made into new double/triple glazing units supplied to CMS by our brand, Glassolutions. We have now extended this pilot to allow tradesmen in Scotland to bring old windows to our branches, when they collect new windows for installation. The old glass is recycled, while the plastic/wood frames are shredded and reused in post-manufacture.

The learnings from this pilot, and others in Leeds, will influence the design and development of our products and solutions for the future. We are only at the start of the journey. The circular economy provides huge potential value and opportunity, but it comes with risk and a great deal of learning is required along the way.





SURVEYING AND AUDITING OUR WATER WASTE

At Saint-Gobain, we treat natural capital as a finite resource. We're concentrating on ways to cut water use and have developed a partnership with audit experts H₂O.

Water withdrawal and discharge have risen vs 2013 figures, because of increased production, it is a major CSR challenge for us. We want to improve our water conservation, looking at how much we use and release and to determine if this is putting pressure on local communities.

We've created a dedicated Water Reduction Group, appointed Water Champions and to understand where we currently stand and direct our strategy, we've conducted an organisation-wide water survey.

Saint-Gobain Building Distribution established a partnership with H₂O to audit water use at our retail sites. They collect billing data and use it to advise on cost-saving measures, in one instance identify a leak and arranged repairs on a Jewson site, saving one million gallons of water per annum. We are now looking at expanding it to our manufacturing businesses.



PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT OF OUR ENERGY USE

Reducing our energy use [by 15% by 2025], and decarbonising our energy supply are key aspects of our Energy Strategy. By the end of December 2015, Saint-Gobain met the UK Energy Savings Obligation Scheme (ESOS) compliance through internal and external energy audits across our sites and having five of our businesses ISO 50001 certified. These audits provide insight and opportunities for considerable further energy savings across our business in the years ahead.

Our British Gypsum, Gyproc Ireland, Saint-Gobain Glass Eggborough site and Rencol and Pasquill timber businesses have achieved certification to the energy management system standard ISO 50001. Our Energy Reduction Group continues to assess and address the energy efficiency of our buildings.

During 2014/2015 our energy consumption of both gas and electricity was 1,940,994 MWh in 2014 and 2,193,979 MWh in 2015. We also purchased the output of three UK-based anaerobic digestion (AD) plants fuelled mostly by maize silage in 2014. These support our strategy of reducing embodied carbon in our products and moving to zero carbon emission supplies.





CASE CLOSED BY UK TIMBER REGULATOR

Saint-Gobain is committed to sourcing 100% sustainable timber by 2020. In 2014, we faced a reputational issue over the sourcing of a small amount of Ipe (Brazilian walnut), as noted in our 2013 CSR review. Although care was taken in sourcing Ipe - a non-standard item, due to the lack of regular FSC supply - we took immediate action following the allegations by campaign group, Greenpeace.

Following the allegations we provided evidence that due diligence was fully taken, including species and origin country risk assessments, kept customers informed, suspended more Ipe purchases and quarantined the one plank in stock and engaged directly with Greenpeace.

The UK's timber regulator – the National Measurement Office (NMO) – launched an investigation into our International Timber business, which concluded in October 2014. Their verdict was that we had exercised due diligence in respect of the European Timber Regulations [EUTR]. This experience helped us evolve our processes and we have since published an updated Responsible Purchasing Timber Policy. The 2015 policy sets out our enhanced due diligence processes; respect local populations and care for the environment.



LESS MANUFACTURING WASTE, LESS WASTE TO LANDFILL

In 2015, we generated 16% less manufacturing waste across our concerned sites, compared to 2013. We also decreased waste to landfill by 2.8%. Although we have made good progress on total waste, we are still behind plan to achieve our target of sending zero production waste to landfill by 2020.

In 2014, our waste to landfill increased by 7% due to issues at the British Gypsum site at Robertsbridge, Sussex, where their 'fluffy' paper-based waste recovery route ceased. We have since re-established the route, but the incident shows how dependent we are on external factors.

Our closed loop glass recycling pilot run with Veolia – to recover waste cullet from PAM and Saint-Gobain Glassolutions and reprocess it into large-scale building blocks – is ongoing. The Waste Reduction Group (WRG) will determine its future after assessing various metrics including how to apply best practice technology and techniques to tackle pipe and insulation waste onsite.





IRELAND TRIALS PLASTERBOARD RECYCLING

By law, gypsum can only be sent to mono-cell landfill sites in Ireland. As there are none, waste plasterboard should be sent for specialist disposal. During summer 2015, Gyproc conducted a trial to assess the viability of running a plasterboard recycling scheme similar to British Gypsum's.

British Gypsum's long-running plasterboard recycling scheme has, however, proven it is more cost effective for customers to recycle plasterboard offcuts than dispose of them elsewhere. The scheme also recovers valuable raw materials and enables the business to contribute towards the circular economy.

Working in partnership with Allied Recycling over a three-month period, Gyproc offered certain customers the opportunity to have a special onsite skip and have their plasterboard waste recycled in a fully traceable way. Allied Recycling collected the waste from the customer, sorted measured and took it to our factory for reprocessing into stucco. We will have enough data from the trial to allow us to evaluate how to roll this project out to our wider customer base.



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