



TERRATEXT

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Terratex® - classified fabrics are one of the major ways we at Interface Fabrics Group support our commitment to sustainability. This broad range of fabric choices – made from 100% recycled or compostable materials – is also completely recyclable. Plus, Terratex is representative of our commitment to increasing overall knowledge of environmental issues as part of our journey toward sustainability. We also realize the importance of working with dedicated researchers and individuals like you. **Because the bottom line is, we're all striving to become increasingly sustainable.**

1.2 MORE ON SUSTAINABILITY

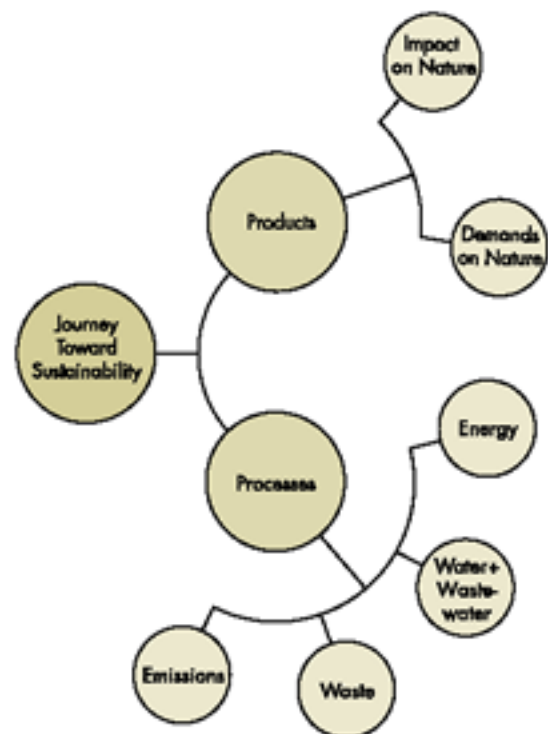
Sustainability can seem pretty confusing if you don't first understand the overall picture. Think of your impact on the environment as a footprint – sustainability is taking the initiative to make sure that footprint is as light as possible, if it has to leave a mark at all. Basically, sustainability means working and interacting in ways that don't adversely affect living systems and our natural resources.

To name just a few examples:

- It's making the effort to eliminate waste altogether, not just reduce it.
- It's depending on renewable energy sources as opposed to fossil fuels.
- And it's working to eliminate all toxic emissions.

Sustainability is closing the loop, or breaking the traditional "take-make-waste" system and using products and processes in a way that keeps returning them to a cyclical flow where they can be reused over and over again. Sustainability doesn't happen overnight. It is a journey of many steps toward finding better, smarter ways of doing things. Interface Fabrics Group is committed to that journey.

Last but not least, sustainability also involves sharing education and knowledge among the different stakeholders to find a new, environmentally responsible ways of doing business. Because once again – we're all in this together.



Journey Toward Sustainability

1.3 POLYESTERS, PETROLEUM & LANDFILLS – WHERE TO START?

It's actually not that complicated. The first thing to know is that all polyester is manufactured from petroleum products. The process of making polyester involves the use of metal called antimony as a catalyst in the manufacturing process, and virtually everything in the world made from polyester contains trace amounts of antimony. The next thing to know is that polyester is recyclable and that there are basically two kinds of recycled polyester. A first type, post-consumer polyester, is made from the waste material left over once a consumer has used a product (for example, soda and water bottles). A second type, post-industrial polyester, is derived from waste generated by an industrial process before the polyester is used by the consumer. We use both of these recycled polyesters as raw materials in our Terratex-classified polyester fabrics. By doing so, the environment benefits in two important ways. First, there is less waste going to landfills. And second, there is less demand for petroleum products and fewer environmental impacts from the processing of the petroleum products into polyester.



Over the last several years, antimony-free polyester has been researched and commercialised in very limited quantities by several companies in Europe. We welcome this development and would like to see it eventually replace all polyester - leading to antimony-free recycled raw materials in the future. But until these materials are replaced, it makes sense to reuse the existing polyester in all possible applications including fabric. We believe that the first and best use of antimony-free polyester is where recycled polyester cannot be used, like the manufacture of plastic soda and water bottles.

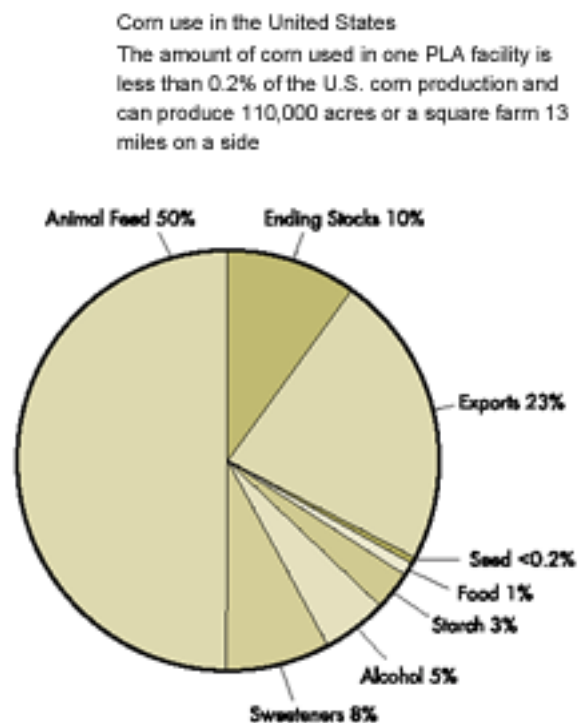
By recycling polyester, we are keeping it out of landfills and reducing the use of non-renewable materials. The introduction of antimony-free polyester into products that cannot use recycled material will ultimately result in antimony free recycled polyester. At which point we will achieve the environmental benefits of both. Until then, recycled polyester is one important step on a journey toward more sustainable materials.

1.4 BIO-BASED PRODUCTS

- LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Another way of making sure that environmental footprint remains light is to use bio-based products. Many IFG companies are using or experimenting with fibers and products derived from natural renewable resources like corn, rice or beets. By using resources like these, manufacturers depend less on non-renewable resources. Plus, many of these bio-based products are more environmentally friendly at the end of their service life- under the right conditions they are compostable, recyclable or reclaimable.

For example, one company has discovered a way to create polylactide polymers from the natural sugars found in corn. These polymers can be used to produce textiles, plastics and packaging materials that are compostable. Products like these can replace ones made from non-renewable materials that traditionally end up in landfills. The creation of the bio-based products uses comparatively small amounts of resources so food supplies are not affected. In reality, the amount of corn used to make polylactide polymers in one facility currently under construction is less than 0.2% of the total U.S. corn production. Compare this amount to the fact that the U.S. uses 5% of its corn for alcohol, and feeds 50% of it to animals. Discoveries like these are setting the stage for brand new innovations that will play a large role in creating more environment-friendly materials and processes. Already there are numerous companies vigorously pursuing plans for bio-based products. We are proud to be working with some of these companies, and eager to continue playing a part in the sustainability endeavour. As we said, we are on a journey.



For a list of furniture manufacturers and fabric suppliers that offer Terratex-classified fabrics visit www.terratex.com

