



SUSTAINABILITY WHITEPAPER

Flint Group Packaging Inks Sustainability Task Force

FlintGroup / Packaging Inks



Flint Group Packaging Inks and Sustainability

Flint Group Packaging Inks is dedicated to serving the global printing and packaging industry. We develop, manufacture and market an extensive portfolio of printing consumables for a wide range of print technologies and packaging applications and sustainability is deeply engrained in our values and the way we do business.

Put simply, Flint Group recognises that maintaining a high degree of economic, environmental and social sustainability is fundamental to delivering value for our stakeholders – our customers, suppliers, employees, investors and communities – now and in the long term. We are proud to work with our partners on our journey to understanding our customers' precise needs and are responding with innovation and empowering our employees to deliver.

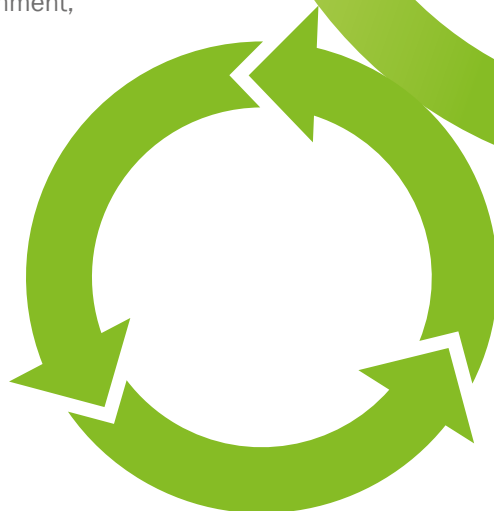
The Packaging Industry Challenge

Packaging sustainability has become an increasingly important issue in recent years around the world. As heightened awareness of the human impact on the environment has evolved, consumers have become increasingly concerned about packaging and its role in waste and pollution. Today they, along with Governments, NGOs and industry, are seeking ways to achieve a more circular economy.

It is anticipated that by 2030:

- More than 50% of plastic generated in EU will be recycled
- Separate collection of plastic waste will reach very high levels
- Sorting and recycling capacity will have increased 4x since 2015
- All plastic packaging in the EU will either be reusable or recycled cost effectively

As a result, brands and their supply chains are investing in new and innovative ways to meet the challenge of developing efficient, effective and sustainable packaging solutions that meet the needs of society, and the environment, today and into the future.





Flint Group Packaging Inks – Global Commitment

Flint Group Packaging Inks has always been focussed on the environment and has taken a clear stance on sustainability. Our sustainability vision is:

To support packaging markets with responsibly built products and sustainable solutions designed for circular economies.



To deliver this vision, Flint Group Packaging Inks has created a formal 'Sustainability Task Force' with the mission to focus on the critical topic of sustainability in packaging and to demonstrate how the company can provide solutions, insight and collaboration for our key stakeholders.

With 13 active employees from across the Flint Group Packaging Inks world - from India to Australia, Europe to North America – the Task Force represents a number of different departments and meets two times per month to discuss and develop workstreams of activity. Developing a clear strategy and implementation plan, further employees are drafted as required to support the key initiatives.

Sustainability Task Force Activities:

1 Addressing sustainability concerns

At Flint Group Packaging Inks, we are thinking beyond chemistry and developing solutions that mitigate overall waste in terms of materials and energy use. For example, our Task Force is seeking to support printers to move away from fossil fuel-based materials, as well as develop solutions for those who are planning to transition from rigid to flexible plastic packaging to lower their carbon footprint. For example, the company offers bio-based nitrocellulose products that allow customers to differentiate between fossil-based carbon and bio-based carbon. The products incorporate 60-80% bio-based content without sacrificing performance.

For the paper and board sector, the Task Force has developed solutions that support printers to ensure clean test liner papers, as well as develop capability to compete more effectively in broader food and beverage sectors, where plastics have historically dominated.

Flint Group Packaging Inks recognises that innovation is key to delivering a circular and sustainable future for all and is committing the resources to ensure success. A series of whitepapers addressing the sustainability strategy and key initiatives will be released.



2 Addressing converter operations

We know that printer converters are under considerable pressure, both from their brand customers and emerging legislation, to address their sustainability credentials. Accordingly, we have developed a number of programmes to help them reduce their overall ink consumption and materials waste in production. This includes our XtraMile® programme, and our XtraMile Force module, which enable us to connect increased productivity and reduced waste to sustainability objectives.

We are supporting our customers to save process energy, waste water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions enabling printers to become more cost effective and competitive in the long run. With years of expertise developed in printing operations with our customers, Flint Group experts can provide support on reducing setup and make-ready times in order to reduce unnecessary material waste and energy.

Flint Group Packaging Inks is committed to supporting printers to deliver efficient, effective and sustainable packaging production.





3 Addressing the recycling problem

It is clearly understood that effective plastics recycling starts with the design of the pack at the outset and that inks are really only a minor part of packaging construction. Importantly however, inks may have a negative impact on the recycling process and the quality of the recyclate achieved.

Flint Group Packaging Inks understands ink chemistry and is seeking solutions to address recycling. It is therefore imperative that we engage with the recycling industry, as well as the packaging supply chain, to ensure the challenges inks present are identified, understood and addressed.

Today, our Task Force is working with recyclers to see which chemistries are seen as attractive from their point of view and collaborating with advocacy groups to discuss sustainable end markets. For example, in Europe we are collaborating with CEFLEX (Circular Economy for Flexible Packaging), a consortium of European companies representing the entire value chain of flexible packaging, as well as FEFCO (European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers), FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) and PEFC (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification) for the paper and board packaging sector.

As active members of the Flexible Packaging Association (FPA) in the USA, Flint Group Packaging Inks is involved with, and has access to, many sustainability initiatives and collaborations. This includes the Materials Recovery for the Future Collaborative (MRFF), which has a simple vision that flexible Packaging be recycled curbside and the recovery community captures value from that.

Our commitment to the effective recycling of packaging materials is clear. We have the expertise and technology to support the industry and we are actively engaged in driving innovation and development for the benefit of all.

4 Addressing networking and outreach

No single company acting in isolation can solve the sustainability challenges of the packaging industry alone. At Flint Group Packaging Inks, we are ensuring effective collaboration is happening across a wide range of packaging supply chain task forces and industry associations. Our Task Force is active in sustainability associations and groups to ensure we are connected and constantly learning. From European and North American printing ink associations, EuPIA and NAPIM, to packaging associations and print associations, we are partnering, supporting and engaging to drive change and innovation in sustainability.





Sustainability In Focus

At Flint Group Packaging Inks, our people care passionately about sustainability and we are measuring and managing our business with active balanced scorecards to ensure the topic is front of mind in all our activities. Our dedicated Sustainability Task Force is working with the packaging industry across the value chain delivering expertise and support, collaboration and innovation, that is making the difference today and long into the future.

We know that no company can solve the challenges for the environment alone. We are working extensively with our global supply chains to bring about a range of new sustainability initiatives and will be releasing a series of whitepapers addressing these topics to share our learning, insights and objectives.

To find out more about how Flint Group can support your packaging sustainability, please visit www.flintgroup.com

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