

Rely on us.SM

FlintGroup

Committed to **Sustainability**
and a Circular Economy in Packaging



FlintGroup



Our Core Values





Our Objective

For our inks and coatings to be an integral part of a circular economy for packaging.

Sustainability is a central part of Flint Group's Core Values and our long term business strategy. **PRISM**, our framework for sustainability, focuses on the key issues and challenges where Flint Group can have an impact.



<h3>Products</h3> <p>We innovate to reduce the impact of our products, services and those of our customers</p>	<h3>Planet</h3> <p>We reduce our environmental impacts and help our customers reduce theirs</p>	<h3>People</h3> <p>We invest in our employees, health & safety, and a diverse workforce</p>
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We want to make products that are designed for the circular economy, reducing the impact along the value chain.

Packaging can play a part addressing the climate emergency by reducing food and product waste. We have a role to play helping to decarbonise the packaging supply chain.

Ensuring our workforce represents the geographies where we operate and employees return home safely.



Our priorities and commitments

It is estimated that today about one third of the food which is produced for human consumption is lost or wasted instead of being consumed.¹ We believe that packaging has an important role to play in protecting products, reducing waste during transportation, storage and consumption, whilst helping to increase the health and well-being of people all over the globe. We are acutely aware of the impacts our products can have on the recyclability of all printed materials and are actively collaborating with industry associations and value chain consortiums to design circularity into our products.

Studies have shown that packaging is only a small part of a product's carbon footprint. For food, only 5% of the environmental footprint of 1kg of packed food comes from the packaging materials, while 15% is linked to transportation and 80% from production.²

These numbers clearly demonstrate that using packaging to protect and extend the shelf life of food has a net benefit to the environment. Light weight, highly effective, packaging materials can play a key role in increasing the overall efficiency of packed goods and mitigating negative impacts on the environment. Nonetheless, packaging must be collected, sorted and reprocessed as part of a circular economy to ensure its intrinsic benefits are realised.

The carbon impact of ink on printed packaging material is typically around 5% of the package. When calculated with the inclusion of food products, it is less than 0.25% (EuPIA Life Cycle Analysis, 2017). Whilst we understand inks and coatings have minimal impact on the

overall carbon footprint of a product, as a responsible business we know we need to reduce our own carbon emission

to help avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Our products also play an important part in enabling solutions to reduce packaging and product waste, which can also help reduce wider carbon emissions.

It is no secret that when waste products and packaging are incorrectly disposed of by consumers, it can have detrimental impact on the environment.

Addressing this issue is a key focus of the industry today. Infrastructure must be developed to collect, sort and recycle all materials, ensuring that the positive characteristics of their design are not mitigated by immature waste collection systems or incorrect disposal by consumers. Flint Group understands its role in enabling the circular economy for the products and markets it serves.

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Reference

¹<https://www.wfp.org/stories/5-facts-about-food-waste-and-hunger>.

²EuPIA Life Cycle Analysis: study on printed paper & board and on plastic packaging, 2017.

Products

We innovate to reduce the impact of our products, services and those of our customers



Design products for the circular economy

Bring sustainable innovations¹ to the market
Ensure our products are designed for recycling

Help customers become more energy efficient and reduce waste

Deliver products and services that help customers reduce their own GHG emissions

Lower the carbon footprint of our core products

Using more sustainable raw materials

Planet

We reduce our environmental impacts and help our customers reduce theirs



Reduce GHG emissions versus 2019

46% reduction in scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 2030²
Net Zero across scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2050

Waste: Reduce waste to Landfill

Zero waste to landfill by 2030

Water: Reduction in water usage

Reduce water use by 5% by 2030

People

We invest in our employees, health & safety, and a diverse workforce.



Health & Safety: Ambition of zero accidents

10% year over year reduction in Total Incident Rate³

Representative, inclusive, and diverse workforce⁴

40% of management positions held by women by 2030
Ensure pay equality
Ensure broader cultural representation in management teams

Operating with integrity

Ensure we conduct our business in an ethical and compliant way
100% of 3rd party partners comply with our Code of Conduct

References

- ¹ Any product or service that reduces waste or environmental impact in the value chain.
- ² 46% GHG reduction to be validated by SBTi as aligning with 1.5°C pathway.
- ³ Total recordable incidents/life changing incidents.
- ⁴ Diversity defined in terms of gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, culture, ethnicity.





Supporting customers on their sustainability journey

Our commitments reflect those of our customers and are designed to support them in addressing their sustainability challenges.

We aim to be the most sustainable ink supplier for our customers, supporting them in three key parts of the packaging value chain:



1. Supply sustainable ink and coating solutions

By building low-carbon products with renewable content, we can help reduce our customers' upstream Scope 3 emissions. Ensuring we have robust due diligence processes to ensure high labour practices in our supply chain provides our customers with the reassurance that we are committed to human rights in our supply chain. We are also working to understand the potential impact of climate change on our business and supply chain to reduce any impacts on the service we provide to our customers.



2. Helping customers with operational sustainability challenges

We can help customers reduce their own Scope 1 & 2 operational emissions through product innovation, such as inks that use less energy in the printing process. Our support services can also help reduce emissions through process efficiency and waste reduction.



3. Enabling a circular economy reducing downstream impacts

By bringing sustainability innovations to the market – such as barrier coatings that enable simplification or substitution of packaging formats, and washable inks that facilitate de-inking and recycling – we can help promote the circular economy and reduce our customers' downstream Scope 3 emissions.



For every business, a solid Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy is critical to ensuring long-term success, ethical operations and the ability to adapt to market change.

At Flint Group, we proudly support our customers' ESG strategies via our manufacturing, Procurement, and supply chain processes, as well as our products and services.

We are focused on supplying products and services that help our customers increase efficiencies, reducing energy use and its associated costs, and minimising waste.

A key part of our support is developing and supplying inks and coatings that reduce the life cycle impact of inks and coatings used on packaging. Product Include...

Paper & Board:

TerraCode is a range of sustainable water-based inks and coatings for Paper & Board applications. These inks support printers' sustainability goals while delivering premium package printing results. TerraCode inks are C2C* Material Health Certified.

Flexible Packaging:

ZenCode is a range of solvent-based inks for flexible packaging applications - solutions include barrier coatings, chlorine and NC-free inks, and universal bases. Our ZenCode C2C inks are C2C* Material Health Certified.

Narrow Web Label:

Evolution Primer and Varnish for narrow web flexo printing are designed to improve the recyclability of shrink sleeves and pressure-sensitive labels..

EkoCure® UV LED inks and coatings, designed with dual curing capabilities, can cure under both UV mercury and LED lamps, giving flexibility for printers transitioning to lower energy UV LED.

Offset Packaging

Offset Packaging Solutions for folding carton applications, include C2C material health certified inks and coatings, and systems designed using bio-renewable raw materials..

In addition to our product range, Flint Group also backs its customers' ESG strategies through digitalised service and support options.

Our service philosophy is a 360° approach that adds value and drives sustainability improvements across our customers' operating footprint. In addition to right-first-time printing, process streamlining, colour palette optimisation, and waste reduction, this includes Scope 1 and 2 and non-ink-based Scope 3 emissions.

VIVO Colour Solutions delivers continued improvement via digitalised colour management. With right-first-time production, printers and converters avoid unnecessary use of materials, can minimise waste, and boost speed to market.

*C2C: Cradle to Cradle Products Innovations Institute - Material Health Certified materials.



EcoVadis Silver

Flint Group was ranked in the top 12% of companies rated by EcoVadis in the manufacture of paints, varnishes and similar coatings, including printing inks. It was included in the top 12% of companies in the Sustainable Procurement category, in the top 9% for Ethics, as well as the top 20% for Environment.

EcoVadis provides the leading solution for monitoring sustainability in global supply chains and takes a holistic approach when evaluating companies – they measure performance against 24 criteria covering environment, human rights, ethics and procurement - assessing how well a company performs across a range of key sustainability topics. Companies must be more than compliant to earn an EcoVadis rating - they must commit fully to changing the culture of the business, adopting sustainable practices at every level. Testing the business against such exacting standards helps us keep improving for our customers and global brands.

**FLINT GROUP
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FOR ETHICS.**

The EcoVadis assessment is comprehensive and robust and uses an in-depth process to independently certify a company's sustainable credentials. Silver ratings are earned, not given, so customers can come to us safe in the knowledge that we are one of the most sustainable and transparent companies in the printing and packaging industry.

As an ink and coatings supplier, Flint Group knows that it has a role to play in helping the wider packaging and print industry to become more sustainable. The EcoVadis assessment helps us understand where we are on that journey and where we need to improve.



UN Sustainable Development Goals

Flint Group recognises the role packaging can play in delivering the UN Sustainable Development Goals.¹

It is estimated that today about one third of the food which is produced for human consumption is lost or wasted instead of being used to fight hunger across the globe. We believe that packaging has an important role to play in protecting food, reducing waste during transportation, storage and consumption, whilst helping to increase the health and well-being of people all over the globe. We are acutely aware of the impacts our products can have on the recyclability of all packaging types and are actively collaborating with industry associations and value chain consortiums to design circularity into our products. The table on the next page links our commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals they support.



Reference

¹<https://www.wfp.org/stories/5-facts-about-food-waste-and-hunger>



Contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Flint Group’s sustainability framework covers ecological, social, and economic aspects, and in 2020 we became a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (“UNGC”). This global initiative calls on companies to align strategies and operations with universal human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption principles and to enact actions that advance sustainable development goals based on the United Nation’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our strategy supports 7 of the SDG’s and 11 of the key commitments (as outlined below).

The table outlines how our PRISM strategy delivers key targets within the SDG framework.

Product	Planet	People
 	   	  
<p>Design products for the circular economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.2 Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources • 12.4 Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all waste throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimise their adverse impacts on human health and the environment • 12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse <p>Help customers reduce their operational impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse <p>Lower the carbon footprint of our core products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.2 Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources • 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning 	<p>Reduce GHG emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.2 Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix • 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning <p>Reduce waste to Landfill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse <p>Reduce water use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.4 Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity 	<p>Ambition zero accidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.9 Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination • 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment <p>Representative, inclusive and diverse workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life <p>Operating with integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and end child labour in all its forms • 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment



Industry Associations

We believe that collaboration is key when it comes to moving the printing industry forward

We can't deliver our ambitions on sustainable inks and packaging alone, we need to work with customers and wider stakeholders such as industry associations, to address the wider ecosystem in which we operate. We work with customers and strategic associations to help drive our ambition for a circular economy.

We are proud to be a member of, and work with, the following associations.

CEFLEX

The Circular Economy for Flexible Packaging

A collaboration of over 180 companies, associations and organisations, representing the entire value chain, working to make all flexible packaging in Europe circular by 2025. Flint Group is proud to be a part of the CEFLEX D4ACE team.

FPA

Flexible Packaging Association

A leading advocate for the growing US flexible packaging industry, comprising manufacturers of flexible packaging and suppliers to the flexible packaging industry. FPA puts a sharp focus on long-term industry sustainability.

FEFCO

European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers

Representing the interests of the corrugated board industry across Europe, FEFCO addresses issues ranging from technical advancements, to economical, regulatory and sustainability developments.

EuPIA

European Printing Ink Association

Founded in 2003, EuPIA represents the interests of European printing ink manufacturers, as well as related products and consumables. Flint Group is a proud contributor and member of EuPIA teams focused on sustainability.

TLMI

Tag & Label Manufacturers Institute

Focusing on knowledge sharing through open & authentic networking to further the success of the label industry, TLMI provides its members with resources focused on sustainability and actively participates with organisations focused on circularity.

APR

The Association of Plastic Recyclers

The dedicated voice of plastic recycling, APR is an international trade association that spans the wider plastics industry and seeks to support the success of plastics recycling through consensus-based guidelines and certification. Flint Group is pleased to offer inks that are recognised by APR for floatable and sinkable labels.

AIM – HolyGrail 2.0

An industry-wide project developed by AIM, the European Brands Association, HolyGrail 2.0 explores the implementation of digital watermark technology to streamline post-consumer sorting and recycling.

ECMA

European Carton Makers Association

ECMA represents more than 500 carton producers and suppliers across Europe, to support the market's continued growth and develop advanced international standards and best practice guidelines.

NAPIM

National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers

Founded in 1916, NAPIM aims to foster greater understanding and knowledge of the US printing ink industry, as well as advancing its interests on the global stage. Flint Group is pleased to have inks which are bio-renewable content (BRC) certified with NAPIM.

Fibre Box Association

Actively promoting the benefits of corrugated - including recyclability - by connecting with members and others in the packaging value chain.

FINAT

This EU association for the self-adhesive label industry has a Sustainability, Recycling and Regulatory Affairs Committee that represents the common interest of its members toward decision makers in areas of legislation, recycling and sustainability.

AICC

The Independent Packaging Association

Focused on corrugated, folding carton and rigid box industries, this association offers countless educational resources via its Packaging University platform - various courses focus on Sustainability topics.



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