

## **Interface® - Leadership Throughout a Product's Lifecycle**

Interface, Inc., the world's largest designer and maker of modular carpet systems (FLOR brand) and a leader in corporate and product sustainability, provides a textbook example of measurement leading to reductions.

The carpet industry is notorious for the environmental impact of its collective product. Interface has long been aware of this impact and found that across all phases of a product lifecycle – raw materials, processing/ manufacturing, distribution, retail, and end-of-life – the largest contributor to GHG emissions was from the raw material phase. In fact, 48 per cent of lifecycle emissions of the product originated from virgin nylon. This pointed Interface in the direction of evolving its inputs from virgin materials to recycled materials, and it is now on its way to a target of zero waste by 2020.

Between 1995 and 2007, according to a New York Times article, Interface has reduced GHG emissions by 60 per cent and contributions to landfill by 80 per cent, and saved \$336 million as a result of sustainability initiatives. The corporate objective to reduce GHG emissions has also driven an evolution in the carpet manufacturing industry. Further, this example highlights that the best practices in waste management may occur on the front end; purchasing recycled materials instead of raw materials has presented significant environmental and financial opportunities.

In 2003, Interface became the first carpet company to receive third-party verified Environmentally Preferable Product (EPP) certification. The company has received EPP for over 90 per cent of its products.

To learn more visit: <http://www.interfaceglobal.com/Sustainability.aspx>

