

# Owens, Inc.

## *Family of Companies*

### Living and Working in a GREEN Environment *The Owens Family of Companies*

#### **Our Environmental Commitment:**

At Owens, Inc., we realize that we are a microcosm in an ever expanding global community, but we bear enormous responsibility to conserve and preserve for future generations. Owens, Inc. is committed to environmental stewardship, and doing the right thing for the environment is second nature to us.

Owens has been GREEN since we started producing wood products in 1992. We realize that we not only work here, but we live and raise our families here too. Conserving energy, utilizing environmental manufacturing processes, and going green is a way of life for our plant and its employees. Our manufacturing process focuses on conserving raw material from sustainable forests and waste wood by-products are recycled for other uses. As supporters of SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) we are committed not only to adhering to their requirements, but exceeding them. One way we do this is by our continued goal to procure our wood products from certified suppliers, and honor **all** major certifying agencies of wood products, including FSC, SFI, CSA, Green Cross, PEFC, and SCS as we commit to purchasing raw material from sustainably managed woodlands. Our current content is over 70% raw material from certified sources, and much of our product is procured and delivered on back hauls maximizing the use of transportation; saving energy consumption and minimizing pollution. In addition, **100%** of the raw material scrap and packaging we use is recycled. A few examples would include the bundle supports and edge protectors being reused to send out our product, metal banding and corrugate packaging is collected and recycled. Our recycling also includes the plywood packaging and scrap pallets, which are used for mulch.

#### **The Owens Family of Companies Mission:**

Our mission not only involves the hands on Best Practices of sound environmental manufacturing, but expands into education. The more knowledge we have as individuals, employees, and business owners, the more power we have in securing a green environment for future generations.

At Owens, Inc. we utilize raw materials via our choice of lumber, particle board, medium density fiberboard, veneer and plywood, as well as adhesives. Plywood is stronger when cross banded, therefore requiring less wood in total thickness. Particle board and MDF (composites) are produced from lower quality, smaller trees and recycled wood products from other wood manufacturing. Composites utilize smaller trees with more defects, mixed colors, and large limbs. The use of thin layers of veneer expands the use of choice logs to go further, using less beautiful wood for under layers. Adhesives are a significant component by weight and chosen for their friendly characteristics to the environment. The chemicals used in production of adhesives are continually reviewed to ensure their minimal impact on our environment.

#### **Our Partnerships and Commitment to Education:**

We promote continuing education to enhance the knowledge of our suppliers, customers, and employees regarding our efforts to utilize material from certified sources and to fulfill requirements by customers who expect to receive a GREEN product from our production.

Each year Owens, Inc. sponsors local and regional educators to attend Educational Tours. As of 2007, we have been able to sponsor 58 educators from across the country, providing them with first hand knowledge of the process and commitment to sustainable forestry. We estimate that these educators have influenced over 10,000 students in grades 3 through 8 with their knowledge of sound forestry principles.

Our partnerships in education expand to such organizations as The Nature Conservancy, Temperate Forest Foundation, Trees for Tomorrow, Hardwood Forest Federation, NRRI (Natural Resources Research Institute), and many more. Our values and commitment to preserving our global environment are solidified in our relationships with these organizations. At Owens, Inc., knowledge is power and an essential tool in our efforts to produce a GREEN product.

#### **The Owens Family of Companies Promise:**

To continually search for new and innovative products and methods that meet the needs and high quality expectations of our customers, while conserving **and** preserving our environment for centuries to come.