Byrne Electrical Specialists grew from humble beginnings with strong focus on being a local partner. As the industry and business landscape morphed, Byrne evolved into a design, innovation, and collaboration leader. And in our efforts to remain a local partner, Byrne made substantial commitments toward sustainability and environmental responsibility.

At Byrne, the goal has always been to understand where their customers are going in order to find a way to help them get there. In a time when “greenwashing” has become a popular trend among industries trying to gain customer loyalty from those concerned with sustainability issues, Byrne has worked to develop into a genuinely green partner by pursuing Cradle to Cradle Certification of its products.

Byrne’s first experience with Cradle to Cradle Certification was Steelcase’s Answer Work Cell. It was the first Cradle to Cradle Certified workstation offered by the office furniture industry, launching in the early 2000s. Byrne’s journey into the Cradle to Cradle design philosophy began around that same time in an effort to have Byrne’s own products certified on behalf of their customers.

Today, Byrne offers eight product lines that are fully Cradle to Cradle Certified, the highest of which achieved a Silver designation. These product lines include Assemble, Assemble Reveal, Glenbeigh Contemporary, Glenbeigh Traditional, M2X, Mho, Mho2, and Miniport. Each product line boasts dozens of configurations for a high degree of customization and control on any given project.

Beyond product adjustments, Byrne has also made strides in other areas to meet certification. Among these were changes made to the supply chain, product analysis, and manufacturing as well as issues involving material health, material reutilization, energy conservation, water stewardship and social fairness. Byrne partnered with MBDC to analyze the make-up and process of all our products and utilities, focusing on chemistry, material, delivery, quality and sustainability.

With this product and process analysis, Byrne also took steps to improve its facilities, bringing sustainability innovations home. This involved switching to LED lights in production facilities, utilizing lean manufacturing and direct shipping, optimizing waste to energy — there are even plans for recycling wasted heat from the injection molding department to melt ice near employee entrances.

While the expense of becoming Cradle to Cradle Certified has added about a 10% increase to material costs on some components, the experience and benefits have been priceless. By all accounts, Byrne’s growth as a socially and environmentally conscious business resource has been a very good thing for the company, our customers and our community.

Passionate about the green movement (after all, green is Byrne’s color), Byrne is proud to be an early adopter of the Cradle to Cradle requirements. And while others might be content to rest at eight product line certifications or process and facility improvements, Byrne will continue to challenge itself to be a true leader in the green movement.