HermanMiller

HELPING PEOPLE PERFORM AT THEIR BEST

The products and services of Herman Miller are purposefully designed to enhance the human experience wherever people work, live, heal and learn. We emphasize a problem-solving approach, continually seeking to create inspiring designs that help people do great things and organizations to perform at their best. In pursuit of that mission, we are motivated by our more than 100 year history and a deeply rooted culture that calls us to do our part in creating a better world. Environmental stewardship has long been a core value of our company in service to these ideals, as we passionately work to better the health and well-being of customers, our employees, communities, and the planet we share.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

Herman Miller's interest in the environment began with the convictions of our founder, D.J. De Pree, who believed that corporations, like people, should see themselves as stewards. He understood that respecting the environment was more than good business practice—it was the right thing to do. We formalized this commitment to sustainability in 1953, in a formal set of policies, when D.J. stated, "Herman Miller will be a good corporate neighbor by being a good steward of the environment." That progressive stance has grown in scope and sophistication ever since. Through myriad programs, initiatives, and the contributions of thousands of employees and our business partners, today Herman Miller has embedded sustainability in virtually every aspect of our business, from architecture to product design to operations.

OUR 'DESIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT' JOURNEY

In 1991, we drafted our first Design for the Environment (DfE) guidelines, to help product designers and our engineers make environmentally intelligent decisions when choosing materials and manufacturing processes during design and development. That protocol measured the environmental impacts of materials and could be integrated into a more holistic approach that evaluated and balanced environmental criteria along with performance, cost, and aesthetics. But we soon realized that while we were well informed about a material's performance, we had little knowledge about chemical composition and related environmental impacts.

After evaluating several existing environmental protocols, the team decided to partner with McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC) in the development of their Cradle to Cradle protocol for material assessment and selection. We could see that by fully integrating a sophisticated tool into Herman Miller's DfE process, and establishing this as foundational to all existing and future product development (not simply one-off projects), Herman Miller could reach a new milestone in our journey to true sustainability. Together we built a customized assessment tool that analyzed materials for their human health and ecological effects, recyclability, use of recycled content and renewable resources, and design for disassembly. As a result, in 2001, Herman Miller became the first company in the world to fully implement the Cradle to Cradle protocol as an integral part of all our product development.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

In 2013, as our business approaches $1.8 billion in revenue, more than 66% of Herman Miller's product sales are in DfE-approved designs. Our overall progress towards sustainability is equally remarkable, with a 92% reduction in the total operational footprint (solid and hazardous waste, energy, water and air) from our baseline year of 1994, even as the company grew significantly over that period. As our journey continues in pursuit of 100% DfE product sales and a fully sustainable enterprise we take pride in our association with partners like the MBDC and the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute, and the growing number of like-minded companies and organizations who share this compelling vision for the future.

"Herman Miller has been a pioneer moving beyond eco-efficient to **true sustainability.**"

William McDonough, Co-Founder and Principal, McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry, 2001