



*Green is a statement of achievement.
It is also a pledge of responsibility.*

We believe displaying a “Green” label is a pledge to continually improve sustainability practices in both material sourcing, manufacturing processes and waste management as well as the active reduction of any environmental impact of those processes in both the long term and short term. We believe this is what being green is all about. It is a promise that we make to you, our customers – and it is a promise you can confidently pass on to your customers who choose to purchase our furniture. It is a promise that will stand – for years.

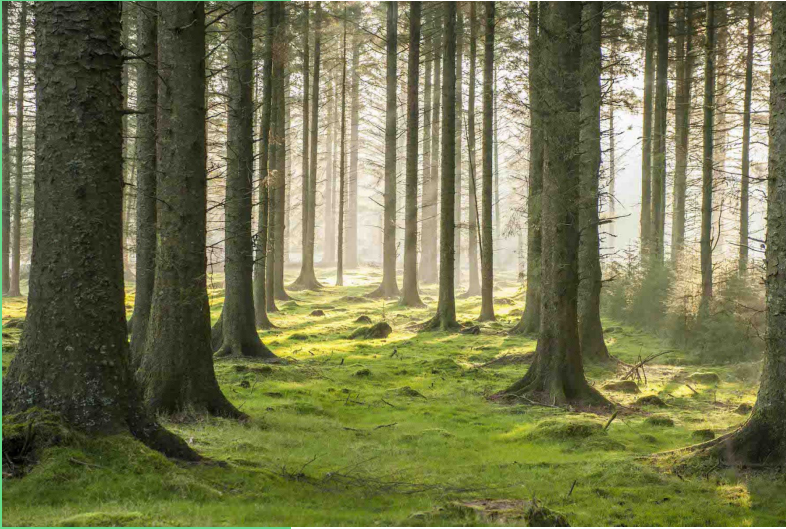
It is through this philosophy that we have chosen to define our own green promise to you. We would like to introduce you to our GreenStar 5-point Program.

There are many opportunities today for manufacturers to obtain the Green Label through third-party certification. We have explored and participated in these opportunities in the past. However, we felt that there was an overall lack of consideration for the full scope of what being green really means. Additionally, we felt that regardless of the validity of the process, certification was more about the “green industry” revenue stream than achieving a total green outcome. None of the third-party certifications “covered all the bases” in our opinion, so we set out to define our own reporting that we will publish and update annually.

We believe there are five Green pillars. We represent them as the five points in our GreenStar Logo. Those pillars are:

- Using Green Materials
- Sourcing Locally
- Improving Impact on Indoor Air Quality
- Improving Green Processes
- Designing Product Longevity

Please take the opportunity to tour each of our 5 pillars. Under each, we will describe what we are focusing on and what we are doing to improve. Where we can publish measurable results, we will do so. If we are improving or not improving, you will see it.



Using Green Materials

As a manufacturer, we have an obligation to fulfill our promise to our customers. As a green manufacturer in the 21st century, we also have an obligation to fulfill our promise to our environment for today and for the future. One of the most obvious ways to honor our green obligation is by selecting “Green” materials to work with. The challenge is selecting green materials that enable us to fulfill our promise to our customers with zero diminishment in quality or longevity.

What makes a material “Green”? We look for items that are sustainably produced. We note the percentage of recycled material in its makeup, and the percentage of that item that is recyclable. Many of our materials are certified to various Green standards. Where that information is readily available or provided by our suppliers, we make it available here.

Consistent with all aspects of our Greenstar Program, our Green Materials Program is a process of continual improvement. It is our goal to consistently improve the quality of our products on every level. That starts with improving the quality of our materials on every level.

Here is a summary of each of our Materials Categories. Each category will provide a link to all related documents and statements provided by our suppliers.

Particle Board Core (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Particleboard...)

Our primary particle board suppliers list final manufacturing locations as Sayabec and Val-d’Or, Quebec, Canada and Grayling, Michigan, USA.

Our Canadian sources have listed their recycled content as:

Pre-Consumer: 83.7%-86.6%

Post-Consumer: 0%

The Grayling, Michigan source lists its recycled content as:

Pre-Consumer: 35.59%

Post-Consumer: 0%

Certified Chain-of-Custody particle board core materials are available at an upcharge.

Veneers and Wood Materials (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Veneers & Wood Materials)

Our hardwood products are all FSC Chain-of-Custody certified.
Certified Chain-of-Custody plywood materials are available at an upcharge.

High-Pressure Laminate (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Laminates...)

Our main sources for high-pressure laminate have provided the percentage of recycled content in their products that we use.

Formica Grade 10: Pre-Consumer: 1.9%, Post-Consumer: 8.6%, Total: 10.5%

Formica Grade 12: Pre-Consumer: 1.7%, Post-Consumer: 10.6%, Total: 12.3%

Formica Grade 20: Pre-Consumer: 1.5%, Post-Consumer: 13.9%, Total: 15.4%

Formica Backers: Pre-Consumer: 2.4%, Post-Consumer: 0%, Total 2.4%

Formica Compact: Pre-Consumer: 2.4%, Post-Consumer: 0%, Total: 2.4%

Wilsonart Series 335: Post-Consumer: 34%

Wilsonart Series 350: Post Consumer: 22%

Both Formica and Wilsonart high-pressure laminates are FSC Chain-of-Custody certified.



Steel and Aluminum Components

(...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Metal...)

Our steel components come from providers who source their steel through service centers who, in turn, purchase from both domestic and global sources. There are two steel making processes: Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) and Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) process.

Recycled scrap percentage can range from 24% - 40% in a BOF operation. The remainder is made up of iron ore with a very small amount of additional material used for alloying. The typical recycled scrap content for BOF operations is 24%-30%.

The EAF process allows a much greater range of recycled scrap in the steelmaking operation. The percentage of scrap material can be as high as 100%. A typical percentage is 50% scrap 50% iron.

All of our steel and aluminum components are 100% recyclable.

Plastic Resin Molded Components (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Plastic Resin Molded Components)

Our various plastic resin molded chair components use glass-filled polypropylene (GFPP), prime polypropylene (PP) and/or glass-filled nylon (GFN).

All of the products could have a blend of post-industrial recycled GFPP, PP or GFN. The blends could be as high as 25% depending on item color.

All of the resins are 100% recyclable.

Edge Band (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Edgeband)

Aside from solid wood edge band (which is included in our **Veneers and Wood Products** category), the majority of edge band material that is used in our industry is PVC. This material is comprised of polyvinyl chloride, butylmercaptotoxo-stannane, titanium dioxide, 2-propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, 2-ester, polymer with ethyl 2-peopenoate. Most PVC edge band is 99% virgin new plastic. This is not considered a very “green” material. It is a staple in our industry and that is unlikely to change any time soon. Fortunately, only a very small amount of this product is used as a percentage of any furniture item.



Fabric (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Fabric)

The composition of fabric for upholstery varies considerably. Common materials include Polyester, Non-Phthalate Vinyl, Polyurethane, Cotton, Wool, Rayon, Nylon and Silicone. Any given fabric can be comprised of 100% of nearly any material or a blend of several. Some fabrics may include a percentage of post-consumer recycled material up to and including 100%.

We have included a chart that includes all of our graded fabrics and their contents for your review. Follow the link above.

Fabric is considered to be nearly 100% recyclable. In most cases, a more accurate term would be repurpose-able. Recycled fabric can be put to other uses instead of ending up in a landfill.

Paint, Stain & Powder Coat (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Paint & Stain)

The majority of our steel frame and structural components are powder coated. Studies have proven that water-based paints and powder coatings produce the lowest carbon footprint compared with solvent-based coatings.

Steel components that are powder coated can be recycled in the EAF steel making process.

The solvent from the Airguard Low Gloss finish applied to our wood products can be collected, rehydrated and reused.

Hardware – Metal components, Glides, Casters (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Hardware - Glides & Casters)

Metal components manufactured from steel, brass and nickel are all 100% recyclable.

The wheel and caster bodies of our nylon casters are typically composed of 85-90% pre-consumer recycled material and 10-15% post-consumer recycled material. The wheels and caster bodies are 100% recyclable. The stems are metal and 100% recyclable.

Hardware – Acrylic/Plastic Components (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Plastic Hardware & Components...)

Certain types of acrylic can be made from recycled plastics. Most of these or not suitable for our use. Additionally, at present, acrylic is difficult to recycle. There are companies that are working on ways to make acrylic more sustainable, but their solutions are not yet widely available.

At mediatechnologies, we believe that being green is an ongoing process of continual improvement. We pledge to continually:

- Improve and expand our use of green materials
- Expand the pursuit of local sourcing
- Heighten our awareness of the impact of our materials and processes on air quality in our local environment as well as the impact of our products in our customers' environments
- Review, refine and improve the green practices in our manufacturing process
- Live up to our commitment to design furniture with lasting value.

It is our goal to assure you that the purchase of mediatechnologies furniture is not only an investment with lasting value, but also an investment in a sustainable future.



Sourcing Locally

In the retail world, the “Buy Local” slogan makes sense on many levels. Obviously, money spent in the community, stays in the community. This has a great effect on jobs and overall health and growth of a community. But, in a broader sense, buying locally also has a “green” aspect. Products and materials locally sourced require less transportation (fuel, pollution and waste) and in some cases less packaging (pollution and waste) than items that must travel great distances or be shipped from overseas.

Political justifications aside, buying “American” where possible makes economic sense. It helps to support our economy, sustains jobs, reduces the impact of transportation and helps to avoid interruptions of the supply chain (trade embargos, disputes and tariffs).

We put a priority on “buying American” when it is possible. In turn, we also look regionally and within our own State first when looking for suppliers. At present, it is not physically or economically feasible to purchase all required materials in Michigan, the Mid-West or even the United States. But it is our mission to continue to look for quality from these regions first.

We believe being “Green” means to strive to reduce the impact of transportation (fuel, pollution and waste) and packaging (pollution and waste) by sourcing locally. Additionally, we believe being Green also includes helping to positively impact local communities in the USA through local sourcing. Over 95% of our material is sourced in the USA. The only items we directly import are two types of table bases and a plastic stool in addition to casters and some hardware. We purchase everything else through domestic sources. In many cases their sources are both domestic and global.

Here is a summary of each of our Materials Categories and a general report indicating the general source for each.

Particle Board Core

We purchase our particle board core sheet goods locally. All Particle board core products we use are produced in Canada and in the USA.

Veneers, Hardwoods, Materials

All of our hardwood is harvested in Michigan, USA.

High-Pressure Laminate

We purchase all of our laminate sheet goods locally. All of our laminate products are manufactured in North America.

Steel & Aluminum Components

With the exception of the Rockford Tables Bases, Duo legs and a Cesar base component, all steel frames and structural components are purchased domestically. The steel producers utilize both domestic and global sources for their materials.

Plastic Resin Molded Components

All of our plastic resin molded components are molded 132 miles away, in Pottersville, Michigan, USA.

Edge band

Our edge band materials are purchased locally. PVC Edge banding is manufactured in Canada and wood edge banding is a product of Germany.

Fabric ([...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Fabric...](#))

All of our Fabric is purchased domestically. The various mills that produce the fabric are located all over the world. We have provided a chart that indicates which of our graded fabrics are produced by mills in the USA. Follow the link above.

Paint, Stain & Powder Coat

We purchase our stains and paint locally. These items are produced Domestically.

Our powder coating vendor is located in Michigan, USA.

Hardware – Metal Hardware, Glides, Casters

In the area of hardware, most items are purchased through domestic distribution sources. However, the great majority of items in this category have global origins.

Acrylic Components

Our Acrylic components are sourced and manufactured in the USA.



Indoor Air Quality

Maintaining the safety of the air you and I breathe is a priority for mediatechnologies. We have an obligation to ensure that the products we provide to you do not impact your indoor air quality in a negative way. We take this obligation seriously. You have a responsibility in this as well. Do your homework. Not every material, finish and fabric is equal. In many cases, the choice is up to you.

Indoor Air Quality certification frequently takes the form of a Greenguard (or equivalent) certification or a CARB rating. The Greenguard rating appears to be the most common in our industry. Very generally speaking, **Greenguard Certified** indicates that the material meets the qualifications making it suitable for use in a closed office environment. **Greenguard Gold Certified** indicates that the material meets the qualifications making it suitable for use in a school environment. Sure, there are a lot of specifications and requirements (ECC, TSCA, CARB, NAF, ANSI, BIFMA, etc.) attached to these and other certifications, but this is the general distinction. Indoor air quality ratings are determined by measuring the amount of VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) that are emitted at room temperature.

We build a lot of different types of furniture. Fortunately, the number of materials required are not as great. We utilize particle board, wood veneers, laminates, adhesives, paints, stains, foam, fabrics, steel, powder coats and hardware. That's about it. Many of these are non-emitting, like steel. Others, that are emitting, must have their VOCs measured and recorded. Our furniture is a sum of its parts.

As I mentioned previously, not all materials are the same. In some cases, we can provide special materials with a lower VOC emitting rating at an upcharge. We have attempted to gather indoor air quality information for you as it relates to the materials we use. We will provide a general summary for each material category as well as make the material-specific information we have available to you.

Particle Board Core (...[Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Particleboard...](#))

Our particle board suppliers have provided certification that their products meet indoor air quality specifications as defined by the following standards:

ECC	ECO-Certified Composite Grademark Certification Program
TSCA	EPA TSCA Title VI – 40 CFR 770.18(d) Ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resins exemption from certification and testing
CARB	CARB ATCM 93120.3(d) – Special Provision for Manufacturers of HWPW, PB and MDF with Ultra- Low-Emitting Formaldehyde (ULEF) Resins
NAF	No Added Formaldehyde (NAF) Certified

UNIBOARD Particle Board and MDF is ECC, TSCA Title VI and CARB Compliant
ARAUCO Particle Board and MDF is TSCA Title VI and CARB Compliant.

Veneers and Hardwood, Materials (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/
Veneers & Wood Materials...)

Our veneer core and hardwood suppliers have provided certification that their products meet indoor air quality specifications as defined by the following standards:

- TSCA EPA TSCA Title VI – 40 CFR 770.18(d) Ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resins exemption from certification and testing
- CARB CARB ATCM 93120.3(d) – Special Provision for Manufacturers of HWPW, PB and MDF with Ultra- Low-Emitting Formaldehyde (ULEF) Resins

Our veneers, veneer core and hardwood materials are TSCA and CARB Compliant.

High-Pressure Laminates (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Laminates...)

Our laminate suppliers have provided certification of their products to the following standards:

UL Greenguard

UL 2818 - 2013 Standard for Chemical Emissions for Building Materials, Finishes and Furnishings. Wall finishes are determined compliant using an Office Environment with an air change of 0.68 hr⁻¹ and a loading of 33.40 m².

UL Greenguard Gold

UL 2818 - 2013 Gold Standard for Chemical Emissions for Building Materials, Finishes and Furnishings. Wall finishes are determined compliant in accordance with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method V1.2-2017 using a Classroom Environment with an air change of 0.82 hr⁻¹ and a loading of 94.60 m².

SCS Indoor Advantage Gold

Conforms to the ANSI/BIFMA Furniture Emissions Standard (M7.1/X7.1-2011 R2016) and ANSI/BIFMA e.3 -2019 (Credits 7.6.1, 7.6.2, 7.6.3) for the open plan and private office workstation parameters 1,2. Also conforms to the CDPH/EHLB Standard Method (CA 01350) v1.2-2017 (effective January, 2017) for the open plan1, private office2, school classroom2 parameters.

Formica Laminates are Greenguard and Greenguard Gold Certified

Formica Phenolic Backers are Greenguard Gold Certified

Formica Compact is Greenguard Gold Certified

Wilsonart Laminates are Greenguard Gold and Indoor Advantage Gold Certified

Wilsonart Phenolic Backers are Greenguard Gold Certified

Nevamar High Pressure Laminates are Greenguard and Greenguard Gold Certified

Pionite High Pressure Laminates are Greenguard and Greenguard Gold Certified

Steel & Aluminum Components

Steel and aluminum components are non-emitting.

Plastic Resin Molded Components (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Plastic Resin Molded Components...)

Our plastic resin molded seating components were all certified to the following standard:

SCS Indoor Advantage Gold

Conforms to the ANSI/BIFMA Furniture Emissions Standard (M7.1/X7.1-2011 R2016) and ANSI/BIFMA e.3 -2019 (Credits 7.6.1, 7.6.2, 7.6.3) for the open plan and private office workstation parameters 1,2. Also conforms to the CDPH/EHLB Standard Method (CA 01350) v1.2-2017 (effective January, 2017) for the open plan1, private office2, school classroom2 parameters.

Edge band

Our supplier has furnished no indoor air quality exposure and VOC information for PVC edge band material.

Fabric (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Fabric...)

Our fabric suppliers have provided us with a range of information. Some suppliers' offerings all meet one or another indoor air quality standard. Some suppliers have not made this information available.

We have provided a chart that indicates the applicable indoor air quality standard for each of our graded fabrics. The chart is arranged by supplier. Where no information is listed, it has not been provided by the supplier. Follow the link above.

Paint, Stain & Powder Coat (...Resources/Downloads/GreenStar Information/Paint & Stain...)

Our Airguard Low Gloss Stains and Finishes are certified to meet the criteria for Greenguard and Greenguard Gold standards.

Powder coats release a negligible amount of VOCs and are generally considered to be non-emitting.

Hardware – Metal components, Glides, Casters

Metal hardware is non-emitting.

Our providers of casters and other item with mixed composition were unable to provide information about their products impact on indoor air quality. Typically, these products do not contain formaldehyde or other compounds that would release VOCs into the atmosphere.

Hardware – Acrylic/Plastic Components

Acrylic does not release VOCs into the atmosphere. It is considered non-emitting.



Improving our Green Processes

As a manufacturer of predominantly wood and wood-based furniture, it is inevitable that scrap is produced. No matter how efficiently we plan sheet material utilization, there is always scrap. There is always sawdust produced when a saw, sander or a drill is used to shape or fasten components. While we don't produce the materials we use to manufacture our furniture, we do apply sprayed finishes to some of them. We also produce waste and scrap that is common among most manufacturers, like wooden pallets, steel, plastic and cardboard scrap materials.

We currently have processes in place to directly address the collection of manufacturing scrap and waste and to recycle or repurpose it.

Sheet Goods and Wood

Unusable sheet goods and solid wood scraps are made available to the local community to be used for projects or for use as kindling (hardwood only). Scraps are made available in a designated area by the side of the road for pick up. We work to limit what we put in the trash

Sawdust

Sawdust is collected through an industrial dust collection system and we provide it to local farmers for animal bedding.

Spray Finish

Our finish product for wood products is sprayed on a Superfici flatline finish system. All overspray solvent is reclaimed from a belt, rehydrated and reused as seal coat on future orders.

Thermoplastics

All unusable thermoplastic components are recycled.

Steel

All unusable steel components are recycled.

Wooden Pallets

All wooden pallets are reused until they lose their structural integrity. Unusable pallets are recycled.

Cardboard

All scrap cardboard is crushed, bailed and delivered to a recycling facility.

It is our goal to continually review, refine and improve the green practices in our manufacturing process.

We are also focusing on our office practices as well. When lighting and light fixtures need to be replaced, we look for energy-efficient solutions. We are currently looking for an efficient way to recycle paper products, batteries, inkjet printers, computers, keyboards, monitors, etc. The State of Michigan imposes a 10¢ deposit on soft drink containers, so all bottle and cans are collected for a refund.

We believe being “green” is an ongoing process of continual improvement. We will continue to look for ways to our energy use, reduce waste, repurpose and recycle.



Designing Product Longevity

There is a prevailing belief that manufacturers design a product to last just past the warranty period before it fails. I have 10 years of experience in manufacturing for the testing and reliability community and I must admit, that in some cases, I can confirm that this belief is reality. But not every manufacturer shares this short-sighted view.

At mediatechnologies, that kind of thinking “*goes against our grain.*” Our furniture has been referred to as “30-year furniture.” We design and build your furniture so that you get the maximum value out of your investment. Some people think getting 30 years of use out of anything today is remarkable. We think it should be an expectation. Call it ethics, pride, craftsmanship, honesty, stubbornness, attitude...you can give our driving force a lot of different names. But in the end, it comes down to wanting to do the best job that we can for every customer who places enough trust in us to also place an order.

OK. What does this have to do with being “green”?

It's actually very simple. Longer product life reduces the amount of product that is discarded and increases the value of your investment at the same time. Longer product life means less furniture in the landfill. We achieve this through material selection, design for longevity, and of course, experience. We don't cut corners.

Of course, furniture can show wear over time and we have some solutions for that as well.

- Our finished wood products can be touched up with materials available at local hardware to keep furniture looking great without replacement.
- Our steel components can be touched up onsite.
- Upholstered and thermoplastic seating components can be replaced to prevent complete replacement.

We want you to trust that we will continue to design and produce furniture with lasting value.