



**CORPORATE SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY**

GEOFABRICS®
Sustainable solutions



protect
contain
secure



**THE EARTH IS CORE
TO OUR BUSINESS**



The earth is core to our business.

We work to protect, contain and secure the physical environment using smart geotextile and geosynthetic products. We help our clients mitigate environmental risk through world leading research and innovative product development.

Recycled material

Providing a use and a market for recycled material is integral to developing a circular economy. By incorporating recycled material into products such as Bidim® Green, Tracktex® Green, Sealmac® Green, LamGrid Green and Megaflo® Green, Geofabrics is helping to reduce waste to landfill.

Through technology and our enterprise software IFS, we are navigating the complexities of our supply chain, transparently tracking the number of recycled bottles used and calculating our progress to report. Over the past 18 months, we have utilised the recycled material from almost 20 million bottles.

Geofabrics is a proud member of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC). We are providing more sustainable products for infrastructure businesses to incorporate into their projects, reducing their own impact on the environment.

Reducing energy intensive material use

When used in infrastructure projects, geotextiles have the additional benefit of reducing energy use and carbon emissions as they are lighter and less energy intensive to produce than traditional construction materials such as steel, cement, lime or aggregate. The use of geotextiles can also reduce the need to transport and use high quantities of quarried materials and aggregates while achieving the same result.

Containing contaminants

Contaminated sites and landfills which may contain PFAS & other contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) can be contained and sealed using a hybrid clay liner such as Sorbseal®. This protects the surrounding environment and waterways from dangerous contaminants that don't break down.

Erosion & revegetation

Geotextiles can be used to prevent erosion to coastal shorelines caused by extreme weather events such as heatwaves, cyclones and floods. The increase in intensity and frequency of these events is being influenced by climate change.

We have been working with coastal communities and developing countries in coastal protection for many years. In 2018, Geofabrics won the AusTrade Australian Export Award for Environmental Solutions. Recognised for the positive environmental impact our Australian made Elcorock coastal protection system had in projects in Tuvalu and New Zealand.

Geosynthetics are also used to promote revegetation and surface protection against wind and water in the rehabilitation of mining sites.

Energy saving

While we are utilising recycled material in manufacturing, we are also implementing changes to reduce our own impact. We have installed solar systems and LED lights across the business, improved the energy efficiency of production and reduced waste.

Product Packaging

Our Sustainable Packaging Policy ensures excessive packaging is avoided or reduced to optimise material efficiency. We have a goal to achieve 100 per cent recycled packaging and 50 percent recyclable packaging for Australian manufactured products. We are a signatory of the Australian Packaging Covenant and report to APCO annually.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

We are guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals and are making changes where we can have the most impact.



**20
MILLION**
plastic bottles
recycled and
material reused

Our decisions & initiatives are guided by these UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



GEOFABRICS®

1978



**GEOFABRICS
LAUNCHED**

1987



**BIDIM
LAUNCHED**



**AWARDED AUSTRADE AUSTRALIAN
EXPORT AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
SOLUTIONS FOR ELCOROCK**

2018



2020

**RECYCLED MATERIAL
INTRODUCED TO BIDIM GREEN
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VISY**



**RECOGNISED IN AFR'S MOST
INNOVATIVE COMPANY LIST FOR
MANUFACTURING AND CONSUMER
GOODS FOR BIDIM GREEN**



**AWARDED AFR'S #1 MOST
INNOVATIVE COMPANY FOR
MANUFACTURING AND CONSUMER
GOODS FOR SORBSEAL**

**HIGHLY COMMENDED IN IFS
CHANGE FOR GOOD AWARDS
FOR BIDIM GREEN**

 **PLASCORP**

**GEOFABRICS
ACQUIRED
PLASCORP**



**GEOFABRICS
ACADEMY
LAUNCHED**



**AUSTRALIAN MADE
FOR MEGAFLO GREEN,
ELCOROCK &
FILTERWRAP**

2021



2022

**20 MILLION RECYCLED BOTTLES
USED IN MANUFACTURING
MILESTONE REACHED**

Member 2022

Social Traders

BUYER FOR GOOD

**GEOFABRICS JOINED
SOCIAL TRADERS**

Local manufacturing

Geofabrics are the only geosynthetic manufacturer in Australia. We employ more than 100 local manufacturing staff, have over 1,000 active regional suppliers and return more than \$10 million per annum into the regional communities in which we operate.

Apart from providing a more reliable supply chain, shorter lead times and more flexibility, local manufacturing allows us to have more control over decisions that affect the environment. Local content, sustainability and creating local jobs are key pillars driving the Geofabrics business.

Geofabrics recently acquired Australian manufacturer Plascorp, which also has its own manufacturing sites. In total, Geofabrics now has five manufacturing plants and 350+ staff spread across three countries.

Three key products, Megaflor Green Panel Drains, Elcorock® Geotextile Containers and Filterwrap® Non-Woven Geotextiles now carry the recognised Australian Made logo to inform customers they are locally produced, supporting local jobs.

We endeavour to work with organisations and suppliers that operate in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. We assess their supply chains and operations in line with our Social Procurement Framework and Modern Slavery Policy. Geofabrics is committed to diversity and support of minority groups throughout the supply chain.

We are compliant with the Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018 and ensure our key suppliers also comply. Preventing and addressing modern slavery throughout the world is central to our unwavering commitment to running a safe, socially responsible and environmentally friendly business. We are committed to meeting and exceeding our obligations and ensuring our strong corporate and social responsibility.

We have been the recipient of various State and Federal Government grants and funding to increase manufacturing of innovative and sustainable products such as Bidim Green, Sorbseal and Megaflor Green.

We are committed to continuous improvement in our manufacturing and sustainability

- Year on year per unit reduction in energy use at our Albury site
- Implemented smart lighting system at Albury site reducing electricity use by approximately 400MWh every year
- Capital expenditure program to reduce electricity usage at our manufacturing plants through energy efficient compressors
- Goal of implementing solar panels at manufacturing sites to further reduce use of electricity from the grid
- Increase year-on-year of recycled material used in manufacturing and packaging
 - Use of Australian sourced PET & HDPE recycled plastic materials
 - More than 2 million plastic bottles, on average, are saved from landfill every month
 - Megaflor Green is made in NSW, from 100% recycled locally sourced, plastic material
- Promote and endorse the use of recycled packaging for our Australian manufactured products
- Reduction year-on-year in waste produced by manufacturing
- Reduced transportation impact with increase in locally produced product



10,000 tonnes = 9.2 jobs

Every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled into Bidim Green creates 9.2 Australian jobs



Proud member of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC)



Bidim Green, Sealmac Green and Megaflor Green are now available on the ISupply directory

Local people

Local manufacturing means we can employ more Australians. We are building a more sustainable workplace that is safe, rewarding and diverse. Across the business, we are striving to continuously improve our workplaces, support our staff and ensure the safety of our team and customers.

Our people

Our company values centre around having the power to change the game. We will show empathy and act with humility, honesty, transparency and integrity. As one team, we will break down barriers and build connections to work together. We will be open to new ideas and embrace innovation. We will celebrate successes and empower individuals to be responsible for their own work and choices.

- **Diversity and inclusion in our workforce**

We are committed to ensuring our recruiting practices reflect the diverse community and all employees feel valued and have equal opportunities

- **AccessEAP Service**

Our Employee Assistance Program is a voluntary, confidential and complimentary counselling service focused on helping employees enhance their overall wellbeing

- **Mental Health Awareness**

All employees complete a Mental Health and Wellbeing course to raise awareness and provide information of where help and support is available

- **Safety**

Significant increase in the reporting of Near Miss Incidents and Hazards demonstrating our commitment to reporting and improving our safety behaviours

- **Online Training**

All employees have access to on-line training modules specific to our products, processes and safe work practices to keep up-to-date through ELMO learning management system

- **Flexible Working Arrangements Policy**

We want all our employees to be able to achieve a healthy work/life balance

- **Reward & Recognition Program**

Initiative to recognise employees for going above and beyond

- **Group Service Awards**

To acknowledge, recognise and award employees after completing 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service

Our Community

Business plays an important role in all communities and being socially responsible is just part of that. Participating within the community and supporting services and charities is critical for a thriving society.

We have been working with coastal communities and developing countries in coastal protection for many years. In 2018, Geofabrics won the AusTrade Australian Export Award for Environmental Solutions. Recognised for the positive environmental impact our Australian made Elcorock coastal protection system had in projects in Tuvalu and New Zealand.

SOCIAL TRADERS

We are members of Social Traders, an organisation that leads the charge for social procurement and social enterprise procurement. Social Traders help to create employment and training opportunities for marginalised people and donate over half their profits to charity. We are proud to support an Australian organisation that promotes equitable and social procurement. Geofabrics provides a level of preference to suppliers that demonstrate social responsibility. Through our membership with Social Traders we are seeking to promote supply chains that drive positive social impact.

MENTAL HEALTH

We financially support Mental Health services with a focus on industry. We recognise Mental Health is a significant challenge for the future and believe business has a role to play.

Industry Associations:

ISC
APCO
Sustainability Victoria
Engineers Australia
WMRR
ACIGS
AGS
Water New Zealand

Industry Accreditations & Certifications:

GAILAP
NATA
ISO9001





“

We promote and encourage our customers to not only buy Australian-made products and Australian products that incorporate recycled content, but also to look within their supply chains and to develop enthusiasm for Australian businesses that value social procurement responsibility.”

Dennis Grech, CEO & Managing Director

INNOVATION & EDUCATION

We recognise the extraordinary talents of engineers and the opportunities they have to bring about change for the future. Geofabrics are committed to further education and supporting the next generation of engineers.

We have launched the Geofabrics Academy with free CPD e-learning webinars to keep engineers up-to-date with the latest in the industry.

We are in partnership with Monash University to sponsor and mentor PhD candidates. One of our projects aims to extend the use of Bidim, significantly benefiting the development of tools and techniques for pavement monitoring and assessment. Our other collaboration, the ARC Linkage Project, is designing the next generation of composite liner systems for emerging contaminants to ensure long-term environmental protection from PFAS.

We are also partnering with the University of Technology Sydney to create and sponsor the Geofabrics Australasia John Bolton Civil Engineering prize, in honour of our late colleague, John Bolton. The prize is awarded annually to the student with the highest mark in the UTS Major Design Project for Geotechnical Engineering.

For the past 10 years, we have also proudly supported the next generation of civil engineers through our sponsorship of the Monash University Geofabrics Prize for Best Geosynthetics Final Year Project in CIV4248.

GEOFABRICS ACADEMY™



In proud partnership with:



GEOFABRICS®



“

At Geofabrics, we see our responsibility beyond the projects we work on today, but also, to create a better world for today's community and the generations which follow. I am passionate to encourage my colleagues, our suppliers and our customers to embrace a business model that respects the world we live in, its people today and the communities of the future.

”

Dennis Grech, CEO & Managing Director

Geofabrics is the only geotextile manufacturer in Australia, with plants in Albury and Ormeau. We pride ourselves on providing unrivalled service to our customers. We can recommend the best geosynthetic product to achieve the objectives of your project and ensure it's available when you need it.

Over 40 years of experience allows our technical staff to provide practical support, based on local conditions. We are proud to have been recognised in the Australian Financial Review (AFR) Most Innovative Company list in 2020 with Bidim Green.

In 2021, Geofabrics ranked #1 in AFR's Most Innovative Company for Manufacturing and Consumer Goods for Sorbseal.

With a view to the future, we are committed to improving the sustainability of our business by reducing waste to landfill, lowering our carbon emissions and investing in our people.



VISIT **GEOFABRICS.CO** OR CALL 1300 60 60 20 (AU)
OR **GEOFABRICS.CO.NZ** OR CALL 0800 60 60 20 (NZ)

GEOFABRICS®
Sustainable solutions