



**Sustainability is
in our DNA**



WE BELIEVE WE ALL NEED TO TAKE AMBITIOUS STEPS TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!

While a promotional item is potentially the most tangible and appreciated marketing instrument, its 'reach' is challenged by unnecessary cost-adding in the value chain and insufficient focus on sustainability.

Through market professionalisation, automation and digitalisation, the market will rapidly consolidate both on reseller and on supplier level, eventually improving the position and adding-value of multi-category and full-service suppliers in the promotional industry.

For these companies it comes down to the continuous development of well thought-through product ranges and solutions, enriched by speed and fair pricing.

EcoSource is focused on item functionality, compliance and sustainability, embracing the environmental, social and safety aspects of the range we offer. Select EcoSource as your supply partner when you want to create conscious promotions.

SUSTAINABLE VISION AND GOAL



Aligned with the growing need to support social and responsible production, recycling and reutilization, we continuously re-examine the way we approach our product and material selection, manufacturing and print production processes.

Dedicated to sustainability and the development of a responsible collection, we can project our brands and environmental goals whilst aiding the reduction of landfill waste. With useful, functional products in timeless design and controlled quality along the entire process, we create long lasting and reusable gifts that contribute to create conscious promotions.

We believe that we can achieve an important change and tackle many problems in our industry. Commitments are important to signal our intentions and help catalyze change throughout the value chain and our industry.

We constantly evaluate our progress. We strive for an open and transparent dialogue to explain our goals, show where we stand and how we tackle these challenges. We will constantly evaluate our progress in achieving the following goals.

Choosing the right materials is an essential part of our strategy. This means producing with more sustainable materials, by selecting higher quality materials that are ethically sourced (like hemp or organic cotton), emphasize on recycled materials (like RPET, mix recycled fabrics, recycled paper) and consider whether materials (type of plastic, glass, stainless steel, aluminum) and finished products lend themselves to a recycling process.

We support our suppliers to source and/or produce with more sustainable solutions, talking about material selection and way of working. We decrease the amount of virgin synthetic fibers and plastics we are using and change gradually and wherever possible to sustainable options. At this moment it means that already 32,3% of all our items are produced in more sustainable materials. We work towards a full banning of disposable, one time use items and aim to reduce the number of these non bio-degradable products in our assortment to 0%.



RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



As a major player in the promotional industry, Ecosource takes its responsibilities seriously. All our items are well-constructed and produced with compliant and safe materials. Before it reaches the hands of a customer, it has passed several tests to ensure that it is safe for the health and safety of the end user and that it meets certain requirements. All our products are tested by independent and certified laboratories along the product development process.

During production, we ensure that each step is safe for all workers (both production as in printing) as well as the environment. Ensuring that our products are made in a safe and responsible way requires a close collaboration with our suppliers.

We have taken concrete steps to build stronger relationships with a reduced number of partner suppliers whilst developing a more transparent way of working focused on creating a safer and more positive working environment within our supply chain. This enables us to understand their challenges and support them to achieve our social compliance and sustainability standards.

We have sustainable relationships with all our partners that undergo a social audit on a regular basis.

We prioritize, care and respect all the people involved in the printing and handling of our products. In support of this goal, we have developed a more transparent way of working focused on creating a safe and positive working environment within our operation. This requires a responsible management approach and the safe use of all production inputs, such as chemicals and the control of all production outputs and emissions.

In all printing techniques, we continuously aim to strongly reduce the use of solvent-based chemicals. It also means that during our printing process, we do not output any chemicals in the waste water systems, but transport these chemicals to a chemical processing company. Therefore we can re-use water during the printing process



SUSTAINABLE PRINTING

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



As we strongly reduce the use of plastic and use packing materials in the most efficient way as possible, we reduce our environmental footprint

For our inbound freight we minimize the use of plastic packaging and use or reuse paper packaging instead. As an example we re-use in our Ede sample warehouse shredded cardboard boxes. For outbound freight we also reuse existing packaging as much as possible, Overall it means that a big part of all of our packaging used is more sustainable packaging, made from natural-, recycled material or bio plastics. When we use plastic packaging and we cannot reuse the plastic material ourselves, we ensure it will be recycled or we transfer it to a third party for further recycling



HEMP

Hemp is one of the oldest and most eco-friendly textile fabrics. It is made from fibres of the fast growing cannabis plant that is naturally pest resistant and that can grow without the assistance of fertilizers and pesticides. This makes it a 100% organic crop and therefore very environmentally friendly. The production process of the hemp fibres is a very sustainable one and also due to the fact that these organic fibres are 100% recyclable.



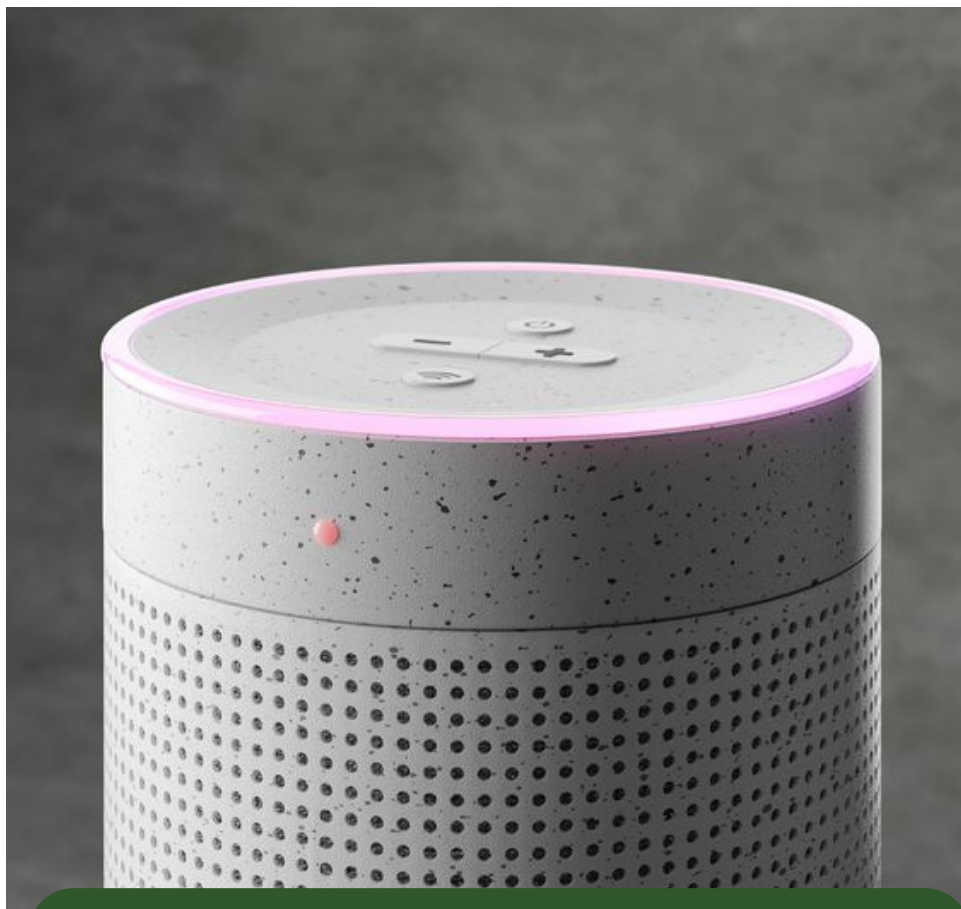
COTTON

Organic cotton is equal to cotton with the difference that it is naturally grown without use of any pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers or any other chemical. In order to know for sure that the cotton is indeed organic, manufacturers go through extensive supply chain verification by third-parties and only certified cotton can be marketed (example by GOTS). Number of organic cotton farms is increasing fastly however still counts for a very small part of overall cotton production worldwide.



RECYCLED

Recycled fabrics are made from waste fabrics (any textiles). Collected textile solid wastes are reprocessed to fibre and then back to fabrics for further re-production of bags, garments or linen. Most of the manufacturers work with two streams : pre-consumer waste (scrap from production) and post-consumer waste (used textiles collected). The color segregation occurs during the process to avoid as much as possible the re-dyeing of the fabric.



ABS PLASTIC

ABS plastic (Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene) is 100% recyclable. ABS is assigned the number 7 recycling code. It is clubbed with “Other Plastics” on number 7 group. The process of recycling is simple and similar to the recycling method of PET. Once the recycled ABS has been fully reformed, it is ready to be re-used. ABS can be recycled for 2 or more times.



RPET

PET is the most common type of plastic, mostly used for packaging and beverages disposable bottles/containers. A large part of the solid waste in the world is attributed to this packaging. Recycled PET is known as RPET, and it is the most widely recycled plastic in the world. The use of recycled PET by giving a new life to an already made product in place of virgin resin results in reduced environmental impact.



RECYCLED PAPER

We have introduced a new range of paper products. The same items you already know and love, made with sustainability in mind. This is only one of many ways we are adapting to help the ecosystem. Did you know the average tree can be used to produce over 8,000 pieces of paper?

Once the paper is sorted, it is processed into usable raw materials which we mold into convenient items.



CORK

Cork is the bark of the self-regenerating cork oak tree. It is ranked among the most durable organic materials with the property of stabilising the air temperature and humidity. It is a very flexible material and be treated in a simple natural way. It has good adhesive properties, making it easy to use in combination with different materials. In general the cork industry is regarded as one of the most environmental friendly. Cork is 100% natural and biodegradable.



BAMBOO

Bamboo is one of the fastest growing plants (grass) and it can replenish itself within a year with minimum water needs and without the need of fertilisers to boost its growth. Since bamboo is naturally pest-resistant there is no usage of pesticides. Bamboo is a very renewable resource, strong and durable. It absorbs CO₂ from the air and releases oxygen which improves the air quality. Bamboo is 100% natural and biodegradable.



CORN PLA

Polylactic acid (PLA) is a natural plastic substitute made from fermented plant starch (usually corn). It is an ecofriendly, renewably-sourced and biodegradable alternative to conventional petroleum-based plastics. The increased usage of PLA will reduce the carbon footprint of many industries. This non-toxic green material can be used for all kinds of products such as grocery shopping bags to safe reusable tumblers.



GLASS

Glass is a sustainable and budget friendly material. With different styles and sizes for any occasion, you can use these for when you are thirsty to help avoid single use items. Do your part by making this small change.

Glass is a great material that can be re-used which makes it a perfect match for our collection. easy to clean and long lasting.



SLATE

Slate is a mineral product / 100% natural. Its production process is very simple and has a low environmental impact (minimum manufacturing as it is handcrafted from the quarry). Natural slate can be easily recycled at the end of its life.



REUSE PRODUCTS

Choose more sustainable materials and replace disposable with reusable products.

In the way we interact with our environment, unnecessary waste is no longer an option. Replacing disposable products made of non-renewable resources by reusable products or biodegradable materials is an important step forward.

Certification

GLOBAL RECYCLED STANDARD (GRS).

The Global Recycled Standard (GRS) is intended for companies that are making and/or selling products with recycled content. The standard applies to the full supply chain and addresses traceability, environmental principles, social requirements, and labelling.

.GOTS certification

GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) has been developed to further produce organic cotton and other organically grown fibres into a sustainable garment or textile. The standard imposes requirements on factories regarding the use of harmful chemicals. In addition, factories have an obligation to use a sustainable wastewater system and to use water and energy sparingly. It also includes criteria relating to working conditions which are based on the standards of the International Labour Organization, such as the right to trade union freedom and the right to safe and healthy working conditions

OEKO-TEX certification

OEKO-TEX Standard 100 is a health mark for textiles, with strict requirements for residues of heavy metals, harmful dyes, and pesticides. To obtain the quality mark, the textile is tested by independent inspectors and no harmful substances may be present. In particular, the dyeing process causes the presence of these harmful substances in the regular textile industry. This label says nothing about fair production or burdening the environment. This means that fabrics with only the OEKO-TEX 100 quality mark are not organic.



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