

# Environmental & Sustainability Statement

Newbridge Silverware recognises the importance that the protection of the environment plays in the operation of our trading activities. The Newbridge companies are committed to a sustainable future and to improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the community. Through our actions we hope to create a cleaner, safer place to live and work. We aim to do this through the implementation of the highest standards of environmental practice resulting in an environmentally friendly organisation.

We have an increasing focus on environment – and we ensure this by having a sustainable consciousness across our factory, the visitor centre, the restaurant and our own operated retail units throughout Ireland. We aim to be a leader as a sustainable establishment and to do so, we have implemented several initiatives including;

## General

- We are using wood products from sources that are certified as sustainable.
- We have installed the cabling for two Electric Vehicle Charging Units in our visitor centre car Park.
- We have obtained planning for the construction of a bicycle parking facility on the grounds our visitor centre
- The Newbridge companies are active members of Repak and are continuously working on our recycling and waste management systems. Repak is a not-for-profit packaging recycling scheme funded by contributions from over 3,000 participating Member companies. We have eight streams of waste in our facility in Newbridge : Packaging, Glass, Recycling, Paint, Batteries, Food, Electronics and General.
- Where possible we use eco-friendly cleaning products throughout our premises.
- We seek, in as far as possible, to reuse supplier cartons and boxes when sending product to our customers
- We are minimising the printing of brochures and are sourcing eco-friendly gift and marketing products. We have also introduced an electronic sign up to our databases for customers as an alternative to paper sign up.
- We offset our paper consumption by planting trees in partnership with Print Releaf.

## Restaurant

- Food Preparation & Menu Selection– We have an emphasis on reducing food waste and our restaurant sources local ingredients wherever possible to reduce

carbon footprint. We also encourage deliveries to be made in removable containers.

- Our restaurant has moved to compost packaging for take away food & beverages.
- Food bins are used in our restaurant & kitchen with waste being sent to compost facilities

## **Factory**

- The companies continuously strive to conserve energy:
  - We installed solar PV panels on the roof of the restaurant and are currently replacing the invertors to maximise their usage
  - We recently completed a project to update our buildings with energy saving LED lighting. This has led to us reducing our electricity consumption.
- We are continuously working on optimizing and upgrading our product range, so we can offer selection of environmentally friendly packaging to our customers. This currently includes 100% recycled plastic in our jewellery boxes. FSC®-certified paper and cardboard in our jewellery and giftware packaging plus product care inserts
- We currently use well water in all of our production needs so as to reduce our needs from mains in
  - Electroplating plant - Softened and Dionised water used.
  - Vibratory finish
  - Water jet cutting area.
- In the plating plant we use softened water to provide rinses for products going through either the cutlery line or jewellery line. We use Dionised water to top up plating tanks and drag out tanks (static).
  - The rinse water is sent to our waste treatment plant for PH and Redox adjustment to comply with our current discharge license.
  - The acid and cyanide waste is automatically monitored and controlled via ph. meters and redox meters.
  - All holding tanks are contained in bunded areas and fail safe and alarms are fitted.
- Waste cleaners and chemicals are disposed using a recognized company (Enva) and all documentation is kept on site (CI FORMS). Kildare County Council monitors our procedures independently and we send our results to laboratory for analysis on a monthly basis (The Council's requirement is every two month).

- In our vibratory plant the profiles are sent for a deburring process using the proven water vibratory bowl action. The wastewater from this operation is sent to a holding tank and the sludge developed from this waste is put through a high pressure filter press. The resulting water is sent through our waste treatment plant for further treatment and adjustment.
- In the water jet cutting operation high pressure water and a sand based “Garnet” is added to cut the intricate profiles that are used in the production process. We run the machines on an intermittent basis to ensure the full output is seldom reached and the water usage is circa 10 cubic meters per week. The sludge from this operation is sent via Aes/Bord na Mona to a landfill site and water is released to waste stream.
- We recognise that compressed air is an inefficient use of energy. We have taken a number of steps to reduce our dependency on and the use of compressed air in the factory by
  - Replacing all the old pneumatic rams used on the Clairpol polishing machines.
  - Replacing the pneumatically operated diaphragm pump used to pump sludge into the main filter press with an electrically operated piston membrane pump.
  - Monitoring the air- line in the factory for possible air leaks.
- We store our everyday chemicals in “Chemistore” storage units which are designed for chemicals and have a bund built into the bottom. We separate the cyanides/alkali solutions from the acid based in two separate containers marked on site plan.

Newbridge Silverware is passionate about making greener choices and realises that our actions have reactions and we aim to collectively act responsibly and contribute to the sustainable development of the neighbourhood around our premises.

We commit to compliance with environmental legislation, regulations, standards and codes of practice applicable to the industry in which it operates and will direct its business to suppliers and contractors who have a commitment to similar environmental values and objectives.

Through communication and training, our employees and contractors will be encouraged and assisted to enhance their awareness of the impact that each and every one of us have upon fragile environment in which we co-exist.