




contemporary  leathers

## MANAGING DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We are proud to release Contemporary Leathers' first Sustainability Report for the year 2005. Since 2003 we have introduced many environmental initiatives within our products, office and warehouse operations.

This report, compiled by our Environmental Manager, includes: our initiatives to date; our current performance measures and our commitment to continually improve targets.

Some of our achievements include:

- Increasing our office environmental performance from an average to excellent rating (as measured by a University of New South Wales Green Office Rating Questionnaire) at the beginning of 2003. This meant our office had minimal impact on the environment compared with the average office.
- Identifying the impact of our product processes using the life cycle approach, which is now a standard procedure for all new product developments. Environmental information is now included with each leather Product Specification. Contemporary Leathers prides itself on providing accurate and not misleading claims, following the ISO 14021 standard for Environmental labels and declarations.
- The release of EARTHSAFE™, a new leather collection that sets the benchmark in quality, natural beauty and environmental responsibility.

These achievements would not be possible without the support from our staff, customers and suppliers and we look forward to working together to continually seek ways to improve our internal and external business activities to ensure greater protection of our society and environment.

David Gourlay  
Managing Director

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2005

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## REPORT PROFILE

**Mission Statement**  
"Leading our industry"

**Our Company**  
Contemporary Leathers is dedicated to providing the International market with the most comprehensive and highest quality range of natural leathers for upholstery. Contemporary Leathers was established in July 2001 as a joint venture between David Gourlay and Instyle Contract Textiles.

Contemporary Leathers has established offices or agents in all capital cities of Australia, New Zealand, Dubai and Hong Kong.

**Scope**  
This is Contemporary Leathers first Sustainability Report and covers our environmental and social performance for the 12 month period from 01 January 2005 to 31 December 2005. The information is reported on qualitatively although indicators of paper, energy, water usage and waste are reported quantitatively.

The environment section covers the operations at Contemporary Leathers' Head Office in Mascot, Sydney consisting of an office and warehouse with 3 staff whilst the social section is inclusive of the entire company.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

### 1. PAPER USAGE

**Initiatives**  
Reduce document sizes for eg. price list from 7 to 5 pages, product descriptions from A4 to A5  
Double sided printing where possible  
Use of electronic communication where possible  
Reuse of paper for internal use  
Use of 100% recycled & chlorine free bleached paper & 80% recycled content envelopes

**Current Measures**  
Recycled paper 9.9 reams per person  
Virgin paper 3.1 reams per person

Total paper 13 reams per person (this figure does not include pre printed stationery)

**Targets**  
Reduce paper usage by 10%  
(To 11.7 reams per person per year)

### 2. WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Initiatives**  
Recycling systems were introduced at the beginning of 2003 for paper, cardboard, plastic, food & drink containers, toner cartridges, leather samples & pallets.

A compactor was introduced in 2005 to bale plastic waste. This results in reduced transportation impact as there are fewer pick ups.

Other waste including leather offcuts and discontinued sampling is sent on an ad hoc basis to a local community reuse organisation, Reverse Garbage.

**Current Measures**  
*Recycling*  
Paper & cardboard 8.8 tonnes  
Food & drink containers 70 kg  
Plastic packaging 16.8 bales

Resources saved from paper & cardboard recycling include 51 trees, 9.8 barrels of oil, 16.1 MW of electricity, 15.5m<sup>3</sup> of landfill and 124.7 kilolitres of water for the year.

*Waste to landfill* 2.6 tonnes

**Targets**  
Reduce waste to landfill by 10%

### 3. WATER USAGE

**Initiatives**  
Installation of dual flush toilets  
Water saving ideas are regularly communicated to staff

**Current Measures**  
Water usage 54.5 kilolitres

**Targets**  
Reduce water usage by 10%

### 4. ENERGY USAGE

**Initiatives**  
Office have individual light switches / lights are switched off when not in use  
Use of energy saving mode on computer monitors / Switch off computers at days end

**Current Measures**  
Electricity usage 38 MWh  
GHG Emissions 38 tonnes

### 5. PACKAGING

Our leather hides are transported to customers on cardboard cores and wrapped in post industrial recycled LDPE plastic

**Initiatives**  
Redesigned transport packaging in early 2005 to use less material (thickness reduced by over 15%) and contain recycled content (85% post-industrial content). This is defined as 'eco packaging' by ecospecifier (Australian database of eco preferred materials).

Cores are made with recycled cardboard

### 6. OFFICE PRODUCTS

**Initiatives**  
No longer purchase disposable plates, cups and cutlery  
Procurement of environmental preferable products such as:

- 100% recycled content paper
- 80% recycled content envelopes
- Earth Choice dishwash detergent is biodegradable, phosphate-free, with recycled packaging & made in Australia.
- Toilet paper, Notebooks and Post it Notes are made with recycled content
- Pencils produced from recycled newsprint, a unique process that does not use any wood
- Ballpoint pens produced from non bleached paper containing no plastic material in the barrels or caps. 95% of the pen is biodegradable & packaging is made from recycled paper
- Permanent markers and highlighters are manufactured using recycled paper and polypropylene, with a saving of over 60% plastic compared to conventional markers. The ink is 100% Consumer and Environment Safe alcohol based. Awarded with the Nordic Swan Eco Label.

### 7. COMMUNICATION

**Initiatives**  
E-cards or postcards are used for promotion purposes to reduce unnecessary paper waste. In 2005 Christmas cards were sent by email. With the money saved from cards and postage, Contemporary Leathers donated money to Greenpeace and Planet Ark.

Stationery and sampling cards are made from 100% ecf FSC certified and managed plantation wood pulp paper

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE CONTINUED

### 8. PRODUCTS

#### Initiatives

Contemporary Leathers sources from tanneries that are committed to the environment. Our tanneries source only the highest quality locally available raw hides from Scandinavia, Europe and New Zealand and produce the hides in accordance to strict environmental legislation.

All tanneries have integrated further environmental considerations during manufacture including energy and water conservation measures, reducing waste and wastewater treatment plants.

One of our largest suppliers, Elmo has an environmental management system certified with ISO14001 since 2001. Elmo continually reduces its environmental impact and has invested in a new treatment plant that reduces nitrogen emissions in wastewater by 80%, traditional wastewater treatment in the tanning industry cuts nitrogen emissions by around 30%. Elmo's Environment Report is available through Contemporary Leathers.

#### EARTHSAFE™ (Sustainable + Accredited For the Environment) Leathers

Contemporary Leathers offers EARTHSAFE™, a leather collection with the highest standard of quality, natural beauty and environmental responsibility.

Only the best hides local to each tannery are sourced, ensuring less need for processing and chemicals.

EARTHSAFE™ leathers are produced by World's Best Practice tanneries, operating progressive environmental management systems certified to ISO 14001. The production is free of toxic substances such as chromium, PCP, AOX and only water-based dyes and finishes are used. The tanneries are at the forefront of technology, able to reduce nitrogen emissions by 80%, compared to the typical 30% reduction by conventional wastewater treatment plants.

EARTHSAFE™ leathers are recognised as the optimum in environmental responsibility by the Lederinstitut Gerberschule Reutlingen, the world's leading Training, Testing and Research Centre for leather.

EARTHSAFE™ leathers are durable and have met or exceeded the performance guidelines of the Commercial Leather Association of Australia and New Zealand (CLA).

As a natural product with minimal chemical input, EARTHSAFE™ leathers do not negatively affect indoor air quality. EARTHSAFE™ leathers are reusable, recyclable and fully biodegradable.

EARTHSAFE™ leathers include ELMOSOFT with new leather collections to be introduced in 2006.

#### Environmental Information System

After assessing the impact of each leather process using the lifecycle approach, Contemporary Leathers identified ten criteria to communicate the environmental benefits of each product. Environmental benefits can include an environmentally-improved production process or produced at an ISO 14001 tannery. The Environmental Information System is available with each product specification.

### 9. GOING BEYOND

#### Initiatives

Staff use personal mugs when buying coffee from outside vendors to avoid using disposable cups

To promote ecological values, ECO TIPS are included in internal & external emails. This assists employees and others to be environmentally conscious in all aspects of life

#### Targets

Contemporary Leathers has signed up with GREENFLEET for 2006. GREENFLEET plant and maintain native trees that will offset the greenhouse emissions generated by our fleet of cars.

## SOCIAL PERFORMANCE

### 10. OUR PEOPLE

We have a great team at Contemporary Leathers and our success is based on teamwork. Our team is diverse ranging in age, gender, ethnic background and education.

### 11. OUR CUSTOMERS

Contemporary Leathers' customers include architects, interior and furniture designers and furniture manufacturers. Contemporary Leathers has a customer-oriented approach and operates with customers in a manner to promote integrity, trust and mutual respect.

### 12. OUR SUPPLIERS

We have established and maintained excellent relationships with our tanneries. Our tanneries are located in Sweden, France, Germany, Spain and New Zealand and are at the leading edge of technological innovation. These tanneries are carefully chosen for the quality of their products, their service and their commitment to the environment.

### 13. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Contemporary Leathers is a founding member of the Commercial Leather Association of Australia and New Zealand (CLA). The CLA has been established to provide its customers with updated and relevant industry standards and information that will benefit in the understanding and use of commercial and high-end residential leathers. For information on the CLA please visit our website.

### 14. GIFTS

We receive numerous requests for sponsorship, donations, reduced fees and presentations. Contemporary Leathers is committed to assisting students with practical industry knowledge.

#### Initiatives

Donations to student design awards and helping to promote young furniture designers

Contemporary Leathers delivers educational presentations to university students on leather and the environment.

### 15. TARGETS

Investigate the possible involvement in community / environmental projects

#### FEEDBACK

To assist us in improving our first Sustainability Report and our service to you, your feedback is invaluable. What is your overall impression of the report? Are there any important issues missing? Was the information useful and did it meet your expectations? How can the presentation of data and performance be improved?

Please direct feedback to [tmak@instyle.com.au](mailto:tmak@instyle.com.au).

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