

Allsteel's History of Environmental Responsibility

Environment is not a new concept at Allsteel and its parent company, HNI. We've been incorporating environmental innovation into our business and culture for many years. We integrated pollution prevention techniques into our manufacturing processes in the 1980s, empowered employees to operate lean and eliminate waste in the 1990s, and constantly seek better ways today. It's part of our culture of lean manufacturing and continuous improvement.

Allsteel's credibility is as important as the quality of our office furniture product lines, so we adhere to the Federal Trade Commission Part 260 *Guide for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims* and use third-party experts to certify our products' benefits to the environment.

The following is a sampling of our accomplishments.

1997

- Allsteel becomes part of the HNI Corporation family of companies.

1998

- Allsteel adopts Rapid Continuous Improvement (RCI), previously introduced at HNI in 1992, to empower employees to find ways to eliminate waste, benefiting the environment and the bottom line.

1999

- Allsteel transforms a shuttered manufacturing facility into a beautiful corporate headquarters, improving the community and providing natural light for worker well-being.
- Allsteel begins receiving fiberglass cut to size to improve waste recycling opportunities by the manufacturer and promote a healthier manufacturing environment at Allsteel.

2000

- HNI leads the development of Environmental Data Sheets (EDS) to help customers make informed decisions on product selection.
- Allsteel begins sending waste fabric to be recycled into car trunk lining material instead of being landfilled.

2001

- Allsteel is awarded the State of California furniture contract based on meeting the most stringent indoor air quality standards in the world for office furniture, the California 1350 Green Specification for Open Office Furniture Standards.
- Allsteel begins bulk packaging worksurfaces and panel frames to drastically reduce packaging waste.
- Allsteel introduces Landscape™ surfaces, a collection of unique materials for panel system tiles (some made from PETG resin), providing designers with a recycled content alternative.



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2002

- HNI establishes adherence to the FTC's *Guide for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims* and ISO 14021 to assure customers that our statements of environmental impact are credible and verifiable.
- The State of Iowa recognizes HNI and Allsteel for manufacturing excellence in several categories, including environmental responsibility.
- The #19[®] office chair, 88% recyclable, is introduced with a take-back program for customers to return chairs at the end of their useful life.

2003

- Allsteel and HNI are presented with the U.S. General Services Administration Evergreen Furniture Award, acknowledging Allsteel's environmental efforts in the area of waste prevention, recycling, model facility, affirmative procurement, and environmental preferability.

2004

- Allsteel joins the U.S. Green Building Council.
- Allsteel introduces PLA panel fabric, made from corn, to the contract furniture market.
- "Solar sunflowers" (solar collectors) are installed at corporate headquarters to supplement the power needs of the office building and introduce solar energy to the community.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) presents their Pollution Prevention award to Allsteel/HNI.

2005

- Reach[®] is introduced as a unique office storage solution that consumes fewer resources while creating more efficient workspaces, reducing office energy costs, and lowering the environmental impacts of manufacturing.
- Allsteel is the first contract office furniture manufacturer to participate in Scientific Certification System's new Indoor Advantage™ air quality certification program to meet LEED[®]-CI EQ 4.5.
- HNI assists in the development of the USEPA's *Lean and Environment Toolkit* to help other companies realize the environmental improvements Allsteel has achieved utilizing RCI.

2006

- Allsteel begins using recaptured paint to coat the interior of Reach storage drawers.
- Allsteel hires an environmental expert as Stewardship Coordinator.
- Packaging for office chair shipments is drastically reduced through a focused RCI project.



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2007

- Allsteel Resource Centers achieve LEED for Commercial Interiors certification in Atlanta (Gold), San Francisco (Silver), and Santa Monica (Silver).
- Allsteel achieves Indoor Advantage certification (without veneer) for all of its products (meeting LEED-CI EQ 4.5 requirements) and Indoor Advantage Gold for most of its products (meeting the California 1350 requirements).
- *IndustryWeek* magazine recognizes HNI Corporation as one of its 50 Best U.S. Manufacturers for the fifth consecutive year.
- New ComPacked™ cartons for the Sum® chair decrease the amount of space needed in trucks by 32%, so fewer trucks are on the road, less fossil fuel is being burned, and less CO₂ is being emitted.
- Allsteel begins using low formaldehyde backer paper on all worksurfaces to further decrease emissions in the workplace.
- *Fortune* magazine recognizes HNI Corporation as one of America's Most Admired Companies for the eighth consecutive year.

2008

- Allsteel is one of the first five companies to achieve Sustainable Choice™ Silver certification for its furniture (all systems furniture lines), then moved up to Gold certification. Allsteel had to meet requirements of the BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability Standard for our corporate, manufacturing, and product impacts on materials, energy, human and ecosystem health, and social responsibility. The certification name was later changed to level™.
- Allsteel's Resource Center in Boston is awarded LEED for Commercial Interiors silver certification.
- Allsteel registers its headquarters building to pursue LEED for Existing Buildings certification.
- Allsteel's new seating line, Acuity®, receives Cradle to Cradle™ (C2C) Silver certification.
- Allsteel's new systems furniture line, Stride™, is the first product line to be designed using Design for the Environment (DfE), a tool that utilizes life cycle thinking. Stride is Allsteel's second product to receive Cradle to Cradle certification.
- Allsteel, as part of the HNI Corporation, adopts an Enterprise Sustainability Policy that integrates all aspects of sustainability's "Triple Bottom Line" of social equity (people), environmental quality (planet), and economic development (profit).



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2009

- Allsteel's Chicago Resource Center is awarded LEED for Commercial Interiors Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.
- Allsteel wins one of the first Green GOOD DESIGN™ awards from the European Center for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies and The Chicago Athenaeum for its lean and “green” manufacturing that incorporates more sustainable solutions into its internal system of Rapid Continuous Improvement.
- Allsteel's Toronto Resource Center, in the historic Toronto Carpet Factory Boiler House, is awarded LEED Canada for Commercial Interiors Gold certification by the Canada Green Building Council.
- Allsteel's parent company, HNI Corporation, is awarded the Ethics Inside® 2009 certification, the only independent verification of a company's ethical practices and compliance processes, from Ethisphere Institute, after being evaluated in over 50 criteria.
- Allsteel again wins the State of California furniture contract due, in large part, to meeting the most stringent indoor air quality standards in the world for office furniture, the California 1350 Green Specification for Open Office Furniture Standards.



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