Our Commitment to Sustainability

Owens Corning is constantly seeking ways to help create a more sustainable world. We continue to focus on three key areas:

- Greening our operations,
- Greening our products, and
- Accelerating energy efficiency improvements in the built environment.

We’ve made important strides in all three of our focus areas while increasing transparency as our various stakeholders have actively sought information on sustainability at Owens Corning. We appreciate your interest.

Progress and Challenges in Operations

From a 2002 baseline, specific environmental footprint reduction goals have now been met for four out of seven aspects we identified as critical measures; and we are active in closing the gap on the other three. For example, a major innovation in our North American foam business was implemented in 2009 as a critical step in reducing total company greenhouse gas intensity going forward.

Operating large scale manufacturing assets at partial capacity in the challenging global economic environment put stress on our ability to reduce energy and greenhouse gas intensities in 2009. As a result, while absolute energy use and greenhouse gas emissions declined significantly, our intensities for both increased year over year.

Innovation

We continue to deliver new and improved product solutions to market, extending the total life cycle energy-saving qualities of our core offerings. A couple exciting examples are our innovative energy efficiency solution, EnergyComplete™ Insulation and Air Sealing System, and our end-of-life recycling program for asphalt shingles.

Advocacy

With 40 percent of global energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions coming from buildings, there is a great need to think big and act with speed and resolve.

Making significant improvements to new and existing buildings is both practical and affordable, and Owens Corning will remain active in assuring that building improvements are integral to energy and climate policy around the world.

Frank O’Brien-Bernini
Chief Sustainability Officer


2009 Highlights

Sustainability at Owens Corning
Energy-Saving Products

Our commitment to sustainability starts with the design and manufacture of materials that save energy reduce reliance on fossil fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions around the world. Owens Corning is also a global industry leader in composite materials, with >40,000 end-use applications such as reinforcements used in the wind energy sector.

Composites
We are a global producer of glass fiber reinforcements, technical fabrics and non-woven materials. Our Composites Group has the scale to serve both regional and global customers; take advantage of new world-class technologies and develop advanced energy-efficient products. We continue to identify new opportunities to replace traditional materials with composites that are more economical, durable and lighter weight, resulting in improved energy efficiency and/or ease of use.

Insulation
Building insulation is one of the most cost-effective greenhouse gas abatement measures globally, according to a report from McKinsey & Company. Our fiberglass and foam insulation products are passive systems that consume no additional resources as they continue to save energy year after year, for as long as they remain in place. Notably, fiberglass insulation saves 12 times the energy used to produce it - in its first year installed alone.

Roofing
Owens Corning developed and commercialized the fiberglass-reinforced asphalt shingle starting in the 1970s. We’re the only roofing manufacturer to connect contractors directly with recycling facilities through a national strategic alliance with Heritage Environmental Services, the largest privately-held environmental services company in the U.S. Heritage provides dedicated, convenient drop-off centers that recycle and process shingle tear-offs.

Masonry and Other Products
Owens Corning is proud to offer the first manufactured stone veneer to be recognized by third party organizations such as GREENGUARD® Environmental Institute and UL Environment® Inc. Our other energy-efficient products include Innovation® Windows with all-fiberglass frames and Solarice® Windows, a fiberglass-reinforced vinyl replacement product. We also offer SurfSaver® Sunrooms for an energy-efficient, multi-season living space that can be added to an existing home.

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