

Corporate social responsibility

Corporate social responsibility

SP Group acknowledges the Group's responsibility to contribute to a sustainable development, and SP Group recognises the correlation between acting responsibly on the one hand and increasing the Group's earnings and growth on the other.

The basis of SP Group's work with social responsibility is the UN Global Compact – the ten principles of human rights, employee rights, environment and anti-corruption according to which the UN has listed guidelines for companies' work to ensure a more sustainable development. SP Group follows the 10 principles set out in the UN Global Compact and gives an account of the four areas in the following.

At the beginning of 2012, SP Group's largest subsidiary, SP Moulding A/S, joined the Global Compact.

Environment and climate

In accordance with the UN Global Compact, SP Group takes initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility and reduce the Group's impact on the internal and external environment, and SP Group also seeks to promote the use of more environmentally friendly technologies and materials.

It is SP Group's strategy that all production companies must implement a certifiable environmental management system which ensures:

- use of environment-friendly products in the production and development processes
- minimisation of waste and refuse as well as resource consumption
- recycling of materials and products to the widest extent possible
- a satisfactory working environment for the employees, prioritising safety and environmental impacts

With the current energy and raw material prices and the increasing waste disposal expenses, it is financially sound to reduce energy and raw material consumption and reduce the waste percentage. Therefore, all plants focus on these efforts. SP Moulding's, and Ulstrup Plast's factories have introduced decentralised grinders on all machines to replace the central grinders. This ensures that the remaining material from the production of each component is grinded immediately and led down a closed system together with the plastic material for the next component. Gibo Plast and SP Medical use central grinders to ensure reuse of surplus material in other products. In this way, more of the plastic material can be put into use. Tinby and Ergomat have also improved their processes so that materials are now fed more efficiently, which increases the rate of use and reduces waste.

Every month, SP Group measures a number of key figures relating to consumption of energy, heating, water and raw materials in all its factories. The measurement results are used for internal benchmarking and for wide implementation of initiatives which, at some plants, have proved to lower resource consumption. If the Danish indirect tax system is changed, a greater part of the excess waste heat can be used for heating. During the year, substantial amounts were invested in energy-saving equipment.

In the period 2013-2015, SP Group carried out tests using recycled plastics for selected products (Plastic Wood Compound). The tests are expected to result in commercial production during 2016. Thus, SP Group will contribute to dramatically reduce not only its own, but also others' environmental impact. The goal is to replace wood from rain forests with plastics from sorted household waste.

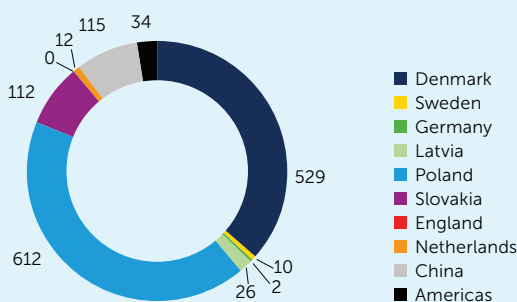
The most considerable impact on the environment occurs when the entities in the SP Group consume energy (particularly power) and raw materials during production and divert waste from production. The direct CO₂ emission from the group entities is limited, but CO₂ indirectly impacts the environment when power plants produce power and when products are transported from SP Group. SP Group has no direct impact on the power plants' energy production, but a substantial part of the power is purchased in Denmark from plants producing power from renewable energy, primarily wind turbines. In respect of transportation, SP Group selects partners with modern and environmentally friendly equipment.

Plastics produced and used with care have a positive impact on the environment. In environmental life cycle analyses, plastics generally rank higher than most alternative materials. Therefore, increased use of plastics will reduce the total impact on the environment.

Acid gasses, however, are produced during production of fluoroplastic coatings, but they are removed in a flue gas scrubber before being led out through the chimney and are therefore not a nuisance to the surroundings. The use of fluoroplastic coatings is very beneficiary to the environment in many respects. They are, for example, used as corrosion protection in flue gas purifying plants at coal-fired power plants to avoid acid rainwater. At the same time, coatings of surfaces with fluoroplastics generate considerable savings on cleaning materials and solvents as well as water.

Generally, plastics are lighter than metal, and the lower weight can be used to increase the capacity of transport equipment and, thus, reduce fuel consumption, thus benefiting the environment. Obvious examples include rolling stock such as agricultural machinery, tractors, combine harvesters, buses and cars where the exterior parts can be manufactured

Distribution of employees by geographical area in 2015 (average)



Distribution of employees by geographical area in 2014 (average)

