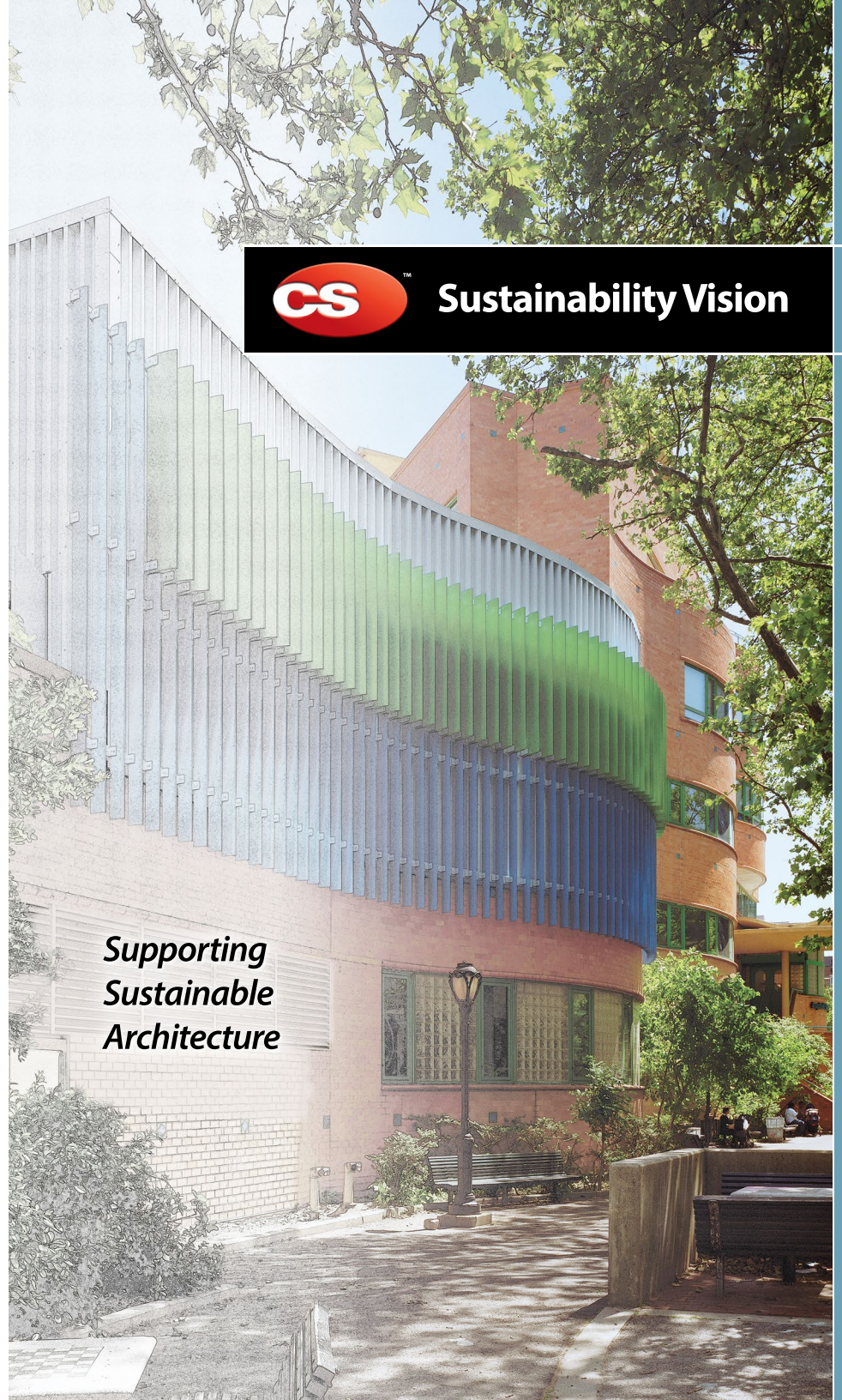




Sustainability Vision

*Supporting
Sustainable
Architecture*



About Us

Construction Specialties, Inc. (C/S) is a family-owned, multi-national, specialty architectural products manufacturer. Our mission is to be the world leader and a pioneer of quality specialty building products and services. Our vision is: Enhancing People's Lives by Making Buildings Better.

- 15 product lines
- Avg. number of projects our products go in per year
- 16 manufacturing facilities
- 1,750 employees & 70 sales reps
- Iconic projects – Statue of Liberty, Sidney Opera House, Pentagon, the new World Trade Center, Greater Toronto International Airport, UCSF Medical Center.



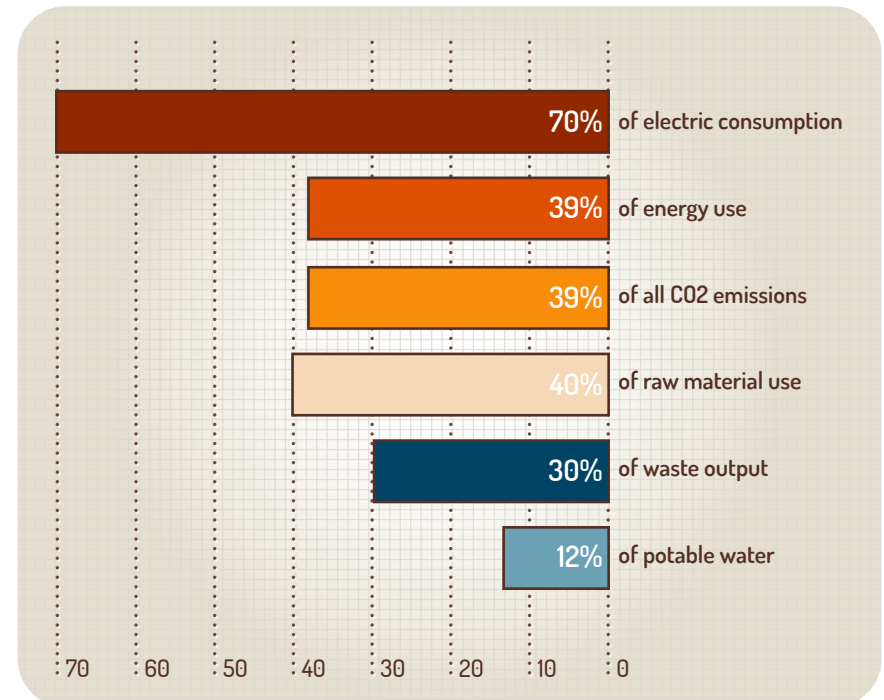
Dell Children's Medical Center, the world's first LEED® certified Platinum hospital. The hospital specified C/S products that include Acrovyn® doors and wall protection, Pedisystems® entrance flooring and expansion joint covers.

How can a building products manufacturer help build a more sustainable world?

"We can build better products, better manufacturing processes, better buildings, and thus a better way of planning and making our world. Design, then, is fundamentally solution oriented, and by its very nature is hopeful and constructive."

-David Rothenberg

Buildings account for:



"Buildings are not the cause. They are the universally central point of human activity. They are where the cure begins."

*-Howard Williams,
Senior Vice President
Sustainability and Acquisitions
Construction Specialties, Inc.*

Our Sustainability Journey

What does Sustainability mean to C/S? Sustainability is...

- Mutually supportive with profitable operations.
- A journey that begins with minimizing negative impacts but strives for positive ones – in operations, products, and communities.
- Finding satisfaction in our environmental achievements – reducing waste, water, energy usage, and chemicals of concern – that we may be effective stewards of the present.
- Supporting the architecture and design community by providing architectural products that help them achieve their sustainability and material health goals.

Our Sustainability Vision...

- Commits us to the continuation of creating high quality products that also lower the environmental impact of the buildings of which they become a part of.
- Connects us to the marketplace by having a shared marketplace relevant sustainability vision to further solidify and create new business relationships.
- Aligns our sustainability initiatives globally, enabling a uniform commitment across our company.
- Serves to document our seven strategic commitments*
- Prepares us for the step-by-step process of the Implementation Guide – available to guide divisions on their journey to the summit.
- Challenges us to assess all of our business activities and processes within a comprehensive plan incorporating seven strategic commitments designed to achieve our Vision.
 - Will set a standard for “good design”, enabling us to infuse sustainability into all aspects of our business; from product design, to processes, through use and reutilization.

There is more to environmental leadership than just creating or manufacturing architectural products. We seek to be a positive influence on the outside world by partnering with other organizations and companies that share our belief that building materials should make a positive contribute to human health and the environment.

*See page 4 to reference our commitments



“The ends are always social – generated by people rather than the hardware of buildings.”

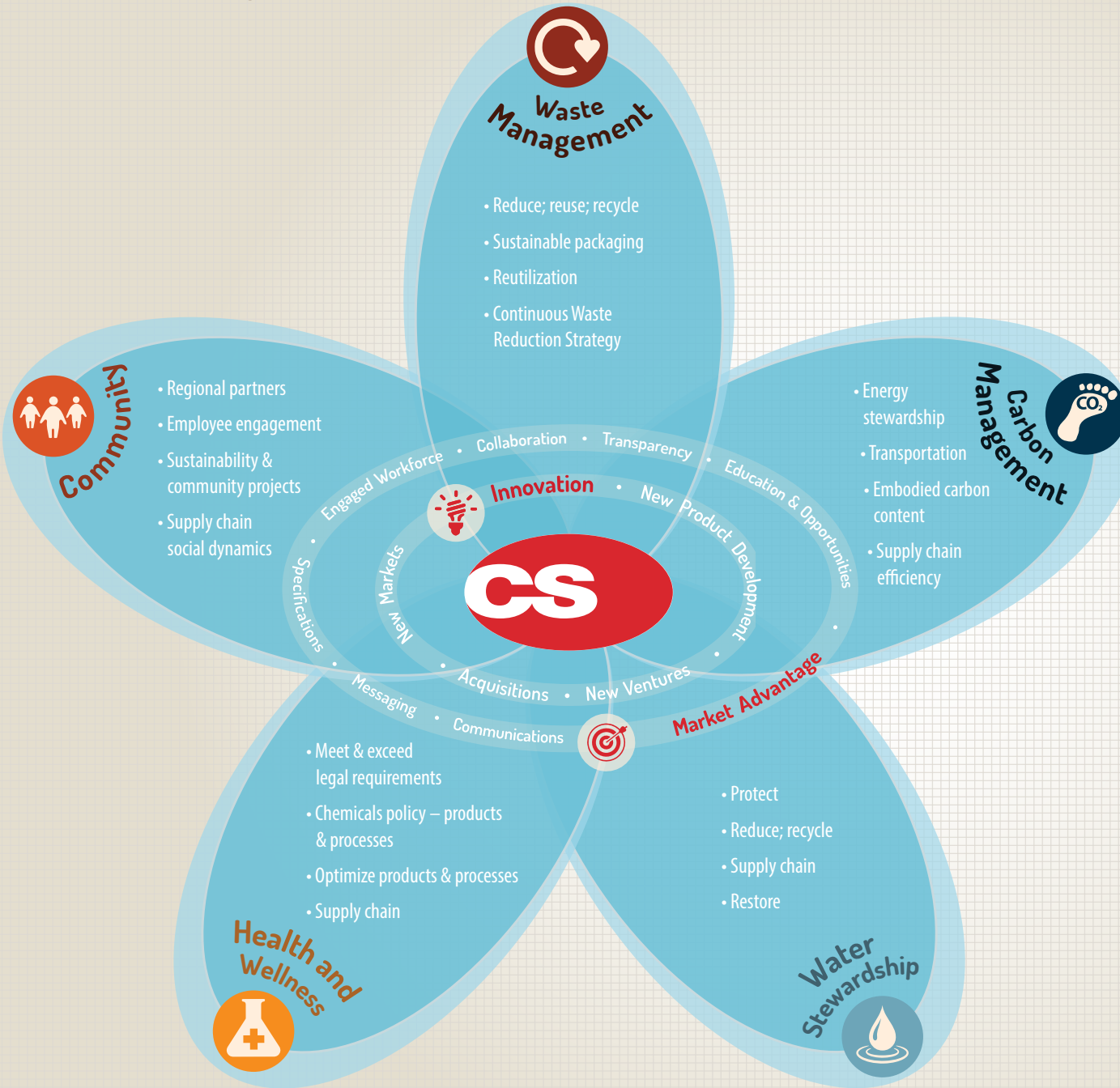
–Sir Norman Foster



Watch The Future of Our Future video here!

¹ See: <http://www.c-sgroup.com/media-room/video/future-our-future>

Our Seven Strategic Commitments



Our Seven Strategic Commitments:



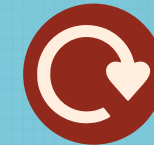
Innovation

Begin every Innovation with Sustainability as its partner in order to achieve our Vision as we embed sustainable practices into our products and processes.



Market Advantage

Leverage our global sustainability brand to help our customers achieve their vision – create environments that benefit current and future generations – prospering together with our shared vision.



Waste Management

Create durable, long-lasting products for a circular economy – design products for safe and perpetual reutilization of materials – and work to reduce waste through continuous improvement.



Carbon Management

Increase energy stewardship in our operations and across the supply chain to reduce the embodied carbon footprint of our products.



Water Stewardship

Encourage water stewardship best practices in-house and across the supply chain to decrease consumption and improve water quality at sites.



Health and Wellness

Know and disclose all ingredients, and continuously move towards the optimization of all of our products and processes for human and environmental health.



Community

Use sustainability as an opportunity to engage staff and the community in education and regional investments.

Our Sustainability Journey

Creating products that make buildings better

“These words vividly demonstrate our fundamental dedication to architecture, engineering and the never-ending quest for elegant yet practical and sustainable solutions.”

*-Edward Altieri,
President & CEO
Construction Specialties, Inc.*

SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

OUR INDUSTRY'S COMMITMENT

THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL HAVE A VOICE TODAY

.....
Our sustainability vision

We will operate thriving and vibrant businesses in ways that support the human and natural environment in this time and for the generations to come by creating products that make buildings better.

Our strategic priorities

.....
Support the human and natural environment
by making products that make buildings better.



Lead the industry
in sustainable manufacturing, development of sustainable products, and advocacy.

Innovate & inspire the future
opportunities for innovation, collaboration and education.





Innovation

Our Commitment:

Begin every Innovation with Sustainability as its partner in order to achieve our Vision as we embed sustainable practices into our products and processes.

Our Journey:

C/S was founded in the flesh and spirit of Innovation; establishing a heritage and culture of creativity; sifting and synthesizing market knowledge into opportunities. The American Institute of Architects recently stated, "As Sustainability has evolved from an emerging trend to a mainstream global movement, architects are uniquely positioned to play a leadership role in influencing and advancing the future through their work as creative design problem-solvers for the built environment." As we intentionally, intently, pair Innovation and Sustainability we will remain market relevant, and advance our global leadership as the supplier of choice.

Raising the bar:

Achieving our global growth goals, while successfully and effectively initiating and perfecting a common sustainability platform across multiple businesses and culture will be a challenge. Globally and regionally relevant products are essential growth factors. Acquisitions mirroring, and transitioning to our culture and standards can quickly and effectively add revenue. New ventures and new markets will open to us as we read and act on market needs, signals, and aspirations. Durable. Code compliant. Cost neutral. These basic performance requirements are essential characteristics as we contribute to the integrity of the structures in which our products are installed. Creating sustainable products and processes, while meeting these basic requirements, is always attainable at some level, and ultimately attainable at every level. Innovation is a discipline necessary for the achievement of our Vision of Sustainability as we develop sustainable products relevant to our diverse markets.

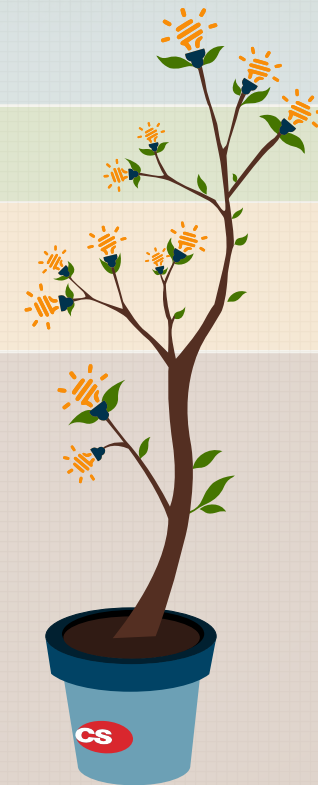
Design with Innovation

Product, Process

Test, Prove, Listen

Market Idea, Internal Idea

Customer



"The bottom line is that sustainability is part of every innovation we do."
- Mark Grace,
Chief Innovation Officer
Construction Specialties, Inc.



Creating products that make buildings better



Market Advantage

Our Commitment:

Leverage our global sustainability brand to help our customers achieve their vision – create environments that benefit current and future generations – prospering together with our shared vision.

Our Journey:

Our prior work in the area of Sustainability, coupled with decades of market presence and credibility ideally connect us with the Architectural and Design community in this time of market change.

Our customers are accelerating their individual and collective commitments to sustainability while selecting preferred business relationships that help them achieve their goals.

Increasingly, our customers value sustainability as a high-bar prerequisite, valuing it on par with price and performance.

Raising the bar:

Know our Markets: Understanding market direction is essential.

Global Sustainability Vision & Strategy: Our Vision has a common core of essential aspects across all Divisions and Business Units.

Innovate Viable Offerings: Opportunity exists for innovative product offerings developed within the sustainability matrix.

Developed within a 3rd Party Framework: The Architecture/Design communities are beginning to avoid self-declared environmental claims in favor of multi-attribute 3rd Party Certifications.

Co-Innovate with Supply Chain & NGO Partners: Effective communication with these valued partners is essential to creating cost effective, customer centric product & processes.

Access Market Thought-Leaders & Change Agents: These valued members of the Architecture/Design communities open us to many opportunities.

Future proof Products & Processes: Knowing emerging trends, & even pending legislation provides information essential to our continued success.

Messaging: Communicating the “Why” of our Sustainability Vision is essential to our embedding Sustainability into our culture, our recruitment and customer engagement.

“The only way to predict the future is to have power to shape the future”

- Eric Hofer
Writer

Leveraging Our Sustainability Brand for Market Advantage



Creating products that make buildings better



Waste Management

Our Commitment:

Create durable, long-lasting products for a circular economy – design products for safe and perpetual reutilization of materials – and work to reduce waste through continuous improvement.

Our Journey:

Stepping back to 1995 when a hazardous incinerator was to be sited near one of our plants, C/S began looking inward and asked, “Where is our waste being processed and should we be doing something differently?” That question has become the cornerstone of C/S’ environmental stewardship. The logical first step in that process was to recycle glass, plastic, paper and the waste from our manufacturing processes. Next, we lessened the amount of waste by purchasing the exact amount of raw materials required for each project.

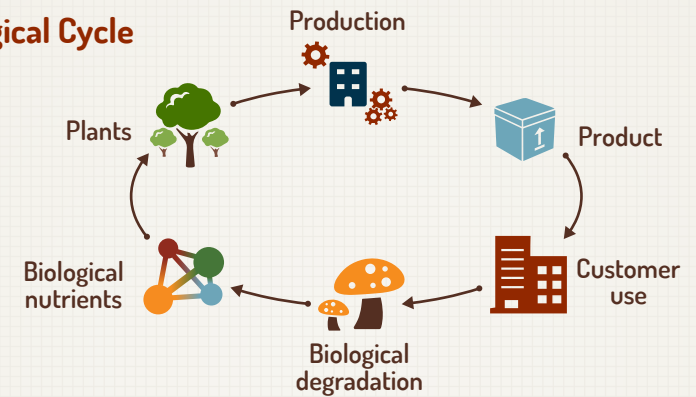
Raising the bar:

In order to achieve our commitments, we will establish and routinely monitor our recycling and waste management programs at each facility; implement a new product design policy that takes the end-of-life phase into consideration, encouraging the development of take-back programs for every product, and close the loop for our products’ life-cycles.

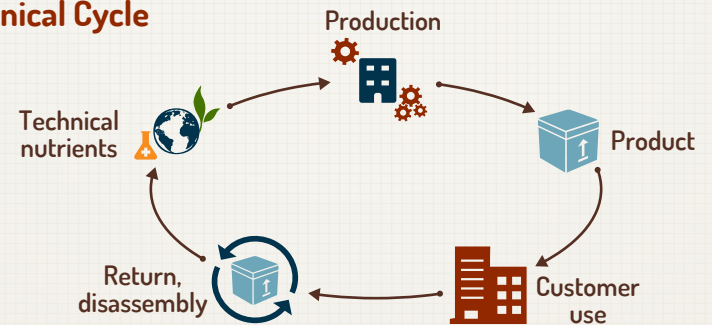
Eco-Fact
The ratio of waste generated to durable goods manufactured is 100:1

Design for a Circular Economy

Biological Cycle



Technical Cycle



¹ Based on Cradle to Cradle biological and technical nutrient cycles.

Creating products that make buildings better



Carbon Management

Our Commitment:

Increase energy stewardship in our business processes and across the supply chain to reduce the embodied carbon footprint of our products.

Our Journey:

We recognized the importance of conducting business in an environmentally responsible manner in 1995, well before the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) and its LEED® Program was founded. We determined early on that some of our manufacturing practices had a direct impact on the environment in the communities where they were located. We took significant steps to reduce the greenhouse gases that our factories generated – from installing high efficiency lighting and encouraging our employees to shut down their computer monitors when not in use to converting to lean manufacturing technologies and just-in-time purchasing to meet specific requirements of individual projects.

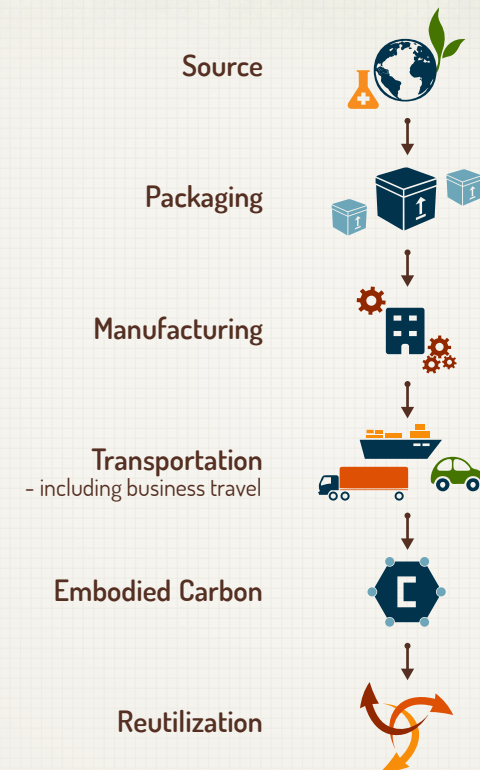
Raising the bar:

We will design our businesses to become effective members of a low carbon economy. Each Division and/or Business Unit will establish a Carbon Management plan. Ideally, the plan will become a part of the Division/Unit ISO 14001 Environmental Management Plan where it will be measured, reported, adjusted and audited.

This will be achieved by holistically analyzing the way we conduct business. The work begins with the sourcing of our ingredients, the design of our packaging, our manufacturing processes, and all aspects of transportation, assessing embodied carbon, and design to sequester/reduce carbon through the reutilization of materials.

Eco-Fact
The consensus opinion of the world's experts is that we will run out of oil in the next 35-70 years.

Design for a Low Carbon Economy



Creating products that make buildings better



Water Stewardship

Our Commitment:
Encourage water stewardship best practices in-house and across the supply chain to decrease consumption and improve water quality at sites.

Our Journey:

Water is one of the most precious resources on earth, with less than 1% of freshwater available for human use. Recognizing this, we began monitoring and reducing water use in our operations and sites. Water availability is now being examined in terms of risk management by many companies. We want to be confident in our ability to maintain a high quality, steady water supply for our businesses and the communities where we operate.

Raising the bar:

Water is a local concern, but as a global company we need to be aware of how governments are planning to address these problems at several scales. Businesses face different levels of risk attributed to water scarcity. As a manufacturer we need it for operations, and are vulnerable to price fluctuations due to water regulations imposed on our suppliers. However, managing water risk alone is not water stewardship. We are committed to taking a multi-faceted approach that requires moving beyond monitoring and into addressing water efficiency programs with our operations by engaging a wide range of stakeholders.

Eco-Fact
Water Scarcity - The demand for water is expected to increase by 50% by 2050.

Design for Water Stewardship



Creating products that make buildings better



Health and Wellness

Our Commitment:

Know and disclose all ingredients, and continuously move towards the optimization of all of our products and processes for human and environmental health.

Our Journey:

A major part of C/S' environmental journey is to create products that make buildings better by optimizing our products in the interest of human and environmental health. Over the past 15 years, C/S' Research and Development Department focused on making sure all of the products we developed were sustainable. C/S Entrance Flooring Systems are designed to keep dirt and particulates out of buildings, improving indoor air quality and eliminating the use of harmful cleaning agents. C/S re-engineered its entire Acrovyn Wall Protection product line to completely eliminate all PVC and PBTs (Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins). In 1999, C/S introduced America's first line of rain resistant louvers. These louvers not only stop water from entering a building, but they help prevent standing water from becoming a breeding ground for mold and disease. C/S is so committed to sustainability that it has 6 product lines with certifications from the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute.

Raising the bar:

The provocative, yet eloquent, call to action (as shown above) by Dr. Claudia Miller, was heard by manufacturer's and designers alike. Personal health and wellness depends upon our willingness to do what's best for us. But we don't always follow through with our good intentions.

Whereas buildings and building products can provide a level of health and wellness to building occupants without imposing lifestyle changes. Architects, designers and product manufacturers can build in healthful aspects and thereby have a positive influence on not only the occupants, but also every player within the supply chain.

"Architects have a greater ability to improve public health than medical professionals."
- Dr. Claudia Miller,
University of Texas School of Medicine

Design for Health and Wellness



Cancer treatment centers built without materials linked to cancer

Schools free of chemicals that trigger asthma

Offices designed to encourage activity and interaction

Retail facilities with fresh air & sunlight

GREEN GUIDE for Health Care™ - www.gghc.org

Creating products that make buildings better



Community

Our Commitment:
Use sustainability as an opportunity to engage staff and the community in education and regional investments.

Our Journey:

We believe that every environmental action has a social impact. As President Eisenhower said, our actions will have an effect on future generations and their communities.

Conversations about the benefits of sustainability and healthy materials allow us to carry a positive message beyond our walls and into surrounding communities.

Our participation in the Green Apple Day of Service is one example of our engagement with local students.

Raising the bar:

A company that truly embraces and embeds sustainability into its culture will also have high corporate social responsibility and community involvement. We want to be a positive influence on the people and communities where we operate and the buildings that utilize our products. We are privileged to be a leader in the environmental arena and it is our responsibility to share our knowledge with our staff and communities. Expand our community outreach programs to include culturally relevant sustainability and health and wellness education within the built environment.

We will collaborate with our supply chain partners to share programs and educational materials.

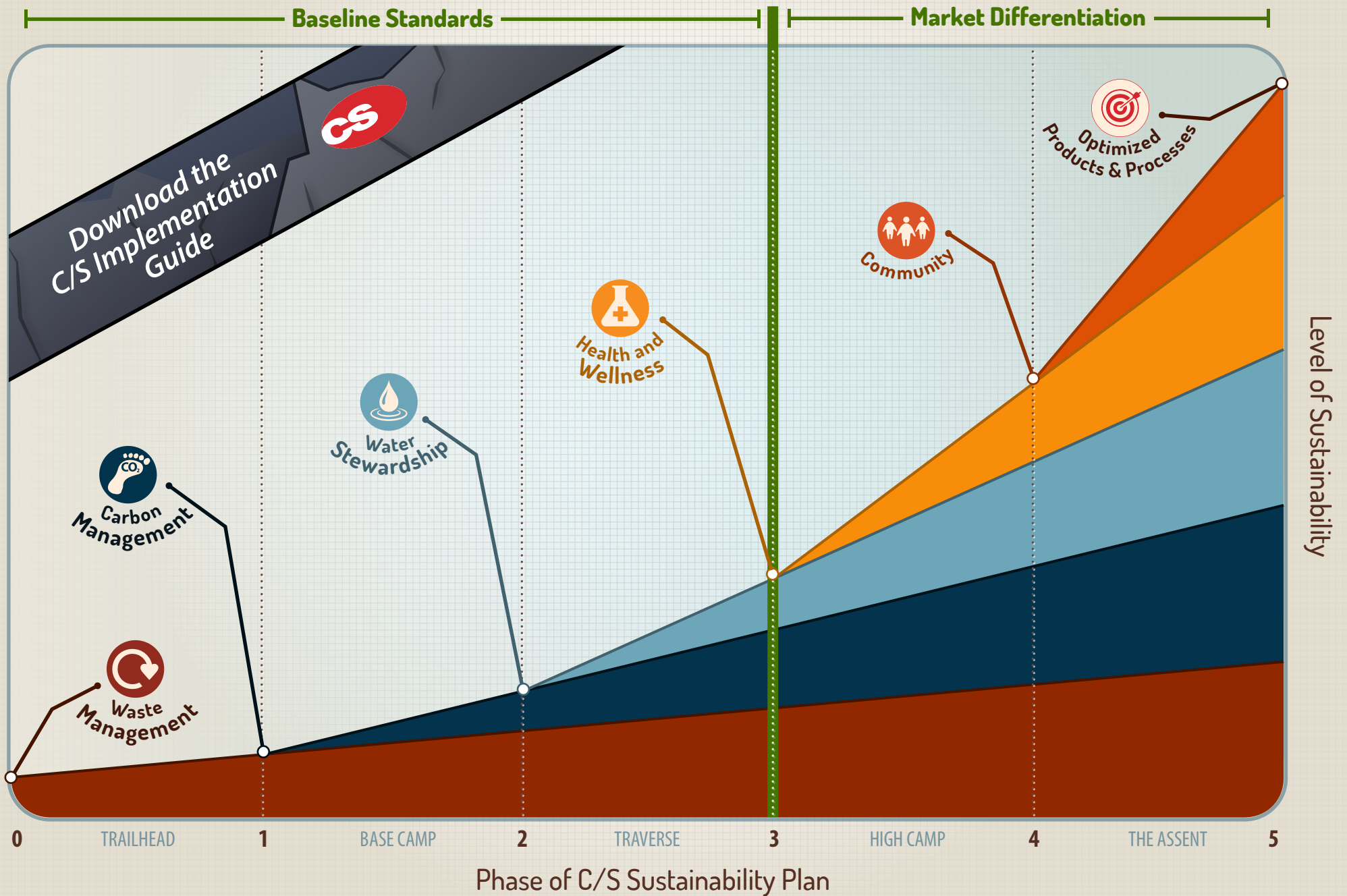
"We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without asking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage"
- Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America

Design for community engagement



PHASED SUSTAINABILITY ROADMAP

Our Sustainability Vision is not a "Rush to the Summit", but rather a deliberate and studied series of climbs, each benefiting from the work of previous climbs. Interim waypoints mark progress and give opportunity to realign our ascent. As a company, we will all reach the summit and celebrate with our stakeholders; our having made a positive impact for the benefit of current and future generations. The climb does not end at the Summit.



Appendix A – Commitments



Innovation

New Product Development: Use an integrated project delivery management system, so that the five strategic sustainability dimensions are embedded into product development efficiently and effectively.

Acquisitions: Committing to embed sustainability into our acquisition assessment, we shall conduct thorough review of resource optimization during the due diligence process.



Market Advantage

Know our Markets: Interaction with design and thought leaders across multiple markets gains insight into market direction and allows us to develop market specific solutions.

Global Sustainability Vision & Strategy: The basic attributes of sustainability are uniformly global; they are fundamental and foundational. Our Vision has a common core of essential aspects across all Divisions and Business Units. Divisions and business units are expected to add relevant aspects to meet the expectations of their geographic culture and market segments.

Innovate Viable Offerings: Sustainability is a business prerequisite separating leaders from late adopters. Although sustainable design is as much an expectation as quality and durability, ample opportunity exists for innovative product offerings developed within the sustainability matrix.

Developed within a Third Party Framework: Liability has become a watchword within Sustainability. The Architecture and Design community are beginning to avoid self-declared environmental claims in favor of multi-attribute third party certifications.

Co-Innovate with Supply Chain Partners: Supply chain partners give us access to information well beyond our expertise. NGOs provide context, competitive information and customer insights. Effective communication with these valued partners is essential to creating cost effective, customer centric product and processes.

Access Market Thought-Leaders and Change Agents: Collaborating with and listening to these members of the Architecture/Design communities opens many opportunities.

Future-proof Products & Processes: Knowing market direction, emerging trends, and even pending legislation/code revisions allows us to design in a level of future-proofing essential to our continued success.

Messaging: Communicating the “Why” of our Sustainability Vision is essential to our embedding Sustainability into our culture, our recruitment and customer engagement.

Appendix A – Commitments



Waste Management

Reduce: Optimize material usage to eliminate waste, reduce cost.

Reutilize: Design product to be reutilized on the basis of easy disassembly and the development of material return strategies.

Recycle: Recycle less obvious waste streams – paper, cardboard, magazines, plastic, glass, etc. – make the process easy and obvious. Make the purchase of recycled materials & products a priority.

Close the loop: Design products to optimize biological and/or technical nutrients.

Sustainable Packaging: One of the largest waste streams, packaging costs and volumes should be examined. The purpose of packaging is to protect/contain the product through its route to the purchaser. Packaging should be high in recycled content and recyclable itself.

Durable products: We manufacture long-life, durable products, which, in itself reduces waste over the life of the product. However, our products may be reintroduced into the reutilization cycle many years after manufacturing and installation. In order to facilitate effective material reutilization we developed an on-product ingredient label and associated [website](#)¹.

Understanding and translating sustainability signals from the market(s) is essential to inform product and process design in order to provide our products for reutilization in the distant future.

Design for effective maintenance: products should be serviceable, cleanable and repairable using readily available, healthful, processes and materials that are highly sustainable.

Set annual goals, key metrics, and integrate into ISO 14001, and file timely reporting.



Carbon Management

Energy Stewardship: This is an area rich in opportunities to reduce cost. All energy is purchased, and when we reduce usage for improved stewardship, we automatically save money. The purchase of renewable energy is highly preferable and effective. Strategies and programs that effectively reduce our energy usage are to be implemented. E.G. relighting use of more efficient lights, HVAC systems, occupancy sensors, supplemental heating/cooling to provide consistent temperatures, smart thermostats, automatically shut down power to outlets on off hours, audit all areas of utilization, etc.

Transportation: Use only SmartWay carriers and/or logistics with their own carbon reduction initiatives. Offset corporate travel using carbon offsets.

Embodied carbon content: Design with high levels of recycled content (know and disclose the chemistry of the recycled material, purchase only recycled materials with known chemistry that meets our Health and Wellness standards).

Site and Manufacturing Efficiency: Know, maintain and/or improve the energy efficiency of site's buildings, equipment and processes. Know usage, strategize improvements (cost/benefit), implement, monitor and improve.

Set annual goals, key metrics, and integrate into ISO 14001 , and file timely reporting.

¹ <http://transparency.c-sgroup.com/>

Appendix A – Commitments



Water Stewardship

Reduce: Measure usage. Add automatic flow sensors and screens. Waterless urinals, dual flush toilets. Replant using native species and eliminate irrigation. Check and eliminate leaks.

Recycle: Use non-contact process water within a closed loop. Consider adding chillers and eliminate evaporative cooling towers. Consider rain water capture for use in flushing toilets, landscape irrigation, and closed loop cooling.

Restore: Implement on-site strategies to prevent storm water runoff from impermeable surfaces into storm sewers and/or streams. Return water to the aquifer. (The earth will filter out impurities).

Protect: Implement strategies to protect site and adjacent waterways from accidental spills. Work with local water conservation groups to help mitigate water runoff and pollution issues (Riparian areas).

Supply Chain: Monitor supply chain usage and encourage the implementation of similar water stewardship strategies.

Set annual goals, key metrics, and integrate into ISO 14001 , and file timely reporting.



Health and Wellness

Meet and exceed legal requirements of federal, state, and local codes.

Chemicals Policy: Know and disclose

Chemical Footprint: Assessment tool to track, reduce, and manage chemicals in our products and operations.

Progressive Optimization: Our goal is for all of our products to be highly optimized for human and environmental health. Identify and implement supporting strategies commensurate the market direction.

Set annual goals, key metrics, and integrate into ISO 14001 , and file timely reporting.



Community

Local Partners: buy local

Staff Engagement: Sustainability provides an opportunity to engage our staff in building a more environmentally sustainable economy for the benefit of current and future generations.

Sustainability and Community Projects: We are a successful company because of a vibrant and committed staff. It is right that we should invest in our local schools and civic organizations within the communities supporting our staff and surrounding our facilities.

Supply Chain Social Dynamics: Ask of, and require, our supply chain to implement similar strategies.

Set annual goals, key metrics, and integrate into ISO 14001 , and file timely reporting.



Construction Specialties™

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December 30, 2014