



Wurlin Group Limited – sustainable mission and action The Bag Workshop | The Umbrella Workshop

As an organisation we are serious about committing to minimising our environmental impact, whilst also ensuring our business model and operations are resilient enough to thrive in the long-term. Addressing the climate crisis is of paramount importance to us. We consistently seek improved solutions, striving to be a responsible supplier. Our commitment involves ongoing evaluations of our processes to ensure our products and services are less carbon intense, less linear and more circular.

What we do now and what we are working on:

Supply Chain

- Our supply chain must adhere to certain standards both ethical and environmental standards.
- Bag partners are SEDEX audited. This means they are independently audited in accordance with the four pillars of SEDEX which manage performance around labour rights, health & safety, the environment, and business ethics.
- Our Indian bag factories are Fairtrade certified which means products we manufacture in Fairtrade cotton are from a traceable supply chain that ensures ethical trading. This means that trade between companies in developed countries and producers in developing countries are paid fair prices.
- Our Chinese bag factories are independently audited to ensure Environment standards compliance.
- Our Chinese umbrella factory are independently audited to ensure Environment standards compliance, along with SEDEX Compliance.
- Our UK umbrella factory is a carbon negative office through reducing energy consumption by over 50% and implementing three wind turbines, five large solar PV arrays and a hydroelectric turbine on the river that runs through the site. Energy generated by the company is supplied from 100% renewable sources. 100% carbon neutral, green energy.

Packaging

- India: we've moved from plastic packaging for shipping to compostable corn-starch bags. 100% complete.
- China: we're transitioning from plastic packaging for shipping to compostable and aim to be complete by end of 2024.
- UK we use cornstarch packaging envelopes, paper tape and FSC Cardboard boxes.
- Our cartons for shipping will be FSC certified which means they are made from renewable sources.

Shipping

- We offer all clients the option of shipping by sea rather than air which is kinder to the environment.
- We strive to combine deliveries and maximize how much we safely transport to reduce unnecessary transportation of goods.
- We work closely with our logistics partners to guarantee the use of cleaner cargo handling equipment and employ other air pollution-reducing practices at busy transport hubs.

Imagine it. Made.



Products

- We will not source single-use plastic items for clients.
- We are donating a percentage of the sale of our recycled PET bags to Plastic Oceans.
- We have a range of recycled bags in our stock range that can be printed or embroidered.
- We are now stocking Fairtrade Organic cotton which means clients can choose the responsible option.
- We manufacture umbrellas using RPET fabric (recycled plastic) to reduce the production of virgin plastic, reducing waste and energy.
- Some of our Umbrella frames are made from Recycled plastics.
- Our Wooden frames come from fast growing sustainable wood production.
- We can UV print textiles which is a much more energy efficient printing technique than most traditional techniques. No harmful solvents are involved in the process either.
- Screen printing facilities use water-based inks where appropriate.

Office

- We have scheduled installation of solar panels to our warehouse and office.
- All our company vehicles are fully electric.
- Company-wide recycling in conjunction with council recycling scheme.
- We use carbon offsetting and finance Tree planting initiatives from organisations such as MakeItWild, and make regular charitable donations to OceanCleanup.
- Our offices, located in Frome near the lovely city of Bath, are powered by 100% renewable energy.
- We are looking to purchase land in the UK to rewild and reforest as a carbon offsetting plan.
- We are working to achieve B corporation Certification by the end of 2024.

Carbon Offsetting commitment

We are part of Make It Wild Tree Planting initiative to help offset the carbon footprint associated with shipping our products. A percentage of Wurlin profits goes toward the planting and upkeep of the nature reserves that Make It Wild manage.

As a team the people at the Wurlin Group are committed to reducing wasteful practices and help develop sustainable business practices which will have a positive impact on the planet.

Further information about the Tree Planting Initiative with Make It Wild:

<https://www.umbrellaworkshop.com/uncategorized/the-umbrella-workshop-tree-planting-initiative/>

<https://www.makeitwild.co.uk/>

Steve Hill, Director
Policy updated January 2024

Imagine it. Made.

