



ege[®]

sustainable design
at your feet



The big challenge is also the big potential

The building industry is responsible for 40% of the world's CO₂ emissions and floors are part of the problem. But the good news is that the global green building industry has the potential to cut energy consumption by 50% or more by 2050.

Only 1-3% of all carpets are recycled

Narrowing building materials down to carpets specifically, only a few percent are being recycled today. In Europe alone, more than 700 million m² are put on the market every year. In other words, there's great potential to significantly improve the environment by thinking and acting differently.

A circular movement

Luckily, a circular movement has been forming. A movement of architects, building companies, building owners and company owners who recognise the need for change and are committed to a sustainable environment. Holding sustainability in the heart of our business since 1996, Ege Carpets have been part of this movement from the very beginning.

Sources:

- 1 World Green Building Council: GLOBAL STATUS REPORT 2017, https://www.worldgbc.org/sites/default/files/UNEP%20188_GABC_en%20%28web%29.pdf
- 2 World Green Building Council: Energy Technology Perspectives 2016, https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/37fe1db9-5943-4288-82bf-13a0a0d74568/Energy_Technology_Perspectives_2016.pdf
- 3 Goldstein Research: Europe Carpet Recycling Market Size, Trends, Overview, Opportunity Assessment And Forecast 2016-2024, <https://www.goldsteinresearch.com/report/europe-carpet-recycling-market-size>
- 4 ZeroWaste France and Changing Markets: 2017, <https://changingmarkets.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/French-Carpet-Report-English.pdf>

Sustainability is woven into our mindsets and carpets

At Ege Carpets we've been working closely with sustainability since 1996. Not because laws and regulations have forced us to do so, but because we believe it's the right and responsible thing to do.

For leading the change in sustainability performance and innovation, we were awarded a top 1% Platinum ranking from EcoVadis, the world's leading sustainability rating agency.

We're proud to be acknowledged for our work, but more importantly, it inspires us to set new goals and ambitions while setting new standards in our industry – and helping to create a more sustainable future.







**The five main
sustainability
challenges we
must address
to succeed**



Sourcing raw materials

Challenge: Waste and plastic pollution have become pressing environmental issues. A radical shift is needed from linear to circular thinking, where raw materials are reused and reinjected into the value chain.



Product design

Challenge: Sustainability needs to be woven into the design process for it to have a positive impact on the climate. It can no longer be bolted on as an afterthought.



Production

Challenge: Poor waste management contributes to climate change and air pollution and directly affects many ecosystems and animal species. We must continue to invest in renewable energy in the production process and reuse, recirculate and recycle as much waste as possible.



Company responsibility

Challenge: Our planet is under pressure. Every company must help protect nature, take responsibility and create a more sustainable society and company culture.



Recycling and take-back

Challenge: The biggest issue in our industry is carpet waste. Only a few percent of all carpets are recycled and millions of tonnes of carpet waste end up in landfills every year. Facilities and systems must be established to ensure that used carpets can be delivered and shredded for recirculation.



Going in circles is the best way forward

We believe in circular thinking and in keeping as many resources as possible in a closed loop. It's an ongoing process where we continuously set up new goals and initiatives to get closer in fulfilling our long-term ambition. By 2030 we aim at reaching the below stated sustainability goals.



Sourcing raw materials

Solution: All carpets are produced from yarn based on recycled or renewable materials, and at least 75% of the raw materials will be reused and reinjected into the value chain.



Product design

Solution: All carpets are Cradle to Cradle Certified® at the highest level (Platinum) by continuously designing for sustainability. This means we offer strong durability, long-lasting timeless style and design our carpets so they're easy to take apart and recycle after use.



Production

Solution: Materials and resources are recirculated in closed loops internally, and we've made further investments in renewable energy for production processes by switching our machinery from gas to electricity.



Company responsibility

Solution: We ensure that our business model, production processes and products help contribute to creating a more sustainable and safer society, protecting people and nature and avoiding the loss of biodiversity.



Recycling and take-back

Solution: All our waste is recycled, reused or composted, and even more carpet components are reusable for new carpets. All Ege Carpets can be recycled through our unique take-back system, Ege CircleBack.

Our long-term
ambition:

**We want to
create the
world's most
sustainable
carpets**



**We work with
all five focus
areas to fulfil
our ambition...**





**... and we've
already come
a long way**



Sourcing raw materials

One person's trash is another person's carpet

Industrial waste is often a threat to the environment. We want to give our customers the opportunity to choose carpets that are produced in an eco-friendly way. With Ege Carpets, you can select from a wide range of collections featuring regenerated and regenerable yarn made from discarded fishing nets, industrial waste and old carpets.

In praise of carpet backings made from recycled plastic bottles

Plastic waste is one of the world's major environmental challenges as plastic degrades very slowly. To us, however, plastic waste is an important resource. We make our Ecotrust backings from recycled plastic bottles, which feature in all our carpet tiles and selected wall-to-wall carpets. Through an innovative manufacturing technique, the plastic bottles are converted into soft fibres and included in our patented PET felt backings.

Our 2030 goals
for turning waste
into resources

100% of our carpets to be produced from yarn based on recycled or renewable raw materials.

In total, 75% of the raw materials to be recycled or renewable.



Yarn from old fishing nets, industrial waste and used carpets

On a yearly basis, our production facilities convert 2,495 tonnes of yarn made from abandoned fishing nets, used carpets and other kinds of industrial nylon waste into new carpets.



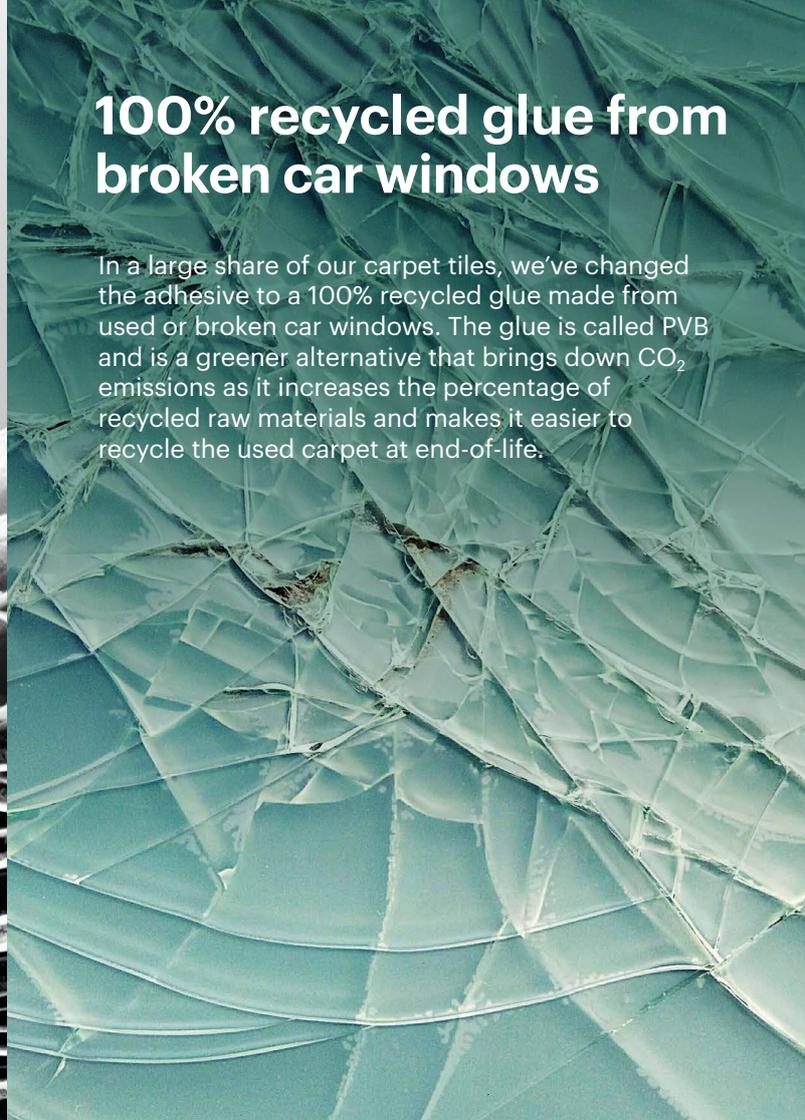
Backings from recycled plastic bottles

One million plastic bottles are used every minute worldwide. Our carpets are available with the patented Ecotrust or acoustic backings made from used plastic bottles. The backings contain between 15 and 37.5 half-litre bottles per m², depending on the type of backing.



90% recycled material in primary backings

In 2022, we used 423 tonnes of primary backings. When carpets are produced, the yarn is tufted down into a primary backing. Two types of our primary backings consist of 90% recycled industrial waste.



100% recycled glue from broken car windows

In a large share of our carpet tiles, we've changed the adhesive to a 100% recycled glue made from used or broken car windows. The glue is called PVB and is a greener alternative that brings down CO₂ emissions as it increases the percentage of recycled raw materials and makes it easier to recycle the used carpet at end-of-life.



Product design

Our sustainable collection is our entire selection

Ege Carpets is the only carpet brand with a 100% Cradle to Cradle Certified® contract assortment. So, with Ege Carpets, you can fulfil your design ambitions and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Sustainability woven into all our carpets

When we develop new carpet designs, we ensure sustainable solutions throughout the entire product development process. We optimise the interplay between quality, design, weaving techniques and material selection and consumption to make our products as sustainable as possible.

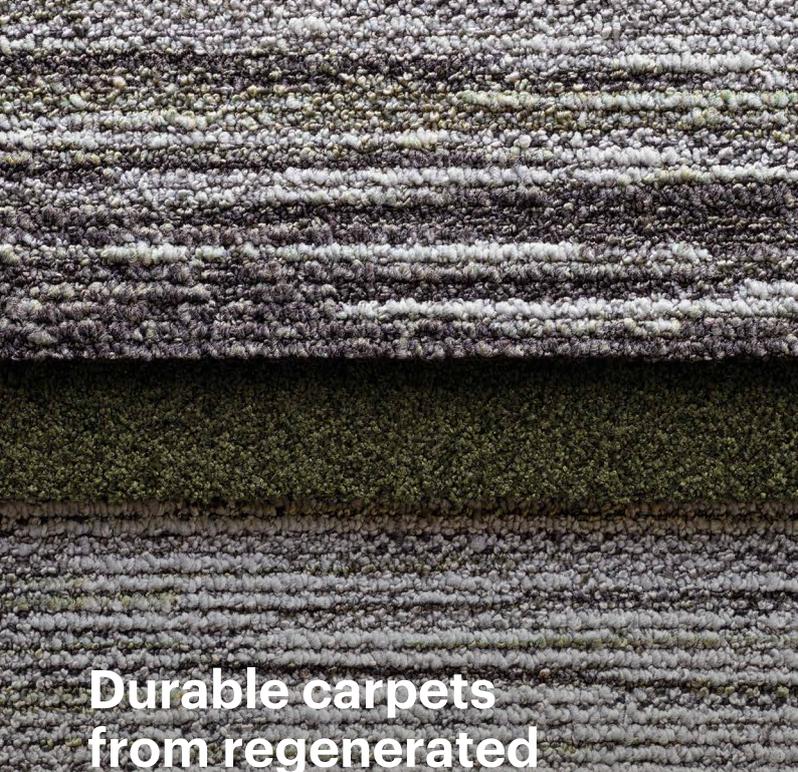
Transforming plastic bottles into carpet backings

Our Ecotrust backings, featured in all our carpet tiles and selected wall-to-wall carpets are made from recycled plastic bottles. Through an innovative manufacturing technique, the plastic bottles are converted into soft fibres that are part of the PET felt backings. The soft felt material ensures optimum underfoot comfort and stability and has unique acoustic advantage standards.

By 2030, we want to be
100% Cradle to Cradle
Platinum Certified®

All carpets are Cradle to Cradle Certified® at the Platinum level.

All carpets are designed for recycling after use.



Durable carpets from regenerated industrial waste

The yarn in our collections is derived from discarded fishing nets and other industrial nylon waste, including old carpets. Our carpets are extremely durable, meaning their environmental impact is reduced due to increased product longevity.



Backings from used plastic bottles

Besides being a truly environmentally friendly choice, our Ecotrust backings provide excellent features like optimum comfort and acoustics.



Cradle to Cradle Certified® carpets

We hold a world record. We're the only carpet manufacturer in the world with a 100% Cradle to Cradle Certified® assortment. Right now, our collections are certified at Bronze level, but in 2025, we expect to reach Gold level. We're aiming for Platinum level by 2030.





Production

We're going in circles. On purpose. With a purpose

The days of discarding precious resources are long behind us. Today, we try to reuse, recirculate and recycle as much of our production waste as possible whilst constantly trying to improve our efforts. We recirculate the dye, the water and the thickening solution, which are used to find the perfect colour combinations for our carpets.

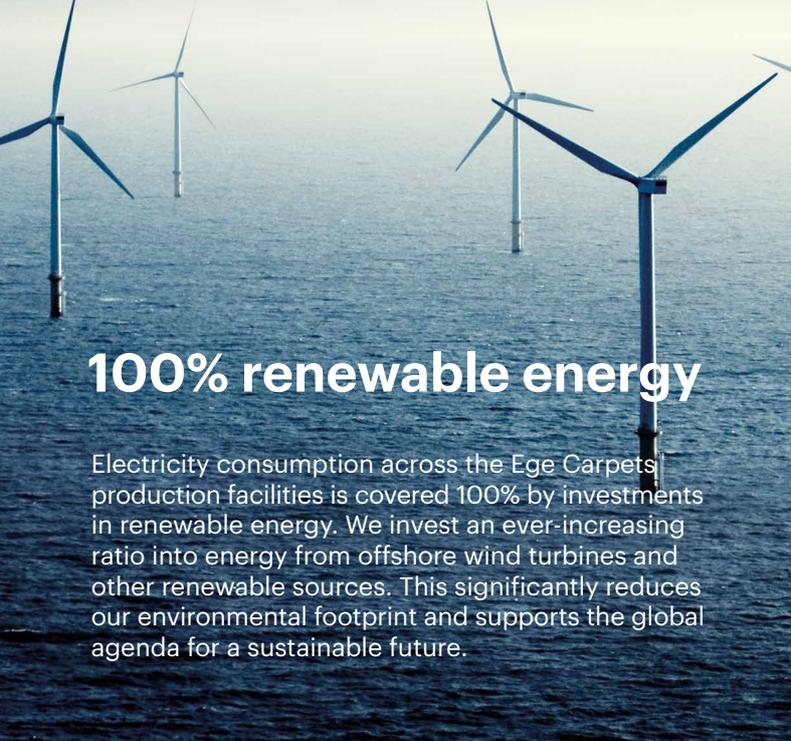
A strong commitment to bring down CO₂ emissions

Climate change requires action from everyone around the world. Since 2007, we've already reduced the CO₂ emissions from our production facilities by more than 60%. But we aim to go beyond this. That's why we've committed to Science Based Targets to keep our emissions in line with the Paris Agreement and keep global warming below 1.5°C.

By 2030, we want to close the loop and bring down CO₂ emissions

Materials and resources are recirculated in closed loops internally.

CO₂ emissions are reduced by 46.2%, mainly through switching from gas to electricity in the machinery.



100% renewable energy

Electricity consumption across the Ege Carpets production facilities is covered 100% by investments in renewable energy. We invest an ever-increasing ratio into energy from offshore wind turbines and other renewable sources. This significantly reduces our environmental footprint and supports the global agenda for a sustainable future.



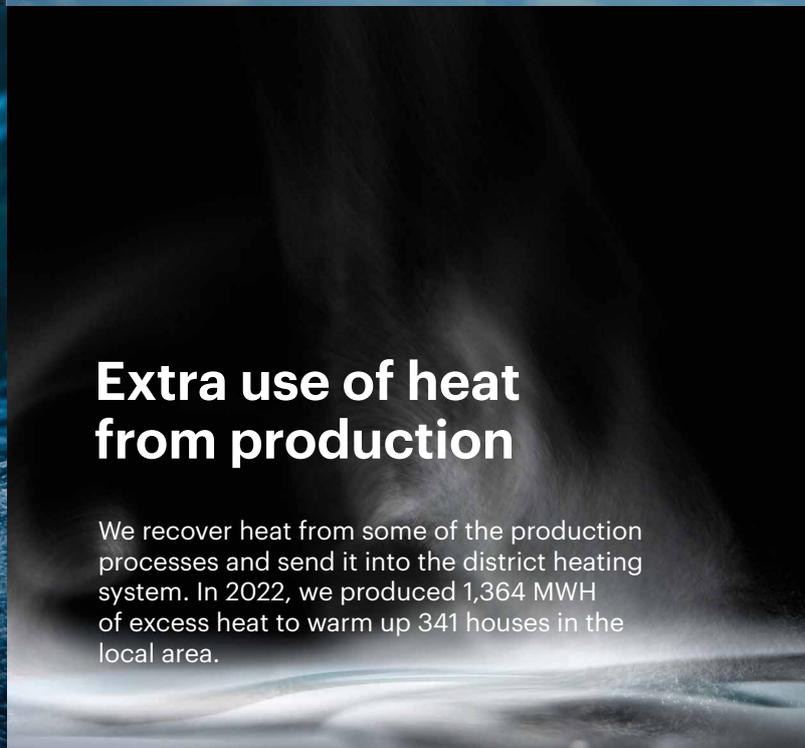
Investment in biogas

Investments in biogas now cover 61% of our natural gas consumption. In the future, we'll bring down natural gas consumption as much as possible by investments in other technologies that can run on electricity or more sustainable energy sources.



Reusing and cleaning water

We recycle 13,536 m³ water every year. The beautiful designs appear when the tufted carpets run through our enormous dye facility that injects colour into the yarn. The colouring process and cleaning of the dyeing facility requires a lot of water. We clean and reuse the water in our production processes.



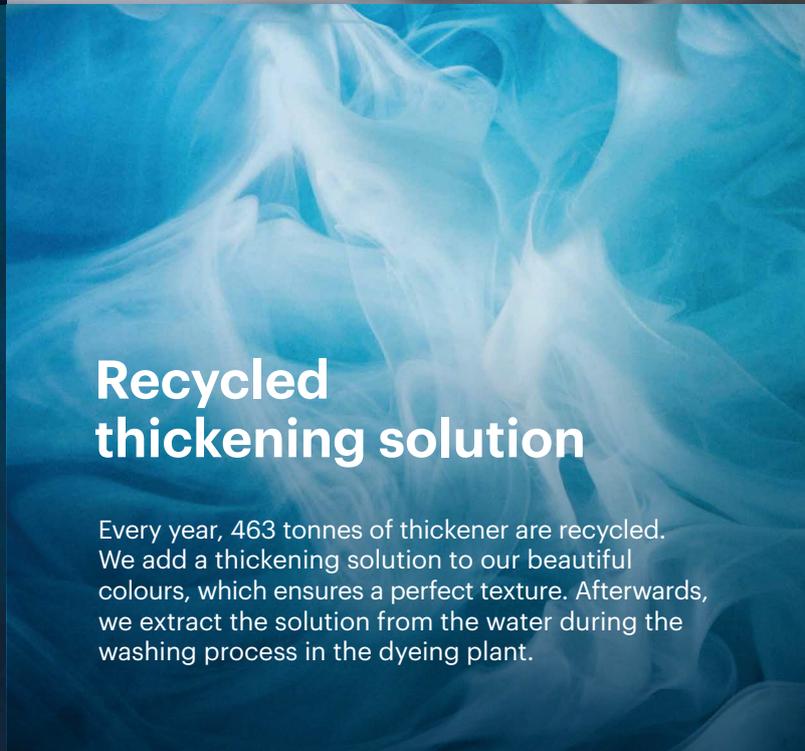
Extra use of heat from production

We recover heat from some of the production processes and send it into the district heating system. In 2022, we produced 1,364 MWH of excess heat to warm up 341 houses in the local area.



Recirculating the dye

86% of the residual dye is constantly recirculated. We can create carpets in the most amazing colours, which are injected into the yarn by 40,000 spray nozzles. Behind the nozzles, there's a complex web of tubes where the colours are constantly recirculated ensuring optimal use and preventing the nozzles from clogging.



Recycled thickening solution

Every year, 463 tonnes of thickener are recycled. We add a thickening solution to our beautiful colours, which ensures a perfect texture. Afterwards, we extract the solution from the water during the washing process in the dyeing plant.



Company responsibility

We're in the top 1% among +90,000 companies on CSR performance

Our sustainability excellence has been recognised with the highest score in its class by EcoVadis, the world's leading sustainability rating agency. The top 1% Platinum ranking recognises Ege Carpets as one of the most advanced companies in terms of CSR practices across the four themes: environment, labour and human rights, ethics and sustainable procurement.

Highly focused on large-scale biodiversity

Loss of biodiversity is an area of great concern and increasing attention. At Ege Carpets, we've incorporated biodiversity into our company focus. In the area near our buildings in Herring, Denmark, we've launched a large-scale project covering more than 90 acres to increase biodiversity over time together with the Danish Nature Fund and Herring Municipality.

Walking the talk since 1996

At Ege Carpets, we've been dedicated to sustainability and social responsibility since 1996. Not because laws and regulations have forced us to do so, but because we believe it's the right and responsible thing to do. Our efforts and commitment to sustainable business development cover an extensive and constantly evolving list of big and small initiatives.

By 2030, we want to
accelerate our CSR
initiatives further

Our CSR initiatives must ensure that our business model, production processes and products help create a more sustainable and safe society, protect humans and nature and avoid loss of biodiversity.



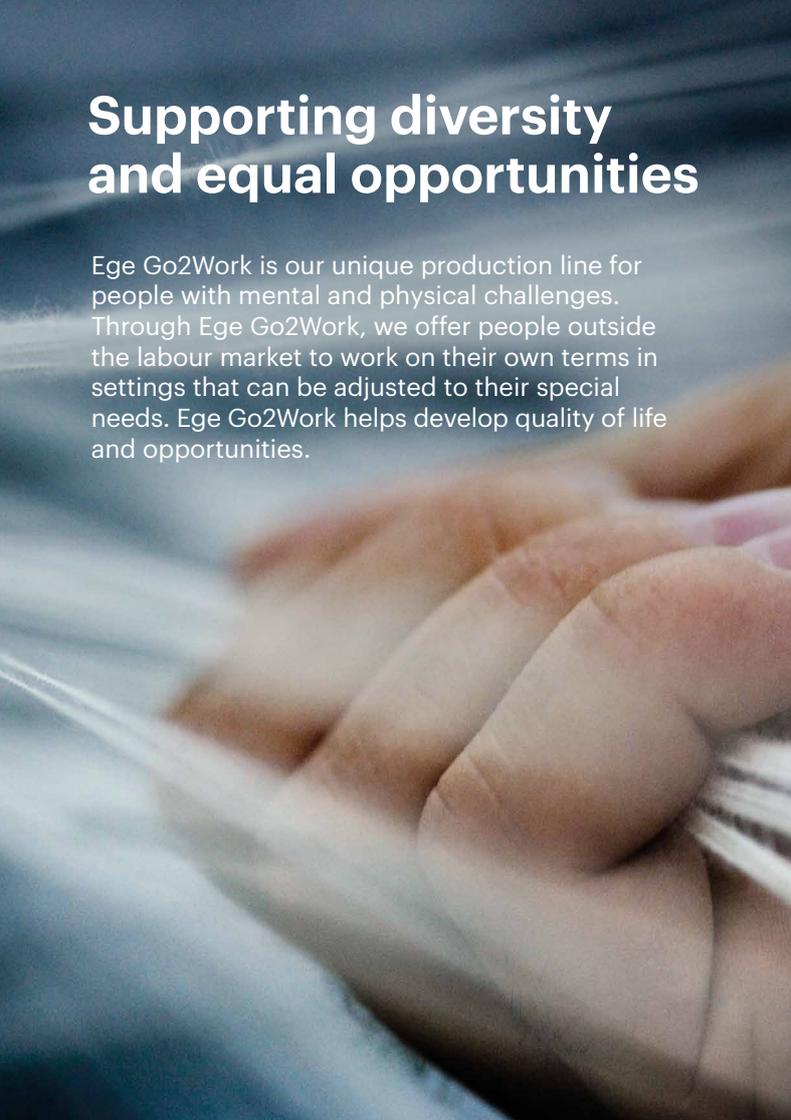
Large-scale biodiversity

A few years ago, we initiated a small biodiversity project by sowing fauna stripes behind our buildings in Herning, Denmark. We're now going all-in and have launched a large-scale rewilding project in collaboration with parties that include Herning Municipality and the Danish Nature Fund. More than 90 acres of land will be released to grow back to its original wild nature.



Climate compensation with mangrove trees

We offer climate-compensated carpets where you can contribute to a carbon neutral future. Mangroves reduce up to five times more CO₂ emissions than other trees in the rainforests while also protecting coastal areas from extreme weather conditions.



Supporting diversity and equal opportunities

Ege Go2Work is our unique production line for people with mental and physical challenges. Through Ege Go2Work, we offer people outside the labour market to work on their own terms in settings that can be adjusted to their special needs. Ege Go2Work helps develop quality of life and opportunities.

Top 1% sustainability performer

Our sustainability excellence has been recognised by EcoVadis with the highest score in its class. EcoVadis is the world's leading sustainability rating agency, ranking the CSR performances of +90,000 companies in 160 countries across the four themes: environment, labour and human rights, ethics and sustainable procurement.





Recycling and take-back

The beauty of a never-ending story

The biggest issue in the carpet industry is waste and this challenge has two main issues: there's no overall return system for carpets and there's a lack of technological solutions to separate and recycle used carpets. We work together with partners to find solutions to these issues.

Ege CircleBack is a step forward

Ege Carpets have launched a take-back system in a step towards solving the carpet waste issue. The system ensures used carpets go to our recycling partners who separate and recycle up to 95% of the carpet components.

Designed to be taken apart and recycled

Today, our carpets are highly complex products with more than 200 constituent substances glued together. We invest in the development of new products and techniques which ensures that the carpets are easier to separate and can be reused, recycled or composted.

Recycling all that's recyclable

We're recycling tonnes of yarn, cardboard cones, carpet offcuts, packaging and pallets to make sure as much as possible is reused and as little as possible is wasted.

By 2030, we want
all our waste and
carpets to be recycled

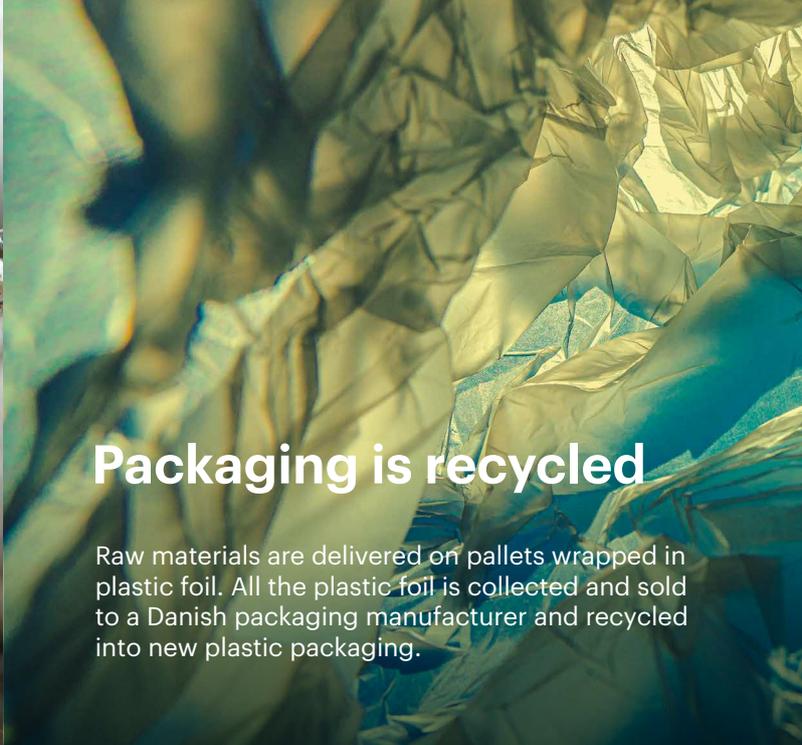
All our waste is recycled, reused or composted.

All carpets from Ege Carpets can be recycled through a take-back system.



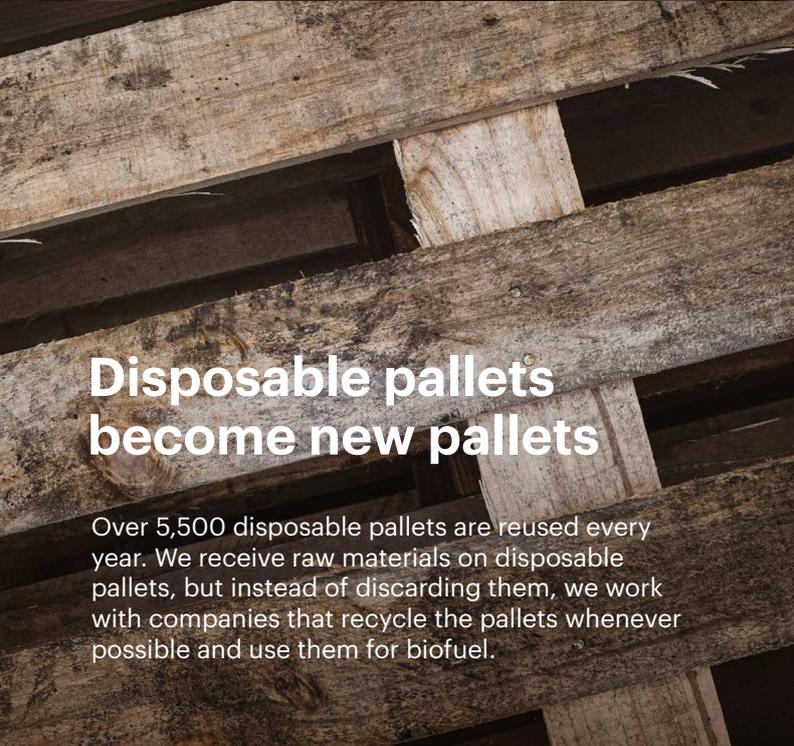
Carding waste is recycled

Every year, we send yarn waste from our yarn factory to Belgium, where it's 100% recycled. In 2022, we sold 34 tonnes of carding waste to a furniture company in the area.



Packaging is recycled

Raw materials are delivered on pallets wrapped in plastic foil. All the plastic foil is collected and sold to a Danish packaging manufacturer and recycled into new plastic packaging.



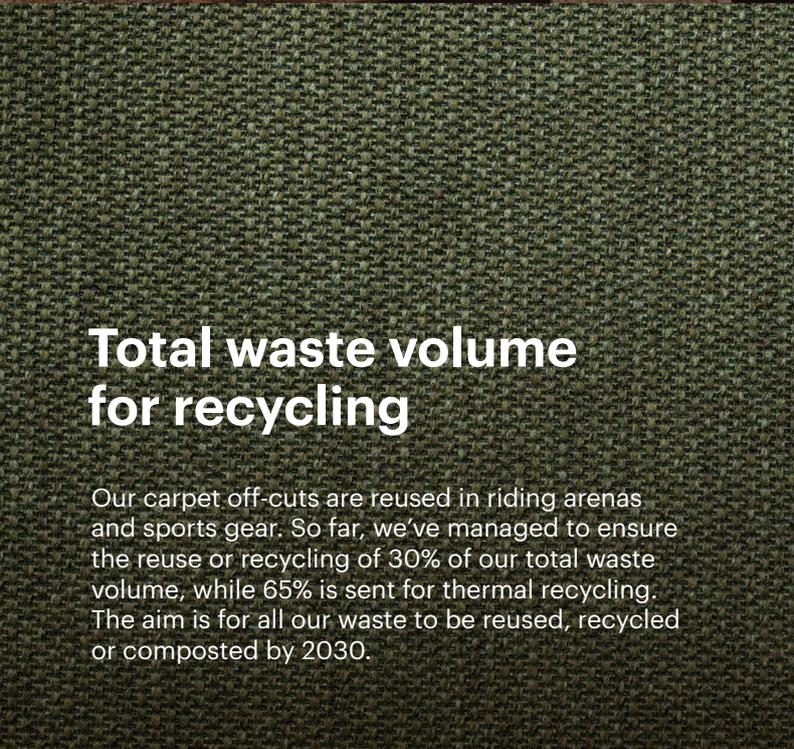
Disposable pallets become new pallets

Over 5,500 disposable pallets are reused every year. We receive raw materials on disposable pallets, but instead of discarding them, we work with companies that recycle the pallets whenever possible and use them for biofuel.



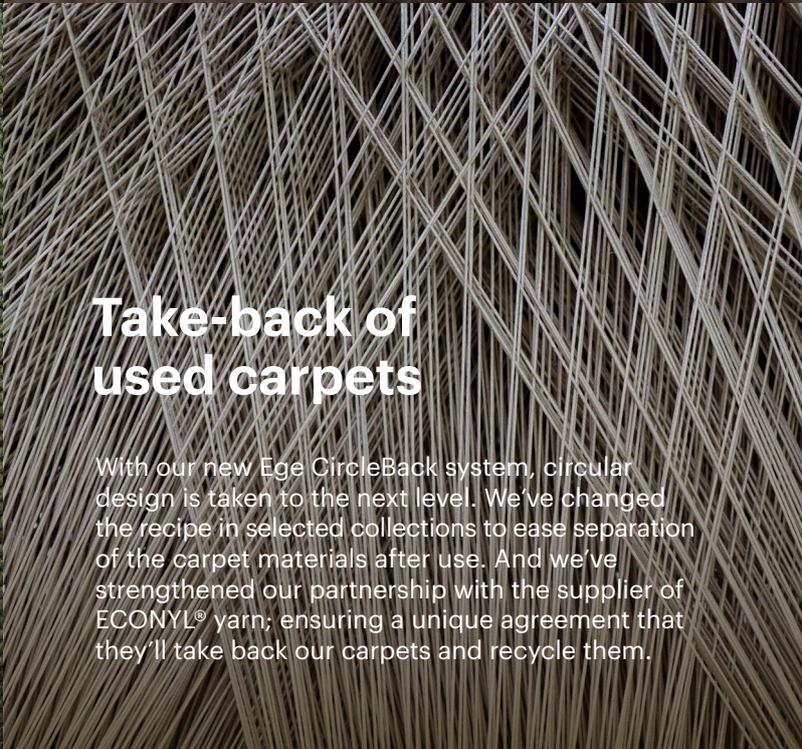
Recycled cardboard cones and yarn

47 tonnes of cardboard cones and 153 tonnes of yarn are recycled every year. All of our production facilities send used cardboard cones containing leftover yarn for recycling to Ege Go2Work – a special production line for employees with mental and physical challenges. The production line unwinds the residual yarn and sends both yarn and cones for recycling.



Total waste volume for recycling

Our carpet off-cuts are reused in riding arenas and sports gear. So far, we've managed to ensure the reuse or recycling of 30% of our total waste volume, while 65% is sent for thermal recycling. The aim is for all our waste to be reused, recycled or composted by 2030.



Take-back of used carpets

With our new Ege CircleBack system, circular design is taken to the next level. We've changed the recipe in selected collections to ease separation of the carpet materials after use. And we've strengthened our partnership with the supplier of ECONYL® yarn; ensuring a unique agreement that they'll take back our carpets and recycle them.



The circle of carpet life

Ege Carpets offer you the opportunity to return your used carpet with a new, ground-breaking initiative.

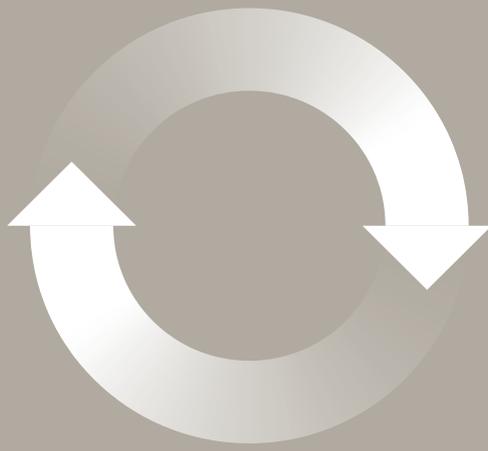
Across our industry, only a small percentage of used carpets are recycled. This topic is a challenge to all manufacturers, as the recycling process can be difficult and expensive. But even so, a solution must be found. At Ege Carpets, we're an industry first mover within sustainable innovation. That's why we've been working hard to find new ways to reduce the impact of our products by turning waste into resources and supporting a circular mindset.

Introducing Ege CircleBack

Ege CircleBack is a unique carpet recycling program where we offer to take back your used carpet for recycling and find useful ways to keep waste to an absolute minimum. More than 95% of your old carpet can be recycled in various ways as the yarn can be turned into new yarn and the rest of the carpet can be reused in the plastic industry and for cement production.

At first, the Ege CircleBack option will be offered for ten of our collections, including some of our most popular ones. And we're gradually including more collections in the program – so you can help keep valuable resources in circulation.





Ege CircleBack

We're proud to introduce Ege CircleBack – a revolutionary take-back concept ensuring that your new carpet can be returned after use. Subsequently, more than 95% of the carpet can be recycled and reused instead of ending up as waste.

ege[®]

Feel safe with our certificates

Our numerous certificates are your guarantee that your new product from Ege Carpets is produced with optimum regard for the environment, safety and quality.

Proud to be leading the way

Our sustainability excellence has been recognised by EcoVadis, the world's leading sustainability rating agency, with a Platinum ranking. EcoVadis have ranked the CSR performance of +90.000 companies in 160 countries and the Platinum ranking puts us in the top 1%.

Our sustainable efforts have led to many other fine acknowledgements and awards like EU's Management Award for Sustainable Development and the Circularity City Product Award by EIT Climate KIC, which gave us the opportunity to share our experience at C40 Worlds Mayors Summit 2019. We're proud to be leading the way and to be invited for numerous events where we can inspire others to move in a more sustainable direction.





All our carpets are Cradle to Cradle Bronze Certified®

The idea behind Cradle to Cradle is that the Earth's finite resources don't go to waste. They must be used in new contexts, with no detrimental effect on people or the environment. All our carpets are Cradle to Cradle Bronze Certified® and we're working towards certification at Platinum level by 2030. Find the Cradle to Cradle certificate under the individual carpet product specifications at egecarpets.com.



EPD documents the carpet life cycle

EPD is an Environmental Product Declaration that's available for many products from Ege Carpets. It's a brief document which sums up the environmental profile of a product or service in a standardised and objective way. An EPD is made on the foundation of a lifecycle analysis (LCA). The standardised method ensures that the information is adapted to each product category, making comparisons from product to product possible regardless of international borders. It can also be applied to classify environmental buildings.



Ege Carpets improve your DGNB sustainability score

DGNB is a holistic approach to sustainability where the total sustainable performance of a building project is scored based on fulfilment of up to 50 sustainability criteria such as ecology, economy, socio-cultural aspects, technology and process. With our many environmental, quality and safety certifications, as well as documented maintenance and cleaning instructions, we can help improve the DGNB score of the building.



Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

LEED is a voluntary certification system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, which works to promote sustainable construction worldwide. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The program provides architects, designers and purchasers solid, practical ratings for design and product characteristics. Buildings constructed according to LEED use resources more efficiently than conventional buildings. In addition, "green buildings" provide healthier working and living environments because the building materials used have a low impact on both the environment and indoor climate.



Indoor Air Comfort Gold guarantees low emissions

Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort product certification is a well-established way to show compliance of a product with the low VOC emissions criteria set out in Europe. Our entire carpet portfolio is Indoor Air Comfort Gold certified demonstrating compliance with product emissions with the criteria of many of the voluntary specifications issued by the most relevant eco-labels and similar specifications in the EU. Gold certified products are best-in-class for low emissions and therefore good for indoor air quality.



BREEAM validates the sustainability of buildings

BREEAM is the world's leading science-based suite of validation and certification systems for a sustainable built environment. Millions of buildings across the world are registered to work towards BREEAM's holistic approach to achieve ESG, health and net zero goals.

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