GILCHRIST & SOAMES®
EST. LONDON, ENGLAND

WHERE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY & PERSONAL LUXURY LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

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OUR VISION FOR A GREENER TODAY & TOMORROW

TALKING THE TALK & WALKING GENTLY

"Responsible Luxury" isn't just a catchphrase, it's our living, breathing mission to create environmentally friendly products that we can all feel good about.

At Gilchrist & Soames, we realize our business has an impact on the environment and we're fully committed to understanding those implications and being transparent in our findings, objectives and achievements. In 2008, as part of our sustainability strategy, we undertook three key research initiatives:

- *Carbon emissions.* ICF International, a firm renowned in the field of carbon footprinting and emissions reduction, worked with Gilchrist & Soames on our initial endeavour to understand and estimate our total carbon footprint.

- *Formulations.* In conjunction with Purdue University, we evaluated the impact of our ingredients on soil and water.

- *Plastics recycling.* We commissioned a plastics recycling expert to help us, and our clients, better understand recycling opportunities and challenges in the hospitality industry.

And this is just the beginning.

OUR GROWING COMMITMENT & SHRINKING FOOTPRINT

As part of our corporate commitment to environmental sustainability, Gilchrist & Soames measured the direct and indirect Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions of our operations and products. This established a baseline with which to measure future efforts to reduce our company's carbon footprint.

The following areas were evaluated by ICF International: manufacturing, supply chain, transportation, warehouses, offices/buildings, employee commutes and business travel. While our study was very thorough, it is an ongoing analysis as we continue to learn more about downstream emissions for products and components manufactured around the world.

The study estimated our annual carbon emissions to be 14,550 metric tons, which is equivalent to the annual emissions from 2,703 passenger vehicles or the annual energy use of 1,303 homes.

With this information in hand, we have identified in Phase 1, five key areas of improvement to reduce emissions:

1. Reduce shipments of raw materials/components globally – local sourcing
2. Manufacture finished goods closer to our customers
3. Implement LEED-EB Certification plan for reducing consumption of energy and water in our manufacturing facility
4. Adopt a four- versus five-day manufacturing operation to reduce employee commutes
5. Convert all Gilchrist & Soames bottled collections to PET or HDPE

With these and other future initiatives, we're confident we will reduce our total GHG emissions. Gilchrist & Soames' future goal is to become carbon-neutral through the purchase of high-quality, verified carbon offset credits that support meaningful emission reduction projects globally.

We invite all of our customers and stakeholders to contact us for specific information on the methodology of the calculation, as well as updates on our measurable goals. And, hopefully, join us on the road to a greener future.

WHAT WE USE & WHAT WE DON'T

At Gilchrist & Soames, we've partnered with Purdue University's Earth Sciences Department to analyze post-consumption effects of each of the raw materials used in our products. We evaluated and continue to study aquatic toxicity, aerobic biodegradability, anaerobic biodegradability and bioaccumulation to ensure that our high-quality products have the lowest possible environmental impact.

All G&S collections feature one of our proprietary formulations:

Signature. The Gilchrist & Soames Signature Formulations contain no parabens, phthalates, petrol-derived ingredients, mineral oil, urea, DEA, TEA or propylene glycol. They do feature food-grade, naturally derived USP glycerin, natural conditioning agents from honey and the Brassica plant; and soybean and cottonseed oil, instead of petrochemicals.

Naturally Kind.™ With Gilchrist & Soames Naturally Kind™ Formulations, all of the virtues of our Signature Formulations are combined with another layer of skin- and Earth-friendliness. They do not contain DMDM hydantoin and are free of all sulfates (SLS/SLES).

Our vision for responsible luxury doesn't end with formulations and materials. We're also committed to cruelty-free development and we pledge to never test our products on animals. Step by step, it all adds up to a green today and an even greener tomorrow.

MAKING SMARTER CHOICES & CREATING GREENER PRODUCTS

The Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) of a hotel amenity begins with its raw materials, through manufacturing of the product and the packaging, to the use of the amenity, and finally, disposal. While all of these are significant, the key to limiting environmental burden is choosing the right type and weight of packaging.

Gilchrist & Soames, in most every situation, chooses the lowest possible resin weights of PET (polyethylene terephthalate) or HDPE (high density polyethylene), the most readily recyclable options available today.

Bioresins, new and highly-publicized materials in packaging, have a basis in plants, many purported to biodegrade after use. The most common bioresin currently is PLA, polylactic acid. To biodegrade, PLA requires composting[1] at about 125°F and a 50% moisture level[2], conditions met only by in-vessel composting at a Municipal Solid Waste facility or its equivalent. Unfortunately, very few exist, meaning the pursuit of degradables in amenity packaging must be tempered by the realities of today.

With this in mind, we're constantly exploring alternative packaging beyond traditional PET and HDPE. That's why we also use paper bottles, which are up to a 59% reduction in packaging material by weight and a 92% reduction in waste by volume after use compared to rigid plastic bottles.

Our commitment to newer and more environmentally friendly packaging has never been stronger. Through industrial design exploration and materials research, we are on the leading edge in the development of alternative packaging. So as new systems are put in place and improved materials are made available, you can bet that we'll be first in line to give our hoteliers not just more choices, but better choices.

1 NatureWorks LLC. "Composting." 28 October 2008 http://www.natureworksllc.com/our-values-and-views/end-of-life/composting.aspx

2 Weber, Robert. "Laboratory Composting of Polylactic Acid." Industrial Agricultural Products Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 28 October 2008 http://agproducts.unl.edu/compost.htm

RECYCLING CHALLENGES & BEST PRACTICES

On one hand, our industry's commitment to recycling has never been greater. On the other, amenity-sized bottles do pose unique challenges.

Sorting small bottles is problematic for the Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF), as the effort and expense are roughly the same to remove a 32-ounce bottle as to remove a one-ounce bottle. That's why it's important that each hotel work closely with its local facility to ensure that best practices are followed, making it a worthwhile and productive venture for both hotel and MRF.

From the MRF, bales are transported to the reclaimer, where they're shaken apart in a trommel that has perforations 1.5 to two inches in diameter. Small bottles often fall through the perforations and are disposed with the rocks, closures, dirt and grit that also fall through the holes. It is imperative that the hotelier or MRF work with the reclaimer to ensure the loss is minimal.

Best Practices

- Hotelier purchases amenities in bottles of the same resin type properly labeled with recycling symbol
- Hotelier works with local MRF to establish systems for bottles and closures
- Housekeeping collects used bottles and delivers to a common receptacle
- Bottles depackaged (emptied) and flattened (preferably)
- Bottles placed in large (30 to 50 gallon) clear plastic bags
- Bags transported to the MRF for inclusion in standard bales
- Ideally, the MRF is able to add the drained bottles directly to the baler, avoiding sorting (possible only if steps are followed and bags contain a single resin type)
- MRF transports bales to the reclaimer
- Large hotels may have enough volume to justify baling on-site and shipping directly to reclaimer