

# eco INTELLIGENCE<sup>®</sup>

OUR PATH TO SUSTAINABILITY.



## A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY.

Victor introduced the concept of Eco Intelligence® in 2001. We developed this philosophy to describe a smarter way of thinking about manufacturing for the textile industry and its impact on the environment and human health. Eco Intelligence® pertains to much more than just product – it also encompasses our corporate commitment to sustainability, our industry leadership and our continuous pursuit of environmental innovation.

To put it simply, Eco Intelligence® is the guiding principle we use to navigate our path to sustainability.



The Victor Pledge:

### GOOD CHEMISTRY

We pledge to design products that benefit the environment in every phase of their production and use. And we'll ensure that these products can be safely returned to nature or recycled into new textiles.

## MEASURES OF SUSTAINABILITY.

Throughout a long history of sustainable practices, Victor has always aligned itself with leaders in the environmental arena. This has deepened and expanded our knowledge and understanding of critical issues. We have learned a lot on our path to sustainability, enabling us to establish sound criteria upon which our Eco Intelligence® principles are based:

1. Product/material transparency
2. Material and chemical input safety
3. Recyclability and recycled content
4. Renewable energy and resource efficiency
5. Increasingly sustainable manufacturing processes
6. Water quality and conservation
7. Social responsibility and fiscal sustainability

The criteria established by Victor are aligned with international sustainable certification models that address multiple attributes including material health & safety, water, energy, recyclability and social responsibility. This comprehensive approach to measuring the sustainability of products is becoming the recognized industry standard and increasingly a requirement for product acceptability.

## ECO INTELLIGENT® BRANDED PRODUCTS

Victor continues to develop a range of products in accordance with our Eco Intelligence® principles. We've branded these products with the name Eco Intelligent® – a designation that makes it easier for our customers to identify and choose products that meet their environmental objectives and specifications. The Eco Intelligent® family of products provides eco-friendly solutions for a variety of end uses: healthcare, hospitality, institutional/ educational, corporate, residential, apparel and specialty.

### Eco Intelligent® Family

- Eco Intelligent® Polyester
- Eco Intelligent® Recycled Polyesters
- Eco Intelligent® Finishing Options
- Eco Intelligent® Next Generation

#### Eco Intelligent® Polyester

Victor's premier branded product is the world's first Cradle to Cradle<sup>CM</sup> Gold textile, a material designed to remain in a closed-loop system of manufacture, reuse, and recovery, maintaining its value through many product life cycles. Fabrics manufactured with Eco Intelligent® Polyester are identical to traditional polyester fabrics in performance and aesthetics. What's different are 1) the environmentally advanced techniques used to produce the fiber and 2) the way the fabrics can be safely recycled at the end of their useful lives.

#### Key Features:

- Antimony-free
- Optimized dye chemistry
- Chlorine-free
- Free of Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic (PBT) Chemicals
- Cradle to Cradle Certified<sup>CM</sup>
- Perpetually recyclable
- Made with sustainable manufacturing practices



### Eco Intelligent® Recycled Polyesters

These products were developed to provide additional sustainable solutions. They give our customers the tools they need to create recycled fabrics. Recycled materials play a key role in our transition to a more sustainable textile industry by reducing waste, decreasing fossil fuel consumption and supporting efforts to conserve natural resources.

Eco Intelligent® Recycled Polyesters are available in three different versions, all of which have earned Cradle to Cradle<sup>CM</sup> certification:

- Post-industrial/Post-consumer recycled polyester
- Post-consumer recycled polyester
- Post-consumer recycled polyester with Agion® antimicrobial technology



### Eco Intelligent® Finishing Options

These third-party certified finishes can be used to enhance the performance and sustainability profile of our Eco Intelligent® Polyester and Eco Intelligent® Recycled Polyesters:

- **XPS2** – a polyester binder that has earned Cradle to Cradle<sup>CM</sup> Gold certification.
- **XPS3** – an “anti-slip” finish that is certified Cradle to Cradle<sup>CM</sup> Gold.
- **GreenShield™** – a high-performance water- and stain-repellent finish that dramatically reduces the use of fluorochemicals that are persistent in the environment. GreenShield is assessed by MBDC from a Cradle-to-Cradle<sup>SM</sup> perspective and Silver certification is uniquely possible for fabrics finished with GreenShield.
- **Crypton® Green** – the first high-performance fabric system to receive both Cradle to Cradle<sup>CM</sup> Basic and SCS Gold Indoor Advantage<sup>TM</sup> certification.

### Eco Intelligent® Next Generation

The Eco Intelligent® product family is dynamic and evolving – we are committed to an “improvement continuum” with new innovations to be announced as they become available.

# ECO INTELLIGENT INITIATIVES®

Eco Intelligent® products are the most visible expression of our Eco Intelligence® principles. But we also extend this smarter way of thinking about sustainability to our processes, partners and people – through a formal program we refer to as Eco Intelligent Initiatives®.



Cradle to Cradle (C2C) is a third-party certification program administered by MBDC. It includes assessments in the following areas to award Basic, Silver, Gold and Platinum certifications to products and services:

- Material Health & Safety
- Material Reutilization/ Design for Environment
- Energy
- Water
- Social Responsibility

Products that are C2C certified can contribute points toward LEED certification for a building project.

## PROCESSES

We are constantly working to improve and refine our processes to reduce our impact on the environment. Since 2001, we have:

- Reduced greenhouse emissions by 80%
- Reduced energy use by 24%
- Increased renewable energy from 71% to 91%
- Reduced water consumption by 74%
- Reduced chemicals by 50%
- Recycled 99.9% of our textile, plastic and paper waste
- Received ISO 14001 environmental standard certification
- Strengthened our commitment to lean manufacturing

## PARTNERS

Our relationships with industry partners play a vital role in shaping our path to sustainability, providing research and information, and keeping us aware of emerging sustainability issues, technologies and solutions.

We consult with customers to determine what's important to them. We work closely with suppliers to help improve their operations. And we reach out to third-party organizations to assist us in assessing our progress and advise us on innovations in sustainability.

We have long been affiliated with McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC) and we've worked with them to achieve Cradle to Cradle<sup>SM</sup> certification for many of our Eco Intelligent® products. We believe in the Cradle to Cradle<sup>SM</sup> design paradigm, in which products and services are designed based on patterns found in nature, eliminating the concept of waste entirely and creating an abundance that is healthy and sustaining.



## PEOPLE

From the very beginning, our people have played a vitally important role in our path to sustainability. Victor President and CEO Alain Duval, a committed environmentalist, recalls his grandfather (and Victor's founder) telling him that recycling wool scraps was “more than smart business. It's an efficient use of resources.”

This legacy continues today, as we empower each individual to create positive change. We do this by:

- Creating sustainability awareness and engaging all stakeholders.
- Encouraging participation and investment in our associates.
- Promoting continuous improvement in safety and performance.

Supporting our people's ideas and providing the resources they need to achieve their goals for a safe, sustainable future is a way to improve all our lives.

## THE JOURNEY FORWARD

The definition of the term “sustainable” is highly variable – so each company needs to be transparent in how it defines and implements this concept in the manufacturing of its products. Victor has developed an approach that is holistic and regenerative.

We believe sustainable product design is an example of the whole truly being greater than the sum of its parts. It's easy to measure the number of barrels of oil saved by using recycled fiber or even by using renewable energy. Assessing the benefits of using the safest ingredients possible is considerably more complex. Nonetheless, we will continue to pursue sustainability on all fronts.

We know this is just the beginning – and we look forward to embracing new ideas and new innovations that will change the textile industry for future generations.

Please join us as we all increase our Eco Intelligence®.



**Victor is the first textile manufacturer to join the Sustainable Furnishings Council (SFC) as a Silver Corporate Exemplary Member.**

The SFC is a non-profit coalition of industry players founded in High Point, NC to promote sustainable practices among manufacturers, retailers and consumers.

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For more information visit [www.victorgroup.com](http://www.victorgroup.com)

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