

## Sustainability Brief: Greening the Government - Executive Orders

### Interface offers solutions to help 'Green' the U.S. Government.

Four Executive Orders are in effect, under the signature of the U.S. President, that direct the Federal Government to reduce the environmental impact of its operations. These "Greening the Government Executive Orders" are designed to demonstrate leadership in environmental excellence and use the purchasing power of the Federal Government to stimulate markets for new products and services that will help others reduce their impact. Taken as a whole, these orders offer a broad framework for action for Federal, State and local government, as well as business and industry.

- **13101** - Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Acquisition
- **13123** - Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management and Renewable Energy
- **13134** - Greening the Government through Developing and Promoting Biobased Products and Bioenergy
- **13148** - Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management

From 1996-1999, Interface's leadership through Ray Anderson's role as the Co-chair of the President's Council on Sustainable Development had a major influence in the development of a series of policy recommendations to the White House on issues ranging from environmental management to climate change. These Executive Orders explicitly represent many of these issues as high priorities.

*"Your efforts have helped to inspire public and private dialogue on sustainable development, and I have relied on your sound recommendations on some of our most pressing issues, including livable communities, climate change and improved environmental management."*

—President Bill Clinton

Interface has also taken an active role in the leadership of the U.S. Green Building Council, which has published the LEED Green Building Rating System and holds an annual government summit in Washington D.C. to coordinate the efforts of the various Federal agencies as they pertain to green building development.

**Executive Order 13101 - Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Acquisition** Each executive agency shall incorporate waste prevention and recycling into the agency's daily operations and require them to increase and expand

markets for recovered materials through greater Federal Government preference and demand. Pollution is to be prevented and when it cannot be prevented, recycling should occur, making disposal of materials a last resort.

#### Interface's Solutions:

- Interface offers a broad range of products with a recycled content in the face and back. Total recycled contents as high as 54% with post-consumer recycled contents as high as 22%.
- Interface is addressing waste prevention and reduction by establishing focused and innovative QUEST teams throughout the world, to identify, measure and eliminate waste streams.
- Interface is addressing pollution prevention through toxic chemical elimination projects, indoor air quality initiatives, water management strategies and projects focused on global climate change and greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Interface is also actively involved in:
  - designing for the environment (Sustainable Design Staircase);
  - affirmative procurement of recovered materials (Greening the Supply Chain);
  - and the experimentation of biobased and organic compostable products, with commercial bio-based product introductions scheduled in 2002.

#### Executive Order 13123 - Greening the Government Through Efficient Energy Management

The Federal Government shall significantly improve its energy management in order to save taxpayer dollars and to reduce emissions that contribute to air pollution and global climate change. The Federal Government should promote energy efficiency, water conservation, decreased petroleum dependency and use of renewable energy products to help foster markets for emerging technologies.

**Interface's Solutions:** Interface leads the commercial interiors product industry in the application of energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies through commitment to using renewable energy.

- Interface operates four on-site photovoltaic electricity generating systems at its plants around the world and is also a leading consumer of certified green energy. Interface is currently engaged in a project to substitute the natural gas needs of one plant with 100% reclaimed landfill gas.

- In August 2001, Interface Flooring Systems, LaGrange, GA became one of 20 founding partners in the **US EPA's Green Power Partnership**, a voluntary program aimed at boosting the market for power alternatives that reduce the environmental and health risks of conventional electricity generation.
- Interface, Inc. is a founding member of the **Green Power Market Development Group (GPMDG)**, a partnership of leading multinational corporations, The World Resources Institute, and Business for Social Responsibility--focused on developing corporate markets for 1,000 megawatts of cost-competitive new "green" energy capacity by 2010.
- All worldwide Interface modular carpet factories are certified to the international EMS standard, ISO 14001. All Interface modular carpets worldwide are manufactured in factories that have audited and registered ISO 14001 environmental management systems.
- Many of our mills are similarly certified to the Quality Management Systems (QMS) standard ISO 9002.
- Additionally, our European operations in Great Britain are certified to the British Standards Institute's BS 7750.
- In addition, Interface Research Corporation has been conducting Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) studies of all Interface carpet products. This highly technical review of materials and processes can be made available to other experts in LCA and Interface will be sharing the success and knowledge gained from LCA studies at a number of upcoming environmental conferences.
- Interface is addressing the reduction of selected toxic chemicals through its toxic chemical elimination projects, indoor air quality initiatives and water management strategies.

**Executive Order 13134 - Greening the Government Developing and Promoting Biobased Products and Bioenergy** Stimulates the creation and early adoption of technologies needed to make biobased products and bioenergy cost competitive in large national and international markets. Recognizes that biobased products and technologies have the potential to make renewable farm and forestry resources major sources of affordable electricity, fuel, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other materials, while reducing the Nation's dependence on foreign oil, improving air and water quality and flood control, decreasing erosion, and minimizing net production of greenhouse gases.

**Interface's Solutions:** Interface is in the final stages of product development of a revolutionary new biopolymer for carpet applications. Face fiber produced from PLA (polylactic acid) is available for light commercial applications in Europe, and will be available for heavy commercial carpet and panel fabric applications by mid to late 2002 in the U.S. PLA is the first commercialized polymer derived from agricultural products rather than oil. Interface is the only commercial interiors manufacturer to make this product available in 2002. Data provided by the supplier of PLA indicates potential for a significant (20-50%) decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, as compared to the manufacture of petroleum based fibers.

**Executive Order 13148 - Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management** Directs each Federal agency to implement formal environmental management systems (EMS) of their own design or based on ISO 14001, and to use Life Cycle Assessment as a guide to decision making. Also requires reduction of use of selected toxic chemicals, hazardous substances and pollutants.

**Interface's Solutions:** Interface is an industry leader in all of these cases.

We know of no other North American carpet manufacturer that presents this level of confidence in its manufacturing processes, procedures and management systems.

### **Who's Responsible for Enacting these Orders?**

Each Executive Order has a different leadership structure depending upon the subject matter and content, but the General Services Administration (GSA) is responsible for working with the various Federal agencies to meet the requirements of these orders as they pertain to procurement and product specifications. GSA is responsible for reviewing potential suppliers' abilities to meet the requirements set forth in each order, and they determine which suppliers can provide the most for their government facilities. Interface is pleased to carry on a strong and proactive relationship with our government customers. Interface has been an industry partner with GSA through an uninterrupted contract relationship since 1980. To date, Interface has sold more carpet tile to the Federal Government than any other supplier. As a further testimony and recognition of Interface's environmental efforts, GSA recognized the company in 2001 for its waste prevention with the **GSA National Furniture Center's Evergreen Award**.

To learn more about Interface products and services available to the government, contact your local Interface Flooring Systems Account Executive. Or visit us on the web at [www.interfaceflooring.com](http://www.interfaceflooring.com).