

## **Our Environmental Policy**

At Hitch Mylius, we are very aware of the environmental consequences and impact of our work and our products.

Our unique combination of manufacturing standards and design expertise means that our products are extremely durable and offer built in longevity. Many of our pieces may be re-upholstered, to extend the product life.

We strive to mitigate and minimise this impact through careful material selection, reduction in waste and improved energy efficiency. We ensure that environmental considerations are part of our everyday working practice, and we are committed to complying with all relevant environmental legislation.

Ever since the company began in 1971, Tristram and Hazel Mylius have always been very aware of the consequences of waste and the environmental side effects of manufacture, and have sought to minimise these wherever possible.

Our impact on the world is reduced by us focussing on the following areas;

### **Reducing and recycling waste**

It is our policy when dealing with waste to follow the waste hierarchy; **prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover**. Therefore we try to **prevent** and **reduce** waste where possible by ensuring materials are measured accurately. Where waste does occur we try to **reuse** it within our existing processes, if this is not possible we either look for reuse options outside of the company or we source a service provider who will **recycle** the material. For example, our foam off cuts are taken back by our foam supplier and **recycled** in the production of chip foam. We **reuse** the cardboard rolls that fabric is supplied on as packaging for our sofa legs. Leather and fabric scraps that cannot be reused are collected by organisations that allow them to be **recycled**. Our waste is then split with cardboard and paper being recycled. We have also reduced our waste collections by 25% in 2008-2009.

### **Improving our energy use**

We periodically monitor our energy and water consumption with a view to reducing our consumption of both. It is company policy to switch off lights and equipment when not being used. We regularly service our equipment to ensure it is working efficiently. We also consider the energy implications when purchasing new equipment and fixtures.

### **The sustainability of our raw materials**

We are motivated to produce the most environmentally friendly products reasonably possible, as such we regularly assess whether the materials going into our products are the most sustainable available to us. The wood in our upholstery frames is from renewable European sources, and our wooden table tops are from an FSC certified supplier.

We use recycled polythene for wrapping the finished furniture.

### **Sourcing & transport**

Where possible, and in the majority of cases, components are sourced from within the UK to minimise the carbon emissions associated with transportation. Many of our key suppliers are local to us – our sofa frames and metalwork suppliers are 12 miles from our factory.

All of our employees are responsible for ensuring high standards of environmental care, and we provide information and support to assist this process. We also talk to our suppliers to discuss their environmental performance and encourage improvements wherever possible.

Business activity will be regularly monitored to ensure that it adheres to this policy. This policy will be reviewed periodically as we strive to make continual improvement to our environmental efficiency.

**April 2009**