

orangebox

ARA

Environmental Information



What are Environmental Footprints?

Ecological Footprints

These tell us how much land is required to provide the resource needed to make a product and to absorb the waste produced as a result. Ecological footprinting looks at environmental impact in terms of land because the planet has a finite amount of resource to offer. Within the Western world we are consuming far more natural resource than can be replenished or replaced. The maths is simple – if we carry on there just won't be enough to go around. Footprinting is about learning to live within our means and is an indicator of sustainability. Footprints are expressed in Hectares.

A footprint for a chair would be made up of the following:

- Land from which raw materials are extracted
- Land from which fossil fuel is obtained to generate energy
- Land on which Factories and roads are built to process and transport materials (built environment)
- Land to absorb wastes (e.g. forested land to absorb CO2 emissions)

Carbon Footprints

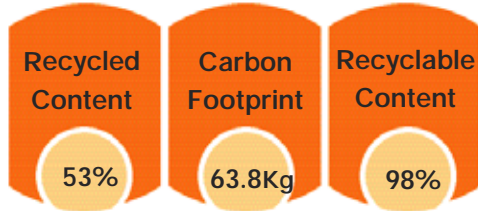
Carbon pollution within the environment has been identified as one of the most pressing issues facing the world today. The Carbon Footprints of our key products quantify exactly how much carbon will be produced over the products entire life cycle. Our philosophy is simple, if you can measure it, you can reduce it.



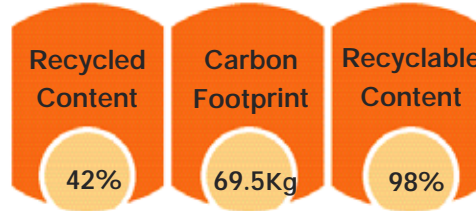
Orangebox has teamed up with Climate Care and can now offer certain products as carbon offset. This means that the equivalent quantity of carbon generated in producing a product has been saved by investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency programmes.

At a time when population growth and resource depletion are both accelerating fast, we believe that being environmentally "less bad" is no longer an acceptable option.

Carbon Footprinting



ARA Aluminium Task Chair



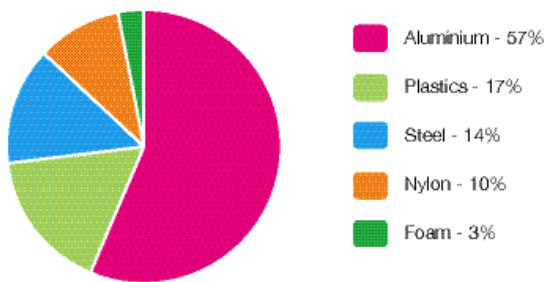
ARA Plastic Task Chair



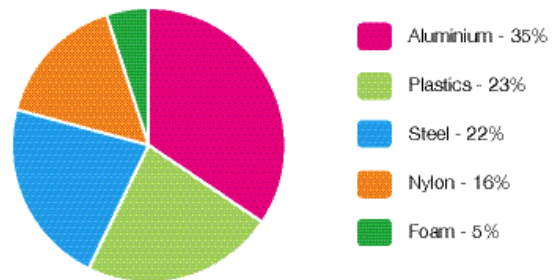
Materials Breakdown

Our footprint analysis indicates that over 90% of a products environmental impact is down to the raw materials used in manufacture. By understanding the footprint of different materials, we can make better decisions on material selection for forthcoming products.

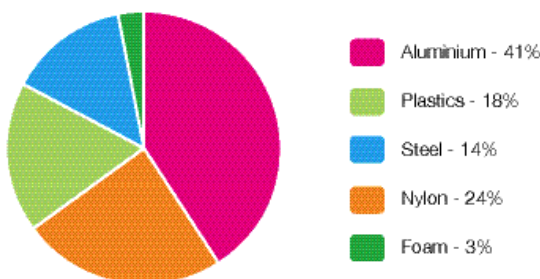
ARA Aluminium Chair - Key Materials by WEIGHT



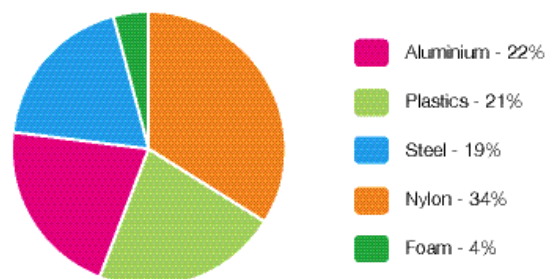
ARA Aluminium Chair - Key Materials by FOOTPRINT



ARA Plastic Chair - Key Materials by WEIGHT



ARA Plastic Chair - Key Materials by FOOTPRINT



End of Life Solution

Research suggests that around 60% of chairs end up at landfill. At Orangebox we are striving to increase the recyclability of our seating and to help ensure that this effort is not wasted, we can provide an end of life cycle solution for your unwanted seating. Products can be collected directly from your premises and then undergo an evaluation. Refurbishment and redistribution is the first option which is considered but if this is not feasible then the seating is broken down and recycled.

G64 recycling - 21 years and still going strong...

An obvious solution to tackling ever increasing consumption is to maximise the life of the products we use. Orangebox's G64 has proved that serious ergonomics and quality engineering make an extremely sustainable partnership, with some customers now choosing to refurbish chairs that have had over 7 years of 24 hour service - thats equivalent to 21 years of normal use. We now encourage our existing G64 customers to consider avoiding unnecessary chair replacement programmes by prolonging the life of their existing seating.

Looking to the Future



The insight we've gained from the Ecological and Carbon Footprinting of our products is currently being used to ensure that the next generation of Orangebox chairs is even more sustainable. In partnership with our suppliers we will continue to research new materials and manufacturing processes.

Whenever we recycle, we need to retain the value in the materials themselves and the resources invested in making them. We believe the answer lies in manufacturing with closed loop cycles. These encourage true re-cycling rather than the still damaging process of down-cycling materials, which is one step closer to landfill.

We will also continue to push for a standard means of measuring environmental performance within the furniture industry by working in partnership with organisations such as FIRA and BFM. We feel that by standardising the way in which these issues are measured, we can make it easier for customers to understand environmental data and to make an informed purchasing choice.

At Orangebox we are striving to increase the recyclability of our seating and to help ensure that this effort is not wasted, we can provide an end of life cycle solution for your unwanted seating.

Having set up a recycling facility at our manufacturing site in South Wales and having followed the principles of Cradle to Cradle, we're now able to offer a comprehensive 'Free Of Charge' take back service for the Ara chair.



Cradle to Cradle is an approach to design which looks to make us truly environmentally effective, by developing products for closed loop systems in which all the materials used are safe and beneficial - either to biodegrade naturally or to be fully recycled into high quality materials for subsequent product generations time and time again. In order for us to maximise the value of the materials used in your chair we'd like to get them back once you've finished with them. Therefore Ara has been specifically designed with ease of dis-assembly as one of the guiding principles of it's development.

Used products will be collected by our delivery fleet and if re-use isn't possible, they'll be disassembled and the materials recycled via the appropriate channel. Products collected directly from your premises then undergo an evaluation, with refurbishment and redistribution the first options for consideration. If these options are not feasible then the seating is broken down and recycled. In practice we stock pile the materials we recover from the Ara chair and when suitable levels have been reached these materials are then redistributed to our appropriate sub suppliers, at which point they are recycled (plastic re-granulated, Aluminum re-smelted etc.) so these valuable materials can be reprocessed to produce new chair parts for us.

We have already used a high percentage of recycled materials to manufacture the Ara chair:

Ara aluminium Spec chair = 53% recycled content / post consumer
Ara plastic spec chair = 42% recycled content / post consumer



Please contact the Orangebox customer services department on 01443 816604 when you are ready to return your used Ara chairs to us. We'll then make the appropriate arrangements to collect the chairs from you. We also provide an 'End Of Life' product take back service for Non-Orangebox office products, Price On Application.