



1. Introduction:

GPG (General Paints Group)'s mission is to embrace innovation to create lasting, vibrant colour that protects our planet so that we can build better futures for our environment, communities, customers, suppliers, employees, and shareholders.

2. Current State Analysis:

All our paint is water-based, contains no heavy metals, and emits low amounts of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) that are fully compliant with EU regulations. We are actively engaged in reducing our VOC emissions further and have already lowered this to trace amounts for some of our products. Our manufacturing plant continually strives to be as environmentally responsible as possible. We no longer generate any hazardous waste onsite.

We always operate in accordance with our sustainable procurement policy (link or PP GEN 31) aiming to reduce waste and increase efficiencies in all our activities. For instance, we now aim to buy our raw materials in bulk to reduce wastage of packaging material. We currently recycle over half of our wash water in our production processes.

Our technical team is further committed to recycling non-conforming paint batches, and to regularly monitoring our wash water for bacterial contamination internally, and our surface water both internally and through independent quarterly audits to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s licence requirements.

Our waste paint is blended with other wastes of similar chemical composition to make a Substitution Fuel and is thereby recovered and recycled to provide energy in cement manufacturing and other industries on mainland Europe to help reduce the reliance on fossil fuels in these plants.

GPG is a REPAK member, a nationwide initiative to improve Ireland's recycling rates.

3. Risks and Opportunities:

GPG faces several challenges around our environmental impact because of our continued reliance on petrochemicals, use of biocidal products and other necessary paint additives, water-intensive production processes, and high energy use. We understand that being responsible stewards of our sites and supply chains and ensuring that our environmental impact is minimised throughout our value chain are essential in the era of climate change and biodiversity loss. Environmental sustainability is therefore a priority for us as we seek to protect our planet, maintain our reputation, increase our revenues, and export to new international markets. Importantly, our commitments to environmental sustainability will help align us with the objectives of the EU Green Deal.

4. Our Commitments:



GPG supports the ten principles of the [United Nations Global Compact \(UNGC\)](#) on Human Rights, Labor, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.

GPG aims to become a leader in environmental sustainability and strives for continuous improvement within the paints industry in this regard by setting concrete, measurable, and ambitious targets. Our environmental targets will help to achieve the [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), specifically:

- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production (targets: 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7),
- SDG 14: Life Below Water (targets: 14.1) and
- SDG 15: Life on Land (targets: 15.1).

GPG further commits to having our targets bi-annually reviewed by our senior leadership team to ensure that they stay relevant, effective, and adequate in accomplishing our environmental goals.

To this end, GPG commits to 8 broad objectives to manage our resources sustainably, protect the environment, and prevent pollution in line with the requirements of [ISO14001:2015](#):

- Maintain full compliance with applicable environmental regulations and strive to go beyond compliance for waste management, and health and safety.
- Incorporate sustainability across all business strategy and decision-making processes, report to the board on progress against goals, and communicate about projects internally annually.
- Provide relevant sustainability-related training to all staff and ensure any incentives and bonuses are tied to an evaluation of performance around GPG's environmental goals.
- Understand our baseline energy use and carbon emissions, continually monitor consumption, and strive to minimise waste and maximise resource use efficiency across our operations through a balance of technical, organisational, and people-focussed changes.
- Take a considered approach to new product formulations that maintain quality and durability while reducing the use of hazardous materials and their generation in wastewater, utilising more bio-based, renewable, and non-virgin raw materials to further reduce the environmental impact of our product portfolio.
- Prioritise the preservation of scarce water resources through improved production methods that treat wastewater more effectively and enable its reuse; utilise a life cycle perspective and circularity principles in managing all other resources, from raw materials to post-consumer waste, promoting durability and safety, and facilitating prevention and reuse over recycling, recovery, and disposal where feasible.



- Futureproof our value chain through open and positive partnerships with our suppliers, supporting them in their transition to zero emissions and environmentally friendly products and processes, and encouraging regularity, transparency, and accountability in their environmental impact reporting in line with our supplier code of conduct.
- Join forces with our industry partners to raise awareness of sustainability challenges for paint and continue to establish mutually beneficially partnerships in the community with local community organisations and NGOs that contribute towards successful, long-term management of our environmental resources via our community policy. By doing so, we believe we will amplify our impact and address broader sustainability challenges collectively.

Rachel O'Connor, MD

General Paints Group

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