

A photograph of a young plant with several green, serrated leaves and a brown stem. The plant is growing out of a mound of dark brown soil. The roots are visible, extending downwards and to the left. The entire scene is set against a plain white background.

**GREEN STATEMENT:**  
OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIROMENT.



## **GREEN STATEMENT**

# **Sustainability Practices.**

**VS America is Committed to the Environment:** From raw material procurement to the recycling of furniture after its service life, VS is committed to environmentally friendly manufacturing and business practices.

### **Overall Corporate Policy.**

- We manufacture the highest quality furniture following sound and responsible environmental practices.
- We use natural resources as raw materials with minimum impact and we follow exclusively safe, environmentally-sound manufacturing practices.
- We use safe and responsible disposal practices in the production cycle and recycle raw materials, such as wood, steel, plastic and other scrap back into the production process.
- We have the ability to put end products back into the production process as well.
- All our employees and suppliers adhere to our strict environmental policy standards (ISO 14001).

### **Protection of Natural Resources.**

- Only high quality beech wood from sustained reforested woodlands is used; we do not use wood from tropical forests.
- Responsible use of natural resources and protection of the environment from harmful substances has top priority in our production cycle.
- Our Powdercoating chambers collect the paint excess and re-introduce it to the powdercoating process: immediately making the powdercoating process 98% efficient.
- Surplus wood, sawdust, wood shavings, polypropylene, tubular steel and other by-products are re-entered into the production cycle and used as a primary raw material in, for example, the manufacturing of table tops for school desks (LIGNOdur).
- Sound environmental practices allow us to minimize our demand for natural resources such as water, air and natural fuels.
- Rain water in our manufacturing facilities is collected and recycled into the production process.
- Renewable energy, such as of solar panels on the roofs of our manufacturing plants, makes up for 60% of total energy used yearly.
- Our furniture is shipped using mostly re-usable packaging materials such as blankets and cardboard, or other fully recyclable materials.
- Steel tubes used in manufacturing are extensively recycled and re-used in the production process.



## GREEN STATEMENT

# Sustainability Practices.

### Manufacturing.

- Our entire manufacturing process is dictated by environmental criteria from the choice of beech wood from reforested woodlands, over the use of environmentally protective processes in finishing wood and steel parts, to the use of re-usable packing materials during shipping and recycling concepts for products at the end of their service life.
- This is possible by maintaining strict control of the entire production process, and defining rigorous standards for each phase of manufacturing.
- Our production line is continuously monitored to assure minimum emission of harmful substances and raw material waste.
- We maximize energy efficiency, optimize the use of raw materials and promote the use of renewable energy sources.
- To assure long life, we use solid beech wood, particleboard and tubular steel in production of our high quality furniture.
- Solid beech wood design of furniture follows strict environmentally friendly principles.
- Only water-based paint and varnish is used on our wood to enhance the quality and texture of the beech wood.
- High strength steel tubes with close tolerances and high resistance to wear are used to promote a long life for furniture components.
- Each steel tube surface is finished with an epoxy-resin covered coating using a solvent-free powdercoating technology that is environmentally friendly.
- Student chairs are fitted with an air-cushioned plastic seat shell made of textured non-slip polypropylene, a robust scratch resistant material, which is also fully recyclable.
- Scrap from polypropylene parts is shredded and converted to a granulated material that is then recycled back into the manufacturing process to make new student seat shells.
- Surplus wood, sawdust and wood shavings are recycled back into the production process for new desktops using a patented process. With this process, wood scrap is compressed at high temperature and pressurized and glued back together into robust, particular resistant shape without adding synthetic resin (LIGNOdur).
- Old furniture, whose life has expired, is returned to and dismantled in our in-house recycling center and put back into the production cycle (excludes overseas installations).



**GREEN STATEMENT**

## **Sustainability Practices.**

**Industry Standards.**

- Our environmentally friendly production procedures meet the stringent requirements of various independent testing organizations.
- We have met and adapted stringent ISO 14001 worldwide standards into our internal environmental management policy.
- We are committed to staying well within the bounds of statutory acceptable industry standards.
- We work with independent authorized testing services to guarantee compliance with environmental standards.
- To adhere to ISO 14001 standards, we record and detail any negative influence on the environment and immediately adopt remedies to correct deficiencies.
- Neutral observers continuously monitor our plants to make sure we follow ISO 14001 standards.
- We meet, if not exceed, all quality and environmental management standards such as DIN EN ISO 9001:2000 and DIN EN ISO 14001.
- VS has achieved GREENGUARD certification for low emitting products and materials. To assure continuous compliance with the standards of the GREENGUARD Environmental Institute, VS products are tested on a quarterly basis.
- Using GREENGUARD certified products can help to obtain a higher level of LEED certification.

For more information or a further explanation of these objectives, contact your dealer or **VS America, Inc.** at **(707) 378-6500** or e-mail **info@vs-charlotte.com**

