

## Our Environmental History and Future

### Sustainable Leadership

Designtex is one of the industry's largest sources of sustainable research and data. We constantly strive to share this information with industry professionals, customers and students. We develop new products with careful attention to their material inputs, their manufacturing practices and end-of-life opportunities.

Designtex established its industry leadership in sustainable design in 1995 with the launch of Climatex® Lifecycle™ textiles and a new Sustainable Initiatives product category. Our product segments reflect partnerships with innovative thinkers and manufacturers like McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC), Rohner, Victor Innovatex and Interface Fabric Group. We are dedicated to building environmental intelligence into our entire offering, addressing the market's most challenging concerns and to substantiating every environmental claim we make.

Designtex began its pioneering work with MBDC in the early nineties, and the two companies, along with their manufacturing partners, brought the first examples of Cradle to Cradle™ textiles to market. MBDC's Cradle to Cradle paradigm seeks to design or redesign all products so that, at the end of their useful lives, they either decompose completely and safely (biological nutrients), or become raw materials for other industrial products (technical nutrients). The first collection of Climatex Lifecycle biological nutrient textiles, the Environmental Impact Collection, was introduced by Designtex in 1995. We have launched three William McDonough collections since that time. Designtex also introduced MBDC optimized Eco-Intelligent™ Polyester, the premier technical nutrient textile and first antimony-free polyester for seating and system use.

Designtex has worked diligently to build sustainability into our synthetic product offering. We launched the first recyclable Zeftron® Solution Dyed Nylon and subsequently developed the industry's first Sustainable Performance category by adding chemistry that did not interfere with recycling - NANO-TEX™ Resists Spills. We have also developed PVC-free wallcoverings, including Duraprene™. With a goal to build sustainability into products for every end use, Designtex has introduced the first biodegradable panel fabrics made from 100% Ingeo™, by Terratex®. The product's fiber is derived from corn starch, not petroleum.

Designtex recognizes the growing number of sustainable building projects in the architecture and design community. As members of the US Green Building Council, we are equipped to provide our specifiers with straightforward information regarding our products' correlation to the LEED® rating system for commercial interiors. We have also authored and delivered an IIDA-approved and AIA-approved CEU which provides the design community with an understanding of Cradle to Cradle thinking, as well as LEED-CI credits that pertain to textiles.

Our sustainable options and alternatives to PVC in other product categories include: Fusion Architectural Panels, surface imaging and shades & screens.

The most recent introductions to our sustainable offering include the Regeneration Collection of 100% post-consumer recycled polyester upholstery textiles, the Renewal Collection of 100% recycled polyester textiles, Sonic Fabric, an audible textile made from reclaimed audio cassette tape, Greenwear performance wallcovering, and Ingeo drapery. Designtex designed one of the

first collections of Crypton® Green upholsteries, using the new platform that can claim SCS (Scientific Certification Systems) Gold Indoor Advantage™ and MBDC Silver Cradle to Cradle Certification.

## Recognizing the Complexity of Specifying Sustainable Products

We also acknowledge the increasing complexity of specifying sustainable products. As such, Designtex is actively supporting the development of an ANSI-certified sustainable textile standard which the Association for Contract Textiles has embarked upon. With a Designtex representative at the table, work on this standard began at the standard writer's (NSF) headquarters in January of 2006, with targeted completion in 2009.

In addition, we are proactively providing LEED documentation on products specified on LEED registered projects. We have also developed a CEU course to clarify how our surface materials can contribute to LEED and how the language of sustainability can be used with precision to talk about a broad spectrum of sustainable products.

## Optimizing for Sustainability

Designtex's unprecedented introductions of biological and technical nutrient textiles and our passion for breaking new ground signal our intent to drive market transformation and to offer the most delightful and environmentally intelligent products in our industry. We view optimizing for sustainability as a living process and we are deeply committed to engaging that process with responsibility, honesty and invention.