Carbon Neutrality

DECISIONS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE TARKETT FLOORPRINT™
For nearly 140 years, Tarkett has been a leader in transformative flooring and surface solutions. While our methods have evolved, our creative process still begins with careful consideration of the goals held by those who will live, work, and play on our products. We create colors and textures using mindful materials that help to support people’s ambitions—weaving sustainability into the fabric of our company as deeply as design and innovation.

This mixture of craft, science, and purpose is a process we’ve practiced for years. Taken together, we call it human-conscious design. And it drives everything we do.

What is your **Tarkett Floorprint**?

The origins of Tarkett’s commitment to the health of people and planet stretches back to our company’s infancy. It was in 1898 that we first developed our remarkably carbon-negative linoleum—a recipe which is still followed today by our Lino product, made from 94% natural raw materials.

The 21st century looks a great deal different than the 19th. And with that came the need for the continued advancement of Tarkett’s sustainability efforts. It was in 2007 that we began offering carbon neutral carpets, by offsetting the full life cycle of greenhouse gas emissions across North America. And since 2009, we have intensified our efforts to lower the carbon impact of every flooring surface we sell throughout the world.

We have always focused on healthy materials as the basis for our products. And today, we are more focused than ever on minimizing the **Tarkett Floorprint** of our products. We have reduced our energy use; converted factories worldwide to renewable energy, utilized recycled materials in our products to reduce their carbon footprint; and offset the remainder. Our **Tarkett Floorprint** is an idea that encompasses both reduced impact, and positive contributions to human health and the global climate.

As our sustainability journey continues to evolve, Tarkett is working every day to rescue and restore a brighter future in which our children and their children can live, grow, and truly thrive.
A candid discussion of carbon neutrality starts with exploring a few key words, phrases, and concepts.

Carbon | kahr-buhn noun
1. Carbon is a chemical element that may exist in pure form, or can combine with other elements to form molecules. In the context of climate change, “carbon” is used as shorthand for “carbon dioxide.”
2. Carbon, by itself, is not a threat to our environment. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is. Carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas (GHG) emitted through human activities and industry. Man-made greenhouse gases prevent heat from escaping Earth’s atmosphere—and, by trapping energy close to our planet, cause global warming. The resulting change to our planet’s climate is triggering a host of problems—ranging from extreme weather events, to dwindling water supplies, to failed crops.

Embodied Carbon | em·bod·ied kahr-buhn noun
1. Embodied carbon refers to the impact associated with a material’s extraction; its manufacture and transport to the jobsite; and construction. “Carbon” in this sense refers to all GHG emissions, not just carbon dioxide. Carbon emissions are locked in place as soon as a building is built. If the world is to phase out fossil fuel emissions, it is essential that embodied carbon be controlled now.

Operational Carbon Emissions | op·uh-rey-shuh-nl kahr-buhn ih-mish-uhns noun
1. This phrase refers to the emissions of carbon dioxide during a building’s operational or in-use phase.
2. Emissions arise from energy-consuming activities, such as the building’s heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting.

Carbon Footprint | kahr-buhn foot-print noun
1. A carbon footprint is the amount of GHGs—primarily carbon dioxide—that is released into the Earth’s atmosphere by the result of an action taken by an individual, an organization, or even an entire nation.

Carbon Neutrality | kahr-buhn noo-tral-i-tee noun
1. Carbon neutrality is a net zero carbon footprint. This status can be reached by eliminating carbon emissions completely, or by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal.
2. Carbon neutrality is frequently achieved by purchasing carbon offsets, which compensate for a company’s carbon dioxide/GHG emissions by reducing those emissions elsewhere.

Q. In building construction, where does the most carbon come from?
The largest contributors to a building’s embedded carbon are steel and concrete.

Q. Why go carbon neutral?
The single greatest argument for carbon neutrality is that it significantly reduces the risks of global warming and climate change, and the catastrophic effects these events could have on humanity and other living beings.
Why Carbon Neutrality?
For a brighter future.
The construction of a building is responsible for roughly half its carbon footprint. Reducing the carbon emitted through building materials and construction can drastically improve our industry’s impact, which accounts for about 11% of the world’s total carbon emissions. To accelerate this effort, Tarkett has established a holistic approach to its health and wellness initiatives, using a three-part process: measuring, reducing, and offsetting. Guided by Cradle to Cradle Certified™ principles, we begin by carefully selecting better raw materials that move us closer to carbon neutrality.

Total Carbon Emissions of New Construction 2020-2050
Global average of a building’s carbon footprint
Carbon’s Impact Builds Over Time

- Embodied Carbon: 49%
- Operational Carbon: 51%

WHERE THE WORLD’S CARBON EMISSIONS COME FROM

- Building Materials & Construction: 22%
- Transportation: 28%
- Industry: 30%
- Other: 9%

Embodied Energy and Carbon
Life cycle of a building
- Extract Raw Materials
- Transport
- Manufacture Building Materials
- Transport to Site
- Build
- Operate
- End of Life

MEASURE
We measure the impact of each phase of our product life cycle:
Materials, Manufacturing, Install, Use, and End of Life.

Radical Transparency
The ethos carbon footprint is the total amount of CO₂ (carbon dioxide equivalent emissions) emitted per carpet tile at every stage of the product’s life cycle—before we offset that number to zero. We believe in radical transparency and want our customers to witness our journey. Because knowing our footprint is the first step towards driving it to zero.

How Does Tarkett Address Carbon?
By measuring it first.

By continuously improving the health and environmental credentials of our products, we strive to select materials and design products that can be recovered, recycled and transformed into new products. Third-party verification is important to Tarkett and its customers. Through Cradle to Cradle principles, our Environmental Product Declarations (EPD), and Material Health Statements (MHS), we are able to third-party verify the footprint of our products. Let’s look at ethos® Modular carpet tile as an example.

Emissions
Our ethos carpet tile
Standard carpet tile
That’s a great start, but we want to do more. Our goal—have no carbon footprint from the start. The first step to reducing our footprint is to measuring it. And even though we’re not at zero yet, we are working on it.

Emissions
- ethos® Carbon Footprint
  - Materials: 4.5 kg CO₂ e
  - Manufacturing: 2.6 kg CO₂ e
  - Install: 1.7 kg CO₂ e
  - Use: 0 kg CO₂ e
  - End of Life: 0.1 kg CO₂ e
  - Total: +8.9 kg CO₂ e

How Does Our Footprint Measure Up?²
A standard industry carpet tile has a carbon footprint of 15.28 kg CO₂ e.³ So the ethos carbon footprint offers a difference of 6.38 kg CO₂ e. Curious what that savings equates to from an everyday perspective? It’s the same as...

- Average footprint of 8.9 kg CO₂ e
  - 5,600 cars from the road every year

Average footprint of 8.9 kg CO₂ e
Savings >>>
430,000 tree seedlings grown for 10 years

- Our ethos carpet tile
  - +8.9 kg CO₂ e

Other Industry
Building Materials & Construction
Transportation
Building Operations

1. EC3 Tool, 2019/20 product accessed on 11/5/20
2. Based on 2019 sales of ethos® Carpet Tile

For a brighter future.
Striving for Carbon Neutrality.

By reducing it.

We lower carbon emissions through innovative manufacturing processes and supplier engagement. Our ambition is to leave the environment cleaner than we found it. That’s why we believe in the power of natural/recycled materials, and their potential to transform ecosystems. We’re looking beyond carbon neutrality, which means eventually our business will be circular. In 2019 alone...

Tarkett North America Used
8,500 tons
of Recycled content in our ethos® Carpet Tile. This is equal to eliminating 9200 Metric Tons of GHG emissions when compared to using virgin polymer for carpet backing OR over 21, 000 barrels of oil saved from consumption in 1 year alone! (Local impact)

Tarkett Group Used
126,000 tons
of recycled materials

Tarkett Group Used
67%
renewable, abundant or recycled raw material, not contributing to resource scarcity (global impact)

28% of Tarkett Group’s energy consumption comes from renewable energy sources (global impact)

And that’s not all. Tarkett’s industry-leading Low Embodied Carbon Portfolio products do better than the industry average product in each category.

Renewable energy investments

As we work to drive emissions to zero, we believe that Tarkett and every business should be held accountable for its environmental impact. So until we reach our goal of zero, we’re taxing ourselves for the carbon we do emit, eliminating our customers’ impact by investing in offsets to fund projects that neutralize our footprint.

Tarkett North America now offers carbon neutral flooring in a broad portfolio under the Certified CarbonFree® Program.1

Restore the balance.

By offsetting what we can’t reduce today.

We offset the remainder of our carbon footprint by investing in renewable energy projects, and by partnering with other global initiatives that promote carbon removal.

Forest conservation

To become CarbonFree® Certified, Tarkett has measured the greenhouse gases it emitted when making and delivering products to its customers, then neutralized those emissions through the purchase of carbon offsets.

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Rethinking product design to make our business circular.

It’s our goal for all products, buildings, and services are designed with the aim of achieving a regenerative circular economy. According to the Cradle to Cradle vision and principles, all materials are kept in use for as long as possible, and transformed into new materials when products reach end of use.

By continuously reducing the health and environmental impact of our products, we strive to select materials and design products that can be recovered, recycled, and transformed—creating not just new products, but a more sustainable future for all humankind.

Contributing to a circular economy.

Tarkett is committed to a circular economy model, which consists of keeping materials in a loop from the design and production phases, to later use and recovery stages, while preserving their highest value.

Eco-Design & Manufacturing. Minimizing the negative environmental impacts of a product across its life cycle.

Flooring with Recycled & Recyclable Content. Lessens the environmental impact of extracting and processing new raw materials, and lowers the carbon footprint of a product.

Install & Use. Installation, and using infrastructure that makes use of recycled materials, continues the circular economy loop.

Transform to Upcycle. Upcycling cleans salvaged materials, and repurposes them.

Collect. At the end of a product’s life, useful materials are salvaged from buildings and reclaimed for recycling.

Recycle. In this phase, many materials can be processed back to their original form, and used to make new items.

Other Industries

New Raw Materials

Eco-Design & Manufacturing

Transform to Upcycle

Flooring with Recycled & Recyclable Content

Install & Use

Collect

Recycle

Other Industries
As part of the Carbonfree® Product Certification program, we measure the greenhouse gases we emit in production and manufacture, then neutralize those emissions through the purchase of carbon offsets. Tarkett is working with two organizations to meet our offsetting requirements.

The first project Tarkett is involved with is the Waste Energy Recovery Co-Generation Project: the first-ever Verified Carbon Standard project in South Korea. Consisting of a 400 megawatt co-generation plant at Hyundai Steel, the project utilizes surplus waste gases to generate nearly three million megawatt hours of electricity and more than one million tons of steam—used by both the plant, and the local electric grid.

The second is the Tambopata-Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve, which protects over 590,000 hectares of threatened tropical rainforest in the Peruvian Amazon. Safeguarding an area roughly the size of Los Angeles, the project: reduces greenhouse gas emissions through the prevention of deforestation and forest degradation; restores damaged land; and invests in local communities.

The reserve is the flagship project of the REDD+ Business Initiative—a coalition of businesses that use forest carbon to address the environmental impacts of their operations. Through our support of the Tambopata-Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve project, we’ve helped to protect nearly 1.5 million acres, and restore 10,000 acres—actions expected to avoid over four million tons of CO₂ emissions by 2021.

In 2015, the United Nations adopted a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals—an initiative designed to end poverty, protect the planet, and promote peace and prosperity for all. Inspired by these goals, Tarkett has aligned with them, pledging to contribute positively to global societal challenges by being a signatory for the U.N. Global Compact.
ethos® Modular with Omnicoat Technology®. ethos® eliminates installation problems before they happen. Its breakthrough, proprietary coating creates a chemical barrier that works on any adverse flooring substrate—from green and chemically-abated concrete to old adhesives. And as long as there’s no evidence of standing liquids or moisture staining, ethos® eliminates the need for moisture, pH, and Moisture Vapor Emissions Rate (MVER) testing when installed with TarkettTAPE™.

- Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Silver v3.1
- SCS Global Certified NSF/ANSI 140 Platinum
- CRI Green Label Plus
- Product-Specific Environmental Product Declaration
- Living Building Challenge Declare® (LBC Red List Approved)
- SCS Certified Recycled Content
- Material Ingredients Disclosed Through Material Health Statement

Powerbond®. Powerbond is a hybrid resilient sheet with a nylon wear layer, which creates the feel and design of traditional carpet. The resilient closed-cell cushion backing absorbs impact and provides comfort underfoot, while the welded seams create a moisture-impermeable barrier, making the surface durable and easy to maintain.

Like all Tarkett soft-surface products, Powerbond comes standard with Eco-Ensure™. This fluorine-free, stain-resistant treatment lowers cost of maintenance, and creates healthier spaces by promoting better indoor air quality with low-VOC emissions.

- SCS Global Certified NSF/ANSI 140 Gold
- CRI Green Label Plus
- Product-Specific Environmental Product Declaration

Rubber. Rubber flooring balances function with aesthetics, safety with efficiency, and short-term costs with lifetime return. Practical and beautiful, Tarkett’s rubber products are naturally slip-resistant, shock-absorbent, easy-to-maintain, durable enough to perform for decades, and available in a rich assortment of colors, patterns, and textures.

- Cradle to Cradle Certified Bronze v3.1
- Industry-Wide Environmental Product Declaration
- SCS Global Certified FloorScore
- Living Building Challenge Declare (LBC Red List Approved)
- Material Ingredients Disclosed Through Material Health Statement

Melodia™ and Aria.® Ideal for heavy-traffic applications, the Melodia and Aria collections are homogeneous vinyl flooring solutions that blend durability, economy, and aesthetics. Offering enhanced durability and easier maintenance, the collections’ colors and non-linear designs are coordinated to work in harmony.

- Industry-Wide Environmental Product Declaration
- SCS Global Certified FloorScore
- GreenCircle Certified

Luxury Vinyl Tile and Planks. Offered across a range of patterns, colorways, quality levels, and installation formats, our luxury vinyl tile (LVT) and planks offer endless layout possibilities for complete design freedom. Easy-to-maintain LVT surfaces withstand heavy traffic, providing an inspired solution for any space, in any segment. Tarkett is proud to be the only flooring manufacturer whose LVT products have earned the asthma & allergy friendly® Certification Mark.

- Our iD Latitude™, Contour™ and Victory® series are carbon neutral products
- Industry-Wide or Product-Specific Environmental Product Declaration
- SCS Global Certified FloorScore
- CERTIFIED asthma & allergy friendly®

VINYL SHEET

iQ® Collection. The classic beauty of iQ Optima® and the tonal chip design of iQ Granit™ are ideal for any healthcare facility. iQ construction enables these products to retain their superior wear, stain, and abrasion resistance with nothing more than an occasional dry buff—no wax or finish needed.

- Product-Specific Environmental Product Declaration
- SCS Global Certified FloorScore
- GreenCircle Certified
- CERTIFIED asthma & allergy friendly®
- Material Ingredients Disclosed Through Material Health Statement
LinoFloor and LinoWall. Tarkett’s linoleum is the first in the industry to become Cradle to Cradle Certified Silver. Made entirely of natural raw materials and protected by Tarkett’s xf™ surface treatment, LinoFloor is built to withstand heavy traffic and rolling loads—while providing superior resistance to abrasions, stains, and chemicals. LinoWall is the only linoleum approved for use on walls, and opens a world of coordinated design possibilities.

- Cradle to Cradle Certified Silver v.3.1 (includes LinoWall)
- Product-Specific Environmental Product Declaration
- SCS Global Certified FloorScore®
- Living Building Challenge Declare®
- Material Ingredients Disclosed Through Material Health Statement

VINYL SHEET

Acczent® and Acczent Flourish. The hygienic performance and low maintenance of heterogeneous vinyl sheet, with the look and feel of LVT. Protected by a double UV-cured polyurethane wear layer, Acczent offers 22 wood designs. Acczent Flourish offers three textile-inspired designs, each with the appearance of a softly woven fabric.

- Industry-Wide Environmental Product Declaration
- SCS Global Certified FloorScore®
- CERTIFIED asthma & allergy friendly®

LinoFloor and LinoWall. Tarkett’s linoleum is the first in the industry to become Cradle to Cradle Certified Silver. Made entirely of natural raw materials and protected by Tarkett’s xf™ surface treatment, LinoFloor is built to withstand heavy traffic and rolling loads—while providing superior resistance to abrasions, stains, and chemicals. LinoWall is the only linoleum approved for use on walls, and opens a world of coordinated design possibilities.

- Cradle to Cradle Certified Silver v.3.1 (includes LinoWall)
- Product-Specific Environmental Product Declaration
- SCS Global Certified FloorScore®
- Living Building Challenge Declare®
- Material Ingredients Disclosed Through Material Health Statement

SPORTS FLOORING

Triumph and Inertia®

- Cradle to Cradle Certified Bronze v3.1
- Industry-Wide Environmental Product Declaration
- SCS Global Certified FloorScore®
- Living Building Challenge Declare® (LBC Red List Approved)
- Material Ingredients Disclosed Through Material Health Statement
As the world’s climate grows ever warmer, designing interior spaces has moved beyond the purposeful selection of colors and textures. Now and forever, the creation of man-made environments must also consider the well-being of people and planet.

Sustainability sits at the heart of Tarkett’s decision-making. We must continue striving to ensure the Earth’s safety, and pursuing new ways to heal our environment.

As you work to reduce your projects’ carbon emissions, we want to be your partner for the greater good. Like you, we are constantly endeavoring to increase the pace of our ever-evolving sustainability journey—and asking ourselves daily what more we can do to create a cleaner, healthier, and more hopeful future, in which all people can flourish.

Our journey will not end.
For more accurate color and pattern representation, we suggest you visit an authorized Tarkett dealer to view an actual product sample.

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