As a leading manufacturer of office furniture, at a time when environmental concerns dominate our global conscience, we are continually challenged to produce our products in a way that minimizes the negative impact upon our environment. Though there are many options for materials that may be used in the production of furniture that are environmentally “best choice”, these choices can have a real and negative impact on our ability to competitively service our markets.

We believe it is our responsibility to explore all options and put forward those that are the best environmental choices while allowing us to continue to operate in a competitive environment. We also believe that it is our duty to continue to pressure our supply chain to develop environmentally friendly raw materials for our manufacturing processes.

We design and manufacture our products in an environmentally responsible manner. Our manufacturing methods are developed with specific regard for the reduction of waste, the inclusion of environmentally sound materials and the ability to recycle our manufacturing inputs.

We continually evaluate and improve our products and processes to reduce the impact of our environmental footprint while delivering the very best products to our customers.

Our mission is to honor our commitments to our stakeholders, to promote the use of responsible materials, to constantly recognize the importance of innovation and to provide a workplace where people can use their skills in an atmosphere of personal growth and mutual respect.
Our Customers

Nienkämper has developed a sustainability management program the goal of which is to provide our customers with the best possible product, while not compromising the needs of future generations.

Our customers have come to trust our reputation as a leading furniture manufacturer. They know that our high standards will give them a product that will serve them for many decades. Now, more than ever, our customers demand products that are environmentally responsible.
Our People

Nienkämper employs a diverse and skilled group of individuals who are responsible for the success of our company.

Our staff is intimately involved in our processes, product design, manufacturing, and in helping us improve our sustainability programs. Whether through individual initiatives in assisting our local community or through group efforts in assisting disaster relief, our people care about what they do and the community in which they live.

We have strong partnerships with local school boards and colleges to offer their students education and work opportunities. Students actively participate and work with our teams to learn about how our business functions and develops its sustainable strategies.

Helping our employees understand their personal and company roles in creating a sustainable future leads to a stronger commitment in our environmental cause. We communicate regularly with our employees to help them understand our initiatives and plans.

Our Innovation Committee has grown out of our belief that our people know our business best. The Committee meets monthly to review ideas from our staff – many of which are dedicated to improving our environment.
Corporate Sustainability Objectives

Nienkamper strives to be a good corporate citizen both locally and globally. It is our duty to be aware of the impact our activities have on the personal health and well being of our employees, the community in which we live, the global community from which we draw our business base and the resources required to manufacture our products.

By manufacturing and delivering our products in a manner that exceeds all legal regulations, and by incorporating those technical developments and opportunities available, we have been able to continually lessen our impact on the environment, through:

1. The reduction of waste delivered to landfill
2. The reduction of hazardous waste
3. The reduction of water consumption
4. The reduction of volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
5. The elimination of polyvinyl chlorides (PVCs)
Our Environmental Vision

Nienkämper will achieve its environmental vision through the creation and implementation of a plan that allows our organization to achieve its goal of delivering the best possible product to our customers, manufactured in a way that reduces the impact these products have on our environment.

To that end, we will evaluate, plan, educate and continuously improve our:

- facility and working environment
- energy efficiency
- waste diversion and disposal reduction
- prevention of air, water, and other pollution
- material purchasing
- product design and components
- manufacturing processes

Our goal is to strive towards complete sustainability – resulting in no environmental harm whatsoever.

Our EcoVision Team is comprised of individuals from many areas of our company. Their ongoing commitment to the reduction of our environmental footprint ensures the sharing of best practices throughout Nienkämper.
One of our primary environmental targets has always been the reduction of waste. The technology used in the manufacture of our products ensures that maximum yield is obtained from raw materials, thereby reducing waste. By providing only blanket-wrapped shipments of our products throughout North America we have eliminated the need for further protective packaging and its resultant cardboard waste.

By the end of 2007 Nienkamper achieved its goal of a 5.2% increase in our waste diversion program, bringing the total of recycling materials to 91.9% of our by-product output.

- Aluminum off-cuts and shavings are reprocessed into raw material
- Wood scrap is used as fuel to produce steam for a local energy producer
- Wood dust and shavings are used as absorbent in an industrial composting facility
- Leather cuttings are made into handbags and accessories
- Foam off-cuts are returned to source and made into carpet underlay
- Scrap particleboard is reclaimed by the producer into raw material
- Cardboard, office paper and fiber board are collected for paper recycling
- Plastic and metal finishing containers are recycled
- Plastic and glass drinking containers are recycled
- Ink and toner cartridges are returned to the manufacturer for recycling
- Computer monitors and terminals are recycled
- Used compressor oil is recycled
- Expired fluorescent light bulbs are processed to recover materials
In 2008 we will continue to increase our waste diversion with ongoing education of our staff and through the development of creative solutions for our material wastes.

Our chemical waste in the form of glue residues from cleaning, solvent and water-based finishing materials are collected and processed through distillation for fuel used in the cement industry.

Members of our staff tour the facilities of our waste and recycling providers. We are constantly working with our suppliers and waste contractors to develop new and innovative ways of reclaiming and processing scrap and waste materials. An example is the recycling of particleboard - at our urging our supplier has created a recycling program that is now offered to multiple companies using particleboard.
We have completed an extensive independent energy audit of our 120,000 square foot manufacturing facility that included a Green Globe analysis of our building. www.greenglobes.com

We are currently reviewing the results of this report and examining those areas in which we choose to improve.

The audit has shown that we are economical in our electrical use, achieving a score of 90% for energy consumption. This is in great part due to the use of state-of-the-art energy efficient equipment.

We regularly complete indoor air quality noise monitoring audits in all areas of the plant. The most current samples taken in April of 2007 indicate that the suspended particulate samples taken within the plant area are well below current acceptable levels.

Current noise samples indicate that two of fourteen samples meet or exceed the reduced Ontario Ministry of Labour standard of 85 decibels. These samples occurred in our Metal Cutting Room, and an action plan is presently underway to reduce the noise level by the end of February 2008.

Nienkamper is currently negotiating the installation of a solar panel system on top of its manufacturing facility that will generate approximately 6,000 kwh per month.
Material Choices & Impacts

Our goal is to constantly increase the percentage of organic based materials into our manufacturing systems. In 2008 this will include a percentage of soy based foam for both fabricated and molded foam upholstery components.

Where practical, Nienkämper sources raw materials from suppliers in close proximity to our facility, thus reducing the transportation and greenhouse gas emissions impact.

Over 60% of the leathers that we supply are tanned with chromium free processing. Presently, 95% of our fabricated foam is 12% soy based content, which uses 60% less petroleum in the manufacturing process. Molded foam is currently between 3% and 25% soy based, depending on the product. This emerging technology offers new opportunities for materials that are produced with renewable resources.

Extruded aluminum used in our products is 100% reclaimed from industrial process. Our cast aluminum components are produced from 70% post-consumer material (old used scrap aluminum) and 30% pre-consumer material (new scrap). In comparison to newly smelted aluminum, the use of recycled material reduces energy consumption by 95%.

All medium-density fibreboard (MDF), used in the manufacture of tables, is certified as 100% recycled and/or recovered fibre, conforming to ANGI 208.2 Formaldehyde Emissions Requirements, and is designated as an Environmentally Preferable Product under Specification CPA 1-02. Fully 90% of the raw materials used in the creation of MDF are by-products generated in lumber production, which would otherwise be considered waste.

Finishing systems are high solid ratio and sprayed through pressure pumps, leading to a significant reduction of solvent emission. Airborne solids are captured with extensive dust collection systems. New advances in waterborne and UV-cured finishes are being developed for application to reduce solvent emissions.

Office documents are processed on 100% recycled content environmentally-friendly paper, which carries both the FSC and Ecologo certifications. In 2008 all of our brochures will be printed on FSC certified paper or cardstock utilizing Soy based inks.
Health & Safety Report

Our corporate pledge to health and safety ensures that we achieve our goal of returning our workers home safely to their families every day.

Our Joint Health and Safety Committee is made up of people from every area of our facility. They meet monthly to ensure we keep our commitment to lead industry standards at all time using our Continuous Improvement System. We are members of the local IAPA Safety Group, dedicated to the goal of zero lost-time injuries.

Our safety record speaks for itself. In 2006, we were able to achieve our goal – zero lost-time injuries. We continue to work at maintaining this goal.

Shipping & the Environment

As standard practice for all North American orders, Nienkämper has always shipped “blanket wrapped”, without any need for further protective packaging, eliminating vast amounts of potential cardboard waste.

Nienkämper has a long-standing relationship with our transportation company who understands our furniture and the expectations that we and our customers have regarding delivered quality. This relationship has become a cornerstone for maintaining waste-free shipping. Each furniture component is individually wrapped in reusable blankets and packed securely to eliminate freight damage. Aluminum bases are inverted and bolted to reusable pallets.

The trucks that are used for transporting our customer’s furniture are continually being upgraded to state-of-the-art efficient vehicles. The newest of these vehicles produce reduced emission levels, and offer many improvements. Traditional long-distance haulers sleep in their truck cabs and leave their trucks running during this time. The latest additions to our fleet have on-board generators that are virtually noiseless and eliminate the extensive emissions commonly seen. Drivers are able to sleep, eat and shower comfortably in their own trucks without running their engines all night.
Products

Our products best represent who we are as a company. They are the lasting results of our efforts and we will always be measured by their enduring service to our customers and their environmental impact. One of our most important values is quality - our products are built to be used for many years. Not unlike iconic modern design furniture, we strive to produce furnishings that will be handed down and appreciated long after they have left our facility.

With this in mind our designers are constantly working to develop innovative products that perform for our customers - while at the same time utilizing the most responsible manufacturing methods available.

An important feature that allows products to be recycled is their ability to be disassembled and for materials to be separated at the end of their useful life.

To that end we strive to never glue dissimilar materials together, effectively allowing components of products to be easily separated. Many of our most successful designs have connections for assembly that are clip or snap fit resulting in the separation of materials by virtue of removal.

Each of our product collections have a product profile associated with them. This document describes in detail the process and the impact this product has on the environment. Included in these profiles are examples of potential LEED credits available.
As we look to the future there are many challenges – but we are optimistic. We embrace the work that lies ahead as it is our future and it gives us all the opportunity to be proud of the results.

Our goal of continually reducing our environmental footprint, while providing our customers with the highest quality furniture and innovative products, will continue to ensure our success.

We will continue our practice of always researching and investigating earth-friendly materials and integrating them into our existing and new products. We will continue to improve our processes and facility to minimize their impact on the environment and surrounding community.

At Nienkämper, we understand that the future of our planet depends on each of us working together to build a sustainable, healthy ecosystem.