Sustainability Committee Report

October 31, 2023

Polyurethane Foam Association

Sustainability Committee Mandate

The PFA Sustainability Committee is a working group that provides members a platform to collaborate and share knowledge on technical matters relating to polyurethane foam sustainability. The Committee will strive to serve as a source for sustainability knowledge, best practices, and communication related to the lifecycle of polyurethane foam.

Committee Members

Andrew Kee	Wanhua Chemical Ltd. (Chair)
Patrique Velle	Tempur-Sealy
Susan Kilpatrick	Evonik
Erica Lee	Evonik
Dominic Sinopoli	VPC Group
Carlotta Paulsen	FXI
Mikroudis Panagiotis	Covestro
Cam McLaughlin	Elite Comfort Solutions
Vince Scattolino	FXI
Allen Ramier	Edge-Sweets
Frank Reinhold	BASF
Jeff Grayson	Milliken

Sustainability Committee Goals

To establish priorities, develop resources, and define best practices to enable our membership to remain up to date and aware of sustainable raw materials, processes, practices, and requirements.

Sustainability Committee: Progress

First Call- 12/1/22
- Introductions
- Group Discussion- definition of sustainability
- Members Submit Priorities/Ideas

Second Call- 2/10/23
- Selected Chair – Chris Bradley
- Discussed Priorities/Ideas
- Formatted large group survey

First Meeting- 5/23/23
- Defined sustainability for PFA purposes
- Reviewed survey results
- Formulated objectives/sustainability definition
- Determined key areas of focus and chose area of focus champions

Sustainability Committee: Progress

Four priorities were selected through a process that began with brainstorming, were prioritized through surveys, then were agreed upon by the committee:

1. **Recycling** – Chemistry and processes, closed loop recycling of foam, circularity, and new uses for post-industrial scrap
2. **Renewable and sustainable raw materials**
3. **Improving Operating Efficiencies** – *e.g.*, energy/water use, waste reduction, raw material optimization, manufacturing emissions footprint
4. **Minimizing Transportation Footprint** – Inbound and outbound
5. FUTURE SLOT FOR FLEXIBILITY

Sustainability Committee: Progress

Presentations have been shared on the following topics by the Champions below:

1. **Recycling** – Chemistry and processes, closed loop recycling of foam – **Frank Reinhold**
2. **Renewable and sustainable raw materials – Jeff Grayson**
3. **Improving Operating Efficiencies** – *e.g.*, procurement, energy/water use, waste reduction, raw material optimization, manufacturing emissions – **Alice Marelli**
4. **Minimizing Transportation Footprint** – Inbound and outbound – Champion TBD
5. TBD – FUTURE SLOT FOR FLEXIBILITY

Sustainability Committee: Progress

The Sustainability Committee has collaborated to create the following working lists:

- List of terms and definitions related to sustainability
- List of specifications related to flexible foam, bedding, finished goods, and processes

The Committee plans to complete the lists in early February and publish ahead of the Spring PFA meeting.

Sustainability Committee: Next Steps

- The Sustainability Committee will meet online in late January, late March
- Next in-person meeting at the PFA Spring Meeting
- Next actions
    - Establish a portal for the Committee to share information and collaborate
    - Upload: List of Terms and Definitions, List of Specifications
    - Upload: Presentations on priority topics
    - Review and discuss PFA Fall Meeting technical presentations
    - Suggest possible topics/presenters for Spring Meeting Technical Session

Sustainability Committee: Suggestions?

If we have omitted a key area of focus or you would like to offer suggestions for any of the chosen areas of focus, please contact a committee member or have your company's PFA representative contact us.