



# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2023

**UTICK**



# Contents

---

Message From The Director	2
Our Company	3
Our Stakeholders	3
Our Commitment	3
Our Performance	4
Sustainability Initiatives Within Our Operations	4
Product Sustainability Initiatives	6
Our Future Commitments	7

## Message from the Director

---

At E.M.Utick, we want to do the right thing by our staff, our community, workers in our business and supply chains, and the environment.

I am proud of the industry leadership we have demonstrated in sustainability. We have been reporting on our environmental impacts for over a decade, and we have maintained our ISO 14001 EMS certification and Type 1 ecolabelling certification for over 14 years.

Along the way, we have engaged sustainability professionals to help us identify and mitigate risks and seek out opportunities for improvement.

When it comes to sustainability, we want to be transparent in what we are doing and how we are tracking.

We understand there is more to do. Our stakeholders expect us not just to reduce the environmental impacts of our operations and our products, but also to address ethical and human rights issues such as modern slavery and protect the rights of workers within our business operations and supply chains.

These expectations form a key part of the current Sustainably Report.

## Our Company

E.M.Utick is a family business in operation for 70 years. We're a medium-sized organisation, with our main manufacturing facility located in Somersby on the Central Coast of New South Wales, and our head office (administration and sales) in Sydney.

We manufacture a large range of products suitable for a

variety of office and commercial applications, including workstation tops, joinery and storage. We supply to commercial furniture suppliers nationally.

Our core values are innovation in design and manufacture, and supplying products that are durable and sustainable.

## Our Stakeholders

Across the manufacturing sector, we are no longer just expected to measure and reduce our water, waste and energy consumption. Rather than environmental issues alone, there is now a strong focus on broader sustainability issues. Now questions are being asked about companies' social performance, and response to human rights and human health.

The Green Building Council of Australia is leading the charge, with the introduction of its Responsible Products program.

In addition, we've seen a new sustainability product database, Product Aware, launched by the signatories of Australian Architects Declare.

Other interested stakeholders – such as the property industry, designers, universities, and local, State and federal governments – are also pushing the sustainability agenda and seeking to partner with manufacturers and suppliers of ethical and sustainable products.

Increasingly, stakeholders want to know what manufacturers are doing to support biodiversity and a circular economy, reduce carbon emissions and product toxicity, and address climate change, human rights issues and modern slavery.

At E.M.Utick, we are using this stakeholder feedback to help inform our Sustainability Strategy.

## Our Commitment

Our sustainability goals keep us focused on what's important to us and our stakeholders. They include:

Exceeding our clients' sustainability expectations

Creating an ethical work culture

Seeking to influence our supply chains, to drive low-carbon, sustainable and ethical outcomes

Complying with third-party-verified product and company environmental certifications

Complying with environmental and health and safety laws and regulations

Taking action to assess and address modern slavery risks within our business operations and supply chains

Reducing our carbon footprint

Ensuring that our staff are working in a safe environment

# Our Performance

## A Snapshot

We continue striving to reduce our environmental impact and carbon emissions, to create a safe workplace, and to conduct sustainability due diligence across our operations and supply chains, as well as in our products.

### We have put in place the following sustainability initiatives:

International Standard for Organization (ISO) 14001:2015 (Environmental Management Systems (EMS)) certification since 2009

A documented workplace health and safety system in line with ISO 45001:2018 (Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems)

Level A Global GreenTag GreenRate certification, the highest level of Type 1 (third party) product ecolabelling certification

Reduction of carbon emissions through use of a 195-kilowatt solar panel system

Conducting sustainable due diligence in relation to the supply chains of key suppliers

Sourcing of Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) responsible timber

Ethical business practices





## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

E.M.Utick have been working with our consultant Sustainable Business Matters for over 15 years. Together, we have developed a strategy based on addressing the seven SDGs that are relevant to us, and seeking sustainability improvements across our business operations and supply chains, and in our products.



# Sustainability Initiatives Within Our Operations

## 1. ISO 14001:2015 EMS Certification

E.M.Utick achieved ISO 14001:2015 EMS certification in 2009. This has involved assessing our environmental impacts, taking action to reduce risks, setting targets, monitoring and tracking our performance, and looking for opportunities for improvement.



**UN Sustainable Development Goal 13:  
Climate Action**

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

## 2. Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)

E.M.Utick have engaged a specialist WHS consultant to assist us in identifying, controlling and monitoring workplace hazards and risks. We have a documented management system in line with ISO 45001:2018 OH&S and hold regular WHS and EMS committee meetings to address any workplace issues.

### Workplace Wellbeing

E.M.Utick recognise the importance of our workers' wellbeing. In May 2023 we organised mental health awareness training at our factory and head office for our employees and our senior management team. The training was hosted and facilitated by the Black Dog Institute.

The two-hour interactive workshop included:

- how to spot the early warning signs of mental ill-health and what to do about them
- how to have conversations at work about mental health
- employees' workplace health and safety rights and responsibilities
- steps you can take for your own self-care or to support others
- where to go for more support

We are grateful to the Black Dog Institute for providing this invaluable training.

Also in 2023, we initiated a four-day working week for our factory employees, which has been a huge success. Staff have more time with their families, are freed up to do volunteer work and have been able to cut their children's daycare requirements.



**UN Sustainable Development Goal 3:  
Good Health and Well-Being**

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

### 3. Ethical Sourcing


Our Ethical Sourcing Policy sets out our commitment to use responsible and sustainable methods to procure products and services. We require our suppliers to demonstrate that all their workers receive fair wages and have safe working conditions, that all human rights are respected, and that they are complying with all relevant environmental laws and regulations.

	<b>UN Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>	Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.
	<b>UN Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities</b>	Reduce inequality within and among countries.
	<b>UN Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production</b>	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
	<b>UN Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action</b>	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

### 4. Waste and Recycling

E.M.Utick have a number of different initiatives in place to reduce the quantity of waste we produce that goes to landfill. They include dematerialisation (using fewer materials), eliminating waste when manufacturing our products (e.g. reusing timber offcuts), commingled recycling of steel and cardboard and reusing timber offcuts and briquettes as biomass (fuel).

We have been tracking our waste levels for 13 years, and over that time we have seen a 493% reduction, from 144 tonnes in 2010 to 39.5 tonnes in 2023.



	<b>UN Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action</b>	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
---	---	--

### 5. Energy and Carbon Management

We have a number of initiatives in place to reduce our energy consumption and carbon emissions. These include LED lighting, skylights and a 195-kilowatt solar panel system in our manufacturing facility at Somersby.

We have been tracking our energy consumption for 13 years and have seen a 103% reduction over this period.

Our solar panels are regularly cleaned and maintained to ensure we are maximising their efficiency and power output.

	<b>UN Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy</b>	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.
	<b>UN Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action</b>	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



## 6. Clean Water

No water is used in the manufacturing of our products. We have a 10,000-litre rainwater tank that we use for staff amenities. We have a bioretention basin to prevent pollution by minimising the quantity of nutrients that end up in stormwater. We use spill kits to further ensure that no hazardous waste can leave the site and end up in stormwater.



### UN Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.

## 7. Ethical Business Practices

We aim to conduct our business in an ethical and responsible manner, and develop strong relationships with our staff, suppliers and customers, based on trust, understanding and respect. Our people and the people who work for our suppliers matter. We want our own staff to work in a safe and healthy environment, and we want the same thing for workers within our supply chains.



### UN Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.



### UN Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries.

## 8. Helping the Community

Coast Shelter are a charity located close to E.M.Utick's factory on the Central Coast. Their mission is to end homelessness and domestic and family violence on the Coast by providing those in need with food, clothing, a safe place to call home, and access to personal support services.

In 2023, E.M.Utick employees participated in Coast Shelter's Easter drive, providing non-perishable food to members of the local community who were doing it tough.



### UN Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

# Product Sustainability Initiatives

## 1. Global GreenTag GreenRate Level A Certification

Global GreenTag GreenRate Level A is a Type 1 (third party) ecolabelling certification program. E.M. Utick's timber-laminated worktops have had Level A certification since 2010.

This means our worktops are:

- low in toxicity
- low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including formaldehyde
- ISO 14001:2015 EMS certified
- constructed using PEFC-certified timber
- fit for purpose
- Australian-made with majority-Australian-made components
- compliant with all legal requirements relating to social and environmental sustainability
- subject to our product stewardship program (a commitment to take back and reuse and/or recycle timber and hardware components where possible) for Green Star projects



**UN Sustainable Development Goal 12:**  
**Responsible Consumption and Production**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



**UN Sustainable Development Goal 3:**  
**Good Health and Well-being**

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

## Green Star Rating Tools

### Green Star Buildings Rating Tool

### Green Star Design & As Built and Interiors Rating Tools

Global GreenTag GreenRate is a product certification scheme recognised by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA). E.M. Utick's worktops achieved Level A GreenRate certification in 2010.

Here's how our Global GreenTag certified timber-laminated worktops achieve Green Star credits.

#### **Sustainable Products Credit**

Aim of this credit is to encourage sustainability and transparency in product specification.

#### **Third Party Certification**

Utick worktops may contribute towards the Sustainability Factor (SF) for workstations.

#### **Indoor Pollutants Credit**

The aim of this Green Star credit is to recognise projects that safeguard occupant health through the reduction in internal air pollutant levels.

Two points are available where at least 95% of all engineered wood products meet stipulated formaldehyde limits.



Transparency and sustainability initiative	Sustainability factor (SF)
Reused Product	1.00
Recycled Content Product	1.00
Environmental Product Declaration – Product-specific	0.75
Environmental Product Declaration – Industry-wide	0.50
Level A Third party Certification	1.00
Level B Third Party Certification	0.75
Level C Third Party Certification	0.50
Stewardship Program	0.50

## Our Future Commitments

E.M.Utick believe in creating long-term value for our stakeholders and continually working to improve our sustainability. We are proud of what we have achieved over the last 15 years, but we know there is more to do.

Our future commitments include:

**Conducting a high-level Modern Slavery Risk Assessment and developing mitigation strategies to combat modern slavery**

**Conducting a Circular Economy Review of our products and processes**

**Looking at ways to reduce carbon emissions within our business operations and across our supply chains**

We will continue to engage with internal and external stakeholders and industry experts to better understand this evolving space.

Utick Pty Ltd  
Phone (02) 8737 8155  
[mail@utick.com.au](mailto:mail@utick.com.au)  
[utick.com.au](http://utick.com.au)







# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2023

**UTICK**