



our environmental attributes

element	recycled content	comments
top cores:		
<p>Revolutionary, wood composite panel. Complies with LEED credit for indoor environmental quality. Contains NO formaldehyde. Highly resistive to moisture, rot and termites.</p>	<p>Contains 90% wood by-products of sawmills. Does not use old-growth or original forest lumber.</p>	<p>Excellent, water repellent, green product for exterior applications. Outperforms particle boards, MDF, and wood in most exterior performance grading. Can be recycled as wood waste.</p>
top surface coatings:option 1, powder coat paint:		
<p>Applied dry to the top core surface, heated to over 200 degrees to melt-flow particles into a continuously sealed coating. UV or heat cured to a hard scratch resistant surface. Excellent finish selection.</p>	<p>Paint process recaptures over 95% of overspray and unused paint for instant recycling.</p>	<p>Process qualifies for LEED points and green certification enhancement. Emits extremely low VOC emissions. Free from heavy metals.</p>
top surface coatings:option 2, stainless steel:		
<p>Rigid, 16 and 20 gauge stainless steel applied to water repellent top core on all edges and top surfaces. All tops have seamless, water-proof edges.</p>	<p>Contains on average, 60% recycled content.</p>	<p>Can be 100% recycled. Very durable, clean, environmentally sound product. Highly resistive to heat, water and chemicals.</p>
bases:		
<p>Steel "T" tubular bases with folding mechanisms. Powder coated as above. Attach with steel to steel fasteners.</p>	<p>Recycled content ranges from 30% to 95% (flat sheets vs. structural products like tube).</p>	<p>Steel is America's most recycled product with a reclamation rate between 85 and 100%!</p>
packaging:		
<p>All products are shipped bulk to minimize damage and waste in packaging materials. Products used are corrugated and honeycomb cardboard with polyethylene shock absorbing sheets.</p>	<p>Cardboard packaging elements contain 100% recycled content. Polyethylene packing materials contain over 61% recycled content.</p>	<p>All packing material including polyethylene and polystyrene (tape) are 100% recyclable. Polyethylene is ozone safe and even burns clean.</p>



our facility

The BRC building is the foundation for a 250 KiloWatt PhotoVoltaic Commercial Rooftop Solar Generator that is Building Integrated in the sense that is an extension of the building superstructure. It is expected to generate 365 megawatt/hours of electricity annually and expected to last between 30 to 50 years.

It is comprised of 1628 190 watt solar modules with 21 string inverters distributed across the rooftop of the 34,400 sq ft facility.

Key Benefits of Solar Energy

- Renewable, consistent power source.
- Unlike fossil fuels, solar panels do not release anything into the air.
- Very reliable – no moving parts..
- Solar cells do not make noise while collecting energy.

ISO 14001

BRC is working towards qualification to the ISO 14001 Environmental Standard. This action includes the ongoing development of a waste reduction and recycling plan as a method of tracking progress.

our environmental statement and guidelines

statement

BRC is committed to the development of sustainable business practices and considers the goal of balancing its environmental, economic and social aspirations to be the foremost guiding principle in determining its future as a corporate citizen.

our policy

- To continuously improve product design to produce safe and healthy products with long life cycles, high recycled content and high degrees of reclaim ability.
- To conduct business processes in healthy, low impact facilities and to support its suppliers and business partners to do likewise.

our goals

- To lead its business class with innovative ideas and creative solutions for environmental stewardship.
- To eliminate hazardous waste generation - Achieved spring 2007.
- To eliminate environmentally harmful air and water emissions from its facilities - Achieved Fall 2006.
- To maintain indoor air quality emission certification on all of its product lines.
- To launch cradle to grave product responsibility.
- To eliminate landfill.
- To be carbon neutral and seek a new, higher standard of carbon restoration.

achievements

- Extended useful product life: ten year warranty on products, metal to metal connections, heavy gauge steel components, polished and ground lifting drive screws and composite gears, long life components, 100% field replaceable parts for all product lines.
- Development of a hot melt lamination process for wood sheets, which resulted in the elimination of 98% of VOC emissions from the manufacturing process.
- All fabric and sheet wood product classes are made from 100% recycled material content.
- All carton and cardboard materials, including tape for packaging is made from 100% recycled material content.
- Elimination of carton usage in storage product packaging resulting in a reduction of over 60% of potential post installation wastage.
- All steel used in the production of BRC products has a reclamation rate of 100%.
- Elimination of 100% of chrome plating in steel parts and component finishing, participating in a world wide effort to target the elimination heavy metals and their impact on the environment.
- Development of a furniture product family with zero formaldehyde emissions.
- Completed manufacturing initiative to seal 95% of laminated products against formaldehyde emissions with certification to be complete within 6 months.
- Member of the Canadian Green Building Council
- Launched corporate initiative to financially support all employee purchases of vehicles eligible for the Canadian ecoAUTO Rebate Program.

our environmental policy

As a private Canadian corporation, BRC is concerned about the environmental impact of product design and all manufacturing processes, as well as with the content and recyclability of packaging materials. These concerns are translated into proactive measures to protect the environment and preserve sensitive ecosystems.

extending useful product life

BRC designs its products for maximum longevity by using commercial grade components such as metal brackets, threaded inserts, metal legs, steel frames and high density particleboard. These components, when assembled constitute a durable product that can withstand the challenges of the workplace for many years. In addition, all products are designed for easy installation of repair parts, precluding the necessity to replace the entire product. Metal to metal connections, heavy gauge steel components, polished and ground lead (lifting) screws and composite gears are examples of long life components in our products.

use of recycled materials

In some cases we offer a buy back program, such as with our Geo System, which is mainly constructed of recycled aluminum. The re-purchased product often only needs to be repainted and reupholstered. Excessively damaged or worn elements can be recycled 100%. Our standard fabrics carry the TERRATEX designation, indicating that they are made of 100% recycled fibers or natural materials, which are themselves recyclable or compostable.

recycling

At BRC's manufacturing facility, scrap wood, steel and cardboard are recycled. These scrap products are collected at BRC and shipped to the appropriate recycling facility to be reprocessed and reused in various new products. All cardboard shipping cartons used by BRC have the highest possible recycled fiber content. At all major project installations, we remove all packaging materials and process them for recycling. Wherever possible, products are shipped bulk packed to reduce overall use of packaging materials or shipped blanket wrapped to completely eliminate the need for packaging. At BRC's facility a Blue Box program collects all recyclable materials.

reducing emissions

BRC is concerned about the office environment and indoor air quality of its clients. In all manufacturing processes, BRC uses products or processes that reduce VOC (volatile organic compound) emissions. Adhesives used are either water based, or non-solvent dispersed to reduce product off gassing. BRC is one of few Canadian manufacturers who use a hot-melt process for laminating which contains no volatile organo solvents. For painting of metal components, BRC uses an electrostatic powder coating process that is virtually VOC free and which produces minimal waste. This process ensures that 98% of the coating material adheres to the product and the remainder is collected and recycled through the spray nozzles. In addition to VOC type emissions, BRC is very concerned about formaldehyde emissions and uses wood and wood based products that have negligible formaldehyde emissions. A program to use formaldehyde-free straw based core materials for laminating is currently underway. BRC practices a sealing all program in the design of all finished products to further reduce such emissions. As part of our environmental commitment BRC has eliminated chroming and plating from our standard product offering. Our environmental responsibility is to bring the hazards of these material coatings to the attention of our customers. The waste streams and processes of chroming are toxic to the environment, and unless very closely controlled, harmful to human health.