



OUR SUSTAINABILITY
JOURNEY

IVC Sustainability White Paper 2020



IVC
PAVES
THE WAY



Jan Vergote

Towards more sustainable flooring solutions contributing to the wellbeing of people

Here at the IVC Group, we believe it's essential to create products with the future in mind and carry responsible, enterprising values as our main priority. We pursue a healthy business by committing to long-term partnerships and profitable operations that contribute to the preservation of our planet and the wellbeing of our people.

We pride ourselves on developing, designing and producing our entire range in-house. Next to high-tech innovations, investing in our human wealth is one of our top priorities. We carry this out not merely by attracting high-quality employees, but also by developing internal talent. In addition, we are continuously researching sustainable solutions for all of our activities, such as clean-air technology and cutting-edge manufacturing methods. In this way we have achieved progress in lowering our emission levels and dependence on fossil fuels, while raising the bar in recycling processes and low-impact production. We will aim to continue this further.

Through the combination of a sustainable approach and advanced product innovation, IVC Group strives to be an industry leader in eco-friendly flooring. To realise that ambition, we have set a series of targets to work towards in the coming 20 years focusing our efforts in innovation leadership, engagement, high-quality service, waste strategy and circularity. I invite you to discover the many ways in which we've endeavoured to accomplish a better tomorrow thus far and to follow us along our journey towards zero impact in 2040.

Jan Vergote
CEO IVC Group

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a checkmark-like flourish.



IVC FLOORING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
WAREGEM, BE

Over 20 years of flooring dedication

IVC Group was **established in 1997** and quickly developed into an independent powerhouse in the market of luxury vinyl tiles (LVT), sheet vinyl and carpet tiles.

Currently active in 180 countries around the world with 10 production units in Belgium, Luxembourg, the United States and Russia, IVC Group has a capacity of over **180 million m² of flooring per year**. More than 1,800 IVC family members are working on new solutions every day, focusing on the needs of our customers by creating the best products, as well as raising our performance and reducing our ecological footprint.

Throughout IVC Group's evolution, our intention has always been clear: we want people to enjoy our floors. That's why we're dedicated to creating sustainable and innovative flooring **solutions for people and projects all around the world**. The people who walk, play, dance and live on our floors are at the centre of everything we do. For them, we have gone beyond flooring for more than 20 years.

Since 2015, IVC Group has been **part of Mohawk Industries**, the world's market leader in all things flooring, with a heritage of craftsmanship that spans more than 130 years. This broadens IVC's global reach – bringing us closer to you, wherever you go.

DID YOU KNOW...

that IVC Group employs over 30 different nationalities worldwide? That's the many cultures and inspirations which go into our eclectic floor designs, explaining their global appeal.



CARPET TILES PLANT
MOESKROEN, BE



LUXURY VINYL TILES PLANT
AVELGEM, BE



Our product solutions



Commercial flooring



BEYOND FLOORING

One brand for all commercial flooring solutions IVC is the commercial division of IVC Group, dedicated to **making life better for people** in commercial environments

Through finding out the **unique needs of customers** within corporate and office, hospitality and leisure, retail, housing and education projects, IVC makes solutions that **improve the wellbeing and productivity of users**.

With carpet tiles, LVT and heterogeneous vinyl solutions that overcome flooring challenges, IVC makes **good design more affordable and easier to implement**.

And with a **circular approach to the future of flooring** that drives product development and innovation, IVC goes beyond flooring.

We look beyond flooring to create the perfect solution for your project.

Residential flooring



Moduleo

Providing a fresh approach to the **luxury vinyl flooring** market, Moduleo offers an exciting alternative for retailers and consumers alike. With a diverse range of **durable, stylish products** as well as excellent customer service and unparalleled green credentials Moduleo is proud to be different.

Moduleo is available in both a **traditional dryback installation and a simple-to-install click technology** system, which holds a strong cross-consumer appeal, making it ideal for any modern space.



Leoline

Leoline's **cushion vinyl rolls** are the right choice for on-trend spaces looking for a comfortable feel. Delivering faithful recreations of nature's wonderful timeless organic patterns and textures, Leoline **adds a unique touch** to any interior. In combination with warmth, noise reduction and an easy to care for surface; it's easy to see why these floors are the go-to vinyl solution.



Xtrafloor

Xtrafloor offers a wide range of flooring accessories: the perfect match to **install, finish and clean** all IVC products.



CARPET TILES



HETEROGENEOUS VINYL



LUXURY VINYL TILES



LUXURY VINYL TILES

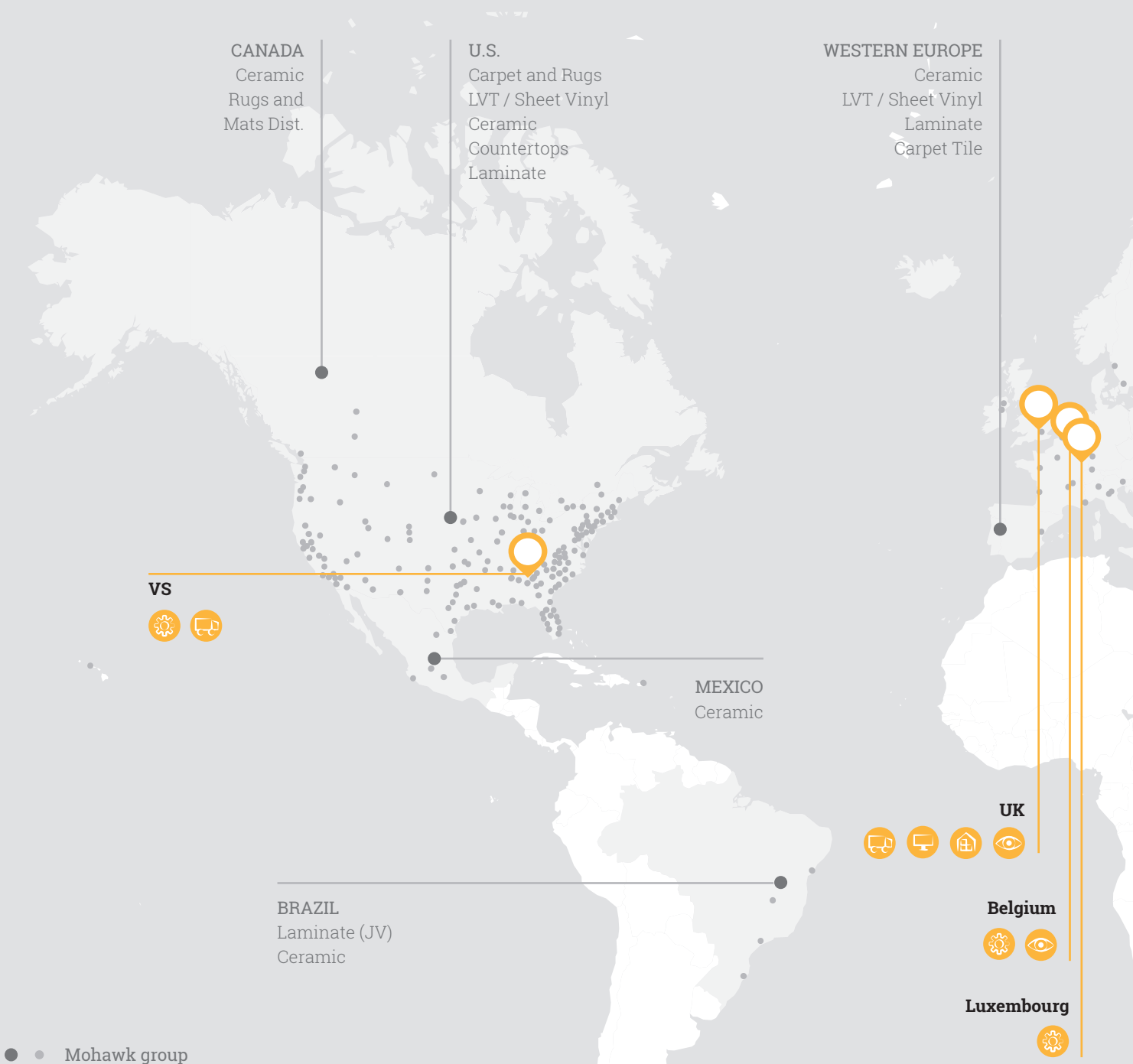


ACCESSORIES



SHEET VINYL

Closer to you.



👁️ IVC showrooms

Belgium	Waregem	IVC Flooring Development Centre
Belgium	Avelgem	IVC Vinyl Technology Centre
Germany	Dusseldorf	IVC gmbh
UK	Derby	IVC ltd
Russia	Moscow	IVC-VOSTOK LLC

🏢 IVC offices

Belgium	Waregem
Belgium	Avelgem
Belgium	Moeskroen
Germany	Dusseldorf
UK	Derby
UK	London Clerkenwell
Russia	Moscow
Russia	Saint-Petersburg

SOLD IN MORE THAN



180

COUNTRIES
AND COUNTING

EASTERN EUROPE
Ceramic
Wood

RUSSIA
Ceramic
Laminate
Sheet Vinyl

INDIA
Wood
Laminate (JV)

MALAYSIA
Wood

AUSTRALIA
Carpet
Hard Surface Dist.
Ceramic

NEW ZEALAND
Carpet
Hard Surface Dist.
Ceramic

Russia



 **IVC distribution centres**

Belgium	Avelgem	
UK	Derby	
UK	West Hallam	
Russia	Moscow	IVC-VOSTOK LLC
Russia	Saint-Petersburg	IVC-VOSTOK LLC
Russia	Yekaterinburg	IVC-VOSTOK LLC
Russia	Rostov on-Don	IVC-VOSTOK LLC
Russia	Samara	IVC-VOSTOK LLC
Russia	Novosibirsk	IVC-VOSTOK LLC

 **IVC production units**

Belgium	Avelgem	
Belgium	Wielsbeke	
Belgium	Moeskroen	
Luxembourg	Wiltz	
Russia	Orel	IVC RUS LLC
USA	Dalton	

A brief history of our eco-responsible innovations

1997-2008

IVC Group policies include:

A closely monitored **recycling process** for internal waste streams and vinyl paste.

Strict **wastewater management and air protection** measures using end-of-pipe technology. Introduction of 100% **water-based inks and dyes**.

Environmentally friendly production methods that reuse the in-house materials and save energy.



AVELGEM, BE



2008



IVC Group takes action to **collect and compress** vinyl scrap, which is recycled into new products by partner companies.

2008

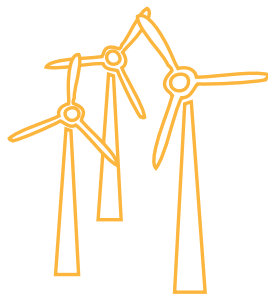
2010

2010

IVC US opens an **eco-efficient production plant in Dalton, Georgia**. Its emission levels are 250% lower than the industry norm.



DALTON, GA



WIELSBEKE, BE



2014

2014

Three wind turbines, an inexhaustible source of energy, supply our industrial installations in Avelgem, BE. This covers **over a third of the yearly energy consumption** of our factories.

2015

2015

We open our **second LVT factory and recycling unit** in Wielsbeke, Belgium.

IVC Group becomes part of **Mohawk Industries**, the world's market leader in flooring.



AVELGEM, BE



2017

2017

We expand our site in Avelgem with a **third luxury vinyl tiles plant in the EU**, making full use of the capacity of our wind turbines. It is also provided with its own recycling unit.

2011

An intensive R&D programme results in a **significant reduction of VOC** in our factory, processes and products.

2011

2011

Launch of our **first fully automated LVT factory** in the EU. The plant in Avelgem, Belgium, starts its successful **on-site waste recycling programme**. A new recycling unit processes vinyl waste into new resources.



AVELGEM, BE

2012

2012

IVC Group **wins ISO 14001** certification.



2013

2013

Our **Scheldt water project**, using river water as a coolant, yields impressive energy savings.

The IVC recycling plant in Avelgem is audited and certified under the Eucertplast Scheme for European Plastic Recyclers. The **Recovinyl Plus** certificate of compliance is awarded.



AVELGEM, BE

2020

Conversion of our IVC Avelgem headquarters to centralise **the global Vinyl Technology Centre for the Mohawk Group**.

2020

2019

2019

IVC Group opens a new **state-of-the-art production plant** for sheet vinyl in **Orel, Russia**, creating 140 jobs.

We establish our **Flooring Development Centre** in Waregem, Belgium. The iconic building was renovated to meet the latest energy standards, making use of ventilation with heat recovery, a free-cooling system and solar panels on the roofs of surrounding warehouses.



WAREGEM, BE

2018

2018

In **Moeskroen, Belgium**, IVC Group's first **carpet tile production plant** becomes operational.

MOESKROEN, BE



FACTS & STATS

IVC Group by the numbers



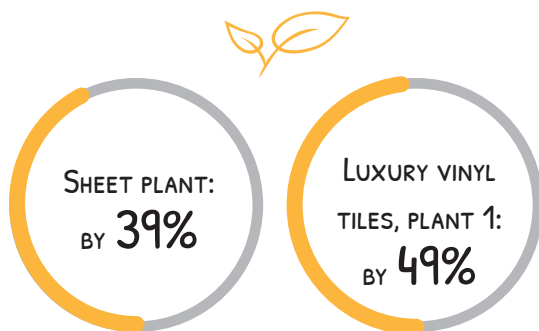
OVER 1,800 MEMBERS
of the IVC family

EST. **1997**

At our vinyl tiles plants worldwide **NEARLY ALL WASTE IS RECYCLED** and reused for production purposes. This results in approximately **100,000 tons** of recycled vinyl material going back into the loop each year.

Capacity of over
180 MILLION M²
of flooring per year

From 2012 to 2019, our sites in Avelgem have **reduced their CO₂ footprint** with regard to gas and electricity consumption:



Largest recycling unit in the world.

Up to **50%** recycled content in **LVT**

Up to **70%** recycled content in **backing of carpet tiles**

Up to **40%** recycled content in **carpet tile fibre**

OPTIMAL INDOOR AIR QUALITY.

97% of our floors have low levels of volatile compounds emission, i.e. 10 to 100 times lower than the strictest standards.

The greater part of IVC's flooring solutions is

100% RECYCLABLE.

We're hopeful to fully close the loop by 2040.

Through our windmill, solar operations and selective energy sourcing, IVC aims at

100% RENEWABLE ENERGY.

DID YOU KNOW...

98% of our raw materials are third-party assessed for their impact on people's health and the environment based on circular criteria? We're aiming at 100% by 2020.



Flooring is a people's business

Creating a sustainable business starts with a happy and healthy company culture. IVC can count on 1,800 employees motivated to bring best-quality flooring to our customers, while aspiring to the smallest possible ecological footprint. It is thanks to their everyday efforts and creativity that we can continue to expand and diversify our portfolio. Guarding the well-being of our entire IVC family is of paramount importance, which is why we leave no stone unturned in our pursuit of a safe and inspiring workplace.

Safety first

We aspire to be a zero-harm company with a positive and caring culture, where safety is an intrinsic part of our operations. The safety and health of our employees is the highest priority for IVC. Legal safety requirements, such as the provision of collective and personal protective equipment, are the baseline. The care of our employees is of the utmost importance and to achieve this goal, we have a Health & Safety plan in place, consisting of three main pillars:

■ Technical safety:

In the last years we have made considerable effort to improve the technical safety of our operational machinery. We continue to carry out risk analysis and upgrade our installations.

■ Organisational safety:

Although we have a lot of procedures and instructions in place, we continuously make improvements to upgrade and train our people.

■ Safety behaviour and culture:

We continuously invest in communication, training and awareness to ensure safety and health in our daily business. We believe that only by achieving these 3 main pillars, we will grow to be a zero-harm company.



DID YOU KNOW...

we optimise the height of our packaging and transportation installations for improved ergonomic comfort?



DID YOU KNOW...

our COVID-19 approach was picked up by the federal government?



An inspiring workplace

Our ideal workplace not only feels like a safe haven, but is also a pleasure to spend time in. In 2019 we created **a new home for IVC's commercial and design departments**, addressing the need for a **coworking space** where our people, customers and suppliers can comfortably discuss and work on projects. The IVC Flooring Development Centre in Waregem is housed in an iconic building along the E17 highway, known for its angular shapes and large pitched roof structures.

Providing an inspirational setting is what guided architect Glenn

Sestig in revamping the first and second floors: "The goals of enabling collaboration and ensuring the wellbeing of IVC's employees and visitors of the centre had to reign supreme. In terms of both **acoustics and ergonomics**, we made sure that the office areas adhere to the highest standards." Next to functionality, a **focus on aesthetics gave each space a different identity** fitting the teams that work there.



DID YOU KNOW...

In its first year, the Flooring Development Centre was visited by over 1,200 architects, designers and customers from 11 different countries?



■ Talent development at IVC Academy

The IVC Technical Training Academy at our Flooring Development Centre is used to provide training, externally as well as for our employees. We see this as **a great way to share our knowledge** with others and further develop the talents of our people.

Our **internal technical initiation trainings** are available to all employees and are mandatory for newcomers. A maximum number of 18 people is allowed during each session to create an atmosphere of trust that generates more interactivity. The goal is to increase basic technical product knowledge and engagement level towards IVC's sustainability efforts by showing how our people can contribute themselves. We organise an initiation training at least once per quarter or on demand for internal staff.

To bring technical knowledge to our customers, we also offer **external technical training**. A set of standard modules are delivered on regular basis, while tailor-made sessions are available for larger groups. Depending on the audience and the subject, the ratio between theory and practice varies. Due to the location at our Flooring Development Centre most trainings are for Belgian customers, however we're happy to increasingly welcome groups from abroad. Moreover, we have trainers and training facilities in key countries we operate in.

DID YOU KNOW...

in total more than 300 partners (architects, designers, contractors, installers and retailers) were trained during the first full year since the opening of our academy?



Community is key

To encourage engagement and create a sense of team spirit, IVC Group organises group training and **various social activities such as our annual family day**, where our employees' loved ones get the opportunity to become acquainted with the company. To further support the communities our people belong to, we sponsor local sporting clubs and offer educational programmes in several schools. We also provide **professional apprenticeships** and bring ambitious **graduates into the business** through our Young Graduate programme, giving them a personal development plan to grow their career.

Furthermore we not only support young talent, but that of all ages and aim to bring in skills and expertise regardless of a person's sex, color or creed. We attach great importance to **diversity in the workforce**. When it comes to gender, we're happy to have established a **huge increase of female employees** at IVC Group over the past years. Looking at our management and office positions, we're pleased to say that 49% are occupied by women and 51% by men.

Protecting our pollinators

The survival of most flowering plants depends on pollinators and 80% of all pollinating insects are bees. In the protection of Belgium's endangered bee colonies, IVC Group is **working together with a local beekeeper**. Starting in May 2020, two beehives will be opened alongside the pond of our Flooring Development Centre, as part of the 'Bees for businesses' programme. Bees thrive in business environments thanks to the variety of plants in neighbouring gardens and parks. They operate within a radius of 1,5 to 4 kilometers around the company. The **newly installed beehives in our Flooring Development Centre** should yield 15 kg of honey per year, which will make a nice gift for our clients in personalised jars.

Additionally, an **insect hotel at our carpet tiles plant** in Moeskroen encourages biodiversity by providing shelter for all types of beneficial insects, such as ladybirds, butterflies and green lacewings.



IVC SUMMER DRINK



OPENDOOR FLOORING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



IVC 20 YEARS FESTIVAL



Research and development with a focus on wellbeing

With a view to improve our product range in terms of performance, comfort and sustainability, IVC Group is dedicated to a continuous research process. Our Research and Development programme is situated in the Flooring Development Centre in Waregem, the Vinyl Technology Centre in Avelgem and our carpet tiles plant in Moeskroen. Its objective is as simple as it is challenging: we aim to create value for our customers by producing better, more sustainable products while further strengthening our position in the flooring market.



Better performance and quality

For us at IVC Group, sustainability starts with **delivering high-performance products** that respond to the needs of the customer as well as to a growing diversity of interior trends. Enhancing the performance of our flooring products means **extending their lifespan** by focusing on various dimensions, such as:

- ▶ Slip, stain and scratch resistance
- ▶ Dimension stability
- ▶ (Fire) safety
- ▶ Design
- ▶ Acoustics
- ▶ Light fastness
- ▶ Ease of installation
- ▶ Ease of maintenance

We look to develop the best-quality, **future-proof solutions** for our customers, our employees and our planet. Therefore, next to analysing lifespan and safety parameters, we're invested in improving the **recyclability and environmental impact** of our entire range.

Promoting the end user's WELLBEING

Like quality and performance, the end user's needs and wellbeing are a cornerstone of our innovation efforts. While producing vinyl flooring, we want to make sure our products support the **safety, health and wellbeing** of the people who use them. That's why we not only pay attention to the uniqueness of our designs, but also to **the soft underfoot feeling** that characterises our flooring solutions. In line with today's market demands, all our floors are developed with high thermal conductivity and are thus ideally suited for use with underfloor heating.

Furthermore, IVC Group has made important investments in **acoustic research**. Life these days is full of sound. Whether at home or in the office, we believe our customers should never be bothered by excessive sound, especially if it can be prevented. In this regard we endeavour to optimise the acoustic properties of our products at our **own acoustic lab in Avelgem**.

Based on the science of sound, we guarantee our **soft surface flooring generally works better** as a sound barrier. Our carpet tile solutions bring acoustic advantages for those areas where better soundproofing is demanded.

■ Making flooring adhesive-free

IVC Group's patented click technologies, adhesive-free heterogeneous vinyl and carpet tile solutions are easy to install and just as easy on the environment:

- LVT click
- LVT looselay
- LVT engineered vinyl click
- Heterogeneous vinyl rolls looselay
- Heterogeneous vinyl rolls with polyester backing
- LVT dryback on Xtrafloor Flexpro
- Carpet tiles
- Xtrafloor Flexlok tabs

If a floor does need adhesive, we advise using **Xtrafloor adhesives** or underlays with **very low emissions** and indoor air quality certification.

Our innovation policy focuses on three pillars

Efficient use of resources

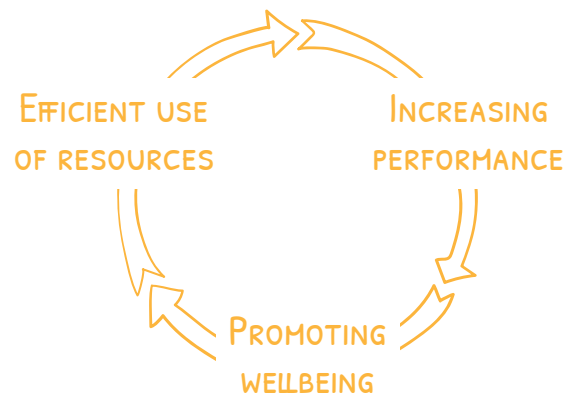
- ▶ life cycle assessment
- ▶ resource efficiency
- ▶ carbon footprint
- ▶ recyclability
- ▶ circularity

Increasing performance

- ▶ scratch & stain resistance
- ▶ ease of installation
- ▶ stability
- ▶ fire safety
- ▶ heat insulation

Promoting wellbeing

- ▶ design
- ▶ acoustics
- ▶ indoor air quality
- ▶ maintenance
- ▶ slip properties



SOFT UNDERFOOT FEELING

&



OPTIMISED ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES



Smart use of natural materials

While making flooring solutions, we rely on natural resources like the sun, wind and water as much as possible to reduce the environmental impact of our manufacturing process. Since nature's resources are the most valuable ones we have, we make every effort to look for the most efficient and sustainable ways to use them.

WIND AVELGEM, BE



riding the winds of change

11 GWh/YEAR = EQUIVALENT OF
947 TONNES OF OIL (TOE)
ANNUAL ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION
OF 3,000 HOUSEHOLDS

■ Wind farm Avelgem

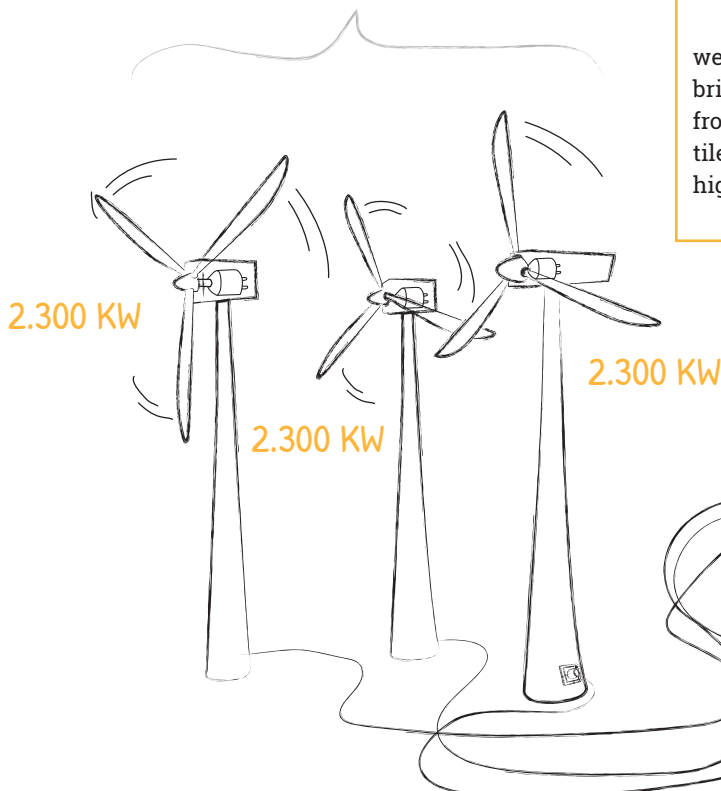
In 2014, IVC Group built an on-site wind farm to supply our plants in Avelgem. The three wind turbines produce around 11,000 MWh of renewable energy a year. That's about as much as the yearly electricity consumption of 3,000 Flemish households. With this clean energy we power our own production facilities and electric trucks in Avelgem, and give back to the grid.

■ Avelgem Green Power project

Following the installation of our on-site wind farm in Avelgem, we decided to bring the winds of change to the local community through the establishment of a green power cooperative. Approximately 250 neighbours and 250 employees are currently participating in the three windmills as shareholders, earning 4 to 6 % yearly dividend with the production of renewable electricity. Avelgem Green Power allows IVC Group and our partner communities to work together to promote green energy and combat climate change.

DID YOU KNOW...

we have an electric truck that brings the finished goods from the latest luxury vinyl tiles plant in Avelgem to our high bay warehouse?



More info:
www.avelgemgreenpower.be

WATER AVELGEM, BE

closed-loop system with heat recuperators - the gift that keeps on giving!

■ Scheldt Project

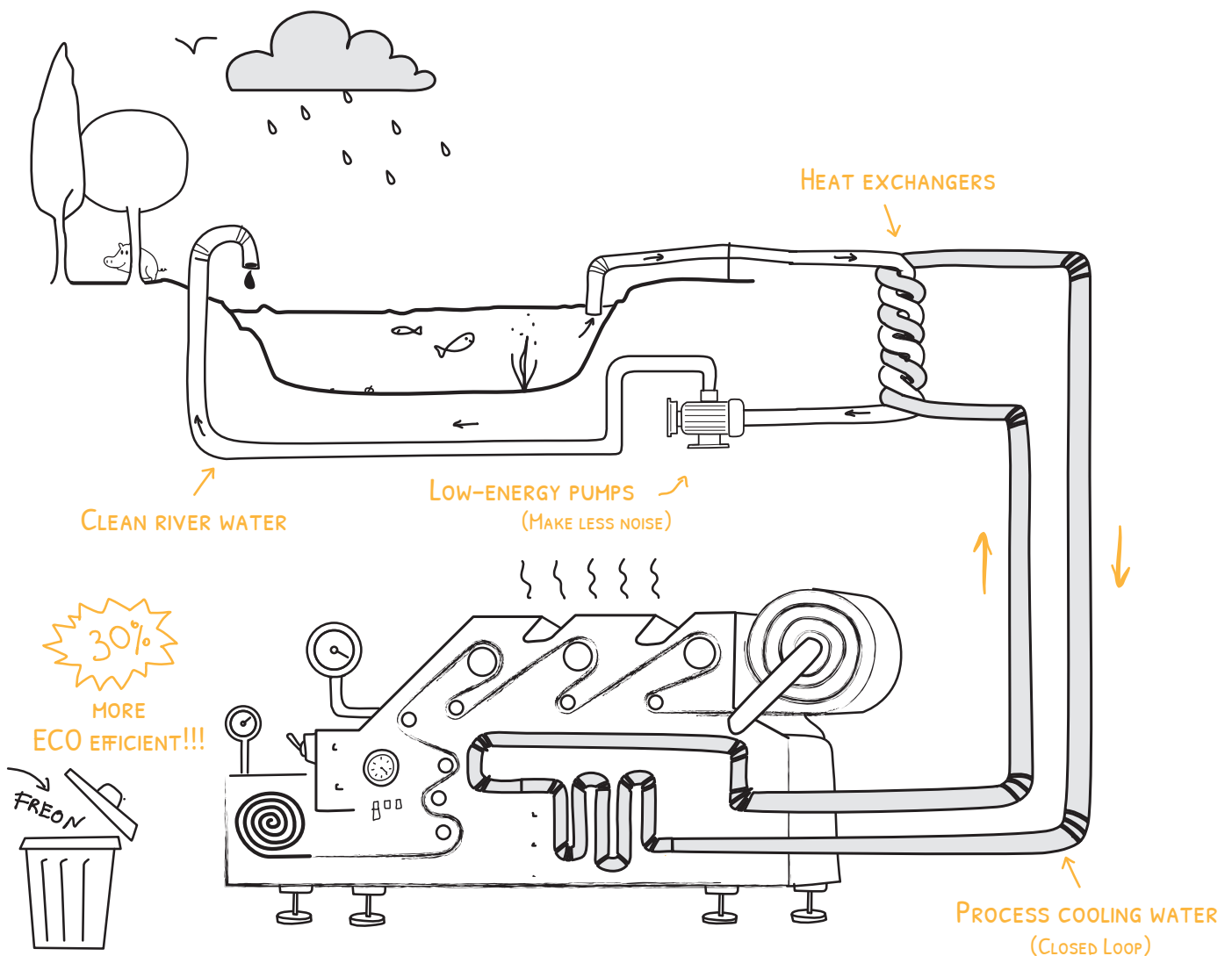
The manufacture of high-grade vinyl floors requires cooling water to absorb heat in the different stages of production. Thinking outside the box, IVC Group has invested in a bold experiment that uses surface water from the nearby river Scheldt as a secondary coolant. Using only a minimal amount of energy, river water is pumped up and sent along the closed-loop flow of our Avelgem plant's process cooling water. The

exchange of thermal energy (up to 4,000 kw) is achieved through state-of-the-art heat exchangers, so there is no direct contact between the river water and the process water en route.

Using minimal electricity compared to other cooling systems, these innovations have resulted in a 30% increase of energy efficiency in the overall production of vinyl floors (tiles and sheets).

By eliminating the need for machine-driven refrigeration, we've also significantly reduced on-site noise and created better working conditions.

Finally, by continuously looking for improvements on our closed-loop system for process water, we have established an additional 40% reduction in the use of process water between 2010 and 2019 at the sheet production plant in Avelgem.



SUN WAREGEM, BE & DALTON, US

a clean energy policy that truly shines!

DID YOU KNOW...

our Flooring Development Centre is cooled thanks to a free-cooling system, powered by solar energy?

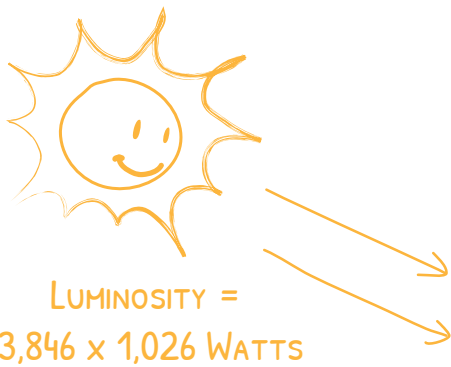


■ Solar panels at IVC Flooring Development Centre

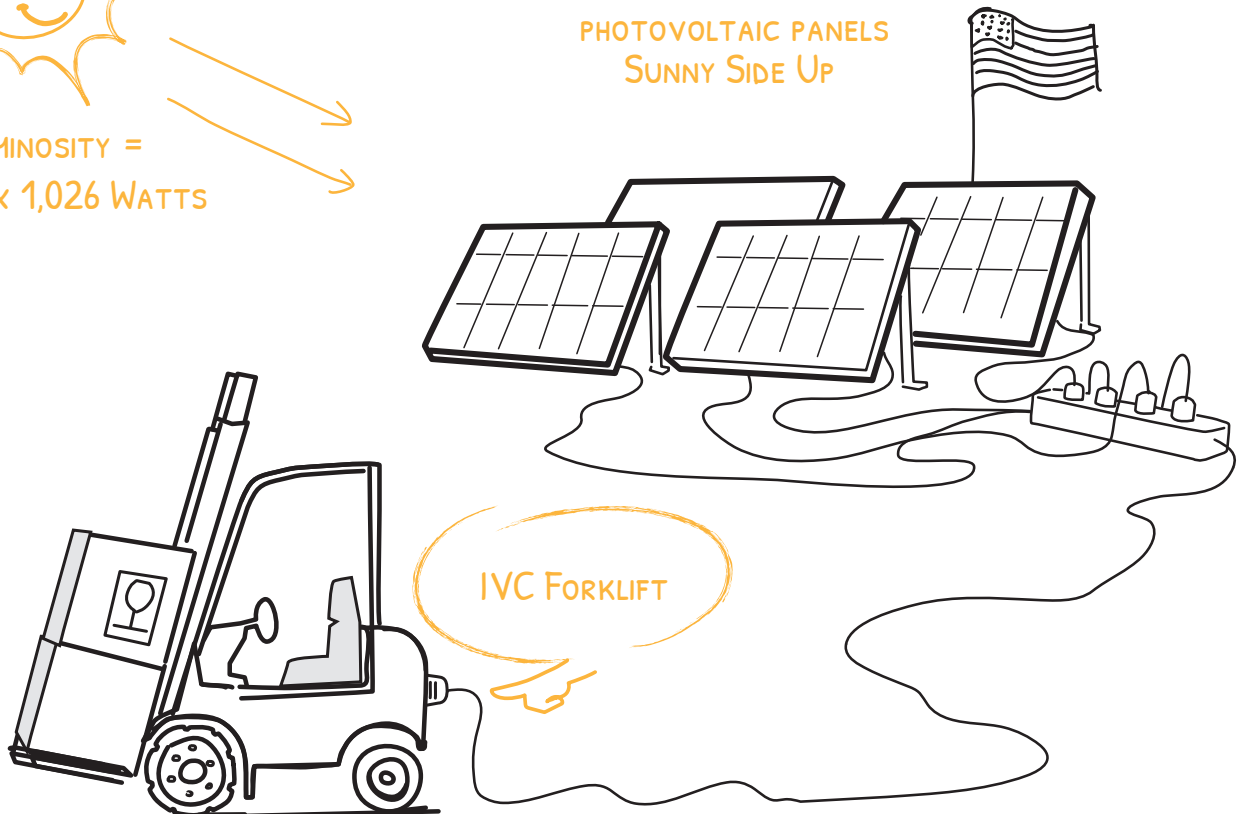
On 11 February 2019, we opened our IVC Flooring Development Centre in Waregem. We've endeavoured to turn it into a sustainable base, not only through ventilation with a heat recovery, free-cooling system and LED relighting based on intelligent LED technology, but also by installing solar panels on the roofs of the adjoining warehouses. The panels have a total capacity of 305 kWp, equalling 40% of the annual consumption of our Flooring Development Centre. Hence the building is eligible to become LEED certified.

■ Solar panels at IVC US

Overseas in Dalton, Georgia (US), we've installed solar panels that provide enough clean electricity to power our fleet of electrical lifting trucks, which run on rechargeable batteries.



PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS SUNNY SIDE UP



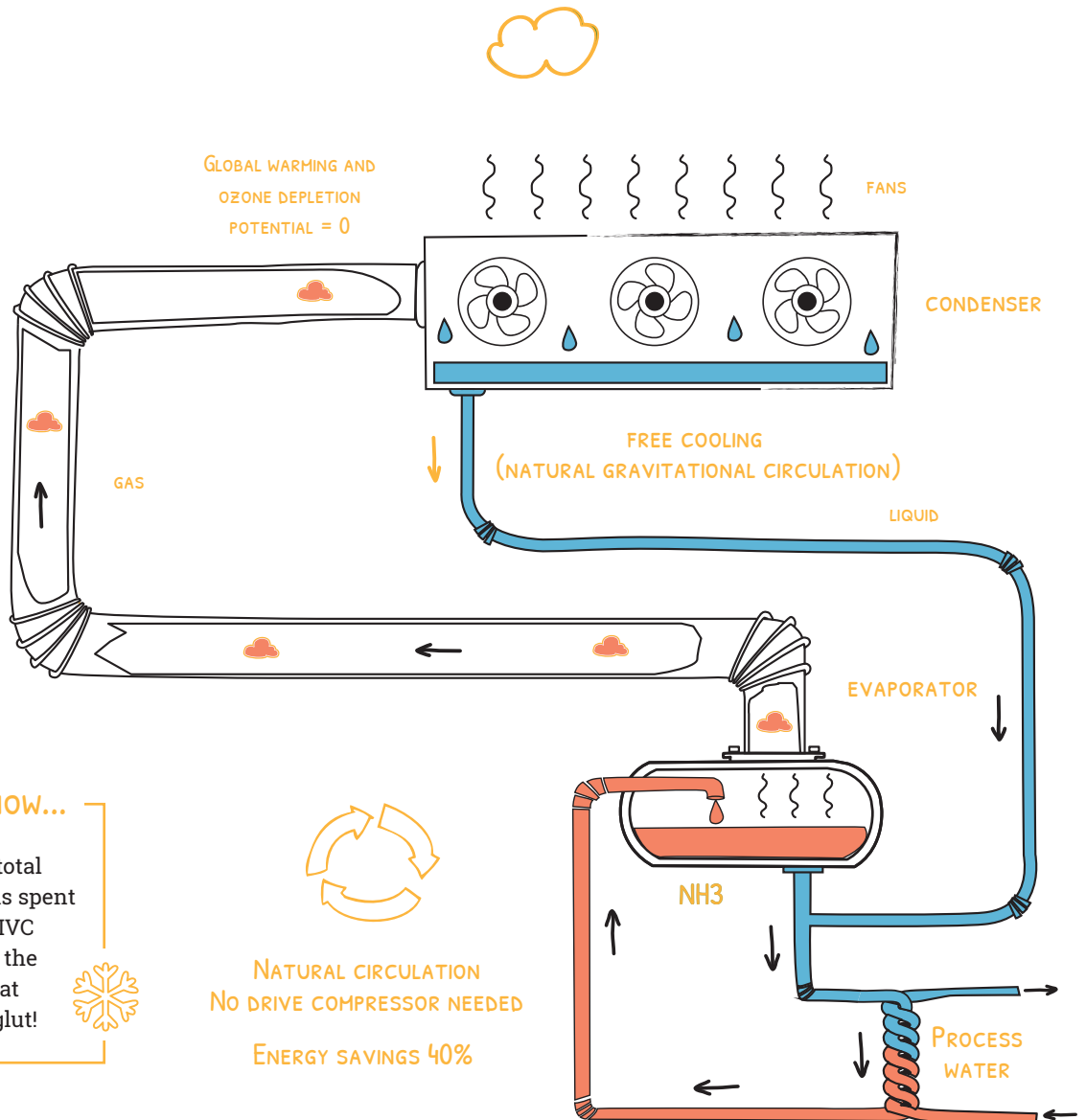
AIR AVELGEM, BE

bye-bye to harmful HFC refrigerants!

■ Natural refrigerants

Compared to cushioned vinyl, producing luxury vinyl tiles requires cooling agents with a temperature considerably lower than those afforded by the river Scheldt. For this reason, IVC has chosen the next best medium available: natural and biodegradable gases that are perfectly safe and harmless to the ozone layer. Free or dynamic cooling is applied when the outside

temperature is lower than the process water temperature, relying on gravity. This natural principle cuts the high energy cost of a compressor, heat exchangers or additional gadgets, making for a great (and green) return on investment. However by a simple flick of a switch, we can revert to mechanical cooling.



DID YOU KNOW...

that 15% of Belgium's total energy consumption is spent on refrigeration? The IVC Group is proud to ride the wave of innovation that will help reduce this glut!

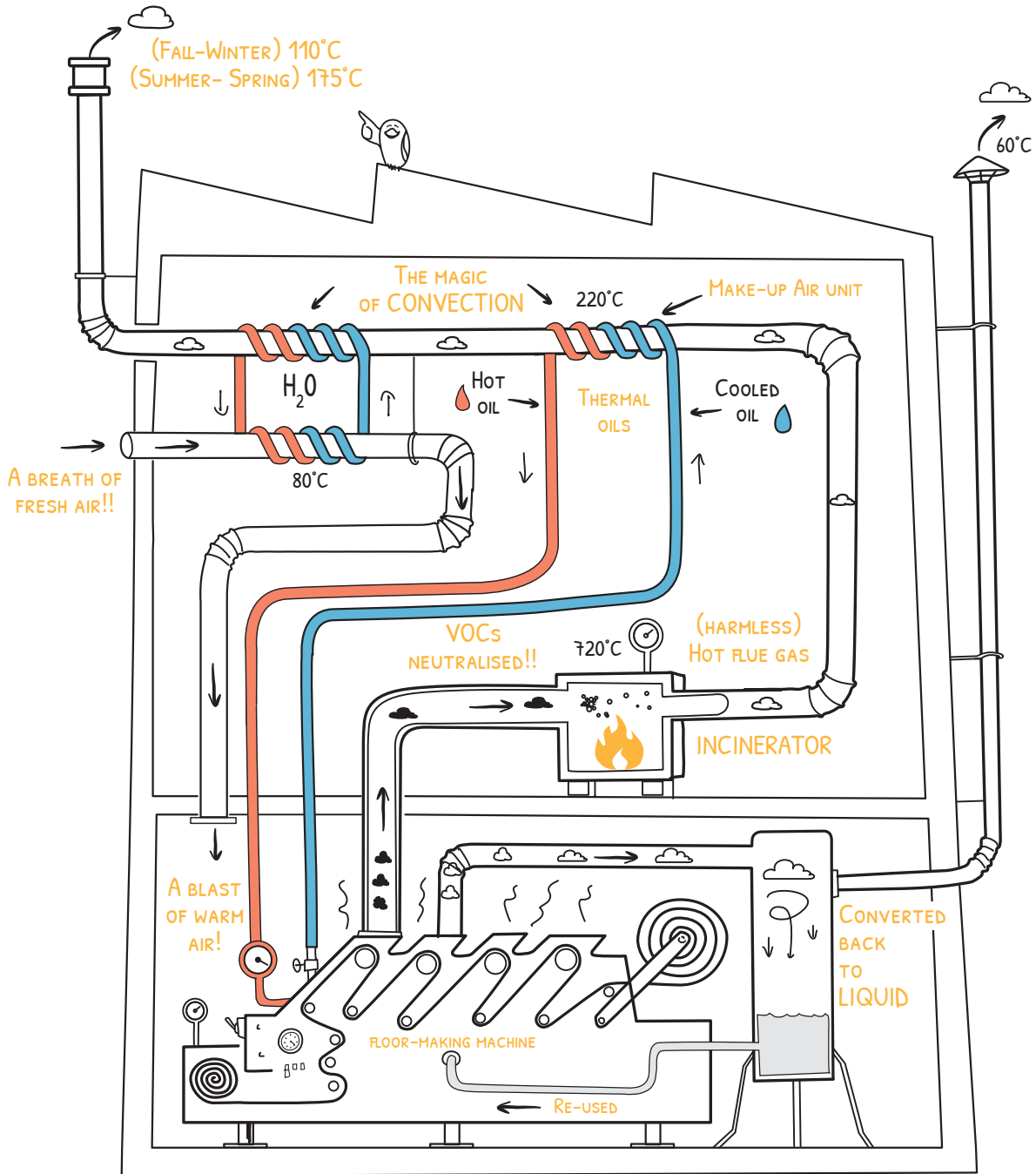


NATURAL CIRCULATION
NO DRIVE COMPRESSOR NEEDED

ENERGY SAVINGS 40%

THE BIG COMMUTE

recovering and reusing materials and energy

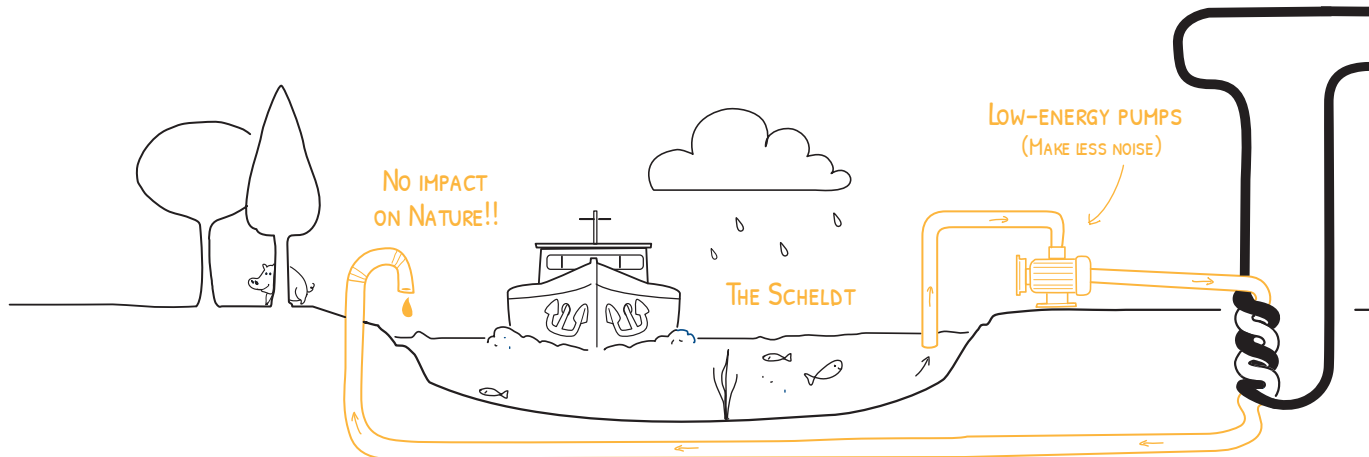
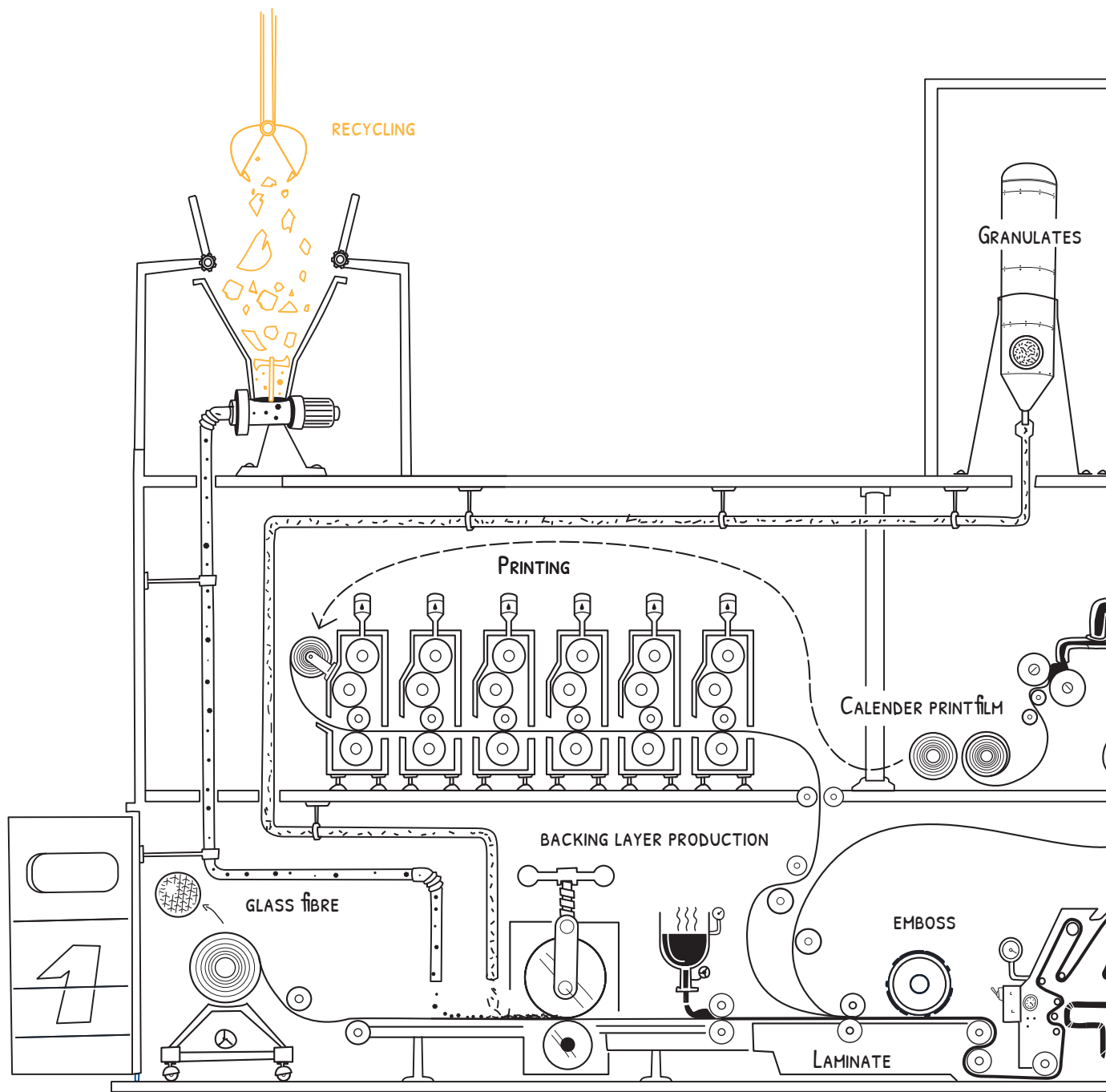


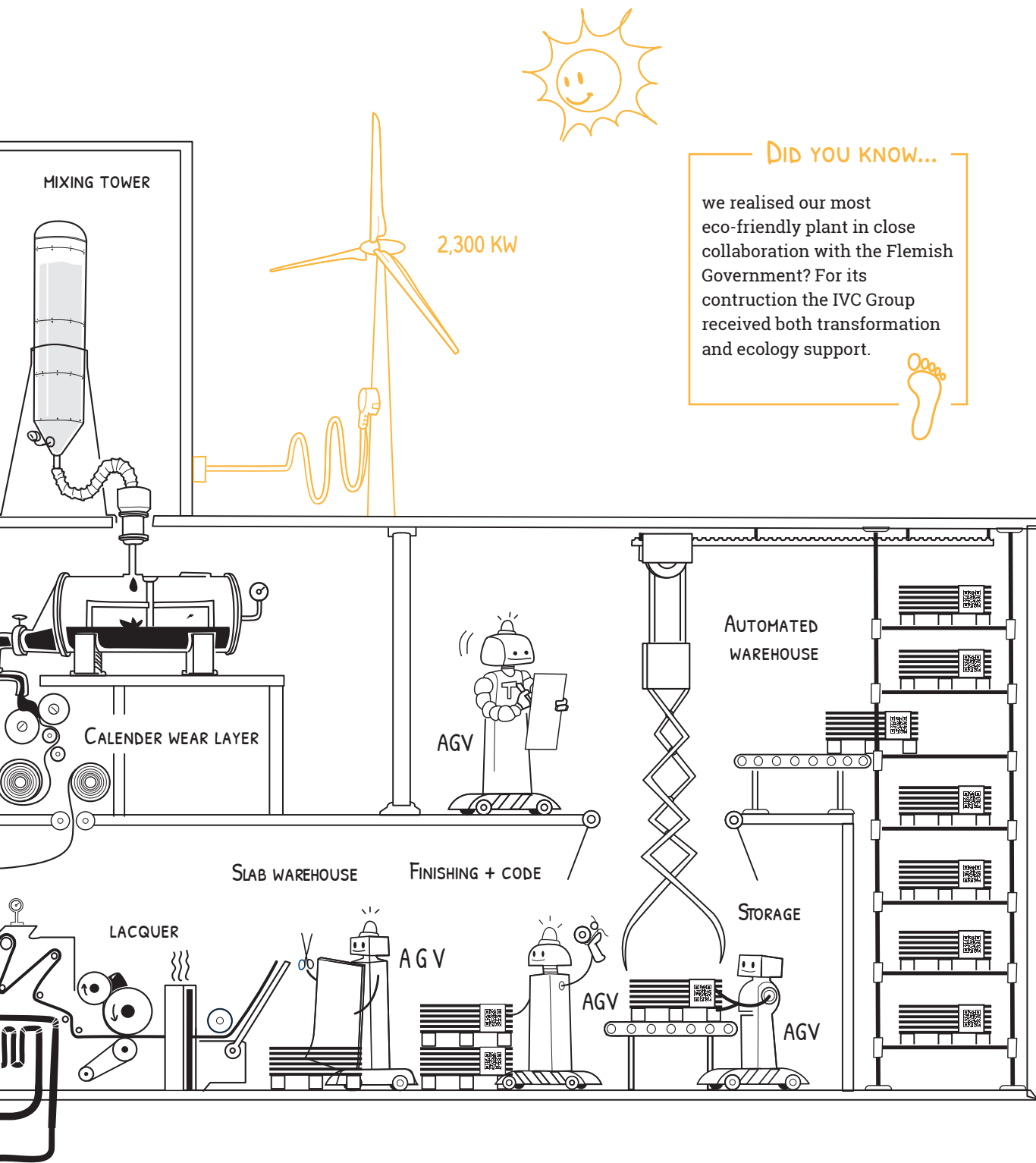
■ Recuperating resources

A lot of love goes into the making of our vinyl flooring products. And only a little energy is allowed to escape. In all of our plants, we recover and reuse materials and

energy in the maze-like course of the production process. IVC calls this internally coordinated system of reciprocation and reconversion 'The Big Commute'.

The largest and the greenest





DID YOU KNOW...

we realised our most eco-friendly plant in close collaboration with the Flemish Government? For its construction the IVC Group received both transformation and ecology support.



Our **third luxury vinyl tiles plant in Avelgem** covers 21,000 square meters and provides employment for 200 people. Thanks to the smart use of green energy powered by our wind farm and water from the Scheldt river, this is **one of the most eco-friendly vinyl flooring plants in the world**. All post-industrial vinyl waste is recycled and reused for production purposes with a circular economy in mind.

Responsible use of raw materials

RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT

Next to limiting our environmental impact by relying on natural resources, we strive towards the responsible use of raw materials in each and every product. All our departments are improving their resource efficiency through recycling and take-back initiatives.

Recycled pvc

Recycling the ingredients that make up IVC's distinct flavour of floors is key to our vision on sustainable management. 35 to 50% of any luxury vinyl tiles floor consists of recycled materials from a controlled origin. Through **post-industrial recycling**, we are able to distil a **particularly 'pure' type of vinyl** with very limited impact on the environment. For example, Leoline's Greentex floors, which have a padded textile back, use up to 60% recycled household plastics, such as PET bottles and plastic containers.

Similarly in Dalton, all of IVC's leftover plastics are locally recycled into automotive floor mats, giving new meaning to the motoring phrase 'flooring it'.

Closing the loop on vinyl and carpet tile waste

Since 1997, the IVC Group has made a point of **recycling the vinyl waste streams that are generated in the manufacture** of its products. Vinyl scraps are salvaged and then pressed into bales, ready to be re-used in a wide variety of applications. All **surplus vinyl paste is recovered** and injected back into the production process of our sheet vinyl.

IVC Group has five luxury vinyl tiles plants, each with their own vinyl recycling plant, ensuring that the vinyl waste of our sheet vinyl or LVT processes can be recycled into new tiles.

We also promote **take-back initiatives of vinyl cutting waste** from installation projects at construction sites, end-of-life looselay cushion vinyl, looselay LVT or click LVT.

■ The EU Circular Flooring project

On a larger scale, we support the EU Circular Flooring project, which is **testing an environmental-friendly way to recycle post-consumer vinyl** floor coverings. With the help of a new recycling technique called Creasolv, the Circular Flooring project aims to dissolve and remove undesirable plasticisers and achieve a **high-quality, virgin-like vinyl material**. After being processed into granulates, **this material can be re-used in new floor coverings** that will be compliant with regulations and meet consumer expectations.

GREEN FACT

Each year IVC reclaims on average 20.000 tons of vinyl material in each recycling plant, resulting in approximately 100,000 tons of recycled vinyl material going back into the loop.



■ ReCover

Our waste-reducing efforts further extend to our carpet tiles plants. The upcoming IVC ReCover programme aims to maximise the amount of material recovery by **collecting old carpet tiles and recycling them** through our European network of recyclers. Anyone will be able to sign up for this **take-back programme** by contacting the IVC commercial team and providing some basic information concerning yardage, backing and pile material. IVC plans to take care of all the logistics. ReCover will accept any carpet – not just IVC carpet tiles – for recycling into regenerated raw materials and secondary fuel. Once the programme is fully rolled out, the pellets will be converted into sustainable energy, drastically reducing CO₂ emissions.

Waste water

H₂O is pivotal to our core business, the making of premium floors: **water is used as a coolant** and medium in the production cycle, but also as a cleaning product during printing stages. But having a watertight system of closed loops doesn't mean we're not careful about the way we treat this most valuable resource. That is why we go the extra mile to **collect, process, purify and recycle the water** that runs through the veins of our plants, without any risk or exposure to the outside environment.



Our green efforts certified

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ISO 14001

Since 1997, IVC Group has put considerable effort in the implementation of a finely tuned and fully integrated environmental management system. This carefully thought-out approach has allowed us to strike a sound balance between economic profitability, which keeps us in the black, and environmental integrity, which inspires us to go

green. In December 2012, our company was awarded **ISO 14001** accreditation. This certificate of eco-achievement not only positively reflects on our past endeavours and present-day compliance with environmental rules and regulations, but also recognises our systematic commitment to caring for the wellbeing of our planet.



DID YOU KNOW...

our engineered click vinyl solution, LayRed55, won a Red Dot Award and an Iconic Design Award in 2019? This rigid flooring features an integrated sound-reducing underlay beneath a high-performance vinyl wear layer. Sustainability is a key pillar in judgement.



AIR QUALITY

At the process stage

■ End-of-pipe technology and rigorous monitoring

The processing of vinyl inevitably releases low concentrations of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) which are sublimated into the surrounding air. Thanks to end-of-pipe technology and a vigilant testing and monitoring programme, an integral part of our **ISO 9001** quality management system, IVC Group manages to remain in line with the strictest European regulations and anti-pollution laws.

At the product stage

■ Water-based inks & PU coatings

In the past, the majority of manufacturers relied on solvent-based inks when printing patterns and designs. Looking towards the future, we use only water-based inks for printing purposes. This decision has completely eliminated the risk of hazardous toxins being released into the air, and markedly reduced our overall carbon footprint. Of course, Water-based inks are **100% recyclable and emit zero fumes.**

The **polyurethane finish** that protects our vinyl floors and keeps them looking fresh is entirely water-based. That's good news for mother nature, and for the people who enjoy the clean air comfort of our products every day.

■ REACH

At IVC Group, we carefully vet the raw materials we buy and process, making sure that they do not contain suspect or potentially harmful substances. This system of quality assurance is in accordance with the European Union directive for the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals, known as REACH. IVC Group works exclusively with suppliers that conform to the REACH regulation, safeguarding the integrity and quality of the finished product we deliver to the end user.



GREEN BUILDING

VOCs are a fact of life when building materials are concerned: even wood and stone cannot escape the natural law of sublimation over the longer term. Fortunately, the IVC Group can guarantee the indoor air quality of the countless homes and businesses that enjoy our floors. Don't take our word for it though, here is a list of the international credits and certificates we have accrued over the years for the protection of living and working environments:

■ **France & Belgium: bringing our A+ game**

All our vinyl flooring brands - Leoline, Itec and Moduleo - carry the **green A+ label**, the highest accolade awarded by French authorities. This tried and tested hallmark, based on the European Construction products Directive (CpD), validates the environmental soundness of our flooring solutions. In addition, the use of our products contributes to obtaining the French certification **HQE** for building projects due to their sustainable qualities.

In Belgium, the third European country to have introduced stringent emission norms for the flooring sector, IVC Group collections score equally well: both our vinyl and modular floors remain well below the emission mark of the 270 potentially harmful substances blacklisted by the Federal Public Service for health, food chain safety and the environment.

■ **Germany: DIBt/AgBB, DGNB and GUT**

The certification behind the **DIBt/agBB-label** is by far the most unforgiving interpretation of the European directive for the safe and sustainable use of construction products: stricter, even, than French and Belgian regulations. Owing to IVC Group's continued research into more eco-effective floors, our products satisfy the stringent emission criteria as stipulated by the renowned DIBt Institute in Berlin. IVC Group has also joined the German Sustainable Building Council (**DGNB**).

On top of that, we are **GUT**-certified. The aim of GUT is to continuously improve all environmental and consumer protection aspects throughout the life cycle of a textile floor covering (from production to installation, to use phase and recycling). In cooperation with officially recognised European test houses, registered products are regularly tested in line with GUT's criteria for persistent organic pollutants, emissions and odour.

■ **US: FloorScore®**

IVC products, such as Flexitec, Moduleo and several residential collections, are **FloorScore® certified** and contribute to points in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (**LEED**) programme. Products bearing the FloorScore label meet the indoor air quality emissions criteria of CHPS and the Green Guide for Health Care, and are recognised by a long list of healthy building programmes. This qualifies our products for safe use in public spaces, like schools and healthcare facilities.

■ **Worldwide**

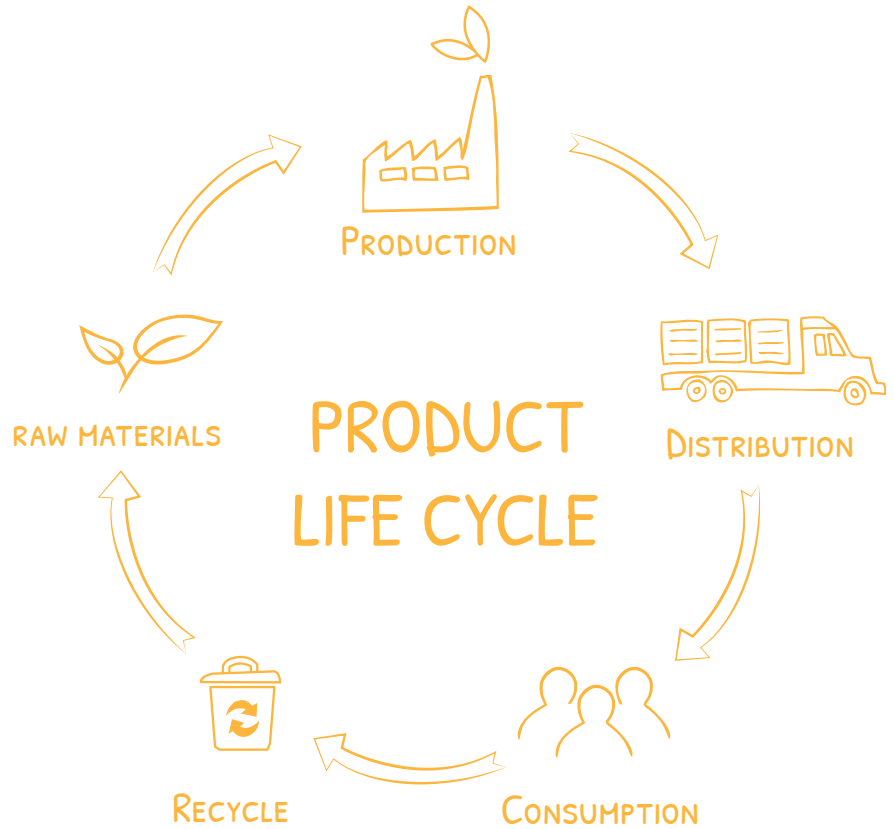
Internationally, the IVC Group has received credits for its green building practices. Together with an externally licensed assessment agency, we calculate our contributions to **BREEAM, LEED, WELL, DGNB and Greenstar**. We are allowed to share our gains with partners and are constantly motivated to step up our efforts in improving environmental efficiencies and make buildings healthier for all.



LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

IVC Group uses **Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)** methodology, in line with the requirements of ISO 14040, ISO 14044 and ISO 21930. The aim is twofold: we reduce the environmental impact of our products and help project owners in reducing their building's environmental impact.

The outcome of the LCA is an **Environmental Profile Declaration (EPD)** for the entire **life cycle of a product**: from extraction to processing, manufacturing, installation and maintenance, up to its end-of-life treatment. The EPD addresses all key environmental issues: climate change, ozone depletion, acidification, consumption of minerals and water, air and water pollution, and the amount of waste. In the past years, IVC has gone the extra mile for the environment, which has positively impacted our EPDs.



MEMBER OF THE INDUSTRY

As a leader in flooring, IVC Group is a member of multiple associations of manufacturers representing the industry. We are associated with both the European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute (**ERFMI**) and the Multilayer Modular Flooring Association (**MMFA**) on European level and with the **FEB** in Germany. In Belgium, we have a membership with employers' organisations **Fedustria** and **Voka**.

Our contract for the future

The IVC Journey 2040

Facing the biggest environmental challenge of our time, IVC Group understands the necessity for a long-term strategy towards the sustainability of our business and our planet. To this effect, we have developed our IVC Journey 2040 plan, consisting of five bold targets in order to live up to our exemplary role as an eco-friendly flooring company.

The first and main focus of our strategy is achieving **zero impact** in the full value chain. By setting five-year objectives we mean to fully cut out CO₂ emissions, eliminate waste and make use of 100% renewable energy for our all processes and transportation activities. Subsequently, we are researching the use of renewable sources and the re-use of current materials. This way we want to evolve from recycling to a **closed-loop production** by 2040.

Not only in terms of materials but also in technologies and processes, we're constantly looking at ways of improving the function of our production plants. Starting 2025, our measurable plan for **innovations leadership** should be integrated in IVC's global innovation approach and controlled by multidisciplinary project teams. For the roll-out we rely on a diverse knowledge network of suppliers, customers and institutions.

As a fourth target IVC Group intends to become **'the easiest company to do business with'**. From product to service, we're working towards the best levels of quality and striving to obtain certifications for our sustainable products. Not just to appeal to our customers, but to set goals for ourselves in terms of ecology and responsible enterprise. Throughout our journey we will

explore new competitive business models to ensure the cohesion of our green efforts and a healthy profit growth. In this way we aim to do good by doing well.

We wish to be an inspiration for those we do business with and are in business with. That's why we're driven to provide internal and external training to create more **environmental awareness** and further develop the talents of our employees. Open communication surrounding our objectives, as well as encouraging and involving local communities, is essential to build an **engaged corporate culture**. Through our undertakings in the protection of people and the planet, IVC Group hopes to set a precedent for future flooring designer generations.



The first and main focus of our strategy is achieving zero impact in the full value chain.

5 LONG-TERM TARGETS:



1 ZERO IMPACT IN THE FULL VALUE CHAIN

- ▶ elimination of waste
- ▶ no harmful emissions
- ▶ 100% renewable energy in processes and transport



2 100% CIRCULARITY

- ▶ re-designing products
- ▶ use of new and reusable materials and renewable sources
- ▶ 100% closed loop



3 INNOVATIONS LEADERSHIP

- ▶ exploring new technologies and materials
- ▶ development of smart solutions, contributing to the quality of life
- ▶ open a diverse knowledge network for collaboration with suppliers, customers, institutions



4 THE EASIEST COMPANY TO DO BUSINESS WITH

- ▶ from product to service
- ▶ best quality and certified sustainable products
- ▶ explore new competitive business models



5 AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ engage and inspire those we do business with
- ▶ training and developing talent
- ▶ local communities involvement



WWW.IVCGROUP.COM



IVC Group | Nijverheidslaan 29 | B-8580 Avelgem | België
T +32 (0)56 65 32 11 | F +32 (0)56 65 32 29
info@ivcgroup.com



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