

Relationship of YKK Group business with the environment

Responding promptly to customer needs, and environmental issues with a global perspective

In order to provide customers with the highest quality, and to guarantee that quality, the YKK Group maintains a comprehensive production system from handling of raw materials to manufacturing. We develop our own metal, resin, ceramic and other new materials and produce all kinds of parts. We also design and produce our own manufacturing equipment that we use during all stages of the production process and have also created our own production management systems. Through our comprehensive production efforts, the YKK Group has achieved uniform quality around the world.

The world needs to develop a sustainable economy and society. For this reason, the YKK Group has established contribution to the creation of a sustainable society as our midterm environmental management guiding principle and we are promoting efforts to achieve concrete objectives based on the following 4 fundamental environmental management policies.

1. Responding and contributing to the green market

We are entering an age when enterprises that cannot respond to the demands for sustainability from international society will be rejected from the global supply chain. In order to mitigate environmental problems at a global level, in addition to raising the quality of environmental management of the Group as a whole, we are also working to strengthen cooperation on these issues with our client businesses. We have also chosen three themes for our product development vision — high environmental function, safety and security, and comfortable lifestyle. By conducting environmental product assessment 3 times during the process from design and prototyping to manufacture, we develop products that not only have lower impacts themselves, but that also contribute to lower environmental impact in use.

2. Making environmental impact reduction management even more thorough

We are undertaking a variety of activities to achieve greater environmental impact reduction and developing systems to reform work processes so that they can handle highly energy efficient equipment and production fluctuation. We are also working to recycle byproducts and achieve zero emissions, as well as manage chemical substances appropriately.

3. Building and using a global environmental management system

The environmental problems of modern society are borderless, and the need to unify the environmental directives and actions of the whole group has grown. By instituting internal environmental audits and an environmental database, we can grasp the environmental issues facing each region and work toward solutions. Simultaneously, we can develop global standards by getting feedback on measures from all areas, which will increase the whole group's ability to handle environmental issues.

4. Promotion of environmental communication

In addition to promoting accurate, truthful and continuous accountability to society, we will also actively take the opinions of customers and the public into account.



YKK Group
Chairman,
Environmental Policy Committee
Director, YKK Corp.
Yoshiaki Watanabe

Environmental impacts of our enterprises

Manufacture of fastening and architectural products requires large amounts of energy and chemical substances and produces CO₂ and waste materials.

In addition to proactively incorporating the most advanced energy efficient equipment, switching to fuels with reduced CO₂, NO_x and SO_x emissions, and using substitutes for harmful chemical substances, the YKK Group is promoting appropriate use of resources and the achievement of zero emissions (no landfill disposal).

Furthermore, LCA* has revealed that for architectural materials the potential contribution to environmental impact reduction is greatest at time of use, but that the environmental impact of the raw materials is also high.

We are working to reduce the environmental impact of raw materials by increasing use of internally-produced scraps, aluminum foil, sash scraps, sawdust, recycled chips, recycled copper and other recycled materials from the marketplace.

* LCA = Life Cycle Assessment

