Supporting Sustainability & Social Responsibility

Environmental stewardship and social responsibility are guiding principles at Vertellus. As a Responsible Care® Company, each Vertellus team member shares in a company-wide effort to continuously improve health, safety, security and environmental performance. This shared commitment helps us produce fine and specialty chemicals with a better environmental profile, while minimizing the environmental footprint of our operations and benefitting the social capital of communities where our people live and work.

Sustainability Driven Processes

Vertellus is committed to investing in technologies and processes that promote long-term energy efficient operations and sustainable processing. For example:

- A multi-year effort completed during a time of historically high energy costs positioned Vertellus to provide a step stage reduction in energy utilization for our largest integrated facility. Vertellus received a significant environmental excellence award from the state where the facility is located. Implementation of the proprietary process resulted in a 42% reduction in energy utilization.

- In 2014, Vertellus implemented a new process for recycling waste water of a major product line that resulted in a 58% reduction in energy utilization.

- Utilization of waste streams provides 25% of the processing energy at our largest integrated site: 17% is generated from proprietary technology using waste streams as fuel and 8% is derived from methane gas through a partnership with a local municipal landfill.

- In partnership with a local utility and solar farm developer, Vertellus transformed an idle property into a productive community asset. Over a 30-year period, the solar farm will curb carbon dioxide emissions by more than 13,000 MT annually — the equivalent amount of carbon required to meet energy demand in more than 1,800 homes or the annual carbon output of 2,300 passenger vehicles.

- Vertellus sites work under a continuous improvement model to optimize process performance. As an example, solvent recovery is a core capability that dramatically reduces the consumption of new solvents and the transfer of hazardous waste off-site.

Vertellus’ largest integrated facility achieved a 42% reduction in energy utilization

Formerly idle land owned by Vertellus is the site of a 43-acre solar farm
Driving Sustainable Technology

Vertellus leverages technology platforms and products to positively impact market dynamics and consumer interest in renewable products with safer profiles. For example:

- ZeMac® copolymers used in coating and plastics compounding operations, contribute to global sustainability by using recycled nylon. For every kilogram of recycled nylon used instead of virgin resin, 2.3 liters of fuel and 22.6 kilowatt hours of electricity can be saved.

- Cetylpyridinium Chloride (CPC) has a favorable sustainability profile due to its biodegradable characteristics. Compared to many other anti-microbials, CPC does not persist in the environment. CPC has a good human safety profile for on-skin applications and is an excellent anti-microbial replacement for triclosan, triclocarban, benzethonium chloride, formaldehyde-donors and parabens.

Driving Social Responsibility

Vertellus supports youth programs focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.

- Vertellus employees serve as STEM mentors working with community organizations. Vertellus partners with high schools and universities to offer students insight into career paths, tuition assistance including scholarships, and internships, co-op, and work-study opportunities.

- Vertellus employees make their presence known globally by contributing time, talents, and funding to community outreach initiatives. These include volunteering with reading and financial literacy programs, serving the hungry, providing students and families with necessities, and supporting organizations that help individuals overcome life crisis events.

- Vertellus invests in professional organizations whose mission is sustainable performance, including: American Chemistry Council, Industrial Research Institute, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Indiana Women in HiTech, Center for Chemical Process Safety, and the American Chemistry Society.

- Vertellus partners with suppliers who are committed to respecting worker rights, including collective bargaining and no discrimination, safe working conditions, and no child or forced labor.