Sustainability & Responsibility Report 2019

Our positive footprint

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BuzziSpace creates solutions for happy and healthy workspaces around the world. With a mission to improve well-being through human-centric design, we provide original acoustic solutions, lighting and furnishings to meet the needs of the modern workplace.

It started with acoustics. From there, the mission grew. Driven by an unbounded passion for solving modern design challenges, BuzziSpace continuously reimagines furnishings to be more functional and fun. The brand’s in-house studio collaborates with talented designers to provide new ways of working and living—comfortably, collaboratively and sustainably.

Established in 2007, BuzziSpace has grown into an award-winning acoustics leader. The Antwerp-based company has established an international presence with showrooms in Antwerp, New York, Chicago, London and Aachen, and its own manufacturing facilities in Bladel (NL) and High Point (US).

At heart, we’re all makers. We’re born that way. Each one of us possesses the skills to create things that will amaze and surprise others, even ourselves. It happens daily at our local manufacturing facilities –fueled by a shared desire to make durable and high-quality furnishings.

Nowadays, there is an increasing amount of open-floor workspaces which connects people. But at the same time, there are more challenges for sound-absorption and privacy environments. Those challenges lead to an increased call for acoustic solutions. The demand of BuzziSpace’s expertise in acoustics is significant in a world that is becoming aware of the noise-reducing challenge at work.
Our purpose

BuzziSpace is all about “Happy and healthy workspaces”, the philosophy that has been fueling our 10-year journey.

What > We create functional furniture, acoustic and lighting solutions to make the work environment of the modern nomad employees happy and healthy. Wherever they are: in the office, at home, in the garden, in the hotel

Why > Happy and Healthy environments contribute to more job satisfaction, efficiency and employee commitment

Who > Companies that value the well-being of their employees. And the modern nomad looking for job satisfaction.

How > Innovative, surprising and inspiring products. Feel at home, beautiful design, conscious about the environment, high-quality materials.

Our Core Values

Our core values are brought to life as they offer opportunities to enhance the lives of others. We are proud of the level of commitment we have, because that in turn creates sustainable high performance.

Employees
• Foster team spirit
• Create an inspirational environment
• Communicate openly and honestly
• Respect one another, say thank you
• Be the best we can be

Community
Engage and support the communities we are in

Environment
• Design for stewardship of our world and for future generations
• Do more with less
Sustainability

What sustainability means for BuzziSpace?

Sustainable business is our DNA. From the very beginning, we embrace sustainability in our way of doing things and our mission. The first BuzziProducts came to life by using only recycled or recyclable materials that are both good for the planet and for acoustics.

We aim to make a positive impact on society: from supporting the communities where our employees live and work to funding the talent of current and future generations.

Goals & Aspirations

• We are conscious about the environmental impact and potential for improvement.

• We use sustainable materials and aspire to have smaller environmental footprint.

• We promote sustainability consciousness within the production process, among employees as well as external parties.

• We aim at telling our customers more and more about the materials used in our products, and we are committed to step-by-step increasing our supply chain’s transparency towards the material production.

• We will always strive to improve operating efficiency.

• We continue to live our values and mission to improve health and well-being by creating solutions to meeting the need of the modern workspace.
Sustainable Initiatives

Our values are essential to creating a sustainable future for our people, customers and communities. In order to fulfill our vision, BuzziSpace’ sustainability agenda is focused on three main areas: **our environment, our people** and **our community**

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**OUR ENVIRONMENT**

*We only have one planet.*

So it’s up to each of us to take care of it. For that purpose, we deal carefully with materials, and by generating and using our energy sustainably, taking environmental impact of all stages of the product lifecycle into account.
Sustainable in design

We strive to provide our customers with products that are long-lived. To achieve that, material choices play for us a key role in product design, as they have an impact on the durability of the product and its care.

Sustainable in sourcing material

FELT

We at BuzziSpace have the clear view that the design has to be more than functional. Design should also be ecologically sound. Therefore, the felt, a widely used material for BuzziSpace, is made from recycled PET bottles.

The BuzziFelt is perfect for dampening noise in office spaces as well as in home environments without losing sight of the tactile factor and design quotient. The eco felt or BuzziFelt consists of 100% up-cycled plastic bottle waste.

FABRICS

We developed our own fabric (BuzziFabric) which is the most commonly used fabric for upholstery of BuzziSpace products. BuzziFabric meets the highest standards of quality and durability. BuzziFabric exists of 100% recycled raw materials. The BuzziFabric consists of 70% recycled wool, 25% recycled polyacrylic and 5% recycled rags. High quality plus ecology, after all, remains our motto in everything we do.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BuzziFelt:</th>
<th>100% upcycled plastic bottle waste</th>
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**MOSS**

In 2018, we introduce a **biophilic alternative** to solving acoustic challenges. BuzziMood is a geometric, acoustical wall solution that offers the possibility to combine materials found in nature, like preserved reindeer moss, with upholstered foam pads.

The moss, a naturally occurring absorber of sound, also mitigates noise to create a more focused atmosphere, while simultaneously serving as a natural air humidity indicator. This is living proof that we strive to build sustainability into our everything we do.

**WOOD**

It is sourced from sustainable sources. Most of our wood suppliers have Pan-European Forest Certification chain of custody (PEFC), a system of promotion and voluntary certification of sustainable forest management. In 2019, BuzziSpace will work on full chain-of-custody transparency on this matter.

For instance, BuzziPicnic, our solid and durable wooden table, has been certified in PEFC. In 2019, all the efforts are dedicated to having more and more products to PEFC listed.

Please, see section “Environmental certifications”.

**PACKAGING**

Our packaging is mostly made of recyclable materials (such carton and wood) with both PEFC (Pan-European Forest Certification) and FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification.
MANUFACTURE

Achievements 2018

The sustainable approach is in our blood and runs as a common thread among our operations. Every day we go one step further, striving for the improvement of employees’ work conditions and our carbon footprint.

• Consequently, we banned the use of thinner and othersolvents. We replaced them with products that generate less environmental impact and are healthier for the people involved.

• The glue used during the conventional glueing process contains volatile compounds. Nowadays, it is replaced by an ecologic adhesive film that is applied to foams and fabrics as an extra layer.

Moreover, some of the best technologies for preserving the environment, like solar energy, are already in place. These resources are naturally renewable and capable of providing clean energy for long time. We state here some of our green initiatives that comprise from energy efficiency to energy generation.

• We carried out the installation of shed roofs with solar screens and natural ventilation, resulting in: 200 lamps of 58W each were removed, saving 30,740 KWh on a yearly basis. Moreover, it brings in natural daylight which creates a better working environment and the circulation of fresh air evades the use of air conditioning.

• Installation of heat recuperation equipment: various residual heat from production processes such as cutting and lamination are either recuperated for warming up the spaces during winter, or applied by a heat recovery unit as an energy source.

• New ecological lighting was placed in the production hall, reducing the energy consumption by 40%.
Waste Management

Production waste of foam, one of the most extensively used material for BuzziSpace, is upcycled to new raw material for different purposes.

- It is grinded to focks and reused for productions of our cushions
- It is pressed to plates that are used by other manufacturers in their products or used in the logistic industry as protection material

Other materials such as wood, carton, metal and fabric waste are sorted separately.

Sourcing and logistics

We insist on PEFC and FSC certified materials as part of our sourcing criteria, and we expect all our suppliers to meet those standards. Please, read more in Certifications chapter/section.

BuzziSpace sources most of the products locally, minimizing the environmental and social stress transport brings. 75% of our supplied goods have their origin within a radius of 250 km of our warehouses or manufacturing places.

WAREHOUSE

In 2019, in hand with our business growth, we moved to a new and bigger warehouse in Turnhout (Belgium), be occupying 5,500 m² divided into 3 large halls.

There, most of the electricity comes from green energy as the top roof is fully covered by solar panels. Not only reduce we our energy consumption, but we are also active in producing renewable energy ourselves.

Moreover, new energy-efficient LED-lighting replaced the conventional TL-lighting, combining energy efficiency with costs optimization, as the return of this investment, aligned with our goal to reduce our environmental footprint, will be over a three-year period.
A company is only as strong as its people. Our employees are and remain our main assets. For this reason, and along with our DNA, we value the well-being of our employees.
Education

Education is the key to success in all channels of society. We are committed to enabling our employees to achieve their full potential.

30% of people in our production are non-native Dutch speakers and their level of Dutch is rather limited. Therefore, we provide employees at our manufacturing facilities in Bladel with Dutch courses. It is aimed to foster communications among colleagues as well as contribute to their social interaction in daily life.

They attend a bi-weekly training organized in small groups. Furthermore, during daily work, they get a language-buddy, a colleague that helps them to communicate easily.

Ethics

Acting ethically and transparently is key to building trust and credibility along our supply chain. Transparency means knowing how and where our products are made and sharing that information wherever possible.

Fair & equal

We firmly believe that everyone connected to our activities should be treated in a fair and equal way.

BuzziSpace’s green team

Our commitment starts at home. As part of our goal for reducing the environmental impact as a company, a collective initiative was born as the Green Team, a group of BuzziPeople actively committed to our sustainable journey. The main purpose of the Green Team is to create more opportunities to be sustainable, pursuing practices that can lead to a more environmentally friendly and ecologically responsible way of doing things at BuzziSpace. The team involves employees from every department in the manufacture: Customer Service, Production, Planning, Shipping, Maintenance, and Product Development. Accomplishments in this respect are clearly visible as a result of shared responsibilities in reducing the carbon footprint throughout the company.

In concrete, these initiatives are, among others:

Waste Management:
- Recycle boxes for memo samples
- Appropriate waste disposing, composting and recycling system.
- Donation of felt and fabric scraps

Electricity:
- Encourage the unplugging of computers when they are not in use
- Enable sleep mode and power saver features on computers and other equipment.
- Energy efficient lights: upgrading to LED sensored lighting

Office management:
- Digitalization of invoices, quotations and pay slips.
- Discourage printing and Set printers to print on both sides of paper as a default when necessary
- Use of recycled copy paper
- Organic and locally sourced coffee and tea, and biodegradable table-ware instead of plastic

These green practices contribute to employee’s engagement and make sustainability even more visible and actionable!
OUR COMMUNITY

We are committed to supporting the communities in which we work and live, encouraging our employees to care about and involve themselves. A productive approach of this is reflected in the current initiatives where we operate. This is our positive impact.
Food Forest project initiative: BuzziSpace seeks to address local social challenges

One of our manufacturing facilities is based in High Point, United States. South West High Point has been recognized by the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) as one of the most severe Food Deserts in the US.

A Food Desert exists when particularly nutritious food is difficult to obtain due to availability, affordability, distance, or number of procurement points – typically operationalized as supermarkets – in a given area, urban or rural. This has health and diet implications in individuals living in these areas where nutritious food is not readily available.

As part of BuzziSpace’s core value “engage the communities that we are in” we made a commitment to contribute to solving the problem by transforming a Food Desert into a Food Forest. This initiative seeks to help alleviate the food desert in South West High Point, labeled as one of the most severe food deserts in the US by the USDA.

Through our initiative, Food Forest, BuzziSpace shows off the core values that we live by, engaging and supporting our communities we are in, fostering team spirit, creating an inspirational environment, and designing for stewardship of our world and future generations.

The Food Forest is an organically nurtured ecosystem of edible landscaping with a focus on native plant species. It provides fresh fruits and vegetables for BuzziSpace employees, and encourage and educate them on healthy living.

Eventually, once the forest starts producing more than BuzziSpace can consume, we hope to be able to offer the products to the local neighborhood through partnership with a local store.
Environmental certifications

At BuzziSpace, we implement the following environmental certifications to ensure ethical standards, from raw material production to final product, in consistency with our goal to minimize the impact to the environment.

BuzziSpace is a PEFC certified company (registration nr WOOD.BE-COC-001539). PEFC is the world’s largest forest certification organization. PEFC-certified wood enables companies to assure their customers that wood used in furniture comes from legal and sustainable sources.

In addition to the technical quality and design of a product, consumers are increasingly interested in knowing that a piece of furniture they buy has been responsibly produced. More and more public authorities, companies and large retailers, including end users, are demanding in their specifications that wooden products come from certified well-managed forests.

With PEFC certification, we ensure that timber used in the manufacture of our products originates from sustainable sources, and that these credentials can be passed on by the implementation of our own chain of custody systems.

All our wood is originated from sustainable forests. Our first product having end-to-end PEFC Chain of Custody certification is BizziPicnic. During 2019 other families will be certified under the chain of custody management system.
BuzziSpace fully complies with this new progressive US law, restricting flame retardants and chemical compounds in upholstered furniture, reupholstered furniture and juvenile products.

San Francisco was the first city in the US to restrict flame retardants. Its ordinance defines how the fire safety requirements for upholstered furniture can be achieved without adding flame retardant chemicals, which impact human health or development.

The law applies to all upholstered products—defined as furniture which can be used as a support for the body of a human being, or his or her limbs and feet when sitting or resting in an upright or reclining position. Since we are convinced that this Californian ordinance will be a leading example worldwide, we switched our complete portfolio for all customers around the world.

The products that fall under the law and are delivered to the Californian region are affixed with a label that states that the item does not contain Flame Retardant Chemicals. This label is easy to remove without leaving any marks.

BuzziSpace bans the use of hazardous components in products and during their production. Instead, we use materials that have a low level of Volatile Organic Compounds. In this way, we take care of both people involved in the manufacture of our products as well as the end users.

The certification as proof of this is available for a vast selection of products and can be consulted on our website.
Awards & Recognitions

OVAM Ecodesign Award PRO

OVAM is a Flemish government agency that ensures that we deal with waste, materials and soil in a well thoughtout and environmentally-friendly manner in Flanders. The ‘OVAM Ecodesign Award PRO’ rewards professional designers and companies for their environmental efforts. In 2009, three of our products were honored with this award: BuzziScreen, BuzziZone and BuzziBoard.

Henry van de Velde Awards

The Henry van de Velde Awards are the biggest design awards in Belgium. These awards shows and laurels both national and international Flemish designers, companies, products, projects and services that have a positive impact on the economy and society from a design and solution point of view. BuzziSpace was honored with Henry Van de Velde Award in its ‘Company’ category, for having a positive impact on the economy and society through our high-end design. We were recognized for achieving good sound absorption solutions, through our material and our design. BuzziSpace’s material stands out for having ecological credentials: from the eco BuzziFelt to the BuzziFabric, which contains 70% recycled wool, 25% recycled polyacrylic and 5% recycled rags.
Thank you