

Sustainability

Schweiter Technologies with its 3A Composites business stands for a sustainable future. The company develops, manufactures and markets high-quality composites, plastic sheets, foamboards as well as core materials based on balsa wood and PET foam. These products are not only robust and sturdy but also use resources efficiently. Their light-weight design is instrumental in reducing CO₂ emissions and lowering energy consumption. The materials from Schweiter Technologies are used in visual communication (displays), architecture, wind energy, construction, ship-building, and the automotive sector.



Protection of human health and the environment at all Schweiter sites



Sustainable and efficient use of resources across the entire production cycle



Protection of the cultural heritage of communities in the countries and regions in which the company operates



Compliance with local legislation, rules and regulations and the internal Schweiter provisions (Code of Conduct)

Protection of human health and the environment

Fundamental to the innovation strategy of Schweiter Technologies is a concern for environmental issues and the related efforts to protect human health and to use resources efficiently.

The systematic and sustainable protection of natural resources and of the environment is of crucial importance to Schweiter Technologies. Schweiter applies stricter rules than are customary or required in the industry. The 3A Composites Core Materials business is an international pioneer in harvesting balsa wood from FSC®-certified plantations; in fact, it was the first core materials manufacturer to receive FSC® certification back in 2010.

Main pillars of the sustainability strategy

Responsible conduct is one of the fundamental values of the corporate culture at Schweiter Technologies, a globally operating corporation. Sustainable commitments – economic, ecological and social – are fundamental corporate goals. For Schweiter Technologies being a reliable partner for its customers, employees and suppliers as well as for its shareholders and the public needs no explanation. The corporation thus aims at a holistic sustainability strategy in which it sets the following priorities:

Schweiter Technologies' own forestry companies cultivate several thousand hectares of FSC®-certified balsa wood in Ecuador (FSC-C019065) and Papua New Guinea (FSC-C125018). It adheres strictly to the principle of not clearing rain forests for new plantings, thus respecting nature, the forests, and water resources.

You can find further information at the following link: <https://www.3accoremateriale.com/de/about>

**13 250 ha
of FSC®-
certified
plantations**

The discussion surrounding hazardous materials has intensified in recent years and has become a significant criterion for customers when making decisions. The gradual introduction of the REACH

regulation (governing the registration and authorization of chemicals) has brought about a far-ranging restructuring of European chemicals policy, with the main aim being to protect human health and the environment. 3A Composites sees its top priority in the elimination of all hazardous processes and materials – substrates are only manufactured from raw materials that do not pose any risk for humans or the environment.

The three manufacturing facilities of 3A Composites in Germany and Switzerland have for many years been certified to ISO 14001, which defines the global requirements for environmental management. By closely linking the management systems for quality (ISO 9001), environmental protection (ISO 14001), and occupational safety (OHSAS 18001), 3A Composites has been able to smoothly integrate environmental tasks into its operating processes. These industry standards have been bundled together in a company-wide management system in the Safety, Health and Environmental Protection unit; the system is implemented globally at all 3A Composites sites. The program created by the company as a voluntary measure in 2003 now encompasses far more than just compliance with standards, focusing in particular on promoting a mindset of responsible conduct among all employees.

Waste avoidance, recycling and improving resource efficiency

A major priority for Schweiter Technologies is to make the various stages of production as environmentally friendly as possible. The focus is on resource efficiency and the systematic avoidance of waste. The recycling of raw materials in the manufacturing process and the recovery of production waste have been standard practice at Schweiter Technologies for years.

In Switzerland, 3A Composites has undertaken to increase energy efficiency and to significantly reduce specific CO₂ emissions at its Sins facility (Aargau) in the period from 2013-2020 for the manufacture of its leading brands AIREX® and FOREX®. It has significantly improved its environmental footprint through targeted measures that are designed on the one hand to reduce energy and water consumption and scale back waste and on the other to improve recycling systems.

The launch of the new AIREX® T92 foam series in 2019 marked a further milestone in the company's efforts to develop more environmentally friendly manufacturing. More than eight years ago,

Balsa plantations, 3A Composites PNG, Papua New Guinea



3A Composites brought to market the world's first CO₂-neutral core material, BALTEK® SBC-Balsa. Now, with the new AIREX® T92 foam series, it has succeeded, in addition to producing a foam core based on new PET material, in bringing out a PET foam core with excellent material properties using recycled PET bottles.

In China, a new strategic procurement program was launched in 2018 with the aim of ensuring that packaging suppliers of 3A Composites reduce their CO₂ emissions, minimize packaging waste, and increase efficiency by standardizing packaging sizes.

In the USA, at the High Point (North Carolina) site, the company set itself the goal in the past three years of achieving waste-free production and increasing energy efficiency.

In Ecuador, 3A Composites received the United Nations Global Compact Award in 2017 for projects designed to reduce CO₂ emissions and promote sustainable land use.

In Papua New Guinea, it introduced a new waste system in 2017 that makes it possible to recycle five tons of manufacturing waste a day that is generated in wood production. This has enabled the company not only to reduce dust emissions by 85% but also to scale back CO₂ emissions.

Protection of communities' cultural heritage

3A Composites is committed not only to conserving the natural environment but also to preserving and protecting the cultural heritage of communities in the countries and regions in which it operates. It is important to create a feeling of belonging among the employees and their families in Papua New Guinea and Ecuador, where 3A Composites cultivates and processes balsa wood, and to improve the quality of life in the communities.

In Papua New Guinea, for instance, the company has supported the construction of three kindergartens for more than 50 pre-school age children; in China, it provides targeted support of subsidized housing for the elderly. One of the principles of Schweiter Technologies is to ensure that its employees are paid appropriate and fair wages in all the countries in which the company operates.

**over 50
pre-school age
children received
free education
in Papua
New Guinea**

In Ecuador and Papua New Guinea, it actively supports campaigns of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) that are designed to raise environmental awareness, so as to create a better understanding of the FSC principles and values and to promote sustainable forestry.

You can find further information at the following link: www.3acorematerials.com/de/communities

Compliance with local legislation and code of conduct

Schweiter Technologies operates through its 3A Composites division in various countries in which it strictly complies with local legislation, regulations, and provisions. In addition, it has adopted a global code of conduct that applies throughout the company. The Code is binding on the Board of Directors, management, and employees as well as on the consultants and suppliers that work together with Schweiter Technologies.

The company's Global Code of Conduct can be accessed through the following link on the website: www.schweiter.ch/s1a203/corporate-governance/code-of-conduct.html