SUSTAINABILITY POLICY (V1.0)

BEYOND CLAIMS, TOWARDS MEASURABLE IMPACT

NEXSTAR

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1. Purpose and Scope

This policy defines our approach to sustainability across **environmental responsibility, governance, materials selection, manufacturing practices, and supply-chain accountability.**

As a materials engineering company, we recognize both the **impact** and the **responsibility** inherent in polymer processing. Our intent is not to claim perfection, but to operate transparently, lawfully, and responsibly - making measurable improvements where they matter most.

2. Context and Rationale

Public discussions on PFAS contamination underscore an important point: sustainability failures are often externalized to communities and ecosystems. In a UN Human Rights Office press release dated 21 February 2024, independent UN experts raised concerns regarding PFAS contamination (commonly referred to as “forever chemicals”) affecting residents along the lower Cape Fear River in North Carolina.

Scientific research increasingly shows that environmental risks are rarely isolated. Microplastics (MPs) and persistent chemicals (PFAS) can coexist and interact in complex ways, with environmental aging and local water chemistry influencing how contaminants are transported, accumulated, or re-released over time. These interactions reinforce the **need for precaution, process discipline, and governance** - rather than **selective disclosure** or **superficial claims.**

This policy is therefore grounded in a simple principle: **sustainable and inclusive governance is a choice - not a scale advantage, nor a barrier to scale.**

3. Our Position as a Plastics Processing Company

We are a plastics processing company. We melt and reshape polymer granules into engineered paintbrush fibers. Many conventional polymers originate from fossil resources and inherently carry a high upstream carbon footprint. We do not deny this reality, nor do we dilute it through selective narratives.

Our sustainability commitment is therefore focused on what we can **directly control and verify:**

- Clean and compliant manufacturing.
- Responsible chemistry.
- Waste and effluent discipline.
- Material innovation with real, certified impact.
- Transparent disclosure without data obfuscation.

We do not overwhelm stakeholders with **excessive metrics,** nor rely on **legally valid** but **ethically hollow** justifications.

4. Chemical Processing and Effluent Responsibility

Within the paintbrush industry, certain fiber performance characteristics can be achieved through **chemical surface treatments,** including controlled etching that alters surface roughness and wettability. These processes involve **strong alkaline chemistry** and generate **high-pH effluent** requiring proper neutralization and treatment before disposal.

Our policy is clear:

- Technical feasibility - not commercial convenience - guides our approach. Where technically feasible, we **avoid hazardous chemical surface treatments,** and most of our products are manufactured without chemical surface modification.

- Where any chemical process is to be used, it must operate under:

    - Closed and controlled handling.
    - Documented neutralization and treatment.
    - Compliance with applicable discharge regulations.
    - Auditable records and traceability.

- We do not support **uncontrolled disposal practices,** direct discharge, or environmental shortcuts, whether in-house or through outsourcing.

Sustainability risk is not eliminated by shifting it elsewhere in the value chain.

5. Materials and Product Design

We actively invest in **material efficiency and lower-impact alternatives,** including bio-attributed and bio-based polymers where feedstocks do not conflict with food security.

Bio nylons historically suffered from performance limitations such as poor bend recovery, restricting their real world applicability. Through sustained internal R&D over multiple years, we have significantly improved performance characteristics while retaining meaningful bio content.

We disclose bio content **only where it is supported by third-party certification** and do not make unverifiable or aspirational claims.

6. Environmental Management

Our environmental practices are guided by prevention rather than remediation:

- No uncontrolled industrial discharge.
- Responsible handling of process waste and scrap.
- Energy use monitored and progressively optimized.
- Emissions measured before targets are declared.

We commit to publishing an **initial product-level carbon intensity baseline (kg CO_2e per kg of product)** based on our internal measurements, followed by accredited third-party review and validation.

7. Governance Philosophy

Sustainability is not a branding exercise, nor a reporting volume contest. It is a governance discipline.

Our approach emphasizes:

- Clear accountability.
- Documented processes.
- Legal compliance across jurisdictions.
- Decisions that remain defensible under scrutiny.

High standards are intentional - not inherited, and not dependent on our small company size.

8. Transparency and Disclosure

We believe transparency means clarity, not excess. Accordingly:

- Claims will be specific, measurable, and verifiable.
- Certifications will be stated only where applicable.
- Targets will be disclosed with timelines and responsibility.
- Limitations and trade-offs will not be concealed.

9. Continuous Improvement

Sustainability is an evolving process. We commit to:

- Periodic review of this policy.
- Updating material choices as technology advances.
- Improving data quality and coverage over time.
- Engaging constructively with customers, auditors, and partners.

10. Closing Statement

In an industry where sustainability outcomes are often disconnected from commercial rewards, we choose a different path - not because it is easy, but because it is responsible and ultimately resilient.

Sustainable and inclusive governance is a choice - not a scale advantage, nor a barrier to scale.