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CRAFTED by Tudor Tiles

Sustainability Policy

Ethos Statement

Tudor Roof Tiles understands that a fundamental of being a responsible business is its focus on manufacturing sustainable products, whilst reducing the impact it has on the environment. Tudors Directors actively ensure all business decisions take into account both ethical and sustainable principles.

Principles

Sustainability within the building materials industry is about achieving products that are 'green' in that they use resources as efficiently and effectively as possible, are durable and long lasting, and add to the environment in which they are used.

In 2004, the Government formed Sustainable Buildings Task Group published a number of recommendations. These included:

- Protecting the environment
- Prudent use of natural resources
- Maintenance of stable levels of growth and employment

Further to these, the foremost independent experts at BRE Global (Building Research Establishment) designate clay roof tiles as an 'A+' rating indicating the level of least environmental impact. This information is used by BREEAM and CLG in their environmental assessments of buildings.

Sustainable Profile

Extraction

Clay quarries and sand quarries which supply Tudor are verified to having a high level of environmental and sustainable compliance.

The clay used in Tudor tiles is from the Potteries. This is delivered by road, but each lorry has a return load from other customers close to Tudor in order to minimise the fuel impact.

Sand used to mix with the clay is 'waste' sand left over by a local quarry supplying graded building sand.

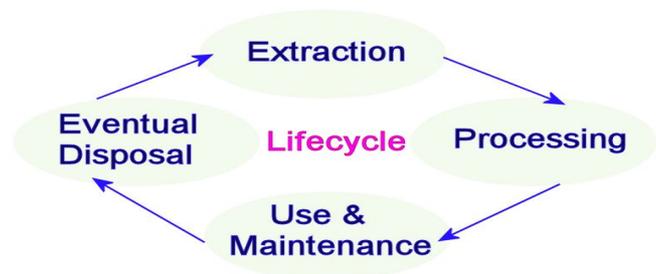
Sand used on the face is also local sand, and the addition of a small amount of ceramic stain is used in preference to bringing sand in from other countries.

The impact use of raw materials is kept to a minimum by recycling 95% of all unfired sand and clay waste.

Processing

Tudor factory is now managed to have 'nil waste' unused. To this end we recycle (re-use) 95% of all unfired clay and sand, and water used includes rain water. These are ongoing projects which are seen as having both environmental and financial benefits.

100% of our fired waste is taken by local organisations including farmers, allotment holders, builders and the RSPB reserve at Dungeness, for use in maintaining local tracks and unadopted roadways.



Natural gas is used to fuel the kilns, which fire the tiles to 1100 Degree C. Tudor invested over £500,000 to build a new kiln which was designed to use 15% less fuel, and therefore emit 15% less carbons into the atmosphere. This kiln also gives Tudor tiles even more durability and life expectancy.

Electricity used within the factory is currently under our energy saving focus, and we make use of 997 solar panels on the factory roof in order to minimise utilities supplied electricity.

Future energy savings will be obtained by warming the tile dryers using waste heat from the kiln.

Packaging of the tiles ready for despatch to customers has also been reduced to a minimalist level. All pallets are wood, and are pre-used before Tudor. Strapping and pallet bags are also made using a high level of recycled material, plus each is made to bio degrade easily. This makes them suitable for sustainable land fill disposal.

Deliveries to customers is by road, and every effort is made to combine orders to fill the truck, and journeys are planned to minimise the miles travelled. As we use contracted hauliers, they are better able to obtain return loads from other non related companies. This ensures the most effective use of the truck and fuel.

Hand made tiles obviously use people power in preference to machines. Each person at Tudor, no matter what job they do, is encouraged to suggest energy saving and process improvements. These improvements will also save costs, and these savings are demonstrably re-invested into the factory and its products, thereby also providing long term employment and job security.

Tudor Roof Tiles management are committed to Continuous Improvement and Responsible Sourcing within all parts of our business. The Culture adopted is one of employee involvement and work practices that comply with our commitment to our customers and our stakeholders alike.

The factory has become an important part of the local community, a fact that we are proud of.

Use & Maintenance

As one of the oldest roof coverings within the UK, clay has proven itself to be at the forefront of sustainability and aesthetics.

Peg tiles sizes were standardised in 1477 AD, and very little has changed up to the modern day, apart from the addition of 'nibs' (plain tiles) to make fixing easier. This history is testament to:

Clay tile durability.

Weather resistance.

Insulating capacity.

Ability to be used on a wide range of roof designs.

Longevity.

Ability to 'weather' and 'age' in appearance due to surrounding environment influences.

Choice of textures and colours to aesthetically harmonise with the local surroundings.

Roof covering of choice by environmentalists and conservationists.

Eventual Disposal

BRE Global (Building Research Establishment) assume a life span of 60 years in their calculations for clay tiles, but many examples exist of tiles still in service after 120 years. Second-hand clay roof tiles are regularly re-used on renovation projects, and are if fact a sought after (and expensive) commodity.

Tudor Roof Tile Co. Ltd. was formed in 1987, so we have yet to have examples of our tiles spanning centuries, however, we are confident of longevity due to the disciplines and controls used throughout the manufacturing process.

When finally reduced to rubble, clay roof tiles are used as aggregate within new building projects, and this continues their sustainable value by reducing the need for new excavation of aggregate stone.