

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025



Innovation every day

ington

Building a Sustainable Journey Together

Introduction to the 2025 Sustainability Report

In 2024, EPL proudly celebrated 50 years of innovation, a milestone that reflects our long-standing commitment to delivering high-performance solutions while continually evolving to meet the needs of our customers, communities, and the environment. Over five decades, EPL has grown from a New Zealand-based innovator into a recognised leader in polymers and elastomers, guided by values of responsibility, creativity, and care for future generations.

Sustainability continues to be at the heart of how we design, manufacture, and operate. While we have not yet published formal, quantified reduction targets to the public, our direction is clear: we are committed to environmental responsibility through tangible initiatives, active participation in global frameworks, and continuous improvement across our operations.

Our approach is grounded in several key commitments:

- **Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** We prioritise five SDGs where EPL's actions can deliver the most meaningful environmental and social impact.



GOOD HEALTH
& WELL-BEING



DECENT WORK
& ECONOMIC
GROWTH



INDUSTRY,
INNOVATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE



SUSTAINABLE
CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES



RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION &
PRODUCTION

- **Waste Reduction and Recycling:** We actively measure and manage our waste streams, reducing consumption, recycling materials, and reusing scrap in production whenever possible.
- **Product Stewardship:** Through initiatives such as reusable stillages and our **PolyCycle® spools**—designed for multiple-use return systems, we reduce reliance on single-use packaging and embed circular economy principles into our business.
- **Sustainable Product Design:** We design with the full lifecycle in mind, ensuring our products are durable, recyclable, degradable, and reusable.
- **Community Partnership:** EPL continues to support local environmental restoration projects, including native tree planting, park regeneration, and community clean-ups.

Innovation remains central to how we advance our sustainability goals. We have developed **next-generation biopolymer solutions**, combining material science with environmental performance to deliver biodegradable and bio-based compounds without compromising strength or durability. Our **PolyCycle™ products**, made from recycled and recyclable polymers, are another example of innovation driving sustainability in practice, providing customers with closed-loop solutions that extend product life while reducing environmental impact.

As we reflect on 50 years of innovation and progress, we recognise that our responsibility to the environment and community is ongoing. The journey ahead requires partnership, creativity, and perseverance and EPL is committed to playing its part.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we build a more sustainable future together.

Gareth Innes

Gareth Innes
General Manager, Sales & Marketing Manager



Key Highlights

Our commitment to making a difference extends outside of our business and into our community.



**CANTERBURY
AND WEST COAST
RESCUE HELICOPTER**

**NZME
CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PARTY**



1000+

**PLANT PROTECTORS
DONATED TO DATE**

IN 2024 WE USED

+233

**TONNES OF
RECYCLED
MATERIAL**



**WE TOOK THE
EQUIVALENT OF**

**1.8
MILLION**

**MILK BOTTLES OF WASTE AND
TURNED THEM INTO PRODUCTS**

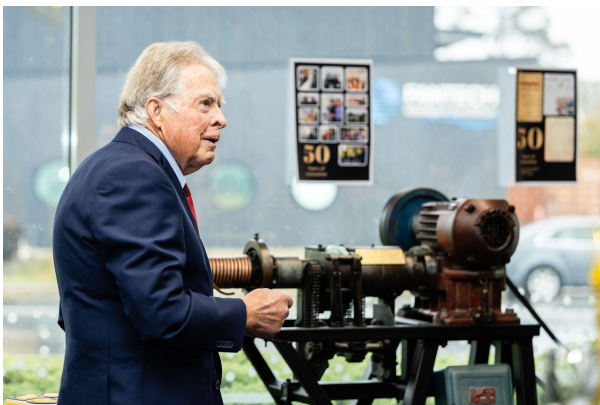
Celebrating 50 years of Innovation

Elastomer Products Limited was founded in 1974 and in 2024 we celebrated 50 years of innovation.

We would like to thank you for supporting EPL during our journey and we look forward to working with you over the next 50 years.



Tom Thomson (First employee and current owner) and Jerry O'Neil (EPL Founder)



Jerry O'Neil - EPL Founder

As part of our celebrations we had a celebration for our team.

As part of this the engineering team refurbished our very first silicone extruder that Jerry O'Neil designed and constructed in his house in 1974. It was revolutionary for the time and set the tone for innovations at EPL.



Putting sustainability at the fore.



At EPL, we're dedicated to making a positive impact on our environment. Through our recent investments in equipment, we've achieved a remarkable 24% reduction in waste. But our commitment doesn't stop there.

Last year, we increased the use of external recycled material, using 223 tonnes (up 1.4%). We used over 1.8 million recycled milk bottles that were incorporated into our products.

Any waste designated for landfill is meticulously pre-sorted by our partner, ensuring we minimise the amount of waste that actually reaches the landfill. This is just one of the many steps we're taking to promote sustainability.

PolyCycle® Spools

The PolyCycle® spool is part of EPL's innovative product stewardship scheme, designed to minimize waste by replacing single-use cardboard spools with a durable, reusable alternative. Customers who join the scheme simply return empty or broken PolyCycle® spools to EPL, where the company regrinds and recycles the material to manufacture new spools or other products, reducing landfill waste and promoting resource circularity. The spools offer a seamless transition for buyers, as they match the size and capacity of previous cardboard versions and require no equipment modifications. For convenience, EPL provides return boxes for efficient stackable storage and transport, making the program accessible and easy to adopt while supporting sustainability in packaging practices.



Community Planting

Te Awa Kura (Barnett Park) in Redcliffs, Christchurch, stands out as an area of intense historical, cultural, and ecological significance, currently undergoing major community-led greening and restoration initiatives. EPL are proud to support Te Awa Kura Barnett Park Regreening Group & their vision is to restore the Barnett Park Valley with a native forest running from Sea to Summit.



Early Māori Settlement:

Te Awa Kura has been home to tangata whenua for about 700 years, with successive settlement by Waitaha, Ngāti Māmoē, and later Ngāi Tahu. Its name highlights the area's unique volcanic red cliffs. Extensive evidence of Māori habitation—including tool and bone artefacts—has been found at Moa Bone Point Cave (Te Ana o Hineraki), marking Redcliffs as one of New Zealand's most important archaeological areas for understanding early Polynesian life

European Era and Military Use:

European colonisation in the 1840s led to deforestation for grazing. By the early 20th century, the land hosted military and recreational activities, including the Redcliffs Rifle Range (opened 1902), later renamed Barnett Park in the 1960s. During WWI and WWII, Barnett Park served as a site for troop training and local medical support



Ecological Features and Pressures

The area borders Moncks Bay, the Te Ihutai/Avon-Heathcote Estuary, and contains mixed usage and vegetation, serving as a buffer for native species. The park's hills and stream valleys are vulnerable to erosion and invasive species, while local grazing (sheep/cattle) contributes to water quality concerns due to runoff.



The Te Awa Kura Barnett Park Regreening Group, together with the Redcliffs Residents Association, have mobilised local volunteers for ecological restoration. Their work includes:

- Controlling invasive weeds (Banana Passionfruit, Pigs Ear, Boneseed).
- Trapping and controlling predators.
- Planting native eco-sourced flora, helping restore natural habitats for birds and invertebrates, with special focus from the estuary to summit.
- These efforts aim to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and increase biodiversity. Restoration also includes riparian planting along streams to stabilise banks and filter contaminants, particularly critical given the park's proximity to urban housing and livestock-grazed lands.

EPL Supplied over
1000
Plant protectors



SUPPLY CHAIN

EPL actively monitors the sustainability performance of its supply chain, addressing environmental, social, and ethical issues through structured policies, codes of conduct, and ongoing evaluation.

Key Issues Monitored

Environmental Management: EPL requires suppliers to adhere to environmental management standards, including waste reduction, recycling, and the use of sustainable materials.

Legal and Ethical Compliance: Suppliers must comply with all relevant legal requirements and ethical business practices.

Human Rights and Labour Practices: EPL's Supplier Sustainability Code of Conduct is based on international standards, including the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ensuring respect for human rights and fair labour practices throughout the supply chain.



Ongoing Compliance: Compliance with the Code of Conduct is a condition for doing business with EPL, and EPL expects suppliers to ensure their own supply chains also meet these standards.

Industry Initiatives: EPL participates in industry sustainability programs (such as the Plastics New Zealand Sustainability Initiative) and collaborates with partners to reduce waste and improve recycling rates.

Closing the Loop Case Study

EPL and B&D Doors Partner for Sustainable Garage Door Manufacturing Through Waste Reduction and Circular Recycling

The Challenge

B&D Doors, a local manufacturer distributing garage doors through a nationwide dealer network, faced excessive factory waste and product damage during shipping. Approximately 80 garage door panels required replacement annually due to damage from packaging interactions, compounding material waste concerns



Solution

EPL and B&D Doors redesigned the bottom door seal by dividing it into two separate components, the rigid contoured section and a flexible section—allowing more robust shipping and handling. Offcuts from the rigid PVC section were collected and returned to EPL, where stringent quality controls ensured they were uncontaminated before granulation and reprocessing into new products. This closed-loop recycling reduced virgin plastic use and prevented offcuts from entering landfills.

Implementation

EPL's technical and development capabilities enabled rapid prototyping and testing of multiple solutions, ensuring the final product was functional and durable. The collaboration also fostered ongoing process refinement, with quick sample production helping identify and address any issues before mass deployment.

Results and Impact

- Product redesign eliminated the need to remake damaged panels, reducing annual replacements by around 80 units
- Reuse and recycling of PVC offcuts contributed to material cost savings and landfill diversion.
- Robust quality control systems minimized contamination risks, supporting high-quality recycled products.
- The joint project advanced both companies' sustainability goals and demonstrated the value of iterative collaboration for circular economy outcomes.



Future Direction

EPL and B&D Doors plan to expand this approach to more products, focusing continuously on “return, reuse, recycle,” fortifying the circular plastics industry and setting new standards for reduced manufacturing waste.

Our Values

Innovating to secure a sustainable future
for our people, our product, our planet.



Everyone's wellness and safety matters

We act with dignity and respect, think big, have fun and do good. All the while, ensuring we never compromise on safety and everyone is accountable for each other.



Together we make the difference

We are collaborators who work well with others. And we build open and honest relationships through communication and accountability.



Think creatively, think differently

We encourage the curiosity and creativity that breeds innovation. We are bold in trying, fast in learning, and hungry to challenge the status quo to find new ways to make a difference.



Do it once, do it right, make it count

Quality is key. We master the fundamentals and strive for excellence in everything we do to ensure everyone wins.



Pride for our product and our planet

We aim to go over and above 'reduce, reuse, recycle' by designing sustainability into our systems, process and products.



New Zealand

Head Office

60 Kennaway Road,
Portlink, Christchurch 8023,
New Zealand

DDI +64 3 389 2125

FAX +64 3 389 2230

Auckland

300 Richmand Road,
Grey Lynn, Auckland 1021,
New Zealand

DDI +64 9 274 4052

FAX +64 3 389 2230

info@eplgroup.com

eplgroup.com