



Economic Benefits

Facility Owners and Managers – The economic benefits to owners and managers using environmentally friendly formaldehyde-free particleboard are becoming more apparent every day. Because many employees spend long hours indoors at their place of employment, much attention is being given to indoor air quality in public buildings, healthcare facilities, schools, office buildings, etc. Health is of economic importance because illnesses can affect employee work performance. Studies have shown that school students have great attention and learning capabilities and employees are more productive in “Green Buildings”

Retailers – From small shops to large corporate chain stores, retailers are finding their return-on-investment for using environmentally friendly emission free building materials by providing a healthy environment for their employees to work and their customers to shop. These environments are free of VOC's and the smell of formaldehyde, as well as the possibility of health effects including irritation that can occur in some people when exposed to these VOC's.

No business manager wants irritated customers. Retailers will all tell you that the more comfortable a store is and the better the overall shopping experience for the consumer the more likely any given customer is to spend more and return to the store in the future. Retailers are boosting corporate images through environmental initiatives and their message to the public. The more customers become aware of the health and environmental concerns associated with building materials the more they will use this knowledge to select retail stores for their purchases.

Manufacturers – Manufacturing companies can see greater net profits with environmentally friendly emission free particleboard through higher margins from users paying premium for green products and by increasing sales to new customers desiring these materials. There is little doubt that the industry is going green. To remain competitive the products of the future must utilize sustainable design criteria. Most marketing executives will tell you that the first companies to market timely new features and products will make the greatest impact and gain the most market share in these given areas.

Many government furniture, cabinetry and general woodworking projects require recycled material content and low emissions. This can result in a manufacturer that utilizes environmentally friendly emission free particleboard to be awarded government contracts even though they may not be the low bidder.

Furniture, fixtures, cabinetry, casegoods and displays manufactured with environmentally friendly emissions-free particleboard can qualify for many more LEED points. Qualifying for more LEED points can result in more sales and or greater margins.

There are also significant advantages and cost saving to be realized on the shop floor with agricultural based particleboard. Many users report increased tool life versus that of wood-based particleboard. Because shop floor employees are sawing, machining, drilling and processing wood-based particleboard they are releasing substantially more urea formaldehyde into the atmosphere exposing themselves to greater health risks than if they used formaldehyde-free particleboard. Shop floor productivity and employee recruitment efforts are better in factories that have clean working environments.

Contractors and Architects – There is no question of the economic benefit to be derived by savvy contractors and architects that understand how to design and build facilities that have high indoor air quality and integrate environmentally friendly materials into these structures. Experience with LEED, sustainable materials, fixtures, casegoods, architectural millwork, along with a reference list of green building projects is critical for landing future projects for this group of corporations and individuals.

Disposal Costs - There are costs associated with disposing particleboard containing urea formaldehyde. Products manufactured with agricultural based particleboard with an MDI Binder in place have significantly greater after-life utilization. Agricultural based particleboard can be ground and safely landfill where it will naturally decompose. It can be ground and reintroduced into the board making process. It can be ground and compacted into pellets for use in heat/power burning generators. This is especially important for corporations that frequently remodel such as retail stores, commercial office buildings, restaurants, hotels, etc.

Homeowners – The economic benefits to the homeowner for using environmentally friendly formaldehyde-free particleboard are more difficult to quantify but do exist. Health is of economic importance because illnesses can affect quality of life, medical expenses and can impact work performance as well as an individual's ability to earn an income.

As there becomes more awareness of the risks associated with exposure to irritants and carcinogens the more critical the selection process becomes for the homeowner when choosing building materials for new and remodeling projects. Homes and facilities containing lead paint, asbestos, volatile organic compounds, etc. will demand significantly less resale value and could also carry higher insurance premiums and occupancy costs. A significant reduction in building and operating costs can also be realized by lessening the HVAC requirements of a home to evacuate VOC's.

LEED – The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Members of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) representing all segments of the building industry developed LEED and continue to contribute to its evolution.



LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED recognizes achievements and promotes expertise in green building through a comprehensive system offering project certification, professional accreditation, training and practical resources.

To learn more about LEED, visit the following links:

USGBC Link www.usgbc.org

LEED Link www.usgbc.org/LEED/leed_main.asp

Exposure to Lawsuits – It is far more productive to focus on the positive aspect of responsible materials, however it is impossible in this day and age for an executive not to consider the legal exposure from the materials that we select to use in our companies. You know it's going to happen. Whether you are a facility owner, design engineer, architect, furniture manufacturer, healthcare operator, etc. it just makes good economic sense to select environmentally friendly emission free materials. Stewardship is everyone's responsibility. Without the leadership of business owners and executives driving sustainable manufacturing practices and products it will be difficult to leave our children and grandchildren an opportunity to thrive and prosper. At Sorm, Incorporated we provide materials and solutions to corporations that enable them the ability to maintain or convert their products into greener more responsible goods and services.

Agricultural based particleboard is core to Sorm products. This particleboard is manufactured from annually renewable resources such as wheat straw and sunflower hulls. Other particleboard and MDF utilize wood resources for their core material. Our products are "tree-free" and provide an environmental alternative to wood-based products. Utilizing agricultural based particleboard helps preserve the world's forests and air quality. Even the very best foresting practices do not compare with a product such as ours. The straw that we purchase and use would be either burned by farmers emitting high levels of CO² and other gasses into the atmosphere or tilled back into the field which is becoming a less appealing option for farmers given the increase in yield from today's new farming techniques. The sunflower hulls that we utilize are a waste product that would be sent to a landfill.

It can be a very difficult to transform a manufacturing plant into a sustainable manufacturing facility. Products from Sorm provide companies the ability to focus on sustainable practices without a complete rewrite of the manufacturing model. Our particleboard works as good as or better than wood-based particleboard in the plant for sawing, machining, drilling, laminating, etc.

Our materials are highly recyclable and can be recycled at any point during the manufacturing process at our facility, during further processing at manufacturing facilities around the world or as a finished product at the end of it's useful life. Agricultural particleboard can be ground into mulch for soil and seed retention, pellets for heat/power generators and much more. It can also be delivered whole or in part back to the earth for naturally decomposition.



Strategic Partnerships.
Green Solutions.

7975 180 R Avenue SE Wahpeton, ND 58075 701-642-3286 www.sorm.com