

Albion Clothing (2019)

Social & Environmental Policy

ALBION CLOTHING
2019 LIMITED

The Why -

We believe in a balanced approach to business that is good to people and good to the planet. Cactus Outdoor only acquired Albion Clothing in 2019 but over its 45-year history, Albion has been laser-focused on reducing the negative environmental and social impacts of apparel manufacturing by supporting the retention of local jobs, reducing the length of apparel supply chains and reducing raw material wastage in apparel production.

We believe that a sustainability policy should capture both human and environmental impacts and initiatives, in order to encourage a more holistic approach towards business.

Environmental Footprint -

We are well aware that the broader apparel industry is environmentally impactful - both from the CO2 emissions perspective, and from environmental degradation caused via the manufacturing process. Our focus is on making high-quality garments that will last a very long time - this approach (the antithesis of "fast fashion") is the most impactful thing the apparel sector can do to reduce its environmental footprint.

As a local manufacturer serving local corporate and Government customers, our products travel only a short distance from our facility to our customers. What we do in turn enables these larger organisations to drive more positive impacts from their procurement decisions.

We are a small company but continuously look to how we can be net beneficial to people and the planet. As a registered Social Enterprise, we think deeply about our impacts, and see ourselves as part of a force for positive change.

We believe that one of the most impactful things we can do to reduce the environmental impact of the products we make is to reduce impacts of extended supply chains, and always look to reduce the wastage involved in our work. An example of how we tackle textile waste is our advanced manufacturing software and computerized fabric cutting technologies which optimise material usage to reduce the amount of scrap fabric created. Much of our scrap offcuts are repurposed downstream into other products such as making Merino beanies from offcuts of other Merino garments.

Our electricity comes from 100% renewable sources and we recycle all heat and steam within our facility. We recently replaced our steam boiler (a critical element used in pressing the majority of our garments) with a low energy unit. We have a proactive programme in place to reduce energy consumption further through passive cooling and retrofitting of low-energy light fittings for example.

Local Manufacturing / NZ made -

Over the past decades, we have watched as manufacturer after manufacturer either moves production offshore or ceases to operate altogether. By being physically so close to our supply chain, social and environmental impacts of production are always at the front of our mind.

Everything Albion Clothing produces is proudly made in our own Christchurch factory. This gives us complete control over our production but, more importantly, provides ongoing employment for the staff who contribute to the supply of uniforms for New Zealand government agencies and garments for private businesses. Having an entirely in-house team ensures we have full control over our supply chain and are not bound or limited by sub-contractors or third-party suppliers.

As a New Zealand manufacturer, we are bound by some of the strictest labour and environmental standards in the world and, in addition, we employ a large proportion of immigrants and refugees and are proud to be giving these individuals the opportunity to create a new life for themselves and their whanau in Aotearoa. We have also partnered with the Ministry of Social Development to provide employment and retraining opportunities to long-term unemployment persons.

Ethical Sourcing & Sustainability through the supply chain -

We work closely with our fabric and trim suppliers to ensure that all componentry consistently meets our high standards. As a company whose values insist that our garments last the distance, this is of absolute importance for the way we run our business.

With constant communication between us, our supply chain, and our customers we can deliver exceptional service and supply quality garments made from quality materials. We work predominantly with third party textile and componentry suppliers who guarantee their supply chain is ethical and meets all New Zealand and international laws as well as providing test reports, audit information and factory certificates when requested.

