

public space

An unconventionally

Green Solution

at David L. Lawrence Convention Center



only by INVISTA



When Pittsburgh decided to build a new convention facility, planners sought a design as considerate of the environment as it was of tourism. The \$331 million project exceeded all expectations, resulting in an environmentally smart site with significantly reduced operating costs.

CASE STUDY:

David L. Lawrence Convention Center Pittsburgh, PA

public space

Located in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh, the sail-like, cantilevered roof of the impressive David L. Lawrence Convention Center highlights the city skyline and emulates the trio of suspension bridges neighboring the structure along the Allegheny Riverfront. Designed by architectural firm Rafael Viñoly, the 1.5 million-square-foot facility is in line to become the largest LEED certified green building in the world and the first convention center in the United States to fully integrate the LEED rating system.

The project mission required a floorcovering that was environmentally preferable, as well as durable enough to withstand the construction phase and projected foot traffic of hundreds of thousands of conventioners. While performance and sustainability were critical, style and color were non-negotiable.

By choosing a carpet of Antron®, the Pittsburgh design team didn't have to sacrifice a single element. As the industry's performance leader for 30 years and the first and only carpet face fiber to receive third party certification as an Environmentally Preferable Product, Antron® carpet fiber was the logical choice. Environmentally Preferable Product certification identifies Antron® carpet fiber as having a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with typical products. Defined by Executive Order (EO) 13101, the critical factors in this certification are product performance, total environmental impact, use of green energy, safety and health in manufacturing and use, and end-of-life responsibility.

"For Antron®, sustainability isn't just about single environmental attributes. We ensure the continued viability of the product well into the future," says Mark Ryan, manager of environmental initiatives for Antron®. The unique carpet fiber engineering, soil resistance technology and performance testing creates durable, long-lasting products with unparalleled life cycle costs and reduced environmental impact. "In short, the less often a carpet has to be replaced, the fewer resources are consumed and the lower the environmental impact."

The 38,000-square yards of Antron® carpet fiber used in the space was custom designed using tones of blue, gray, tan and rust. Through unique fiber technology, interesting color variations were created for the facility. The resulting carpet provided the desired color match, long lasting durability and the lowest total environmental impact.

When the Convention Center carpet reaches the end of its useful life, it can be recycled through the INVISTA™ Reclamation Program and recycled into new products ranging from new carpet backing and padding to high-grade engineering resins for automotive parts. According to the Environmental

Protection Agency, approximately 4 billion pounds of carpet enter the solid waste stream in the U.S. each year — a statistic that facility managers in Pittsburgh don't plan to contribute to.

Successfully completed in September 2003, the David L. Lawrence Convention Center leads the way in responsible building and operation. The energy efficiency of this design has resulted in a 30 to 50% energy savings, which not only results in dramatic savings for the environment, but also translates to hundreds of thousands of dollars in cost savings per year that is directly passed along to meeting attendees. Now that's a lot of green!

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Sustainability



A carpet that stays on the floor longer is a smart environmental choice. Fewer raw materials are consumed, less energy is used and less waste is generated. This is consistent with the 3 R's of waste reduction — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Performance



The alignment of the molecular chains in Antron® nylon creates a tighter molecular structure, making it tougher for stains to penetrate and increasing resistance to crushing and matting.



Type 6,6 nylon
(tighter molecular structure)



Type 6 nylon
(more open molecular structure)

By using carpet with Antron® carpet fiber, the David L. Lawrence Convention Center is saving the equivalent of...

- 18,050 gallons of fuel
- As much global warming as 56,083 trees absorb in one year
- Enough air emissions to fill 135 buckets of particulates
- Enough land emissions to fill 7.9 18-wheeled tractor trailers
- Enough water to flush 51,141 toilets

source: Environmental Impact Calculator (antron.invista.com)

For more information about Antron® carpet fiber, please call 1-877-5-ANTRON or visit antron.invista.com.

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