Responsibility is in our nature.

Setting a new standard

At GameTime, sustainability is part of what we do every day. It's our responsibility to take steps to ensure that our manufacturing and consumption leave as small a mark on the world as possible.

Our commitment

As a company dedicated to the development of children, it is important to us that they have a future that is as friendly as the one we enjoy today. Although numerous factors affect the environment, we must all take responsibility for the carbon dioxide emitted by human activities. The world produces over 27 billion metric tons of CO^2, and oceans and forests can only absorb about two thirds of that. Clearly then, "offsetting" carbon is no solution at all. Although experts call for a 70% reduction in emissions over the next 50 years, the emission rate is forecasted to double. The responsible path is to reduce our carbon production, increase use of sustainable materials, and recycle waste rather than dump it in a landfill. While offsets may sound good from a public relations perspective, they aren't solving the problem. When one looks at the overall situation, it is clear that offsetting emissions is about as effective as putting a bandage on an arterial wound.

GameTime takes an above compliance attitude towards sustainability just as we do with safety, accessibility, and customer service. We believe that it is important to educate both the current leaders and next generation about how they can address these issues with a message of hope and solutions rather than discouragement and blame.

By working with organizations that specialize in sustainability, we can apply their knowledge and expertise to our products and processes to produce a better, more environmentally friendly product.

THE TRUST for PUBLIC LAND
CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE

The National Arbor Day Foundation®

ISO International Organization for Standardization

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL USGBC

Building for tomorrow

Leadership & Sustainability

USGBC member

As the first and only playground manufacturer member of the U.S. Green Building Council, GameTime is part of an important network. The USGBC is a non profit organization dedicated to expanding sustainable building practices by transforming the way communities are designed, built and operated.

Our relationship with the USGBC has broadened our perspective on the methodology required to address environmental concerns, through initiatives like increasing energy efficiency, reducing waste, and meeting the recycled content guidelines set forth by the LEED Green Building Rating System. As a result, the majority of our products are made from substantial percentages of pre and post consumer recycled materials, including 100% recycled options. See the recycled content sheet for detailed information.

LEED innovators

"LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings" (USGBC).

We consider these usages when innovating products, and strive to assist in LEED certification through LEED Innovation in Design credits. For instance, our GT Jams products can be utilized with the accompanying curriculum to meet national education standards in an outdoor classroom environment. The same can be said for our Play On! curriculum and corresponding playground designs. Employing this functionality saves energy otherwise used in an indoor class setting, while allowing children to benefit from exposure to fresh air and natural light.

Multiple studies have found correlations between exposure to daylight and improvement in standardized test scores, attentiveness, and overall mood of students. One study in particular, conducted by the Heschong Mehone Group, found that students in the Capistrano school district in California with more daylighting in their class progressed 20% faster on math tests, and 26% faster on reading tests than those with lesser exposure to natural light. In addition, students with the largest window areas progressed 15% faster in math and 23% faster in reading than those with small windows. Sunlight also encourages the production of vitamin D in the body, which has numerous health benefits.

Our extensive color studies allow us to recommend surfacing, shade, and roof options that provide for the reduction of heat islands, defined by USGBC as "thermal gradient differences between developed and undeveloped areas." This reduction helps minimize the negative impact in the microclimate, as well as human and wildlife habitats.

*There are many misconceptions about the LEED Green Building Rating System, and it is important to note that LEED certification only applies to projects, not products, although the use of efficient products can assist in attaining different levels of LEED certification.

Heschong Mehone Group "Daylighting in Schools: An investigation into the Relationship Between Daylighting and Human Performance" (1999), 4-5.

We can help make your project a sustainable success

Improving Our Environment

Plant a tree

By considering nature when designing play spaces, we maximize appreciation of the natural environment while helping to conserve it. We provide grant funding and donations to The Trust for Public Land through projects that embrace the importance of preserving green space when planning a play environment. We also worked with the Arbor Day Foundation, donating 20 trees for every playground sold through our reforestation promotion to help plant trees in areas that have been deforested through fire. By doing so, we hope to increase the number of trees available to absorb the CO2 produced by the world's production. By focusing the efforts around play, these efforts will also foster an interest in conservation for the next generation ensuring they continue to embrace the mission tomorrow.

Make it clean

GameTime also takes responsibility for improvements that must be made internally to ensure our product manufacturing processes are as energy efficient as possible, thereby reducing our emissions toward our goal of carbon neutral. Each of our employees are tasked with the mission of seeking new methods to embrace that responsibility and create products that are better for the environment. We hold Kaizen events and lean manufacturing audits to assure that our processes produce the highest quality equipment while using the minimum resources required.

We already currently recycle 100% of all scrap metal, rotationally molded plastic, and paper at our facility. We also strive to use recycled materials in our products, check out the enclosed sheet to learn more. Our environmental team meets regularly to look for new ways to reduce our impact on the delicate balance of our ecosystem, including all aspects of production. We understand that the entire manufacturing process, not just the final product must be considered to truly make a difference for tomorrow. Through these processes and practices, we strive to eliminate the need for a carbon offset system by addressing our environmental impact early and often.

We're doing our part every day to reduce, reuse, and recycle

Recycling Playgrounds

It is always best to lead by example and to look for examples of excellence to spark ideas for improvement. Data was compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau and National Geographic Society's Green Guide to formulate the list below of the 'Top 10 Greenest US Cities'. The cities were scored based on their achievements in four broad categories: Electricity, Transportation, Green Living, Recycling and Green Perspective. As previously mentioned, playgrounds contain a large amount of recyclable material. For instance, lumber utilized in a play area can be re-used for landscaping around the facility as borders for a garden or part of a retaining wall. They can also be donated to local garden centers for the same purpose. The list below contains names of local area recyclers for these materials. If you are interested in a playground recycling program in your city, or have recycling facilities to add to our list, contact green@gametime.com so we can spread the word!

1. Portland, OR
- Steel, Aluminum (Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.)
- LLDPE, HDPE, Rubber (Denton Plastics Inc.)
- Rubber (RB Recycling)
- Nylon (Prime Meridian)

2. San Francisco, CA
- Steel, Aluminum (A-1 Scrap Metal)
- LLDPE, HDPE (National Recycling Corporation)
- Rubber (Tire Broker Inc.)
- Nylon (CSI Plastics)

3. Boston, MA
- Steel, Aluminum (Framingham Salvage Company)
- LLDPE, HDPE (City of Cambridge Recycling Drop-off Center)
- Rubber (L Fine & Co.)

4. Oakland, CA
- Steel, Aluminum (Berkley Recycling Center, Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.)
- LLDPE, HDPE (National Recycling Corporation)
- Nylon (CSI Plastics)
- Rubber (Big O Tires, Bruce's Tires)

5. Eugene, OR
- Steel, Aluminum (Schnitzer Steel Industries, Lane County Dept. of Public Works)
- LLDPE, HDPE (Glenwood Central Receiving Station)
- Rubber (Glenwood Central Receiving Station)

6. Cambridge, MA
- Steel, Aluminum (Circle Recycling Inc.)
- LLDPE, HDPE (City of Cambridge Recycling Drop-Off Center)
- Rubber (L Fine & Co.)

7. Berkley, CA
- Steel, Aluminum, HDPE (Community Conservation Center)
- LDPE (rePlanet Recycling Center)
- Rubber (Berkley Transfer Station)

8. Seattle, WA
- Steel, Aluminum (Pacific Iron & Metal Co.)
- LDPE, HDPE (South Recycling and Disposal Station)
- Rubber (Pugit Sound Plastics Inc.)

9. Chicago, IL
- Steel, Aluminum (Metal Management Inc.)
- LDPE, HDPE (City of Chicago Recycling Drop-Off Center)
- Rubber (Lakin General)

10. Austin, TX
- Steel, Aluminum (Ecology Action)
- LDPE (Albertsons)
- HDPE (BFI Recycling Center)
- Rubber (Three Points Automotive)

Types of recyclable plastics in our products

2 HDPE High Density Polyethylene: panels

3 PVC Vinyl/Polyvinyl Chloride: decks

4 LDPE Low Density Polyethylene: rotationally molded products

5 PP Polypropylene: packaging

7 OTHER Other/Polycarbonate: windows, bubbles

You can make a difference right now in your own community

ISO 14001 Certification

14001:2004
CERTIFIED

GameTime is proud to carry ISO 14001 Environmental Management certification, the prestigious "Green Certification," for its manufacturing plant in Fort Payne, AL. The ISO 14001 certification is an internationally recognized framework for environmental management, measurement, evaluation, and auditing. Companies control the environmental impact of their activities, products, and services by implementing an environmental policy that meets international standards, but is specific to their operation. GameTime achieved its certification from SRI Registrar, an accredited registrar that issues quality, environmental, health & safety, and security management system registration certificates based on internationally recognized standards. "Sustainable business practices are a key focus for us

at GameTime and we are proud to add this distinction to our environmental program," said Mike Mc Williams, Vice President of Quality, Global Sourcing and Logistics.

"We have met rigorous standards to achieve certification for our manufacturing facility," added Anne-Marie Spencer, Director of Marketing for GameTime, "and we will continue to add more green initiatives throughout our products, processes, and programs in the months and years ahead. Focusing on the environment is the right thing to do. "We have experienced enthusiastic support throughout the company and we will continue to drive this direction throughout our lifestyles, product mix, and customer interactions."

For more information, call your local GameTime representative at 800-235-2440, or log on to www.gametime.com
Log onto sriregistrar.com for more information on GameTime's ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Certification.

We have met rigorous standards to achieve certification

Recycling FAQ's

1. Can I recycle all plastics?

No, not all plastics can be recycled and some that can may not be accepted for curbside pick-up or at your local recycler. Contact your local municipal offices or recycling centers to find out which plastics they accept. The American Society of Plastics Industry developed a standard code to identify the type of plastic used to make an object. The code is identified by a number (1-7) inside three arrows forming a triangle. While this code does not indicate whether or not the plastic can be recycled, it does help identify and sort recyclable plastics.

2. What if there's no curbside recycling program in my area?

There are numerous drop-off locations that will accept your recycled materials. Contact your local municipal offices for more information about these recycling centers. Many businesses will also accept your recycled materials. Some examples include grocery stores for your plastic bags and tire centers for certain types and quantities of rubber. In addition, websites such as www.earth911.org offer search engines that allow you to specify what type of material you wish to recycle, then direct you to the nearest recycling facility.

3. What steps must be taken to prepare materials to be recycled?

Most counties have their own set of rules and regulations for the preparation of recycled materials, but there are a few rules that apply to virtually any area.

- Do not include any materials that contain food residue
- Prepare all materials in such a way as to prevent litter for curbside pick-up
- Rinse out all steel and aluminum cans
- Observe size restrictions for specific programs

4. How do I recycle hazardous materials?

Excess household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be "hazardous household waste" HHW. These products, which include oils, batteries, and pesticides, require special consideration when preparing them for recycling. Never mix hazardous materials as this can result in toxic fumes or even explosion! Start by identifying hazardous materials by locating hazardous symbols and warnings on the products. Used motor oil must be stored in a clean container with a secure lid and taken to an oil collection center, service station, or automotive maintenance facility. Universal wastes, which include batteries, pesticides, lamps, and mercury-containing equipment, must be separated and disposed of at local recycling centers that accept these types of materials. You can find centers in your area by using search engines such as www.earth911.com and review the regulations applying to small and large business by logging onto www.epa.gov.

5. What product is taking up the most space in U.S. landfills?

Paper accounts for more than 40% of a landfill's space! Paper does not biodegrade easily when compacted in a landfill because this makes it more resistant to deterioration. Paper can be recycled via curbside collection, paper banks at supermarkets and schools, and at your local recycling center. All types of paper can be recycled but some forms, such as wrapping paper, contain other materials that make it more difficult and must be taken directly to the recycling center instead of curbside pick-up. Staples don't need to be removed as they are extracted using magnets.

6. What is the difference between pre and post-consumer recycled content?

Recycled-content products are items that contain recovered materials, which includes both pre and post-consumer materials. Pre-consumer recycled materials consist of scraps, trimmings, and other by-products that were never used in the consumer market. These materials are produced by manufacturers and processors. Post-consumer recycled materials are products that have completed their life cycle in the consumer market and would otherwise be disposed of as waste. These products are collected in residential and commercial recycling programs and include such items as office paper, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles.

7. Does the recycling symbol on a product indicate that it is made from recycled materials or that it is recyclable itself?

Neither. The use of this logo is not regulated by law and if the label simply states "recycled" or "recyclable" the product may not contain recycled content nor be recyclable in your area. Check the label for words that indicate the product is made from recycled materials and look for products that contain the largest amounts of post-consumer recycled content to divert more waste from landfills.

The more you know, the more you can help

Our Recycled Content

GameTime actively maintains an environmental management system in compliance with the requirements of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and adheres to the federal requirements of the EPA. All of the materials listed constitute recyclable product, in areas where such recycling facilities exist. GameTime is committed to our environment by conscientiously maintaining a dedication to the use of recycled/reclaimed materials to the extent that they don't affect the strength, durability, and quality that we have built our reputation upon.

Type of Material	Found in These Products	% Pre-Consumer	% Post-Consumer
Aluminum	Structure uprights	40%	5%
Aluminum Castings	Post caps, castings	40%	0%
Cardboard Packaging	Packing, shipping	0%	40-50%
Injection Molded Plastics	Handles, handholds, small components	15%	Black 100%
Poly Tubing	Packaging, shipping	0%	Clear 50%
Recycled Plastics	Triangle deck, square deck, rectangular deck, roofs, panels	0%	100%
Rotation Molded Plastics All rotation molded plastic components made from 100% recyclable resins.	BigFoot slide, Wallcano, tubes, slides, panels, Cruisin' Mates	0%	0%
	PlayCurbs	Black 100%	0%
Rubber Products	GT Impax poured in place, shredded rubber, bonded shredded rubber surfacing	0%	100%
Steel Plates and Sheets	Slides, decking, steps, roofs, site furniture, mirror panel, grills, whirls	30%	68%
Stainless Steel	Mirror panels, slides, tabs	0%	65%
Steel Tubing	Play structure uprights, center supports, ladders, climbers, railings	0%	50%
Steel Wire	SkyBridge, Balustrade	0%	100%
Thermoformed Plastic	Roof panels	50%	0%

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The truth about green

As the leading company in playground research and education, GameTime is concerned at the amount of "greenwashing" in our market place. We've addressed the most common issues below to help in your research and decision making.

Playground products are LEED certified (or can singlehandedly earn LEED points.)

No product of any kind is certifiable under LEED. LEED is a third-party certification program and a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. It was developed by U.S. Green Building Council, an organization of which GameTime is a national corporate member.

If a site owner is undertaking a green building project, they must meet prerequisite requirements for each stated category and a minimum number of points in that category. The playground can help earn points, provided the prerequisite for that category has been met in the building process. It can not be certified on its own, and will not help with the prerequisites. If you are planning a LEED certified project, we can show you the correct way to approach the playground portion of the project.

Recycled plastic playgrounds are the most sustainable

While almost every playground manufacturer uses steel and aluminum, some choose to focus the sustainability spotlight on recycled plastic. Steel and aluminum share similar recycling value, and in some cases have an advantage over plastic counterparts.

Steel is unique in that it has an infinite recycling loop – unlike plastic, it can be recycled over and over again without any loss of its inherent properties and strength. Hence, recycling steel is a never ending process, giving it a huge advantage in terms of sustainability. A recent study by APEAL shows that by integrating recycled steel into the manufacturing process the industry achieves higher energy savings and a lower output of CO2. This means that natural resources are saved for future generations and that energy use and CO2 emissions are significantly reduced. Aluminum is not only easy to recycle, it's easy to source, as there is an abundance of it.

Plastics do not retain the same strengths and properties post-recycle, so usage possibilities are reduced with each recycling. And we shouldn't overlook the fact that they are made from fossil fuels. So which is the path of greatest sustainability? The facts prove that we should not overlook recycled metals as an important component in green building!

Carbon footprint calculations

If a playground company wants to show you the "carbon footprint" of your chosen playground design, ask how it was calculated. Does it include the freight of the materials to their manufacturing facility, the jet and auto fuel used in the travel of company executives and sales personnel, the calculations for marketing materials used in the sales of the product? Chances are it's just the energy and waste generated in the manufacturing process, a nice gesture, but not an accurate calculation of total carbon footprint.

PVC coatings

PVC has received a lot of attention, mostly on phthalate content. California has passed the most rigorous laws regarding PVC content and safety, so if you have any doubts, ask if your playground manufacturer's PVC coatings are "California Compliant." Despite the lines clearly drawn between popular opinion, the fact remains that there are some very important products that are made of PVC, like the bags that hold lifesaving blood used in transfusions, the "second skin" used in many burn wards, as well as the safety packaging for many pharmaceuticals.