

Progress is impossible without change

„Only when the brave have become wise and the wise have become brave will that be felt which has often been erroneously stated: a progress of mankind.“ These words were written by the wonderful Erich Kästner in 1933 in the preface to his novel „The Flying Classroom“ and he probably already suspected back then, that mankind would take too long.

But progress is slowly growing impatient with us. Climate change and radically changing market requirements also demand drastic change processes from CaPlast, and we are striving to be both clever and courageous in implementing them. How do we succeed? Pages 2 and 3 give you a 360° panoramic view of our activities and plans around sustainability and change.

What else kept us busy? CaPlast is an important employer and training company in Münsterland, especially in the region around our headquarters in Capelle. But like many industrial companies, we are hidden champions. People know our name, but many don't know exactly what we do. Through our new social media channels, we want to raise our profile and become even more attractive as an employer - and of course we look forward to many fans and followers.

Last, but not least ... we are vaccinated! Therefore, we assume that soon, customer visits will be possible again. We will also be happy to stay in touch with you virtually. Just make an appointment at verkauf@caplast.de.

Your CaPlast Team



Sustainability 360°
Our commitment gilded

After CaPlast had already won silver when it first took part in the EcoVadis sustainability rating in 2020, we now achieved gold status in 2021. We made it into the top 5% in the world and among the top 3% of plastics processing companies. We are immensely proud of our results, but we also identified further room for improvement.

Who or what is EcoVadis?

EcoVadis is a world leading provider of sustainability ratings. EcoVadis works in two directions. On the one hand, as a supplier we make our sustainability performance transparent to our customers. On the other hand, as a procurer, we also hold our own supply chain accountable when it comes to corporate social responsibility.



In our eyes, an end-to-end sustainability strategy is essential, both ecologically and economically, and is firmly anchored in our corporate objectives. Sustainable action requires the assumption of corporate responsibility, a continuous improvement process, and constant monitoring of target achievement. Therefore, the external auditing of our processes and measures by EcoVadis is also important for us because the results help us to become even better.

75,000 companies from over 200 industries worldwide have already used this tool, giving us truly meaningful benchmarks. Our CSR efforts are measured and evaluated in a total of four topic areas.



1 Environment

In this category, our goals, policies, and measures were evaluated regarding energy and water consumption, greenhouse gases, biodiversity, local and accidental pollution, raw materials, chemicals and waste. In addition, aspects of product use, product end of life, customer health and safety are included in the rating process.



We are in the top 1% of companies in the plastics processing industry assessed by EcoVadis.

2 Labor and human rights

This assessment category relates to our internal human resources management in the areas of employee health and safety, working conditions, social dialogue, career management and training. Human rights include issues such as child labor, forced labor and human trafficking, diversity, discrimination and harassment, and the human rights of external stakeholders.



In this category we count among the top 24% of the companies assessed by EcoVadis. We still have some catching up to do before the next audit in 2022, particularly regarding the documentation of the many measures already initiated in our company.

3 Ethics

In the area of ethics, the main issues addressed are corruption, bribery, anti-competitive practices, and the responsible management of information.



Here, we are in the top 3% of companies in the plastics processing industry assessed by EcoVadis. We can still improve here, for example, by providing evidence of internal training.

4 Sustainable procurements

The German Bundestag recently passed the Supply Chain Act. At CaPlast, we expressly support all efforts to consider sustainability, social aspects and human rights as central criteria when selecting suppliers. Sustainable procurement is one of the four topic areas that are included in the overall score. What is assessed here is the extent to which the environmental practices and social practices of suppliers are recorded and documented and how these are incorporated into the supplier rating.



Here we belong to the top 23% of companies in the plastics processing industry assessed by EcoVadis. This shows that we still have potential for improvement in integrating our suppliers into our CSR strategy, which we are already actively addressing and consistently implementing.



Comparison with other companies is an aid to orientation. However, we can only fulfill our own aspirations if we use the results to continuously improve and question ourselves.

Change 360°

Don't talk, do! We have defined many levers that we will be turning in the future to achieve our corporate goals of holistic customer orientation, greater sustainability, a faster pace of innovation and optimal working conditions. Some measures will take several years to take effect, some we can implement quickly and easily. Under Change 360°, we give you a glimpse of the future.

We purchase 100% green electricity

The switch to electricity from renewable sources such as hydropower, wind power and solar energy is a straightforward measure. From 2022 on, we will purchase electricity exclusively from renewable energies, and will thus reduce our CO₂ emissions from electricity by an estimated 1,200 metric tons of CO₂ to net zero in 2022.

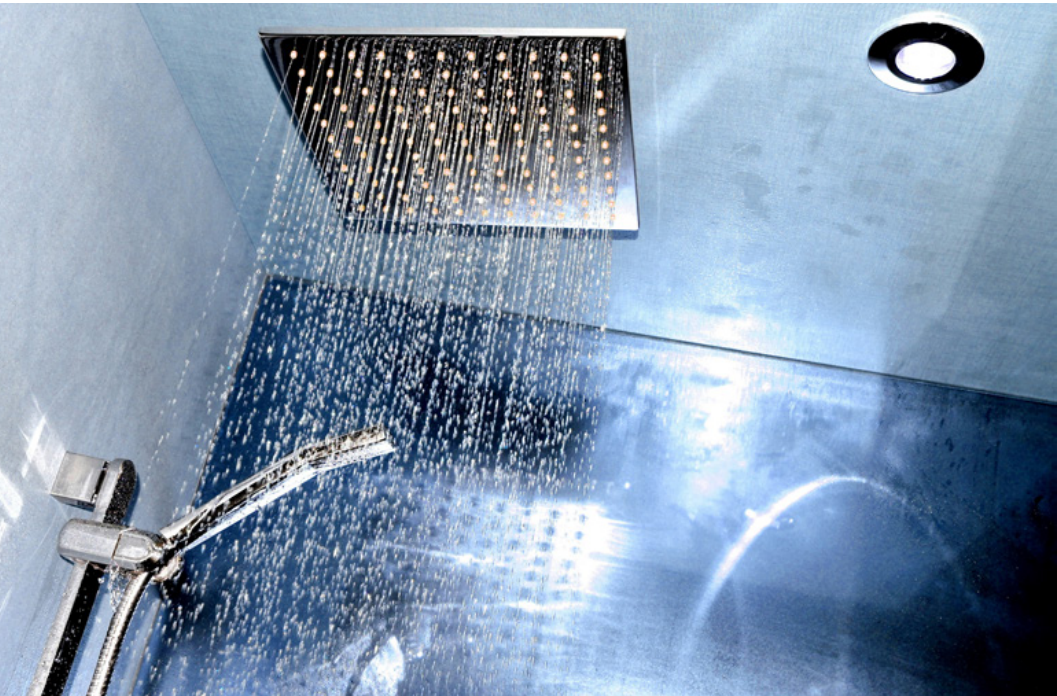
This is a significant step, as electricity accounts for more than 80% of our total CO₂ emissions. The green electricity comes mainly from European wind and hydro-electric power plants, which use the natural flow of rivers to generate electricity.

The green electricity certificate confirms:

CaPlast Kunststoffverarbeitungs GmbH achieves climate neutrality in its calculated electricity consumption for the period from January 01 to December 31, 2022, by using 3,500,000 kWh of green electricity and offsetting the upstream chain emissions that arise, among other things, during the construction of the plant. In total, up to 1,241 tons less CO₂ are released into the atmosphere.



Holistic, customized sealing systems



On the way to a circular economy

In a circular economy, products, materials and components are reused, recycled and reused again and again, so that waste is avoided as much as possible.

The plastics industry is on concepts and solutions for the circular economy. We too, see the need to switch from fossil feedstocks to bio-based plastics and natural products and are therefore seeking alliances and research partnerships at various levels. For example, we will support the Operation Clean Sweep® (OCS) program of plastics producers in Europe, that aims to prevent granule losses, better known as microplastic waste.

We want to learn more about the aging behavior of our products and develop ideas on how they can be reused at the end of their product life. Ideally, this means that all products manufactured in our industry and in-house in the future will be either recyclable or compostable.

Living customer orientation throughout the company is first and foremost a question of attitude. But in the background, as happens at CaPlast, the right structures must also be created so that development, sales, and production interact smoothly. Because no matter what functionalities and properties the customer wants, in the end the only thing that counts is that our coating lines deliver perfectly tailored products and systems.

Our waterproofing products also show how CaPlast has evolved from a pure contract coater to a holistic, innovative system provider for private label in the construction sector. In addition to waterproofing membranes and decoupling membranes for interior and exterior use, we offer matching accessories such as sealing tapes, corners, and sleeves. The inside and outside corners as well as pipe sleeves made of high-quality, tear-resistant, stretchable TPE are deep-drawn in-house.

They can therefore be flexibly manufactured in all required colors and shapes. Our sealing products also score highly when it comes to sustainability and ease of processing. If CaPlast waterproofing membranes are installed in damp rooms, there is no need for the second coat of paint that is required for liquid waterproofing. Proof of the layer thickness and drying times are also no longer necessary.

This is a challenging goal that requires a lot of development work if technical textiles of the highest quality are to be offered in the Circular Economy as well.

What we are already doing today: We already use no solvents and avoid the use of migrating components such as plasticizers. We are constantly driving forward the use of recycled products - for example in our high-quality facade membranes.

Our flagship product: CaLiner – the environmentally friendly, fabric-reinforced, TPO-based tarpaulin fabric for greenhouses, agricultural buildings, large tents, mobile stadiums, marine tarpaulins, pool covers, bulk packaging and much more. CaLiner is lightweight, UV stable, highly tear resistant, hardly defammable and most importantly 100% recyclable.



The past few months have convinced even the biggest skeptics of the benefits of the Internet. Suddenly, there were no more customer visits, no more trade fair appearances and no more recruiting events. Instead, video conferences dominate our everyday lives. So, it was high time to become more present, more active and more up-to-date in the virtual world.

CaPlast now „sparks“ on all channels

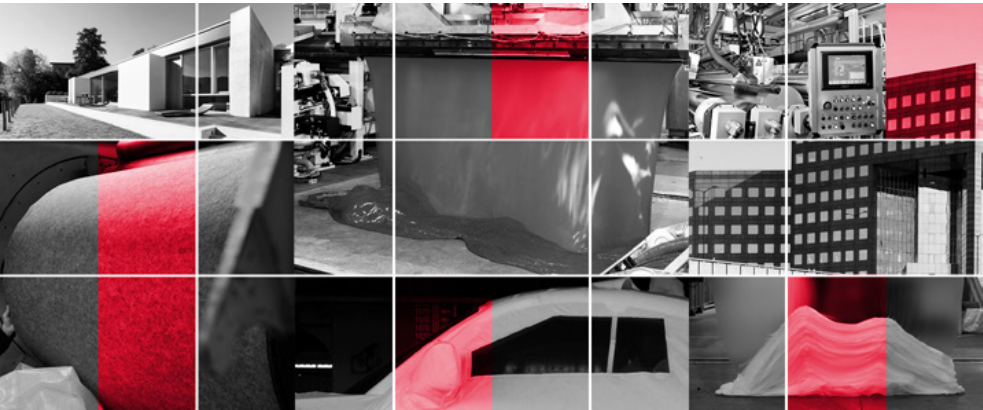
Up to now, we have been rather reserved when it comes to advertising and communication. We have kept our website up to date and regularly published our CaPlast newsletter. You are currently browsing through issue # 10. But now a small CaPlast social media team has formed with representatives from the Human Resources, Development, Purchasing and Sales departments and will produce regular posts on Instagram, XING and LinkedIn.

„First and foremost, we want to become better known,“ explains our HR representative Sarah Kranke. And indeed, we are an important player in the coating industry, but there is still a lot of room for improvement in terms of awareness as an employer and innovative company in Münsterland. A lot of applicants told me: „I’ve often driven by your company and asked myself, what do they actually do there?“, Kranke continues. What exactly those big rolls on our premises are all about, what apprenticeships we offer, what it looks like in our halls and what other news there is to report from the CaPlast family - all that will be a topic on social media.

We are still at the beginning of our social media activities. But please already follow, like, heart and comment!



New CaPlast website coming



A new CaPlast website is also currently being worked on. The most important change besides a new design is the modified structure of the CaPlast products. It is intended to enable site visitors to find their desired application and the many options for material and product properties as quickly as possible.

You will have to be patient for a few more weeks. But as a subscriber to our social media channels, you will of course be informed immediately after the launch.

Yay, we are vaccinated

Covid-19 has been keeping us on our toes for a year and a half now. From the very beginning, the health of our CaPlast family has been our top priority. Strict hygiene rules fortunately prevented major outbreaks and therewith downtime.

Since CaPlast has also been manufacturing protective clothing, among other things, since last year, it was an absolute must to keep production running. When it became apparent last fall that another wave of infections was approaching, we therefore decided to offer free tests once a week for our 115 employees at the Capelle site in cooperation with a healthcare provider.

Now, in early summer, we were even able to make an in-house vaccination offer. And so, at the end of May 2021, 55 KAP flexible films employees were vaccinated on our premises with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Most of the others have already been vaccinated or are waiting for another vaccine. So, it is foreseeable that we will soon get back to normality.

