

Feature story

Boeing Australia recognised for carbon fibre recycling program

- Over 76 tonnes of aerospace-grade carbon fibre has been diverted from landfill as part of sustainable manufacturing efforts at Boeing Aerostructures Australia.

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Boeing Aerostructures Australia's efforts to help create a sustainable aerospace manufacturing environment through the recycling of over 76 tonnes of aerospace-grade carbon fibre have been recognised, as The Boeing Company receives the 2020 Sustainability Leadership Award from the United States [National Association of Manufacturers](#).

The recycling endeavor, a partnership between UK-based ELG Carbon Fibre and Boeing, sees scrap materials from Boeing manufacturing sites collected and sent to ELG to be treated to remove binding agents. The result of this process is clean material that can then be sold to third parties to make products such as electronic accessories and automotive equipment.

“As Australia's largest aerospace manufacturer, we have a responsibility to our employees and our community to continuously identify ways to minimise environmental impact while we produce state-of-the-art product parts for our commercial programs,” said Jose Garza, managing director of Boeing Aerostructures Australia. “The Australian manufacturing environment has experienced some extraordinary challenges and now, more than ever, we need to look to sustainable practices to guide our future.”

The Sustainability Leadership Award recognises what Boeing has done to embrace global processes to achieve several environmental goals by 2025, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25%; water use and solid waste to landfill by 20%; energy use by 10%; and hazardous waste at worksites by 5%.

“Boeing is demonstrating that you can be environmentally sustainable in a cost-effective way,” said Bryan Scott, vice president of Environment, Health and Safety at Boeing. “We are the largest consumer of aerospace-grade composite, and the only company able to recycle 100% of it.”

Boeing Aerostructures Australia designs, tests, certifies and manufactures advanced structures for commercial airplanes. As a Tier 1 partner to the Boeing 787 Dreamliner program, Boeing Aerostructures Australia is the sole source supplier of 787 moveable trailing edges, comprising of an inboard flap, flaperon, outboard flap and aileron.