

GUARDCAST products are designed and manufactured at the J.R. Hoe production facility in Middlesboro, KY, where high quality iron castings and steel fabrications have been produced in the same location since 1909. The common phrase “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” has long been a core principle in our manufacturing process that extends into every branch of our operation today.

In addition to meeting the US Green Building Council’s criteria for various LEED Credits, J.R. Hoe utilizes sustainable practices to reduce its environmental footprint in the following ways.

PRODUCTION

Recycled content used in GUARDCAST products consists of post-consumer scrap generated and procured from in-state sources less than 250 miles away, and post-industrial scrap (rejects, drops, cut-offs) generated in our own facility.

As a “green sand” foundry, we recycle and reuse 99% of our molding sand through a highly efficient, zero-emission reclaim system. The equipment used in the shakeout and reclaim process is designed with energy efficient natural frequency drive systems to reduce horsepower requirements, and variable speed drives (VSDs) which allow operating speed to be adjusted to load requirements.

OPERATIONS

All areas of the J.R. Hoe manufacturing facility are designed with natural lighting elements and/or energy efficient LED lighting. Natural air flow provides cooling in all work zones and zero emission electric forklifts are used throughout the facility.

Just as GUARDCAST products are featured in the design of sustainable landscapes, green infrastructure plays a key role in the facility where they are manufactured and shipped. Over 50% of stormwater runoff on the J.R. Hoe property is captured on site through bioretention and infiltration features, reducing the volume of runoff entering the stormwater system and contributing to a cleaner watershed.

SUPPLY CHAIN AND SHIPPING

GUARDCAST orders are processed in our Middlesboro, KY production facility then packaged and shipped directly to the customer, avoiding unnecessary freight to distributors and resale locations. By maintaining a lean supply chain and distribution channel for GUARDCAST products, shipping-related carbon emissions are minimized to the greatest extent possible.

All discarded shipping pallets are recycled and purchased pallets are refurbished or made from recycled material. Recycled cardboard packaging is utilized wherever possible and all shipping supplies are procured from the nearest available sources.

PRODUCT DESIGN AND LIFE CYCLE

GUARDCAST products are engineered for durability and impact resistance, but also support sustainable and environmentally responsible building practices. Designed to stand the test of time, the longevity of GUARDCAST products contribute to a reduction in resources related to product maintenance and replacement, lowering the carbon footprint associated with manufacturing and installation.

Ferrous metals such as iron and steel are among the most recycled materials worldwide, contributing to a reduction in resource demand and the resulting positive environmental impacts. Cast iron and steel crash-rated bollards are sustainable infrastructure elements that align with the environmental goals of modern infrastructure projects.

GUARDCAST bollard covers are supplied powder coated, which is an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional liquid paint.

SOCIAL

J.R. Hoe believes that a commitment to sustainability goes beyond protecting the natural environment. As a top priority, we are committed to the safety, success and well-being of our most valuable asset: our people. We pride ourselves in our award-winning safety record and the team-oriented culture we have established in supplying the GUARDCAST brand of products.

As an active participant in community development efforts, we have contributed significant resources, funding and volunteer hours to community programs ranging from creative place making projects to youth sports and public art. By embracing the social responsibility that goes along with a strong commitment to sustainability, J.R. Hoe + GUARDCAST believes that we can create a healthier, more sustainable world for current and future generations.