



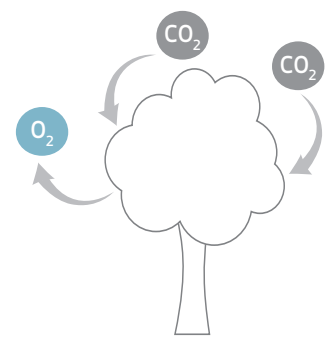
AKRITAS GREEN DNA



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AKRITAS & ENVIRONMENT



Wood is an excellent natural material, renewable and is found in increasing abundance in Europe. It helps mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere, as 1 m³ of wood absorbs 1 tonne of CO₂.



Sustainable Forestry

Forestry and timber products directly assist countries in achieving their goals under the Kyoto Protocol (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Increasing the use of wood-based products contributes to the expansion of forest areas. Forest areas absorb CO₂, effectively helping to tackle the climate crisis.

Wood products store the CO₂ that was originally trapped in the trees resulting in its removal from the atmosphere during the entire life cycle of the product, from its construction to its recycling. AKRITAS supports the well-managed forestry using timber which comes from studies by forest services, thus implementing the European Regulation 995/2010 (GR TR REMTH EUR 1038).

Pre-Consumer Recycled Content

The countries of the European Union are adopting goals for the gradual transition to a sustainable economic system and a new industrial strategy, according to the European Commission's New Circular Economy Action Plan (A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe, Brussels, 11.03.2020, European Commission).

The transition from the linear to a circular model of behavior is a key objective, resulting in the development of a coordinated approach to creating conditions for lower consumption of raw materials and achieving a gradual reduction in waste production.

AKRITAS puts into practice the model of the circular economy by reusing all the wood residues resulting from the various stages of its production process, as well as solid industrial wood waste.

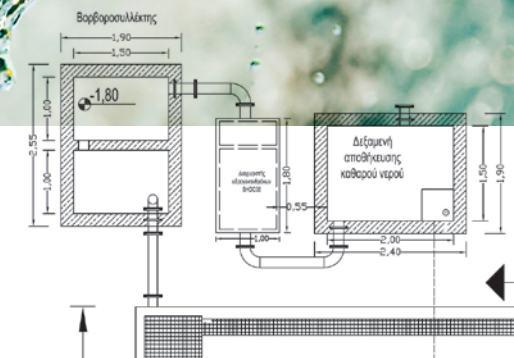
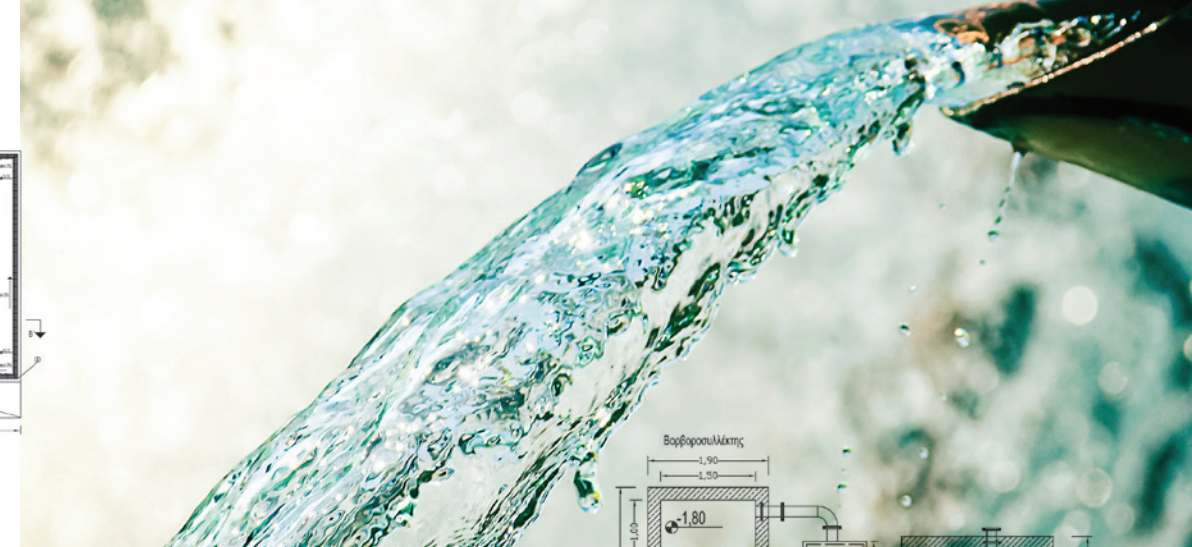
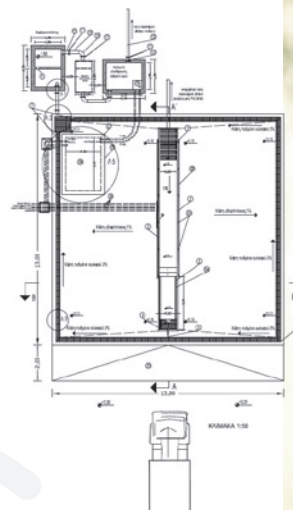


Post-Consumer Recycled Content

Every year around 10 million tons of furniture are sold on the European Union market and about the same number is discarded by businesses and consumers. Most of this furniture is intended either for landfill or incineration. There is also a large number of bulky waste. Such a waste of valuable materials is a missed opportunity for the economy, has serious consequences for the environment and undermines efforts to move to a circular economy. The interventions of the circular economy model have the potential to help address these trends.

AKRITAS contributes to the circular economy by utilizing as raw material in its production process wood waste from furniture, pallets, wood packaging materials, constructions, renovations, commercial activities and companies that meet the requirements of the applicable instructions and inspection systems.

In this context, AKRITAS maintains a cooperation agreement with the Hellenic Recovery Recycling Corporation S.A. (HERRCO) for the processing of wooden packaging for the manufacture of particle board.



Water management

A fundamental principle governing the European Union's strategy for the transition to a sustainable society and economy is the proper management and protection of the precious good of water. It is a fact that in Greece we have one of the highest water consumption per capita among the 27 Member States of the European Union and special dry-thermal conditions prevail due to climate change.

Saving and reusing water and the proper utilization of surface water for the benefit of society as a whole and the economy are key priorities.

AKRITAS supports the protection and conservation of this natural resource. Basic actions for reduced water consumption are the collection, treatment, complete recycling and reuse of rainwater, liquid waste from car washes, production line areas and ancillary activities.





Green Energy

The European Green Deal is a development strategy aimed at transforming the European Union into a just and prosperous society with a modern, competitive and a resource-efficient economy and aiming at the reduction of the greenhouse gases emissions. There is a need to change the way we perceive the environment and its protection and to turn to green forms of energy.

The bar for the development of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in Europe has been set very high. Aiming to curb global warming and eliminate, by 2050, emissions that are exacerbating climate change, the green shift in the energy sector is now a one-way street.

Recognizing the urgent need to mobilize industry, AKRITAS contributes to the reduced use of fossil fuels and its low energy footprint using alternative forms of energy. Residues resulting from the machining of wood at various stages of the entire production process (biomass from tree bark, sawdust and dust) are used as fuel for the energy needs of the unit. In this way, the operation of energy-intensive production processes is ensured, such as the drying of wood and the heating of diathermic oils to form the final product (particle board and melamine press). AKRITAS enhances green energy by utilizing biomass within the company and at the same time uses electricity produced from RES (Green Certificate from DAPEEP).



Waste management

Waste management is an important part for the protection of the environment, which serves public hygiene and contributes to the saving of raw materials and energy.

AKRITAS manages all non-wood waste, as it is collected by licensed companies and transported for recycling.

More specifically, waste lubricating oil and lead batteries are stored in properly certified containers and packaging and then managed by the respective approved alternative management system. The used lamps from the lighting of the building installations and Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) are managed by an approved WEEE management system. Metal waste resulting from minor maintenance work and recyclable materials from personnel activities (glass, paper /cardboard, plastic) are collected by a licensed collector and disposed of for recycling.

Final Product

AKRITAS' products meet the highest quality standards and are the result of the company's systematic effort to meet the needs of the market by exceeding international standards. It is important to note that AKRITAS is today the only Greek particle board industry that operates on a continuous basis since 1977 with top quality products, always with consistency and respect for its partners and the environment. AKRITAS products have the following key features:

- They have a long lifespan, as their production method gives them resistance to conditions of high relative humidity and to insect and fungal attacks. In combination with the decorative surfaces used, they meet the strictest specifications, giving a longer lifespan to the furniture, regardless of the intensity of their use.
- Their carbon footprint is being calculated according to standard life-cycle assessment methods and are certified for their improved environmental life-cycle impacts.
- They are recyclable and can be reused after their final disposal by the consumer.
- They are certified by internationally recognized institutes as products of very low formaldehyde emission. In collaboration with research centers, AKRITAS is constantly developing new technologies, producing products with lower formaldehyde limits than those defined and classified by European Standards.
- They comply with the necessary specifications and contribute to the acquisition of green building certifications (e.g. LEED, WELL Building Standard).

FSC®



The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) standard ensures that the raw material used for the final product comes from responsibly managed forest areas and controlled sources. The FSC® addresses issues such as illegal logging, deforestation and global warming. The FSC® logo certifies that the product comes from responsible sources, environmentally friendly, socially beneficial and economically viable. AKRITAS faithfully follows the policy of the FSC® and takes responsible action so that the supply of timber raw materials comes from controlled forest areas.

Formaldehyde emissions



AKRITAS products comply with the requirements of EN 13986 regarding formaldehyde release and are classified in class E1. Certification for class E1 is a basic requirement for the distribution of products within Greece and the European Union. TSCA title VI and CARB Phase 2 certifications ensure that the production of low-release formaldehyde boards are in accordance with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations; compliance with these certifications is a prerequisite for the movement of products within the US. AKRITAS prioritizes the sustainability of the entire production process, from the collection of raw materials to the production of the final product, as the products have to meet the chemical emission standards set. Emphasis is placed on the quality of raw materials, production technology, pressing conditions of the boards, as well as labeling.

ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management



ISO 9001: 2015 is an internationally recognized standard, which describes a management model that ensures product quality. All parts of the production process of AKRITAS apply the quality management system according to the ISO 9001: 2015 standard. By adhering to this system, the company demonstrates its concern for the continuous improvement of its products and services. It is worth noting that AKRITAS has created a Quality Department and is constantly investing in the field of quality control, research and technological development, focused on the goal of creating products that meet modern requirements.

**ISO 14001:2015
Environmental
Management
System**



ISO 14001: 2015 is an international standard that defines the requirements of an Environmental Management System. Through this, AKRITAS seeks to establish an operational and administrative model, which aims to reduce the risk of environmental damage, to prevent pollution, to continuously improve the environmental performance of the company, as well as to comply with existing national and European legislation. The company monitors indicators, such as consumption of raw materials and other resources, energy savings, waste management, conservation of the natural environment and sets environmental goals which it constantly monitors and evaluates.

**ISO 18001:2007
Health & Safety**



Occupational Health and Safety is one of the key issues in modern labor and is therefore covered by a wide range of legislative requirements. AKRITAS implements the OHSAS 18001: 2007 standard, which is a system for managing the health and safety of employees, but also of all persons involved in the operation of the company (management, customers, visitors). This establishes a reliable system for the identification, recording, control and assessment of health & safety risks that may occur during its operation. In addition, it sets specific health and safety goals with the main aim of eliminating accidents at the workplace. The goal is to establish a safe working environment, as well as the consolidation of health and safety culture by all its employees.

**DEKRA Safe
loading**



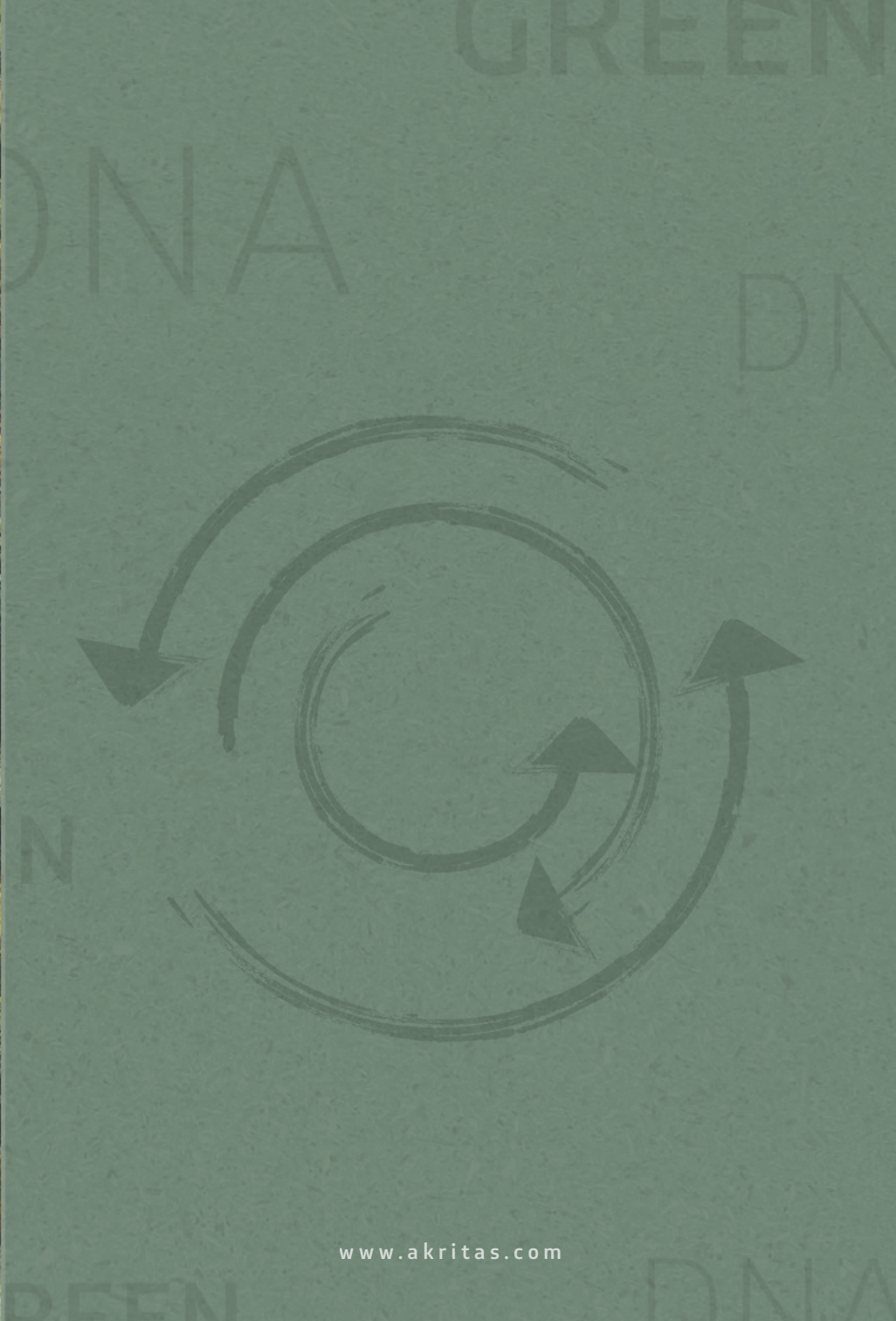
AKRITAS is one of the first companies to certify the transport of their goods. Within the framework of its social responsibility, it proceeded to the certification of safe loading of the vehicles that transport the products. Secure loading certification is provided by the internationally recognized German carrier DEKRA.



**THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT
FOR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The United Nations Global Compact consists of ten principles for responsible corporate governance in the areas of human rights, social standards, the environment and the fight against corruption. Specifically, the Ten Principles are derived from: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labor Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

On 20 July 2005, via an official letter to the United Nations, AKRITAS subscribed, adopted and committed to faithfully apply the UN Global Compact for Corporate Social Responsibility. With this move, which is intertwined with its corporate philosophy from the company's inception until today, AKRITAS is committed to incorporating the principles of the Global Compact into its day-to-day operation and to take initiatives that will contribute to the development of the society in which it operates and in the protection of the environment and human rights.



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