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**Sustainability is embedded in  
the DNA of our operations and  
product development. We believe  
this is essential for long-term  
success and value creation  
for all our stakeholders.**

Front Cover: Architect: Noxon Giffen. Photography: Katherine Lu. Fabricator: Great Lakes.





# Our Responsibility

## Aluminium versus other materials

Aluminium is a key material contributing to construction. It is strong, durable, and lightweight, yet also flexible, impermeable, corrosion-resistant, and infinitely recyclable.

Derived from bauxite with reserves projected to last hundreds of years, it contrasts sharply with fossil fuels—essential for plastic and uPVC windows—where supplies may be depleted within 50 years. While timber is renewable, it faces constraints related to forestry and land use. Each material presents trade-offs, requiring a balanced approach to ensure optimal application.

## Lifecycle impact

Studies demonstrate that, although aluminium production is energy-intensive, its long-term benefits outweigh its initial energy impact. Aluminium surpasses alternative window materials in recyclability and durability, with aluminium

and timber windows often exceeding a 40-year lifespan, compared to an average of 25 years for uPVC (Weir & Muneer, 2023).

Aluminium's ability to be infinitely recycled without quality loss – already comprising a third of global consumption – ensures that much of its initial energy investment is recaptured over multiple life cycles.

Aluminium is best utilised in applications where its unique properties are indispensable.

Architectural Window Systems Pty Ltd (AWS) recognises that sustainability is a continuous process, requiring commitment to recycling, responsible sourcing, and environmental impact is mitigated at all stages of production. When aluminium use is optimised and efficiency measures are implemented throughout its lifecycle, its role in sustainable construction is not only justified but also essential.

In this context, aluminium windows and doors provide a responsible and future-ready solution that meets both environmental and architectural demands.

Reference:

Weir, G., & Muneer, T. (2023). Life cycle of window materials—a comparative assessment. Scientific Reports. Retrieved from file:///M:/SUSTAINABILITY/Website%20Copy/Sources/s41598-023-47185-7.pdf



Architect: AD Design & Develop. Builder: Heycon.  
Photographer: Tatjana Plitt. Fabricator: PAG.



# Sustainability

## Transparency & Accountability

Since our inception, we've integrated sustainability into every level of our operations—from product design to manufacturing and supplier selection.

Looking ahead, we will track and measure our sustainability performance across our operations, with a focus on energy usage, waste generation, and resource intensity.

As one of Australia's leading suppliers of aluminium window and door systems, AWS is committed to fostering a sustainable future through responsible Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.

Sustainability is embedded in the DNA of our operations and product development, and we believe this is essential for long-term success and value creation for all our stakeholders.

We dedicate ourselves to acting with integrity and transparency, fostering strong employee engagement while building trusted relationships with suppliers and partners.

## The pillars of *our approach*





## Positive Impact *Since 2023*



# 488

tonnes of carbon offset

## Reducing GHG Emissions & Restoring Native Forests with Greenfleet

AWS recognises the urgency of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



**Before**



**After**



Our FY23-24 total emissions were 16,282 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e. We measured our scope 1 emissions to be 1,423 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e, scope 2 to be 1,389 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e, and scope 3 to be 13,470 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e.

AWS have partnered with Greenfleet, an Australian not-for-profit environmental organisation focused on protecting the climate by restoring native forests. We currently purchase offset units through Greenfleet for our fleet's freight movements and staff air travel, accounting for 13% of our scope 1 emissions.

Additionally, we have partnered with Greenfleet to restore one hectare of native forest located in Ledcourt, Victoria. While our freight offsets were allocated to restoring biodiversity in Ivory Creek, a rural locality in the Somerset Region, Queensland.

Greenfleet's native regeneration work in the Gippsland.





## Energy Efficiency

### Product

AWS is committed to delivering energy-efficient solutions for both commercial and residential markets.

As a pioneer in sustainable design, AWS set a new industry benchmark with the launch of Designer Series ThermalHEART™ in 2007, followed by ThermalHEART™ Commercial in 2012—introducing thermally broken products that redefined energy efficiency.

In 2021, we reaffirmed our dedication to thermal performance with ComfortEDGE™, and in 2025, we will continue this journey with a new range of innovations, designed to empower architects, designers, builders, and homeowners, these products seamlessly combine energy efficiency, comfort, and aesthetic excellence.

### Place

AWS has invested in solar systems for our two manufacturing locations in QLD (99 kWp) and VIC (203 kWp), achieving a 16.6% reduction in Scope 2 emissions in FY23-24.

We have switched to 100% renewable electricity with a GreenPower™ accredited provider for our site locations that are not supported by solar.

SITE	ELECTRICITY PROVISION
Prestons NSW	100% GreenPower™
Torrensville SA	100% GreenPower™
Loganlea QLD	99.22kw Solar System
Dandenong South VIC (Building A)	99.68kw Solar System
Dandenong South VIC (Building B)	78.4kw Solar System
Dandenong South VIC (Building C)	25kw Solar System

Architect: Nadine K Design. Builder: Contractors United Homes.  
Photographer: Tim Shaw. Fabricator: Hanlon Windows



# Materials Sourcing

AWS is dedicated to fostering ethical, sustainable, and socially responsible procurement. We have established strong, long-term relationships with our primary suppliers and expect them to uphold the highest standards of integrity, regulatory compliance, and ethical conduct in all areas of their operations.

AWS sources extruded aluminium exclusively from Independent Extrusions LLP, or INEX as it is known. INEX is an acknowledged leader in the aluminium extrusion industry, supplying extruded aluminium to the manufacturing and fabrication industries throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The Aluminium Stewardship Initiative aligns with international best practices, including formal liaisons with ISO initiatives such as Chain of Custody (ISO/TC 308) and Circular Economy (ISO/TC 323), ensuring comprehensive sustainability benchmarks.

The supply of billet used in AWS extrusion is comprised of:

SOURCE	*EMBODIED CARBON INTENSITY	% OF 2023 PRODUCTION	% OF 2024 PRODUCTION	% OF 2025 YTD**
Hydro (ASI Certified)	<8M t CO <sub>2</sub> e/t Al	73.1	85.1	68.2
Alba (ASI Certified)	<8M t CO <sub>2</sub> e/t Al	18.1	14.1	28.4
Rio Tinto (ASI Certified)	12.13 t CO <sub>2</sub> e/t Al	8.8	0.8	3.4

\*This information is preliminary and has not been independently verified via a third-party EPD. Final values and environmental metrics may change following formal assessment, scheduled for release Q2 2026.  
\*\*As of June 2025

Currently, AWS aluminium primary billet procurement is a combination of the above sources and is not differentiated between low-carbon aluminium and standard aluminium. This also means we do not charge extra for low-carbon aluminium. It's defined as business as usual for AWS.

For transparency, it's important to note that while the aluminium supplied to INEX has been certified, neither INEX nor AWS

are currently ASI certified. AWS remains committed to transparency and sustainability. We are actively monitoring developments in low-carbon aluminium procurement and working towards the inclusion of this data in upcoming Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). We will continue to provide accurate, timely updates to enhance traceability and assurance for our customers and specifiers.

## Our Supply

In 2024, 99.4% of the total extrusion procured by AWS was sourced from billet of <8M t CO<sub>2</sub>e/t Al (From ASI Certified Sources).

So far, in 2025, 96.6% of the total extrusion procured by AWS has been sourced from billet of <8M t CO<sub>2</sub>e/t Al (From ASI Certified Sources).

All extrusion supplied to AWS is sourced from ASI-certified suppliers.



# What is *low carbon Aluminium?*

Currently, there is no universally accepted definition of “low-carbon aluminium.” The Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) notes that self-certified “low-carbon” products on the market may not use consistent scopes or methods for calculating their carbon footprints (Aluminium Stewardship Initiative, n.d.-a).

Low-carbon aluminium is typically understood to mean anything below the global average, which is between 12 CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg Al. and 15.1 CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg Al.

Some consider gas-fired units, which produce 7–8 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

equivalent per tonne of aluminium (mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e/t Al), to be green, while others classify only hydro-powered units, which produce around 4 mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e/t Al, as green.

Procurement pathways are numerous for sourcing aluminium below the global average of approximately 12 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg Al. However, while options below 4.0 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg Al are available, they are challenging to secure and would require extensive engagement with your supply chain well in advance of a particular project need (MECLA, 2023).

## Reference:

Aluminium Stewardship Initiative. (n.d.-b). Low carbon aluminium definition. Retrieved from <https://aluminium-stewardship.org/low-carbon-aluminium>

Materials & Embodied Carbon Leaders' Alliance (MECLA). (2023). Specification guide – Aluminium (WG5c). Retrieved from <https://mecla.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SpecificationGuide-WG5c-Aluminium.pdf>



## Resource and Waste Management

At AWS, we strive to optimise resource intensity, minimise waste generation and ensure its proper disposal to prevent environmental pollution.

Our just-in-time manufacture, lean delivery framework and proprietary production software is designed to minimise waste and raw material use while increasing efficiency.

At our manufacturing sites, we recycle 100% of our aluminium scrap and offcut. We also recycle cardboard through our waste service providers, achieving 12% of emission savings in our scope 3 emissions in FY23-24.

Photographer: Toby Scott. Fabricator: Coast and Hinterland

## AWS facilities *And Warehouses*

Within the warehousing, distribution, and office activities of AWS a number of environmental initiatives are in place:

- Damaged or reject aluminium extrusions are recycled back through a remelt contractor.
- At AWS Dandenong and Loganlea, all cardboard cartons and packaging is collected, compacted, and baled on site, before being sent to a recycler.
- AWS's Prestons warehouse recycle or reuse all packaging materials - polystyrene packers, wooden cleats, cardboard, and steel strapping.







## Product development and innovation

Innovative solutions are a key component of AWS offerings and play a crucial role in long-term business success and competitiveness.

We foster a culture of innovation within the company through collaboration and the provision of resources to support product development, thereby contributing to the sustainable future of the built environment industry.

**AWS Proudly Designs & Manufactures in Australia.**

Architect: Ben Vitale. Photographer: Nicholas Watt. Fabricator: DLG Aluminium & Glazing



# Business integrity and risk management

AWS conducts business with integrity, upholding ethical standards and complying with all legal and regulatory requirements. Strong governance processes ensure accountability, oversight, and effective management of potential business risks.

Our policies promote ethical behaviour within our direct operations and supply chain. We also refer to sustainability frameworks, including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI), to identify our material topics.

Our vertically integrated model minimises climate-related financial risks and enhances climate resilience by allowing greater control over our supply chain.



Architect: Craig Webster. Builder: Aurelien Berson.  
Photographer: Mitchell Kemp. Fabricator: Bretts  
Architectural Window Solutions.



# Purpose driven *growth*

We never lose sight of our purpose: to be a great company that is not just another aluminium supplier but a reliable, full-service business partner that creates exceptional long-term value for our customers, employees, and business partners.

We strive for controlled growth and continuous product development within a safe and sustainable working environment, delivering solutions that provide lasting value and enhance the health, well-being, and lifestyle of occupants in the built environment throughout Australia.



Builder: Brad Gibson Builder. Photographer: Chris Walters - wm.studio.  
Fabricator: Coastline Architectural Windows.





FOR MORE INFORMATION AND THE LATEST UPDATES REGARDING SUSTAINABILITY  
AND INITIATIVES BY AWS, CALL 1300 026 189

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