



Take 5:

Q&A with Mark Arthun,
Managing Director & Site Leader,
Smith+Nephew Operations Sdn Bhd



Amid a heightening worldwide focus on the need to protect our planet, Smith+Nephew is playing their part by managing resources efficiently, reducing emissions where possible, and being mindful of the impact that their decisions have on the environment. Their sustainability strategy includes not only continually improving their internal environmental footprint, in areas such as waste recycling and greenhouse gas emissions, but also extends upstream to their suppliers and downstream to their customers. By working with like-minded partners, Smith+Nephew is able to deliver products and services that have less impact on the environment.

How important is environmental sustainability and the green agenda to Smith+Nephew?

It is of the utmost importance. Smith+Nephew works with the knowledge that the impacts of climate change are increasingly evident around the world and that every country is affected. Everyone, including businesses, needs to take action to use energy responsibly and reduce emissions. Also, our customers and shareholders/investors increasingly want medical devices to be produced and to perform in an environmentally friendly way. Finally, water is a precious resource, and its availability varies across our locations, so the efforts to conserve are of critical importance.



What are some of Smith+Nephew's main initiatives in the green space?

We at Smith+Nephew have established an array of ambitious sustainability targets, approved by our Board of Directors, including the minimisation of our environmental impact. These targets address the key areas of environmental sustainability that impact the planet the most: greenhouse gas emissions, waste to landfill, water consumption, and developing new products that help us to achieve our long-term goals.

In addition, we are working with our supply chain acknowledging that much of our environmental impact lies outside of our direct control. Here we can have the more influence on the overall carbon footprint.

How is Smith+Nephew implementing these initiatives and who is leading them?

As a company, we are driving accountability through our Sustainability Council and we continue to provide visibility through the publishing of our [20th Annual sustainability report](#). Beyond the council framework, many of these initiatives are driven at the site and individual level. With empowerment as one of our core values, we have had many examples of local employee-led committees delivering on waste reduction, energy efficiency improvements, and water reduction.

What are the key aims and targets for Smith+Nephew's green initiatives and what are your timelines to achieve them?

By 2050 we are targeting an 80% absolute reduction in total life cycle greenhouse gas emissions. Efforts started in Memphis, US where we have achieved 100% renewable electricity and in Malaysia, we are targeting 100% renewable electricity by 2022. For the rest of our strategic manufacturing facilities, we are targeting 2025.

Beyond emissions, we are targeting zero waste to landfill at our manufacturing facilities in Memphis, US, and Malaysia by 2025 and the balance of our strategic manufacturing facilities by 2030.

To support the above-mentioned items, our new manufacturing facility in Penang will be accredited as LEED Silver Certified once completed.



Why, in your opinion, is the Race to Zero Campaign instrumental for businesses?

If we as humans on earth continue to consume resources and inflict harm on the planet at the current rate, our planet will be uninhabitable in not too many generations. Businesses and their consumers play a significant role in this impact, so initiatives such as Race to Zero are instrumental in motivating all of us to come together under one common goal. While aspirational for many businesses, the intention is to challenge us all and our thinking. Without this aspiration, we will return to the status quo, which is not an option.

If you have any questions, please contact Smith+Nephew by email at: sustainability@smith-nephew.com