

# environmental tour 2005

a sustainable exploration

## SPONSOR

**Company:** Interface, Inc.

**Product:** Modular Carpet

**Theme:** The Path to Sustainability

**US Distribution:** Interface Flooring Systems

**Speakers:** Edward Blamey; Interface Europe, Niels Peter Flynn; Experience Design Lab

Founded by Ray Anderson in 1973, Interface revolutionized the commercial floorcovering industry by producing America's first carpet tiles. Now, with a rich history of product design and innovation, Interface is the world's leading manufacturer of modular, soft-surfaced floorcovering.

Atlanta-based Interface, Inc. has modular carpet divisions in the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific. The corporate mission is to become a sustainable corporation by leading a worldwide effort to design sustainable manufacturing and development processes.

Interface's path to becoming a truly sustainable company is laid out in seven ambitious fronts:

- Eliminating waste (anything that doesn't add value to our customers)
- Eliminating harmful emissions to the biosphere
- Using renewable energy resources
- Creating self sustaining, closed loop products and processes
- Developing alternatives to the physical movement of people and material, using resource-efficient means of transportation
- Creating a culture that integrates the principles of sustainability into what we do everyday.
- Creating a new model for business (redesigning it) by pioneering sustainable commerce

All global Interface modular carpet manufacturing facilities maintain registration to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and the ISO 9001 Quality Management System International Standards. In 2003 Interface Flooring Systems, the Americas modular carpet division, became the first company in the floor covering industry to receive third party certification for an Environmentally Preferable Product for carpet, awarded by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS).

During our visit to the Interface Europe manufacturing facility in The Netherlands, we will witness the full manufacturing cycle of carpet tile and see many of the concepts laid out above being put into action. And we will explore what the future holds for sustainable products.