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Eco2punch flooring installed at COP-15

The 15,000 delegates at the forthcoming United Nations global conference on climate change will walk across an ultra-low carbon footprint carpet at the Bella Centre in Copenhagen next week.

The 20,000 square metres of Eco2punch carpet made with Ingeo fibres, supplied to the venue by Sommer Needlepunch of France, is enough to cover nearly five soccer fields.



NatureWorks, the manufacturer of Ingeo, says that as an alternative to a polypropylene carpet, the installation reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 60% and energy consumption by 50% – the equivalent of driving almost 70,000 miles (or 4.6 miles per delegate – though presumably some will have travelled a little further). In June, the new Eco2punch carpet received an innovation trophy from the French Federation of Professionals of

Exhibitions and Events.

“The Eco2punch family of carpets is not only a response to the increasing demand for less greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage in products, but also represents a long-term, significant commitment on our part to perform research and development into more sustainable products and processes,” said Kris De Saedeleir, president of Sommer Needlepunch. “We are committed to developing products that not only perform, but also have less impact on the environment. It’s a whole new way of doing business.”

“The collaboration between Sommer Needlepunch and NatureWorks is a model of how to bring low carbon footprint performance products successfully to market,” said Marc Verbruggen, president and CEO of NatureWorks. “Facility managers at the Bella Centre have had the vision and commitment to embrace this new materials technology, greening the conference literally from the ground up.”

In a first-of-its-kind collaboration, Belgian based company Galactic has organised to collect the carpet following the close of the COP-15. Galactic, one of the largest lactic acid producers in the world, will use its Loopla process to convert the carpet back to virgin lactic acid, a value added industrial feedstock which is the building block for Ingeo biopolymer.