



IMPACT REPORT

2025

Creating Better Learning Environments, Responsibly.

At Natural Pod, we believe deeply in the potential of learning environments to shape brighter futures. We partner with you – educators, administrators, architects, designers, and community stakeholders – united by the conviction that we can create truly exceptional spaces for students of all ages, while upholding our shared responsibility to people and our planet.

We know that thoughtful stewardship of our resources is essential. This commitment guides our work every day, aiming for a positive impact not only within our business practices but especially on the health, well-being, and potential of the students, educators and communities we are privileged to support. This impact report shares our current sustainability goals and helps us measure the progress we are making together.

This marks a milestone on our journey, not the final destination.

The Challenge We Address Together

We understand the pressures educators face today. Amid dynamic shifts in teaching practices, tight timelines, and often limited budgets, making choices that best serve learning goals *and* student health can feel challenging. Too often, the choice seems to be between quick convenience and lasting quality, leading to compromises in both educational effectiveness and environmental responsibility.

A significant factor is the prevalence of "fast furniture" in many settings, including schools. This trend contributes substantially to landfill waste. **According to comprehensive EPA data (from 2018, reflecting the most recent detailed analysis available for this comparison), furniture waste in the US reached 12.1 million tons, a staggering increase from 2.2 million¹ tons annually in 1960.**

Much of this furniture is designed for short lifespans, using lower-quality materials like particleboard bound with often toxic adhesives. These items are difficult to repair or refinish and introduce harmful off-gassing into learning spaces. Sourcing practices can also lack transparency. When furniture is difficult or costly to repair, resell, or donate, it too frequently ends up discarded, perpetuating a cycle of waste.

Measuring Our Progress: Our Sustainability Goals

We set clear, realistic goals to guide our efforts and hold ourselves accountable. These challenge us internally and hopefully inspire others.

- **GOAL: Ethical & Transparent Production**
 - Maintain FSC® certification for our primary product line manufacturing, ensuring responsible forest management, ethical harvesting, protection of biodiversity, workers' rights, and the rights of indigenous peoples from the forest to our schools.
 - Ensure that we consistently meet our Chain of Custody Group certification and that we hold steady with our CARB compliance and LEED credit standards for our natural wood materials.
 - Continue manufacturing Natural Pod designed products exclusively in North America, supporting local economies and ensuring quality oversight.

¹ [In 2018, landfills received 27 million tons of plastic](#). This was 18.5 % of all municipal solid waste landfilled. This equated to an 8.7 percent recycling rate in 2018. Additionally, [in 2018, landfills received 12.2 million tons of wood](#). This equaled 8.3 % of all MSW landfilled that year.

- **GOAL: Healthy & Safe Materials**
 - Maintain less than 1% PVC content across our product line (excluding necessary electrical components).
 - Ensure our products have no harmful off-gassing, utilizing healthier adhesive options like soy-based glues where applicable.
- **GOAL: Sustainable Packaging Practices**
 - In 2024 our fulfillment team completed the “Natural Pod Boxing Project,” simplifying existing packaging, reducing plastic use by 70%, and moving closer to our goal of 100% sustainable packaging.
- **GOAL: B Corporation Accountability & Improvement**
 - Successfully maintain our B Corp Certification by upholding and continually enhancing our performance against their rigorous standards for social and environmental excellence. We are currently engaged in the B Impact Assessment review process as part of this ongoing commitment.
- **GOAL: Sustainability Advocacy**
 - Educate, inform, and champion sustainability in the learning furniture industry via our communications and marketing strategy, transparency of supply chain, ethical sourcing initiatives, inclusive design principles, and mission focused organizational culture.

Continuing the Journey, Together

This report reflects where we are today. We know there is always more work to do – refining our practices, innovating solutions, and challenging ourselves and our partners to elevate standards for sustainability and well-being in learning environments.

We are grateful for your partnership in this important work.

Some recent highlights:

- Natural Pod supported a [“Pop-Up Childcare” space at the Vancouver B Corp Champions Retreat](#) in March 2024 in partnership with the [Pacific Immigrant Resource Society](#). As the conference was scheduled over Spring Break (a time when many daycare centers and schools are closed) our joint offering allowed working parents the ability to attend the conference at no additional cost.
- Natural Pod began offering a Lifetime Warranty across our collections in 2023. Because sustainability means creating furniture that lasts.
- Natural Pod earned [WBE Certification](#) in 2025.