

# OUR SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT

**BRUSTOR®**  
OUTDOOR SUN SYSTEMS

OUR SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT

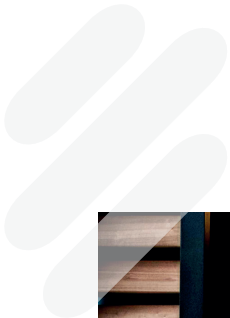






CONTENT

Introduction	3
Discover the Brustor Journey	4
Our story	6
<b>Good Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<b>8</b>
Outdoor Living as part of a healthy lifestyle	8
The Brustor team makes the difference	10
<b>Industry, innovation &amp; infrastructure</b>	<b>13</b>
Responsible manufacturing	13
Brustor partnerships	16
<b>Affordable &amp; clean energy</b>	<b>18</b>
Minimize use of fossil resources	18



## OUR SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT

Dear reader, Brustor Partner,

As a leading reference in Outdoor Shading Solutions, we are addressing the global megatrends such as energy efficiency and healthy living. Our focus on sustainable, profitable growth goes hand in hand with our obligation to develop and manufacture in a sustainable and responsible way. While safety, waste elimination and promoting a healthy lifestyle are part of our DNA, we have recently launched a series of initiatives to do more. Discover our actions inspired by the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals in this report.

Yours sincerely,

Lieven Brutsaert (CEO) & Steven Heytens (Co-CEO)





# DISCOVER THE BRUSTOR JOURNEY

SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS INSPIRED BY THE UNITED NATIONS



## GOOD HEALTH & WELLBEING

Outdoor Living is healthy living. Enjoying the sun in the shade. Creating a **safe and healthy workplace** ensures that our employees remain in good health, enabling them to return to their loved ones as fit and vibrant as when they arrived at work.



## INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

We develop and manufacture innovative custom-fit shading solutions in Belgium. Thanks to our expertise we design our products **to last** and incorporate a maximum amount of recyclable materials.

Thanks to our unique **make-to-order process and proximity to our customers and suppliers** we reduce the waste stream and optimize in- and outbound logistics.



## AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY

The most affordable energy is the energy you don't use. **Creating shade** is the most cost effective way of cooling and that's exactly what our business is about. In addition Brustor commits to increase the use of green energy. We are extending our in-house solar energy production and strive towards an all electric car fleet.







# OUR STORY...

A PIONEER IN SHADING PRODUCTS FOR OVER 50 YEARS

## 1965

Louis Brutsaert establishes "L. Brutsaert," a company specializing in tarpaulins and residential sun shading. This marks the beginning of a journey that has spanned over 50 years.



## 1997

What started as L. Brutsaert evolves into Brustor NV, a manufacturer of awnings, conservatory awnings and screens. A new showroom in Menen opens.

## 2011

Since 2011, Brustor has expanded its focus from shade to outdoor living. They introduce custom-fit, innovative patio covers with tiltable louvers, establishing themselves as **pioneers and a leading reference in the field of Sun Protection.**



From our 3 factories, we work hard on a daily basis to innovate and optimize within each of our **4 product groups**



## 2015

In **2015**, we opened our **first automated warehouse**, and in **2016 a second one**. Unique in the industry! We employ robotic systems to pick profiles and deliver them to the right workstation.



# ... AND THE STORY CONTINUES

**> 100.000 happy  
customers**

already enjoy the sun in the shade  
thanks to a Brustor solution.



Brustor goes global  
serving over

**50 countries.**



## 2022

To meet the growing demand,  
Brustor opens two new sites  
near Kortrijk. These contain a  
new painting facility and a new  
production facility for awnings.



## 2023

Brustor becomes **West Flanders'**  
**ambassador of the Trends**  
**Gazelles** in the Large Companies  
category.

Each year, the competition  
chooses the fastest-growing  
companies with a positive impact  
on the business environment.



**100% MADE IN BELGIUM**

We are in full control of our  
production process, thanks to  
our own powder coating, sawmill,  
confection, assembly and quality  
control departments.



**CUSTOM-FIT  
SHADING SOLUTIONS**

The choice is yours! Various options,  
dimensions, configurations... are offered  
to meet the demands of the customer.



**CREDIBLE PERFORMANCE**

We strive for reliable operation of  
our products. Our team is ready to  
create new solutions every day.  
Our products are built to last.



**LEADING REFERENCE**

In Sun Protection with great focus  
on aesthetics and innovation. Our  
product range offers a solution for  
everyone.

# OUTDOOR LIVING AS PART OF A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

GOOD HEALTH & WELLBEING



Enjoying outdoor living activities in the shade is what drives us when designing shading solutions. We recognize that exposure to UV radiation can cause a range of health problems, from skin cancer to premature aging. Our products are designed to **minimize the harmful effects of UV radiation** while still allowing our customers to enjoy the healthy outdoors and get a good amount of natural vitamin D.

Our commitment to healthy living goes beyond our products and is also visible through our sports sponsorship of the **Alpecin-Deceuninck professional cycling team** and **First Division soccer team Kv Kortrijk**.

Furthermore we encourage our Brustor team mates to hop on the bike and support their initiatives to participate in charities.







“CREATING SHADE IS AT THE  
HEART OF EVERYTHING  
WE DO.”

THE BRUSTOR TEAM



# THE BRUSTOR TEAM MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

GOOD HEALTH & WELLBEING AT WORK



## WORK ENVIRONMENT

Innovative design, customer engagement, and effective manufacturing drive the Brustor team. We prioritize a **healthy and safe working environment**, ensuring our employees return home to their families and friends as fit as they were when they arrived at work. All Brustor employees have the opportunity to participate in training and development programs, and we actively engage in knowledge networks.

**“HEALTH AND SAFETY ARE  
IMPORTANT VALUES AT  
BRUSTOR.”**

## CONNECT & CARE

We take various initiatives to foster a joyful and collaborative work environment. For example we organize a gathering called **‘La Bonne Heure’** multiple times throughout the year. Our teams come together to connect and share experiences with each other in a relaxing environment.

**“LA BONNE HEURE IS THE  
PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO  
GET TOGETHER WITH TEAM  
MATES IN AN INFORMAL  
WAY.”**

## SAFETY AT WORK

Safety is our utmost priority and the responsibility of all our employees. We have embarked on a journey to further reduce the risks at work with focus on **traffic flows, lifting and handling of materials and ergonomics**. Our automatic warehouses for example reduce the need for man power to pick and deliver profiles. Our latest investments in machinery are meeting the **most stringent health and safety requirements**. And our teams get regularly trained on safety.

**“SAFETY IS THE  
RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL OUR  
EMPLOYEES.”**





“OUR EMPLOYEES ACT WITH  
PASSION AND CARE.”

BRUSTOR HR



“OUR PRODUCTS ARE MADE-TO-  
ORDER. CONSEQUENTLY, OUR  
WASTE IS LIMITED.”

COO - ANN VANDENABEELE







# RESPONSIBLE MANUFACTURING

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## PRODUCTS DESIGNED TO LAST

We prioritize longevity and sustainability by utilizing durable, high-quality materials in our products. By doing so, we ensure our products have a prolonged lifespan and can withstand the test of time. As an integral part of our development process, we **design for disassembly**, prioritizing the use of easily separable materials. This facilitates efficient recycling when the time comes.

**“WE ENSURE OUR SHADING SOLUTIONS ARE NOT ONLY CUTTING-EDGE BUT ALSO VERY EASY TO INSTALL.”**

## RECYCLABLE INPUT

Our business model is centered around providing custom-made solutions, manufacturing products that are made-to-order. This allows us to focus on **optimizing the use of recyclable input materials and selecting components with low energy consumption**.

**“OVER 30% OF THE USED ALUMINIUM IS SECONDARY.”**

## CONSUMPTION OF MATERIALS

Another advantage of working made-to-order is that the waste pile can be reduced. We actively strive to **optimize the consumption of materials and water**, leading to a significant decrease in waste. For instance, Brustor utilizes various sizes of aluminum profiles, resulting in less scrap generated during the process of cutting.

**“POWDER WASTE AND FABRIC WASTE GET A SECOND LIFE IN THE CAR INDUSTRY.”**













# BRUSTOR SUPPLIERS & PARTNERSHIPS

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## SUPPLIERS

Throughout the design and production process, we prioritize sustainability and keep in mind the importance of selecting **suppliers who align with our commitments.**

**“WE EXPECT OUR PARTNERS  
TO KEEP THE IMPORTANCE  
OF SUSTAINABILITY  
IN MIND.”**

## BRUSTOR PARTNERS

To ensure that our global network is up to date with the latest products, we have created the **Brustor Academy**. Through this platform we meet our partners and offer comprehensive commercial and technical training to educate distributors on the latest innovations and equip them with problem-solving skills.

**“EVERY YEAR MORE  
THAN 1000 PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATE IN THE  
BRUSTOR ACADEMY.”**









# MINIMIZE USE OF FOSSIL RESOURCES

AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY

## COOLING THROUGH SHADE

As climate change continues to impact our planet, the need for shade has grown significantly. It serves as a powerful tool in reducing the need for excessive cooling expenses. We firmly believe that **shading is the best way to save energy**. By harnessing the benefits of shade, we enable our customers to enjoy comfortable living spaces without the burden of high cooling costs.

**“THE MOST AFFORDABLE  
ENERGY IS THE ENERGY YOU  
DON’T USE.”**

## REDUCE CARBON EMISSION

We are progressively integrating **electrically powered cars into our fleet**. In spring 2023, six charging stations were installed in the parking lot of Brustor Gullegem. By the end of 2023, two additional stations will be installed at our plant in Kortrijk, Evolis. Furthermore, we actively encourage our employees to come to work by bike.

**“HEALTHY LIVING AND  
GREEN LIVING. THAT’S WHY  
WE STIMULATE OUR TEAM  
TO COME TO WORK BY BIKE”**

## LESS ENERGY CONSUMPTION

The new lifting equipment powered by smart batteries that are charged by green energy are **20% more efficient in energy consumption**. Thanks to the solar energy, the Lithium-ion batteries can be charged during the day. The installation of new LED lighting at our Gullegem site will halve our energy consumption. Additionally, a plan has been devised to avoid simultaneous usage of all the lights.

**“MOVING TO SMART LED  
LIGHTING RESULTS IN OVER  
50% REDUCTION  
OF ENERGY.”**





## SOLAR ENERGY

We are actively expanding the share of in-house produced solar energy. The electrical cabinets will be optimized to maximize the utilization of the energy generated during the day, **eliminating the need to feed excess energy** back into the grid.

“OUR NUMBER OF SOLAR  
PANELS WILL INCREASE  
SIXFOLD BY THE END OF  
2023.”







# BRUSTOR®

OUTDOOR SUN SYSTEMS

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Outdoor Living



Retractable awnings



Conservatory awnings



Screens