

## Solar Gard® Architectural Solar Control Window Films Frequently Asked Questions

### Solar Gard's Climate Declaration for Solar Gard® and Panorama® Architectural Solar Control Window Films

#### 1. What is a Climate Declaration?

A Climate Declaration is a specific statement about the greenhouse gas emissions associated with a product, also known as a product's carbon footprint. It is part of an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), which is a formal report about the environmental impacts of a product with respect to its manufacture, distribution, use, and disposal. The declaration is delivered in the form of a certified report created to an international procedure called ISO 14025, which includes key facts about the carbon emissions and carbon savings associated with the product.

#### 2. What does the Climate Declaration say about Solar Gard and Panorama architectural window films? Are the carbon footprints positive or negative?

In more than 95% of the regions where Solar Gard and Panorama architectural solar control window films are sold, they produce a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, so as a family of products, they have a negative carbon footprint.

Thirty-two (32) solar control window films within the Solar Gard and Panorama architectural product lines were analyzed. Research found that one square meter of Solar Gard or Panorama window film prevents, on average, 1001 times as much greenhouse gas emissions from entering the environment over their lifetime than is used and/or created during the manufacturing process. Window film achieves this by reducing the solar heat load in a building which lowers interior temperatures and reduces the need for air conditioning.

#### 3. What is Panorama?

Panorama is a brand of window film sold exclusively in the United States by an elite network of dealers.

#### 4. Which Solar Gard and Panorama films were included in the analysis?

Autumn Bronze 30  
Bronze Silver 15  
Bronze Silver 20  
Bronze Silver Bronze 10  
Grey Silver 15  
Grey Silver Grey 10  
Hilite® 70  
LX 70  
Quantum® Silver Quantum 10  
Quantum® Silver Quantum 20  
Silver 20  
Silver 35  
Silver 50  
Silver AG 25 Low-E  
Slate 10  
Slate 20  
Slate 30  
Slate 40  
Slate 50  
Solar Bronze 20  
Solar Bronze 35  
Solar Bronze 50  
Stainless Steel 10  
Stainless Steel 20  
Stainless Steel 30  
Stainless Steel 35  
Stainless Steel 50  
Sterling 20  
Sterling 40  
Sterling 50  
Sterling 60  
Sterling 70



## 5. What steps did you take to achieve this Climate Declaration?

Saint-Gobain Solar Gard LLC has invested more than \$1M US on its environmental programs to date, assessing the company's carbon footprint, updating environmental management systems, and measuring/auditing the carbon footprint of Solar Gard and Panorama architectural solar control window films. First the company formed a dedicated, cross-functional task force to study the films' carbon footprint. This involved hundreds of hours of work over more than a year to collect data and perform a cradle-to-grave lifecycle analysis of the window films. The lifecycle analysis was performed under standards specified by ISO 14025 protocol. Some of the data were collected internally; other data were extracted from SimaPro Life Cycle Analysis software, a widely used program to assist with lifecycle analysis. Then two independent third-party organizations, Alta Nova, LLC and Five Winds International, reviewed and audited the data. The resulting Climate Declaration is registered at [www.climatedec.com](http://www.climatedec.com), which is operated by The International EPD® Consortium.

## 6. Why did Solar Gard seek a Climate Declaration?

Our motive is simple: environmental responsibility is a core value at Solar Gard. We strive to do all we can to create a better environment. We believe consumers have a right to know the real environmental performance of the products they purchase, and our research pointed us to the ISO 14000 standards and the international Climate Declaration. You can view our Environmental, Health and Safety Policy at [http://www.solargard.com//Assets/PDFs/BSF\\_ENV\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.solargard.com//Assets/PDFs/BSF_ENV_Policy.pdf) and our organizational carbon footprint, which is currently registered with the California Climate Action Registry at <http://www.climateregistry.org/CARROT/public/reports.aspx>.

Additionally, we believe lifecycle analysis should be mandatory for all manufacturers who want to market their products as energy-saving solutions. Without it and the accompanying third-party audit, companies may be (unintentionally) greenwashing consumers – they may claim their product/service can save energy but consumers would have no way to verify their claims. Many manufacturers have yet to embrace lifecycle analysis, but we believe the ISO 14000 environmental guidelines are comprehensive enough to be adopted as best practices.



## 7. Are these the first building improvement products in the U.S. to measure and report their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through a Climate Declaration?

Yes. To date, no other building product in the U.S. has published its Climate Declaration. Solar Gard and Panorama, both manufactured by SGSG, are the first and only window films to publish their audited carbon impact.<sup>1</sup>

## 8. Many products claim to be green. Are Solar Gard and Panorama any different?

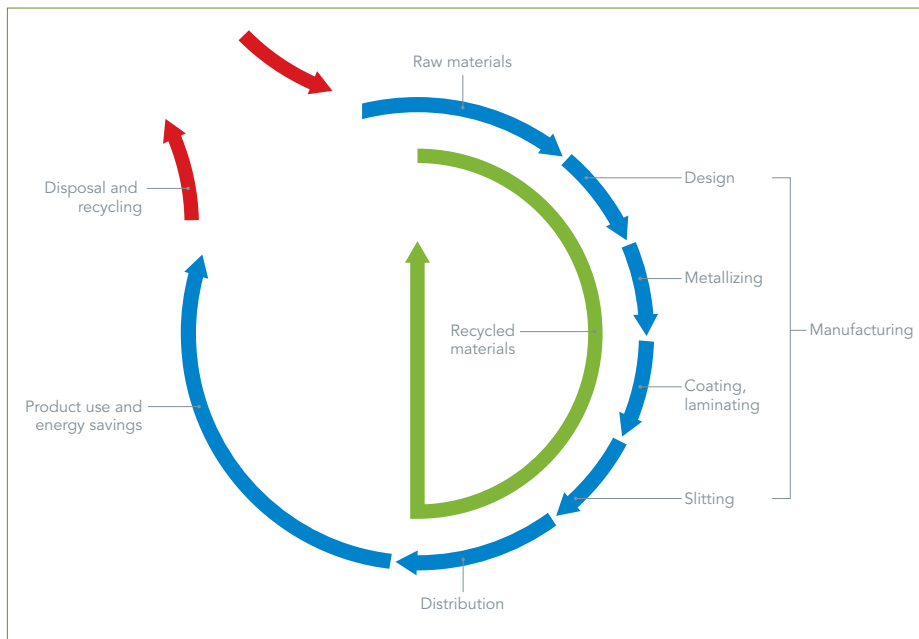
Though many products worldwide claim to save energy, only a small number of those manufacturers have completed lifecycle analyses to measure whether the products they sell are carbon negative, neutral or positive. Companies can run a risk of greenwashing – that is, claiming to be green while hiding the truth about how those products are made, which can mislead consumers. The Climate Declaration for Solar Gard and Panorama architectural solar control window films proves they have a negative global carbon footprint and provide an overall benefit to the environment.

1. According to EPD registrar [www.climatedec.com](http://www.climatedec.com) and [www.thegreenstandard.com](http://www.thegreenstandard.com)

## 9. What did your analysis cover?

Our analysis included a full cradle-to-grave life cycle analysis (LCA) of Solar Gard and Panorama architectural solar control window films. This LCA consisted of materials, manufacturing, business operations, shipping, product use phase and end of life, as depicted in Image 1.

Image 1



Architectural solar control window film lifecycle

## 10. What kind of buildings and what kind of glass were used in your models?

Hundreds of commercial and residential buildings across the globe were modelled using various industry and proprietary software programs. A 186 square meter home (where windows made up 10% of the walls) served as the residential model, and a ten story building with 6,503 square meters of glass and 25% glass coverage was the model for commercial buildings. Single pane glass was used for warmer climates, and double pane glass was selected for cooler climate analyses.

## 11. Does architectural solar control window film work better in some regions than others?

Regional differences do impact the amount of carbon savings generated by solar control window film. For example, in colder climates, passive heat loss may occur when solar control window film is installed. This impacts the amount of carbon savings, but the audited research still shows that

Solar Gard window film is carbon negative even in many colder climates across Europe and the US. In addition to climate variances, different regions of the world generate electricity in different ways, some of which are cleaner (nuclear, hydroelectric) than others (coal). The combined factors of clean energy sources, cold climates, little sunlight and more efficient buildings may mean that Solar Gard and Panorama architectural solar control window films are not carbon negative in every region; our analysis shows that this impacts just a few of the films in France and the line of films in Canada.

In general, carbon savings from window film increases in regions that rely on traditional fossil fuel energy. Our analysis did not take into consideration the time or cost associated with building additional clean energy infrastructure, such as nuclear or hydroelectric plants. Inclusion of these costs may have led to a more positive outcome in regions which benefit from these types of energy sources, such as Canada or France.

Despite regional differences, the analysis shows that the global carbon footprint of Solar Gard and Panorama is negative. That is, Solar Gard and Panorama cut carbon emissions across the globe.

## 12. How does the carbon footprint of installing architectural solar control window film compare to new windows?

According to the 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, published by the U.S. Department of Energy, the carbon footprint of low-e windows with several different frame types is shown in Table 1. The most carbon intensive architectural solar control window film has a carbon footprint, or carbon cost, of about **1 kilogram per square meter**. 1 square meter of a wood frame low-e window, the type with the smallest carbon footprint, has a carbon cost of **253 kilograms per square meter**.

Table 1

Window film or window frame type	Carbon footprint of 1 square meter, installed (kg)
Window film	0.998
Aluminium window	348
Wood	253
Vinyl (PVC)	402
Curtainwall viewable glazing	301

*Carbon-cost benefit analysis of window film compared with various types of window frames*



[www.solargard.co.uk](http://www.solargard.co.uk)

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