

NEWS RELEASE

21 April 2023
Nippon Sheet Glass Co., Ltd.

Investment in Sustainable Glassmaking in UK - Producing Rolled Glass and Float Glass from One Furnace -

NSG group is pleased to announce that it has decided to invest to update a glass furnace with two lines to produce rolled glass and float glass simultaneously, relocating current rolled glass production line in the UK to a float furnace in the same town.

Pilkington United Kingdom Limited, part of NSG Group, is making a multi-million-pound investment in its Merseyside facilities as part of a government-backed project that will save 15,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year while securing the future of rolled glass manufacturing in the UK.

Under the project, Pilkington UK will move its Watson Street manufacturing operations to its Greengate site in the town.

The move represents a major investment in its Greengate glass furnace, which melts the raw materials into glass as part of the manufacturing process.

The Greengate furnace will be upgraded to accommodate its continued production of flat glass, while delivering the additional output required from the relocation of its Watson Street rolled glass manufacturing line.

The project was instigated as the manufacturer's furnace at Watson Street, where the business has operated since 1826, reaches its end of life. The site will be shutdown with all jobs from Watson Street being relocated to Greengate as part of the project.

Producing all glass out of the upgraded furnace, rather than running two, will save carbon emissions equivalent to taking 8,800 cars off the road each year*.

The work will begin in August 2023, with the line due to be up and running by August 2024. Watson Street will remain open until then, with no impact expected on the availability of glass while the work takes place.

The project, supported by not-for-profit research and technology organisation, Glass Futures will benefit from a £3.7m grant via the government's Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF), which helps cover the costs of industrial energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects in the UK.



The Greengate Site

Neil Syder, managing director of Pilkington UK, said: "This project represents one of the single biggest investments we've made in our UK manufacturing facilities in decades, and will ultimately secure the future of rolled glass manufacturing in the UK.

"Working out of one furnace will enable us to make a permanent and significant saving in CO₂ emissions. It's a radical shift in the way we operate, but we know that if we are to achieve our net-zero ambitions, we need to make change across all areas of our business.

"The Watson Street site has been operating since the 1800s and forms a key piece of our history. Throughout the years, the site has been instrumental in the development of different products, paving the way for a rich history of innovation in glass solutions.

"Yet this move marks a new chapter in our story that allows us to embrace more sustainable ways of making glass and continue to drive forward our vision for change, in partnership with the industry."

Last year, the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) certified NSG Group's aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030, compared to 2018 levels. This forms the basis of the business' plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The move also follows other work by NSG Group to reduce the emissions of its operations. The Greengate site completed several world-first trials of low carbon biofuel and zero carbon hydrogen fuels to fire its glass furnace last year.

NSG Group will continue to promote actions for decarbonization to realize a sustainable society.

*Based on a carbon saving of 15,000 tonnes of CO₂ and the average CO₂ emissions per car per year in the UK of 1.7 million grams (NimbleFins)

About NSG Group (Nippon Sheet Glass Co., Ltd. and its group companies)

NSG Group is the world's leading supplier of glass and glazing systems in the business areas of Architectural, Automotive, and Creative Technology.

Architectural manufactures and supplies architectural glass as well as glass for the solar energy and other sectors.

Automotive serves the original equipment (OE) and aftermarket replacement (AGR) glazing markets.

Creative Technology comprises several discrete businesses, including lenses for printers and scanners, specialty glass fiber products such as glass cord for timing belts and glass flake, and Fine Glass products.

NSG Group Website: <https://www.nsg.com>

Sustainability Targets of NSG Group

NSG Group is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 after the revision of the SBT certification obtained in 2019 with the goal of CO₂ emission reduction by 2030, which was reviewed in 2021 and increased to 30% compared to 2018 and is working to achieve this goal. This new goal was certified by SBTi in May 2022, and we are promoting various activities to achieve a sustainable society and carbon neutrality in the future.

About Sustainability Initiatives: <https://www.nsg.com/en/sustainability>

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