

Arto Sustainability Statement 2025

Establishing Our Foundation for Environmental, Social, and Governance Progress

Gardena, California | 2025



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About Arto

ARTO is a family-owned tile manufacturing company in Gardena, California, specializing in handcrafted concrete and high-fired ceramic tile made on-site with traditional methods and a West Coast point of view.

Our ceramic and concrete products are made the traditional way—with skilled hands, local materials, and hard work. In today's world of automation and sameness, ARTO creates truly unique products that attract customers who value individuality and want their spaces to reflect it.

This dedication to craft began with our founder, Arto Alajian, whose experience and creativity were shaped by adversity and cultural heritage. Born in Alexandria, Egypt, to an Armenian father who was a refugee of the Armenian Genocide, Arto grew up surrounded by ancient art and architecture. He learned design and craftsmanship in his father's shoe factory before political unrest pushed him to Beirut, and later North America.

In 1962, Arto settled in Venice, California, where he supported himself as a milkman while experimenting with handmade clay thin brick. The bricks became so popular he left his route and founded ARTO Brick in 1966.

Over the decades, ARTO products have been used worldwide—in commercial projects, restaurants, resorts, and homes of both celebrities and everyday people. After living his American dream, Arto passed away in 2014, leaving the company to his sons, Armen and Vod, who continue his legacy of crafting ceramic and rustic concrete tile at their Southern California factory.



Original Clay Brick Veneer - Signed by Arto, 1971

Executive Letter

When our dad, Arto, taught us how to make tile, he drilled three lessons: don't waste good clay, stay close to the factory floor, and treat every person with respect. Long before sustainability was formalized into reporting frameworks, these ideas shaped how we ran—and still run—the business. Today we call this Environmental, Social, and Governance responsibility, but the heart hasn't changed.

This report marks a meaningful milestone: **2025 is Arto's baseline year for sustainability.**

It is the first year we began formally documenting our environmental impacts, building internal measurement systems, and establishing procedures that will allow us to report measurable progress year over year.

Our focus this year has been foundational. We strengthened our waste tracking, expanded transparency documentation, increased our internal knowledge around LEED and green building requirements, and launched the development of our first product-specific Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). These steps are practical, necessary, and aligned with our commitment to produce responsibly while preserving the craftsmanship that defines Arto.

Our goal is simple: build a clear, honest, and measurable sustainability strategy—one that grows stronger each year and reflects the values our family has carried since 1966.

This **2025 Baseline Sustainability Report** captures where we are today and sets the groundwork for where we are going.



Our Sustainability Journey

Arto's story has always been about craft, family, and integrity. In 2025, we entered a new chapter by formally launching our sustainability program. This report is not a final statement, but the starting point—a baseline year from which all future measurement, tracking, and improvement will grow.

As a company new to ESG reporting, we are focused on building strong foundations: documenting what we have completed, establishing reliable data systems, and preparing to measure what matters most in the years ahead.

What We've Completed So Far

- **Health Product Declarations (HPDs):** HPDs published at 100 ppm disclosure for key ceramic and concrete tile collections.
- **Safety Data Sheets (SDS):** Completed and available for all tile bodies.
- **Industry EPDs:** Referencing NPCA (concrete) and TCNA (ceramic) industry-wide Environmental Product Declarations while product-specific EPDs are in development.
- **LEED Contributions:** Documented how Arto products support LEED credits through transparency documents, low-emitting materials, durability, and regional manufacturing.
- **Baseline Reporting Structure:** Established the first formal framework for sustainability documentation and internal data tracking.

In Progress

- **Product-Specific EPDs:** Lifecycle assessment underway to publish our first product-specific EPDs.
- **LEED/WELL Learning:** Growing internal expertise on certifications and how Arto products contribute.



Goals for 2025–2026

This year (2025) is focused on **building baselines**. Where possible, we will begin capturing measurable data so that future change can be tracked year-over-year. The table below highlights our current priorities, with notes on what can already be measured today.

Focus Area	2025 Baseline (This Year)	2026 Target (Next Year)	What Can Be Measured Now
Waste Diversion	Establish tracking for raw and fired tile scrap; record outcomes (reused, reclaimed, landfill).	Identify diversion percentage and begin year-over-year reporting.	Scrap logs and production data.
Water Use	Record gallons used in forming and finishing.	Identify reduction opportunities and set measurable 2026 targets.	Utility bills and meter readings.
Energy Use	Track electricity (kWh), natural gas (therms), and energy intensity per sq ft.	Explore kiln efficiency improvements and renewable sourcing options.	Utility data and production output.
Product Transparency	Maintain HPDs at 100 ppm; reference industry-wide EPDs.	Publish first Arto product-specific EPDs.	Published HPDs and SDSs.
Governance & Data Systems	Develop internal tracking system for waste, water, and energy.	Publish verified data and formal sustainability review.	Reporting structures.
Social	Maintain >90% local employment; begin collecting workforce demographic and safety metrics.	Align workforce reporting with regional benchmarks.	HR and safety logs.

Commitment Statement

This report reflects the systems we have put in place to begin tracking waste, water, and energy use—and the foundational work required to ensure that future goals are based on reliable, verifiable data.

Beginning in 2026, Arto will publish year-over-year performance metrics and begin sharing measurable progress across all key environmental, social, and governance categories. Each year forward, our reporting will grow stronger, clearer, and more impactful.

This baseline report is the starting point of a long-term commitment to responsible craft, transparency, and continuous improvement.

LEED v5 & Green Building Contributions

Arto products align strongly with the goals and structure of LEED v5, officially launched by USGBC in April 2025. LEED v5 places greater emphasis on human health, embodied carbon, circularity, and whole-building performance—areas where Arto’s material characteristics and transparency documents provide meaningful support to project teams.

Arto LEED v5 Contribution Chart

LEED v5 Category	How Arto Contributes	Arto Documentation / Notes
BPDO – Material Health & Transparency	Supports material transparency requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPDs at 100 ppm • Industry-wide EPDs (ICNA / NPCA) • Product-specific EPDs in development
Embodied Carbon (wbLCA)	Provides data needed for modeling and carbon benchmarking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPDs (industry-wide) • Durable materials • Reclaimed material pathways in development
Indoor Air Quality / Emissions	Zero-VOC materials suitable for low-emitting pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceramic & concrete tile = naturally inert, no added VOC coatings
Circularity & Waste Reduction	Supports waste minimization and circularity strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrap reuse initiatives (baseline 2025) • Long product lifespan
Regional & Project Priority Strategies	Locally manufactured materials reduce transport impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made in Southern California • Supports regional sourcing considerations

*Conrad Hotel
Los Angeles CA*



Closing Statement

Sustainability is a journey, and 2025 marks our first formal step.



We appreciate your interest in Arto's progress, our people, and the craftsmanship that drives everything we do. We welcome your questions, feedback, and partnership.



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