As **cleaning supplies**, soy biobased products:
- Are biodegradable
- Are non-toxic
- Can remove the toughest grease and grime
- Do not contain petroleum products, terpenes, or other chemicals
- Use safe, non-hazardous ingredients

As **carpet backing**, soy biobased products:
- Are made of rapidly renewable and recycled materials
- Replaces over 90% of the petroleum-based chemicals with biobased chemicals
- Improves air quality

As **roof and other coatings**, soy biobased products:
- Reflect heat from the sun, reducing the amount of heat absorbed and thus reduces the amount of air conditioning required to cool buildings
- Extend roof life by providing a 100% waterproof surface
- Can be applied by spraying, rolling, or brushing without the need for expensive equipment

Source: United Soybean Board
**Sustainable Solutions for the Future**

Based on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) definition, **sustainability** calls for acting to meet society’s present needs without hurting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by:

- Increasing productivity to meet future food demands
- Decreasing impact on the environment
- Improving human health
- Improving the social and economic well-being of communities

The soybean production in the U.S. has shown that sustainability can be achieved while increasing production. The soybean production has improved its efficiency in five areas: 1) energy use, 2) soil loss, 3) irrigation water use, 4) climate impact, 5) land use. The spidergram above shows the changes of soybean efficiency from year 1987 to 2008. The smaller the spidergram, the higher the efficiency and the less impact there is on the environment during soybean production.

**Growing Benefits**

With the harvest of 70 million acres of soybean plants every year, **soybeans provide an abundant supply of commercial and industrial products** such as food and livestock feed as well as substitutes for petroleum.

Even though soy has been used in products such as paints and lubricants for nearly a century, it is not until recently that soy has proven to be an **excellent alternative to other petroleum-based chemicals**. As an eco-friendly ingredient with many benefits, soy has become a good choice for a wide variety of products, such as cleaning supplies, roof coating, and cosmetics.

**FAST FACT**

Professionals predict a 2.5 billion increase in world population by the end of 2050, and people must double agricultural output to feed the mouths of 9 billion people.

*Source: World Agriculture: towards 2030/2050*

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations predicts that the world’s population will continue to grow, which will lead to a **rise in demand for food and natural resources**. In order to produce more food without harming the environment, sustainable solutions will have to be found. This may require diets containing less meat and more dairy, fruits and vegetables.

**FAST FACT**

U.S. farmers grow more than 70 million acres of U.S. soybean plants each year.

*Source: United Soybean Board*

In 2010, the United Soybean Board released a document showing how soy has significantly **reduced greenhouse gases**, **decreased exposure to toxic chemicals**, and cut our dependence on foreign oil.