

LWVCO Sustainability Committee

GREEN MANUFACTURING

Elaine Reeves 8-6-09

100's of businesses use recycled, organic, natural and reclaimed materials in their manufactured products. Here are a few examples:

Recyclers:

OHIO Mattress Recovery and Recycling—If every one of the 300,000,000 people in the US discarded their full size mattresses at one time, it would require a landfill of 300 square miles to hold them all. Due to the fact that mattresses cannot be reused as they are, most mattresses are thrown away and end up in landfills. However, 94% of the mattress contents are recyclable. This company works with hotels and motels; colleges and universities; waste management firms and any other locations with large numbers of mattresses to recycle them.

TerraCycle—The company's flagship product, TerraCycle Plant Food, is an all-natural, all-organic liquid plant food made from waste (worm poop) and packaged in waste (reused soda bottles). It is excellent plant food and is cheaper than other brands. TerraCycle also makes various natural home cleaning products. They also pay for used food packaging and remakes it into backpacks, wallets and purses.

Personal Products:

Angelina Organic Skincare—Skin care products that are handcrafted with organic, local and Fair Trade products, using 100% wind power and recyclable packaging.

Building Materials:

Earth Weave Carpet Mills, Inc—Floor-covering products using undyed, untreated wool on the face, along with hemp, cotton, jute and natural rubber for the backing materials.

Elmwood Reclaimed Timber—Provides reclaimed antique wood and stone products for interior and exterior projects.

CellPak—Cellulose has been used for building insulation since the 1920's. CellPak uses 100% recycled newsprint to produce cellulose building insulation.

Other Manufactured Items:

Java-Log—Manufactures fire logs from recycled coffee grounds and a renewable, natural vegetable wax. It saves trees and diverts 20 million pounds/year of coffee waste from landfills.

Resource Revival—Recycles bicycle parts into art. They collect tons of discarded bicycle parts every year from bicycle shops all over the United States. They have teams of artists who then turn these parts into new products.

Mr. Elle Pooh—If the US cut office paper use by just 10% it would prevent the emission of 1.6 million tons of greenhouse gases—the equivalent of taking 280,000 cars off the road. Mr. Elle Pooh's paper products are 100% recycled. They are made up of 75% elephant dung 25% post consumer paper. There are no toxic chemicals used. Natural vegetative binding agents, along with winter-soluble salt dyes for coloring are used.