



Environmental
Management Plan
2009

Rainier

Environmental Management System

With a rich history dating back to the Alaskan Gold Rush in 1896, Rainier continues to break new ground as an industry leader in the area of environmental stewardship.

In 2006, we developed Rainier's Sustainability Initiative and our workforce is coming together to take positive action and make every aspect of our company greener, from how we manage our offices to the manufacturing of products and their installation. In 2008 we launched a formal Environmental Management System and we are proud to have passed our [ISO 14001](#) audit on Earth Day, April 22, 2009 – we were formally certified on May 5, 2009. This is in addition to our Quality Management System – we are also [ISO 9001](#) certified. Both ISO certifications are through [TUV Rhineland](#), the world leader in competence testing and certification.

In our daily operations, we strive to use environmentally friendly products that will protect our natural resources, to reduce our energy consumption and to recycle the bulk of our waste. Rainier also encourages employees to be more environmentally sensitive away from work and to do their part in reducing our carbon footprint by using alternative methods of transportation commuting to and from work.

We take pride in providing our customers with products that are produced using sustainable materials. We use wood harvested only from sustainable forests and treat it with non-solvent preservatives. The use of PVC based fabrics are being minimized and our printers use UV cured water-soluble inks rather than the more common solvent based inks. We are continually looking for innovative ways to incorporate eco-friendly materials into our products.

Sustainability is not just another catch phrase; “to respect and to protect our environment” is an initiative that is part of our mission statement and put into practice every day. The team at Rainier is committed to helping protect and preserve our natural resources for future generations. The following is an overview of the twelve aspects of our Environmental Management System.

[Scott C. Campbell](#)

President

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Business Travel

The impact of business travel with respect to sales calls, tradeshow, seminars, deliveries and miscellaneous trips.

Aspect Impact and Risk Management

- Reduce our carbon offset by combining sales visits or reducing the number of annual shows attended to only those critical to the growth of the business.

Goals

- Determine the number of miles driven by Sales people per month and reduce by 10%
- Determine the number of miles flown by Sales people per month and reduce trips by 10%
- Determine number of miles driven by Project Managers per month and reduce by 5%
- Determine the number of miles flown by Project Managers per month and reduce trips by 5%

Current Action Plan

- Plan salespersons' visit routes to minimize travel distances
- When renting vehicles, give preference to fuel efficient or alternative fuel vehicles
- Monitor progress on a quarterly basis

Accomplishments

- Aspect launched in September of 2008

Business Waste

The impact of waste created within our facility.

Aspect Impact and Risk Management

- Determine the impact in pounds of waste generated through production and incorporate recycle/reuse practices

Goals

- Reduce annual waste (by weight) in 2009 by 10%.

Company Practices and Policies

- Employees shall comply with the Waste Management Procedure and utilize recyclable containers
- All purchased materials will be of recycled materials where available and feasible

Current Action Plan

- Increase employee training
- Monitor progress on a continual basis
- Research methods of recycling PVC waste
- Better labeling and placement of recycling receptacles

Accomplishments

- Solid waste reduced in 2008 by 40%
- More materials generating income through recycling
- Solvent printers replaced by UV printers to reduce hazardous waste to minimal levels
- All solvent based preservatives have been replaced by water based preservatives for wood products

Employee Commuting

The impact made by employees commuting to and from work as determined by method of transportation.

Aspect Impact and Risk Management

- Based on the assumption that all employees commute using single occupancy vehicles

Goals

- Reduce single occupancy vehicle trips year-over-year by 5%.

Company Policies

- Human Resources manages an employee Commute Trip Reduction Policy (including a documented plan) to encourage and enable employees to carpool and/or use alternative transportation to/from work
- New Hire Orientation includes information regarding the Trip Reduction Program

Current Action Plan

- Conduct a bi-annual CTR (Commute Trip Reduction) survey

Accomplishments

- The Trip Reduction Program Plan was initiated in 2006
- Continued participation in the City of Tukwila Commuter Trip Reduction program
- Added Bicycle racks to encourage zero emissions
- Encourage employee participation in CTR through the use of the employee newsletter, orientation and crew meetings

Facilities Maintenance

The impact of maintaining our facility with respect to landscape, paint, storm water, lights and cleaning supplies.

Aspect Impact and Risk Management

- Determine electric and water usage via review of meter readings
- Investigate renewable resource options
- Consider the methods used to landscape our facility and determine eco-friendly products and services
- Paint cans produce a high amount of VOC's (volatile organic compounds), where possible, identify latex products

Goals

- 100% adherence to facilities maintenance schedule

Company Practices and Policies

- Facilities maintenance activities are to comply with the "Facilities Maintenance Guidelines"

Current Action Plan

- Utilize practices that involve composting, recycling and recycled/reusable products

Accomplishments

- Moving to our new building in the summer of 2008 gave us the opportunity to choose environmentally safe paints, update the landscaping responsibly and alter our cleaning services to utilize environmentally safe cleaning solutions.

Product Design

Understand the impact that our products have on the environment and implement design strategies to eliminate harmful materials and incorporate recycled materials whenever possible.

Aspect and Risk Management

- Based on creative design and supplier availability of alternative raw materials that are reusable and recyclable

Goals

- Design new products using 90% of recyclable or reusable materials
- Re-design current products to incorporate recyclable and reusable materials

Current Action Plan

- Design products with consideration to their environmental impact including:
 - Material usage (preferring materials that are recycled, reusable, durable, non-hazardous, no solvents)
 - Minimize waste (in production)
 - Minimize shipping costs
 - Design efficiency (minimal materials to meet requirements)

Accomplishments

- Because this aspect was launched recently, in October of 2008, it has not been well tracked or documented, although progress has been made.
- Many new environmentally friendly materials have been added; reference page 16 for a list of *Green Graphics Media Materials* currently in inventory

Product Packaging

The impact of packaging used to ship products to customers. Items we use might include: wood crates, wood pallets, cardboard, shrink wrap, bubble wrap, foam, metal banding and clear plastic.

Aspect Impact and Risk Management

- Strive to send completed products to our customers in recyclable or reusable packaging materials

Goals

- Increase the level of recyclable materials used in packaging
- Continue reduction of plastic

Company Practices and Policies

- Package our product to ensure safe transport, but minimize packaging quantity and use of foam and plastics

Current Action Plan

- When possible, purchase packaging materials that are:
 - Made with recycled content
 - Can be recycled at end of line
 - Biodegradable/Compostable
 - Non-toxic/hazardous

Accomplishments

- Program launched to recycle bubble wrap and other clear packaging materials
- Much of our foam packing has been replaced with Hexicomb which is made from recycled cardboard and can be recycled again

Production Air Quality

The impact materials and machinery have on breathable air quality.

Aspect Impact and Risk Management

- Provide a safe working environment for employees during the manufacturing process that eliminates occupational disease caused by poor air quality

Goals

- On-site chemicals will not require respirator use per MSDS

Company Practices and Policies

- The Safety Administrator will be contacted when chemicals reflect hazardous materials per MSDS

Current Action Plan

- Where chemicals recommend respirator use, personnel will undergo fit testing prior to wearing a respirator. Upon completion, records will be filed in appropriate personnel files and usage may commence
- Purchasing will direct efforts toward products that eliminate the use of a respirator

Accomplishments

- Aspect was developed in October of 2008
- Voluntary respirator program was developed and monitoring began in 2006
- Installed new dust collection system in wood shop

Vendor Impact

The impact of purchased products and services and the companies which provide them including packaging and transportation

Aspect and Risk Management

- Consider the impact placed on the environment by supplier materials and order frequency

Goals

- Evaluate our vendors based upon the impact of their packaging, product content and transportation of their product/services and their response to these environmentally sensitive issues
- Have an overall Vendor Environmental Score of 3 or less

Company Practices and Policies

- When possible purchase materials/equipment (including packaging) that is:
 - Made with recycled material
 - Can be recycled at end of line
 - Non-toxic/ Reusable
 - Energy efficient (includes Energy Star compliant computer equipment)

Current Action Plan

- Track highest dollar cost and usage of inventory items
- Create possible stocking options to minimize reduction in shipments

Accomplishments

- Aspect added in October of 2008
- Supplier database modified to allow for collection and sorting of data based upon environmental sensitivity

Utilities Usage

The impact our electricity, natural gas, and water usage has on the environment.

Aspect Impact and Risk Management

- Consider the cost of energy output derived from production time versus down time

Goals

- Reduce KWH use over previous year by 10%
- Reduce THRM use over previous year by 10%
- Reduce water usage over previous year by 10%

Company Policies/Practices:

- Monitor power equipment for any leak issues and power off when not in use
- Turn off non-production computers at end of day and set on 'sleep' mode
- Lighting and heating to be operated on timer system and thermostats set to minimal coverage
- Where available, purchase equipment that is Energy Star compliant
- Utilize irrigation system only when necessary

Current Action Plan

- Show baseline costs using accounting documents to set 10% reduction for upcoming year

Accomplishments

- Rainier remodeled and moved into our new facility in July of 2008. The building was improved with extra insulation, energy efficient lighting, energy efficient heating and programmable thermostats – over all savings in heating has been over **50%** despite the fact that our new building space is 40% larger than our previous plants.

Vehicle Fleet

The impact of company vehicles emissions on the environment

Aspect Impact and Risk Management

- Consider the effect vehicle washing and vehicle emissions has on the environment

Goals

- 100% Adherence to the Vehicle Maintenance schedule
- Capture and treat water runoff

Company Practices & Policies

- The Installation Coordinator pre-plans installation routes to minimize travel distances
- Vehicle washing is done in accordance with King County regulations

Current Action Plan

- Monitor Vehicle maintenance schedules to ensure proper vehicle maintenance for safety and environmental protection
- Determine method of vehicle washing to be in compliance with Storm Water regulations

Accomplishments

- Aspect launched in October of 2008
- Regular vehicle maintenance program has been successfully managed since 1996

Summary

Being “green” is not a trendy marketing ploy at Rainier. We are serious about our Environmental Management System and are working to respect and protect our environment. Being in business for over 113 years gives us a unique, long-term perspective – we want to make sure our legacy has the opportunity to continue for many more centuries. In addition to the 11 aspects of our ISO 14001 program we have other activities that we are proud to highlight:

- We are a member of the [Seattle Climate Partnership](#), an organization dedicated to beating the global warming pollution reduction target of the Kyoto Protocol.
- Rainier is a participant in the [King County Enviro Stars](#) program, committed to reducing hazardous materials and wastes, and implementing environmentally beneficial practices.
- We have been a contributor to [The Nature Conservancy](#) for over 17 years, the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people.
- We have installed a solar power system at our product development site and are working to provide solar power systems to our yurt and residential customer base.
- Paper products used in our office environment are all recycled and advertising collateral has all been converted to [FSC](#) certified paper.

Feel free to contact either [Sue Gilliom](#), our Customer Service Manager and Director of Sustainability, or [Scott Campbell](#), President, with any questions in regards to our Environmental Management System.

Green Media Materials Currently in Inventory

- **Digi-Jet UV Pro-Print Synthetic Paper:** Biodegradable light weight fabric.
- **Eco-Celtic Cloth:** 100% recycled polyester
- **Eco Fab:** Material made from recycled water bottles
- **Eco Mount:** Water-based double-sided adhesive
- **Enviroboard:** Board that is 88% post consumer
- **Insite Board:** Biodegradable white foam board
- **JetTex:** PVC and Phthalate-free fabric
- **Magic Media:** Paper with recycled content
- **Revolve Wallcovering:** Biodegradable and recycled fabric
- **Rainier Reclaimed Wood:** Reclaimed wood from around the world.
- **Vivitex Inkjet Fabrics:** Fabric manufactured with green processing
- **ReCore Wallcovering:** Type 1 Class A Eco-Friendly Wallcovering with 30% recycled content.
- **Falcon Board:** Recycled and recyclable Corrugated cardboard with a kraft paper face.
- **Rainier FSC Certified paper products:** Various paper substrates that can be used for a number of applications including POP and displays.
- **Rainier Post-sumer weave:** 100% Recycled woven polyester for banners or backdrops. .
- **Foamacel Board:** Biodegradable board for POP or a ridged display.
- **Rainier PE:** Recyclable, lightweight promotional banners.

Glossary

Biodegradable: A material or substance which will decompose quickly and without harmful effects to the environment when left exposed to nature.

Business Sustainability: Sound, long-range management of people, resources and the environment that is subject to holistic and continuous improvement. Business sustainability should feed financial benefits directly back into the company's bottom line, as well as meeting its social and environmental obligations.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Requires that businesses account for and measure, actual or potential economic, social and environmental impacts of their decision. It can involve actions being taken that exceed mere compliance with minimum legal requirements. CSR suggests that commercial corporations have a duty of care to all stakeholders in all aspects of business operations. Stakeholders are those influenced by, or who can influence a business's decisions and actions, including employees, customers, suppliers, community organization, subsidiaries and affiliates, partners, local neighborhoods, investors and shareholders.

Eco-friendly: An alternative to goods usually bought in most stores. These products are made with ecology and the environment in mind.

Ecological Footprint: A measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems. It compares human demand with the Earth's capacity to regenerate.

Emissions: Emissions are particles and gases released into the air as by-products. There are many types of emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions for example, contribute to global warming.

Energy Efficient: Products and systems that use less energy to perform as well or better than standard products. While energy-efficient products sometimes have higher up-front costs, they tend to cost less over their lifetime when the cost of energy consumed is factored in. An example of this is fluorescent light bulbs vs. incandescent bulbs.

Environmental Stewardship: Long-term management aimed at preserving and enhancing the quality of an environment.

Green Design: A term used in the building, furnishings and product industries to indicate designs sensitive to environmentally-friendly, ecological issues.

Low-VOC: A term referring to reduced amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in paint and finishes. Low VOC paints do not off-gas as much as conventional paints and contain fewer toxins that are harmful to the environment.

Post-consumer: Refers to recycled material that was used by a consumer. A high post-consumer content helps divert material from ending up in landfills.

Pre-consumer: Refers to recycled material that came from the manufacturing process. Pre-consumer recycling of scraps and discards diverts waste that may otherwise end up in landfills, and reduces use of raw materials.

Recyclable: A product or material that can be converted back into material that can be used again in manufacturing new goods. Typically, recyclable materials (aluminum, steel, paper, etc.) must remain in their pure form. If too many adhesives are used or a product is made from a composite, those materials may not be separated at the end of its life-cycle for recycling.

Recycled: To use again or reprocess.

Sustainable: Actions and products that meet current needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet theirs. Sustainability is a broad term and often refers to the desire to provide the best outcomes for the human and natural environments both now and into the indefinite future.

Waste Reduction: A process to reduce or eliminate the amount of waste generated at its source or to reduce the amount of toxicity from waste or the reuse of materials. The creation of waste is a growing problem in the environment, as landfills get filled and toxins leach back into the ground. The best way to reduce waste is not to create it in the first place.