

The Great Western News

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Become A Green Machine

Ask Mr. Janitor:
You have been talking about the many benefits of cleaning green and of having green buildings. Is this just talk, or do you really believe in cleaning green and in being a green company?



Mr. Janitor Answers:
Yes, we believe in the green movement and in the many benefits of being a green company. In fact, I would say that Great Western is a "green machine" Let me explain.



There are real, tangible benefits in being as green a company as possible. Being green benefits those who work in or visit your facility. Being green will benefit our environment and can benefit your bottom line. Being green is smart business. Let's look at some examples of this from what Great Western has done and is doing.

Let's start with a look at something we have done that has nothing to do with any of the products we sell. Like many of you, we have office space to light as well as warehouse space to light. We had always used standard T12 fluorescent bulbs. Simply by switching to the newer T8 fluorescent bulbs, which use far less energy than the T12s, we are saving energy and money with an additional benefit. The T8 fluorescents give whiter and brighter light and give off less heat than the older T12s. Our offices and warehouse are now much brighter. Our warehouse was so much brighter with the T8s that we now use fewer bulbs, yet our warehouse is much brighter with fewer T8s than with more T12s. Being greener by using less energy in your lighting can bring real benefits and savings.

To conserve fuel and reduce emissions, we have purchased some smaller, more fuel efficient delivery trucks and use the right sized truck for specific delivery routes. Along with the right sized trucks, we use a computer mapping system to route our deliveries in the most fuel efficient, green, manner. We use floor loaded paper trucks which allows for more cases per truck and saves fuel and pallets.

To clean our facility, we use and sell green and BioRenewable cleaning products along with HEPA filtration vacuum cleaners, all of which are healthier for those doing the cleaning, healthier for those working in or visiting our facility and better for the environment. To continue to promote energy efficiency and employee comfort, we have installed a new, energy efficient HVAC system. Of course we have implemented a comprehensive recycling program, and our invoices and delivery tickets are printed on recycled paper.

Products not often associated with green efforts are sanitary paper items like hand towels and toilet tissue. We use and sell products from SCA Tissue. SCA Tissue is America's first sanitary paper manufacturer to earn the prestigious EcoLogo™ certification. SCA Tissue is a true environmental leader, and we are proud to sell their paper products as part of our green machine stable of products.

We believe the effort to go green is worthwhile from improved health, environmental and budgetary perspectives. Going green can benefit all of these.

If we can answer any questions or be of assistance if your efforts to go green, give us a call at our Davenport office at 563/445-6644 or in Cedar Rapids at 319/395-0445.