

# Greener Than You Think

Everyone — consumers, businesses, nonprofits and government organizations — uses the mail. The U.S. Postal Service is committed to managing resources wisely to minimize mail's environmental impact. Across the organization, from supply management to facilities to delivery, the Postal Service is integrating sound environmental business practices into day-to-day operations and our organizational culture. Leading by example, USPS is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the future.

- According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the nation's environmental watchdog, advertising mail represents **less than 2.4 percent** of the nearly 254 million tons of municipal solid waste created annually and nearly 40 percent of advertising mail is recycled.
- The Postal Service is recognized as an environmental innovator and leader, and has been honored with more than **75 major environmental awards**, including 40 White House Closing the Circle awards for environmental stewardship and 10 WasteWise Partner of the Year awards for best government performance from the EPA.
- **usps.com/green** helps consumers make environmentally responsible decisions about their mail. A key feature of the site is the "skip the trip to the post office" calculator that consumers can use to see how much money they can save and how much they can help the environment conducting postal business online. Check it out at [http://www.usps.com/green/calculator\\_pop.html](http://www.usps.com/green/calculator_pop.html).
- The Postal Service's **2010 Annual Sustainability Report** is available at <http://www.usps.com/green/report/2010/welcome.htm>. The report highlights USPS sustainability progress and looks at the challenges ahead.
- The Postal Service is the only mailing and shipping company to earn **Cradle-to-Cradle certification** for the design and manufacture of its shipping products, including Priority Mail and Express Mail boxes and envelopes. As of the end of FY 2010, USPS now offers customers more than 26.3 billion total Cradle-to-Cradle® certified products across 114 product types. These products meet established standards for human and environmental health and recyclability.
- In 2010, the Postal Service generated nearly \$15 million in revenue through **expanded recycling and waste prevention efforts**. More than 20,000 postal facilities have recycling programs and over 11,000 are participating in a backhaul program, which recycles more material and generates additional revenue. In addition, the Postal Service recycled more than 221,000 short tons of materials in 2010, avoiding over 162,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gases.
- The Postal Service continues to use and benefit from **solar power** from California to Rhode Island, with solar photovoltaic systems that convert sunlight directly into electricity.
- An **Office of Sustainability** coordinates energy, fuel and recycling and programs across USPS. Postal Service goals include fleet and facility energy reduction and creating a culture of conservation in every internal business unit and with every external business partner.
- The Postal Service partners with companies, agencies and organizations in ongoing pilot **mail-back programs** to safely recycle and properly dispose of small electronics, compact fluorescent lamps and discarded or expired pharmaceuticals. These programs use USPS' national infrastructure, create customer convenience and find new, innovative uses for the mail.
- **"Read, Respond, Recycle"** is the message behind Post Office Box Lobby Recycling programs at more than 10,000 postal facilities across the country. By placing secure recycle bins in Post Office lobbies, the Postal Service is making it even easier for customers to make environmentally friendly choices.
- The Postal Service is the first federal agency to publicly report its **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** and to receive third-party verification of the results. USPS FY 2010 direct GHG emissions (Scope 1 and 2) total 4.8 million metric tons, less than one tenth of 1 percent of the total GHG emissions in the U.S. in 2009.
- USPS employee **Lean Green Teams** are helping build a conservation culture by finding low or no-cost ways to improve resource use and minimize impacts on the environment.