CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN: BECOMING CARBON NEUTRAL

Researched and designed by student interns Ali Pedersen and Virginia Pritchett (Washington and Lee University)

This is Rockbridge Environmental Consulting, Inc.'s plan for reducing our carbon footprint and eventually becoming carbon neutral. Using online carbon footprinting calculators provided by carbonfund.org and terrapass.com, we estimated our current carbon footprint and identified the largest contributors. Listed below are our findings and solutions:

Our Current Carbon Footprint:

Emission Source	Tons of CO ₂
Commute	52-67
Fleet	33-43
Office and Utilities	8-10
Travel	0.9-2
Paper	1.3
Total	105-112

Our goal is to reduce this footprint by 10% by the end of 2012.

Proposed Solutions:

Commute and Fleet: We are looking into hybrid cars and trucks to replace the ones we currently use but are awaiting better alternatives that meet the demands of our various job sites.

Office and Utilities: We are switching to Dominion Green Power. Dominion Power buys Green-e Energy certified renewable energy certificates (RECs) from renewable energy facilities to guarantee that renewable energy is generated and delivered to the power pool in the amount specified. (Source: http://www.dom.com/dominion-virginia-power/customer-service/energy-conservation/green-power.jsp)

Paper: We currently use tree-free paper that is 70% sugarcane and 30% bamboo. After researching the origin of this paper we determined that the footprint caused by shipping from Asia is too high. We are now considering a switch to sugar paper which is 80% sugarcane waste and 20% Certified Plantation Fibre making it a 100% biodegradable. The brand we are considering also guarantees that the manufacturing process is sustainable.