



Learn the **Green Lingo**: Precycling

Not Recycling, but Precycling is making a decision about the generation of waste before it's brought into your home or office. "Precycling happens when you buy an item and make a choice that means less packaging waste—whether that means choosing the bulk cereal instead of the individually-wrapped single-serving boxes or picking up a reusable tote to carry to the grocery store." Remember that you are the consumer, if you stop buying over-packaged items the producers may take notice. If you must buy products with large amounts of packaging explore ways to re-use or recycle the packaging.

<http://planetgreen.discovery.com>

Green Product of the Month:

UltraTouch natural cotton fiber insulation sets the standard for high performance insulating products coupled with a focus on sustainability. UltraTouch recycled denim insulation is sustainable for a number of reasons. The primary raw material is post-consumer recycled denim and is comprised of cotton fibers which are a rapidly renewable resource and have a rapid growth cycle. These fibers allow for improved thermal as well as acoustical performance over traditional insulations. The UltraTouch line of batt insulations offers R Values from R8 to R30.

UltraTouch contains no formaldehyde and has been tested to show that there are no VOCs within the product. In addition UltraTouch's manufacturing process uses minimal amounts of energy in comparison to traditional insulating products, and all scrap and manufacturing trim is re-introduced into the raw material supply creating a virtually zero waste process.

www.bondedlogic.com

Green Current Events:

The first U.S. offshore wind farm 5 miles off the Massachusetts coast was granted federal approval on Wednesday April 28, 2010. U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar gave the green light for the historic 130-turbine, 420-megawatt Cape Wind project in Horseshoe Shoal, Nantucket Sound, in what supporters considered a huge step forward for renewable energy in the United States.

The Horseshoe Shoals, the part of Nantucket Sound where the wind farm is proposed, is widely considered the best place along the East Coast to build a wind farm. That's in part because the site is in shallow, sheltered waters close to shore and the nearest beach is five miles away. The turbines, more than 400 feet high, will dot an area of about 24 square miles.

Although small in terms of its production -- the facility would produce enough electricity to power 400,000 houses and would reduce carbon emissions by the equivalent of 175,000 cars.

Cape Wind Associates is expecting construction to begin before the end of the year, and power generation could begin by 2012.

Green at Pare

2010 PARE Recycling Challenge Recap

Thank you to all who participated and made the 2010 PARE Recycling Challenge a success. This year, we recycled over 1 ton of trash between the Lincoln and Foxboro offices!

Remember that recycling is something we should do all year. To help in this, PARE has contracted with a new recycling hauler, Full Circle Recycling out of Johnston, who will now be accepting plastic and glass bottles and containers from our Lincoln office. Blue recycling bins dedicated to plastic beverage containers and non-redeemable metal containers (e.g., tuna/soup cans that have been washed out) will be placed in the kitchen areas on both floors beginning Tuesday, May 4th. Soft drink cans may still be placed in the basket in the first floor kitchen for redemption.

In addition to recycling, this year's competition also evaluated our vampire power usage. As a reminder, vampire power is the energy consumed by electronics that are plugged in, even when not in use. Unplugging cell phone chargers when not in use, shutting off computer monitors at the end of each day, and powering down your computer on weekends are all easy ways you can reduce your vampire power.

Speak with a member of the sustainable design committee for more ways you can reduce waste and conserve energy at home and in the office.

