



**Maryland
Green Registry
MEMBER**

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Straughan Environmental, Inc.



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Environmental Professional Services
Member since December 2010

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

Straughan Environmental is committed to reducing its impact on the environment. We strive to improve our environmental performance over time and to initiate additional projects and activities that will further reduce our impacts on the environment. In 2016, Straughan management adopted a formal environmental policy, stated below.

Our commitment to the environment extends to our customers, our staff, and the community in which we operate. We are committed to:

- *Complying with all applicable environmental regulations;*
- *Preventing pollution whenever possible;*
- *Training all of our staff on our environmental program and empowering them to contribute and participate;*
- *Communicating our environmental commitment and efforts to our customers, staff, and our community; and*
- *Continually improving over time by striving to measure our environmental impacts and by setting goals to reduce these impacts each year.*

Environmental Team

The Straughan Green Team meets regularly to discuss how sustainable values can be reflected in our home office. Our team brainstorms future initiatives

and projects. Our current initiatives include reducing waste, maintaining a pollinator garden with native plants, promoting sustainable purchasing, and reducing energy consumption. The entire staff is kept informed on our progress through Lunch and Learns on new initiatives and presentations at quarterly staff meetings.

Annual Environmental Goals

Straughan Environmental provides high quality planning, engineering, and management solutions to federal, state/local, and commercial clients. We are a dedicated team of expert engineers, planners, and scientists whose collaborative approaches result in better outcomes for projects, people, and the environment. With this in mind, Straughan's sustainability goals are focused on reducing and conserving energy, water, and waste at our corporate office through yearly goal setting, tracking, and reporting our efforts to staff. Straughan performed a Green House Gas Emissions Inventory using EPA's Simplified GHG Emission Calculator Tool. This established a baseline for improvement, and Straughan continues to measure and reduce GHG emissions each year.

An additional goal is to contribute to our community in meaningful ways. We sponsor environmental events and participate in at least one community clean-up day each year. We reach out to our community through participation in local clean-up efforts and days of service. As part of our commitment to sustainability, we believe in measuring our success through the triple bottom line. We ensure that our work supports not just our profit, but the environment and the community as well.

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Straughan is a company of engineers, scientists, and planners who use collaborative approaches that result in better outcomes for projects, people, and the environment. We strive to include sustainability in every design project.

Straughan's Sustainable Design group provides consulting services to building project teams by guiding the owner and team to set project-specific goals, implement a plan, and meet the project's sustainability goals. In Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and High Performance Sustainable Building (HPSB) projects, Straughan works with the building project contractor to identify certified products that contain low emitting materials or low VOCs, high recycled content and biobased content, regional materials, reusable construction waste materials, and other environmental attributes.

Learn more on our Straughan website here:

<https://www.straughanenvironmental.com/markets-services/services/sustainability/>



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

All our office supplies contain recycled content whenever possible. This includes copy paper, paper clips, pens, and other paper products such as paper towels and bathroom products.

- *Acco® 100% Recycled Paper Clips*
- *Pilot B2P (Bottle to Pen) Ballpoint Pens*
- *TOPS Second Nature Notepads*
- *30% post-consumer content recycled 8.5' x 11' copier paper (bulk of paper usage)*
- *100% recycled content Napkins*

All of our appliances are certified ENERGY STAR appliances, and most of our computer equipment including monitors, desktop computers, and some laptops is also ENERGY STAR certified.

Straughan chooses to use Flavia packets in our one-cup coffee and tea maker. Annually, we ship the packets back to the manufacturer through the TerraCycle [Recycle Your Freshpacks](#) program. Any regular coffee grounds or tea leaves are composted.

For lunch events, we prioritize using the catering menu along with our own kitchen supplies to reduce disposable containers and plasticware.

LED occupancy sensors throughout the office building automatically shut off to further reduce energy usage. Staff are actively encouraged to turn off manual light controls as needed.



Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

Straughan participates in various sustainable events annually. On Earth Day, staff engage in a community clean-up day by picking up litter in the surrounding forested areas, nearby stream, and roadway near the offices. Staff are also encouraged to create a pledge to a sustainability goal of their choosing. Staff have also participated in letter writing events to political representatives on topics regarding sustainability.

At the Columbia office, Straughan maintains a pollinator garden filled with native plant species and herbs. In addition, Straughan has maintained and monitored an office beehive from 2012 to 2022. In years when the bees survive

the winter, we have collected the honey and harvested it into Straughan labeled jars for use in our kitchen. These features along with sustainable practices inside the building are used to educate and inspire the community.

Aspirational or Long-Term Environmental Goals

Straughan has been collecting data to publish its first Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report in 2024, and then work towards establishing net-zero and other goals. The company has established a multi-disciplinary and interdepartmental "Green Team" that has previously deployed and maintained a beekeeping practice, led workshops on assembling green cleaning products, and other environmental activities.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

The Straughan Green Team continuously monitors all solid waste in the office building. The team strives to divert and reduce landfill waste by making recycling stations more accessible and open to non-traditionally recyclable materials such as batteries, cell phones, coffee grounds, coffee and tea packets, and compact discs.

Recycling

The Straughan office has many clearly labeled recycling stations throughout the office. We recycle:

- *Paper*
- *Metals, glass, and plastics*
- *CDs and CD cases*
- *Batteries (about 100-200 lbs. annually)*
- *Cell phones and electronics*
- *Coffee grounds and tea bags*

From 2014 to 2019, Straughan recycled on average 44% of its total solid waste per year despite our growing staff. Our recycling services made up just over 68% of the total annual solid waste cost in 2019. We track our waste by counting all waste receptacle locations and sizes and estimate quarterly waste generated by extrapolating from weekly sampling throughout the year. While recycling of all the materials mentioned above continued from 2019 through 2022 with labeled containers available and located at common areas, most waste sources shifted to the personal homes of Straughan staff as a result of Covid-19 and in-office waste tracking and documentation paused. In 2023 and

onwards, in-office tracking of coffee grounds and tea bags will resume, and recycling data from 2023 will be available in 2024.

Composting

The Straughan Green Team implemented a composting program in the Spring of 2016. Staff composts fruit and vegetable waste, leaves, eggshells, and other compostable kitchen foods and materials. We use the resulting homemade fertilizer in our office pollinator garden complete with various herbs and flowers to attract native pollinators. In 2019, over 400 pounds of organic material were diverted from the office waste stream. Since then, Straughan regularly harvests compost from the kitchen compost bin. The Green Team organizes compost harvesting events throughout the year as necessary. A recent composting event yielded about 5 gallons of compost.

Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

Straughan uses green cleaning products and recycles all batteries and electronics to reduce any toxic materials going to the landfill.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

The Straughan office building is highly energy efficient and was designed to use 18% less energy than required by code with a Lighting Power Density 20% below code. The majority of our appliances are ENERGY STAR. Annually, Straughan continues to monitor energy use by analyzing BGE bills and setting yearly goals based on current data.

Renewable Energy

Straughan conducted a solar feasibility study for our Columbia, Maryland headquarters. Due to a number of south-facing trees that also provide needed shading, the decision was made to hold off on solar for now and revisit if conditions change.

Transportation

Employee Commute

Straughan has adopted a hybrid work format, so most employees work partially from home and partially in the office. This results in over 1,500 gallons

of gasoline being saved each year. Our headquarters is located next to two bus routes and within walking distance of a large shopping center.

Fleet Vehicles

Straughan's headquarters offices in Columbia, MD has two EV Charging Stations that are free for employees to use. Straughan has two company-owned vehicles: one is a hybrid sedan and the other is a gasoline-powered truck. The mileage for both vehicles is tracked for their environmental performance improvement.

Water

Water Conservation

All flow and flush fixtures are high efficiency and low flow. Restrooms have toilets that are 1.0 gal/flush and waterless urinals. In July 2017, the flow fixtures of the restrooms were replaced with low flow faucets (0.5 gal/minute) that meet the criteria for EPA's WaterSense label, which results in water savings of 45% over baseline fixtures.

The native plantings at both the front and back of the building were designed and installed as native plant gardens. The gardens contain native plant species that are adapted to the local environment and do not require watering.

Green Building

LEED Gold

When Straughan decided to move its headquarters in 2010, we committed to having a sustainable site, and an energy, water, and materials-efficient building by designing for a LEED certification through the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. In 2012, the project achieved a Gold level rating under LEED for Commercial Interiors v.3. The building's sustainable features include:

- *Native Vegetation and Habitat*
- *100% Renewable Wind Power*
- *Recycled Workstations and Carpet*
- *Solar Tubes for Natural Lighting*
- *Energy Star Appliances and Electronics*
- *Low Flow Bathroom and Kitchen Fixtures*
- *Intelligent Lighting System (Light, Motion, and Sound Sensors)*

- *High Efficiency HVAC*

*Learn more about our LEED Gold certification here:
<https://www.straughanenvironmental.com/about/>*

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

- ☑ *In the spring of 2016, Straughan implemented a bird protection program to reduce the number of aviary window strikes. The Straughan Green Team designed cords for office windows to prevent bird strikes.*

Our Green Team plans to deploy a “Little Free Library” in front of the Columbia office to encourage the exchange of used books among Straughan employees and the surrounding community.

Industry Memberships:

- *U.S. Green Building Council*
- *U.S. Green Building Council, Maryland Community*
- *Society for Ecological Restoration*

Leadership Awards:

- *Environmental Business Journal Business Achievement Award*
- *Green Company of the Year from Howard County*
- *ACEC/MD Community Service Award*
- *Green Building Leader Award, U.S. Green Building Council, Maryland*

Profile Updated December 2023



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

