



## 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.



STRAUGHAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL

10245 Old Columbia Road

Columbia, MD 21046

443-539-2538

[www.straughanenvironmental.com](http://www.straughanenvironmental.com)

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 will 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 which is stated below.*

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

- *Comply with all applicable environmental regulations;*
- *Prevent pollution whenever possible;*
- *Train all of our staff on our environmental program and empower them to contribute and participate;*
- *Communicate our environmental commitment and efforts to our customers, staff, and our community; and*
- *Continually improve 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 to make Straughan Environmental more sustainable while continuing work on current projects such as reducing waste, maintaining a*

*healthy bee colony and pollinator garden, promoting sustainable purchasing, and reducing energy consumption. The entire staff is kept informed on our progress by providing Lunch and Learns on new initiatives and presenting at quarterly staff meetings. Green Team members and other Straughan Staff are all encouraged to contribute to the Straughan Blog found [here](#).*

**Annual Environmental Goals**

*At Straughan Environmental, Inc., our vision is “A Sustainable World”, and our mission is “to deliver sustainable projects that protect, enhance, and restore the existing natural and human environment.” With this in mind, Straughan’s sustainability goals are focused on reducing and conserving energy, water, and waste at our Straughan office through yearly goal-setting, tracking, and reporting our efforts to all staff. Straughan is in the process of performing a Green House Gas Emissions Inventory from which an emission reduction goal will be established.*

*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 aim to reach out to our community by providing educational opportunities regarding our sustainable practices through open house events.*

*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.*

*Visit our Straughan Sustainability [website](#) to learn more about our Green KPI’s.*

**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.*

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

*All our office supplies contain recycled content whenever possible. This includes copy paper, paperclips, 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
- 100% recycled content toilet paper/paper towels
- All of our appliances are certified ENERGY STAR appliances and most of our computer equipment including monitors, desktop computers, and some laptops are also ENERGY STAR certified.
- Straughan chooses to use Flavia packets in our one cup coffee and tea maker. Quarterly, we ship the packets back to the manufacturer for recycling. Any regular coffee grounds or tea leaves are composted.
- The office is transitioning from compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) to LED bulbs.



### **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

*Straughan participates in various sustainable events annually. On Earth day, office members engage in a community clean-up day picking up litter in the woods, stream, and roadway near our office. Employees are also encouraged to create a pledge to a sustainability goal of their choosing. Employees also participate in an event at which letters are written to political representatives on topics regarding sustainability.*

*A pollinator garden filled with native plant species and various herbs was added in the spring of 2016. In July 2017, Straughan reached out to educate the community by inviting neighbors to see the sustainable practices in place. In addition, Straughan has monitored and maintained an office beehive since 2012. In years when the bees survive the winter, we collect the honey and put it into Straughan labeled jars for use in our kitchen. These features along with sustainable practices inside the building will be used to educate and inspire the community.*

<https://www.straughanenvironmental.com/company/community-involvement/>

## **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, and compact discs. Between 2016 and 2017, Straughan reduced its total solid waste by 7%, despite its growing staff. This is largely due to the implementation of a compost program and continued recycling efforts.*

**Recycling**

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

- *Paper (7,000 pounds annually)*
- *Metals, glass, and plastics (10,000 pounds annually)*
- *CDs and cases*
- *Batteries (200 lbs annually)*
- *Cell Phones and electronics*
- *Coffee grounds and tea bags (5,500 lbs annually)*

*Overall, Straughan recycles 55% of our total solid waste. This is a ten percent increase since 2014. Our recycling services make up 80% of total annual solid waste cost. 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.*

**Composting**

*The Straughan Green Team implemented a composting program in the spring of 2016. We compost fruit and vegetable waste, leaves, eggshells, and other kitchen compostables. We will use the resulting homemade fertilizer to nurture an office pollinator garden complete with various herbs and flowers to attract native pollinators. Since its inception, over 117 gallons of organic material have been diverted from the office waste stream.*

**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 uses 18% less energy than required by code and Lighting Power Density 20% below code. The majority of our appliances are ENERGY STAR. Annually, the Green Team continues to monitor energy use by analyzing BGE bills and setting yearly goals based on current data.*

*Since fall 2017, Straughan has been investigating the thermal comfort of employees at the office to identify areas where temperature control and energy efficiency can be improved.*

**Renewable Energy**

*Straughan conducted a solar feasibility study for our Columbia MD 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.*

## **Transportation**

**Employee Commute**

*When possible, employees work from home once or twice per week resulting in over 1,500 gallons of gasoline saved each year. Our headquarters is located next to two bus routes and within walking distance of a large shopping center.*

**Fleet Vehicles**

*Straughan has three company vehicles, two of which are hybrid fleet vehicles -a 2013 Ford Escape and a 2013 Ford Fusion.*

## **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 new EPA standards which results in water savings of 45% over baseline fixtures.*

**Stormwater Management and Site Design**

*The plantings at both the front and back of the building were designed and installed as native plant gardens.*

## Green Building

### LEED Gold

*When Straughan decided to move its headquarters in 2010, it 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 2011, the project achieved a Gold level rating under LEED for Commercial Interiors v.3. Highlights of what we achieved include:*

- *Site sustainability – native plantings*
- *Low-emitting and fuel-efficient parking spaces and carpool parking spaces*
- *Water use savings of 43% over EPA baseline fixtures*
- *Lighting Power Density 20% below code*
- *Daylighting and Occupancy Controls (lighting timers and blinds to prevent heating)*
- *Energy efficient HVAC - 18% by cost (below code)*
- *Waste Reduction Plan*
- *Reuse of materials – refurbished office furniture*
- *100% low-emitting interior finish materials*
- *Diverted 75% of construction waste from the landfill*

<https://www.straughanenvironmental.com/company/sustainability/>

## Other

*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.*

*Starting in the summer of 2017, Straughan has been striving to gather data to track the company's carbon emission in regard to commuting, procurement, solid waste, travel, and fleet activity.*

*Industry Memberships:*

*U.S. Green Building Council*

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



**Profile Updated July 2018**



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

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](http://green.maryland.gov)*

