



## *We're greening up*

At Atkins, we're working hard to reduce our impact on the environment. From improved recycling to reduced energy use, we're getting greener everyday.

### **Controlling Our Waste Stream**

- Scrap paper recycling: Our contract with Shredding on Site allows us to recycle more than 98% of our scrap paper.
- Reducing Make-ready: A major source of waste at any print shop is "make-ready" – press sheets run to ensure color specifications. Our goal is to reduce make-ready by 10% this year without compromising print quality.
- Reusable boxes: We ship printed materials to a major Maine customer in unmarked boxes and they reuse them for their shipping needs. This sensible initiative is offered to other manufacturing accounts.
- In-house re-use: Every printing facility makes mistakes. As a matter of fact, the industry average is more than 2%. We utilize many of our "mistakes" as internal memo pads and note paper.
- More environmentally-friendly inks: Nearly all of our customers' materials are printed with vegetable-based or soy-based inks, significantly reducing toxicity. In addition, all waste ink and press wash is captured, put in containers and transported to a licensed waste-to-energy facility.
- Toxic wastes controls. All mercury-containing wastes, such as lights and ballasts, are catalogued and subsequently captured before entering the ordinary waste stream. We also treat our plate effluent on site and recycle the aluminum plates.
- We have initiated an on-going internal audit to identify and ensure that all waste streams are managed in an environmentally responsible manner.

### **Encouraging Recycled Content**

- FSC certification: This widely regarded chain of custody system for improving forest stewardship is being adopted among major players in the printing industry. We have conferred with Maine's Department of Conservation, received their recommendations for auditors to certify our facility and anticipate FSC certification during calendar 2008.
- Selling recycled content: Data shows we'll print almost 50% of all jobs at our facility in 2008 on recycled content paper. The vast majority of recycled content work comes via specific customer requests for that type of paper stock. Once negotiations with our paper vendors yields better price equalization between recycled content sheets and non-recycled, we will ask long-term customers on re-orders if they'd use recycled paper for their jobs for no additional cost. We anticipate a July 08 start.

### **Reducing Energy Use**

- Efficiency Maine: Maine's Public Utilities Commission oversees a multi-million dollar program to improve energy efficiency at manufacturing facilities in-state. We have discussed our operations with Efficiency Maine personnel and expect an on-site energy audit with a report of recommendations in the Summer of 08.
- Green Power: We consume more than 145,000 kwh of electricity per year and currently meet our energy requirements through Maine's standard offer. By law, the standard offer has 30% of its energy supplied by green sources of power. We are in consultation with independent energy providers to determine the price impact of contracting for energy separate from the standard offer and receiving 50% of our energy from green sources by January 1, 2009.

We've taken some small steps to become a greener company but we know we have more work to do. We are actively seeking input from customers and vendors on what else they are doing and what we should be doing to be make our operations more environmentally friendly and sustainable. If you'd like to help, please contact Jim Mitchell at [service@atkinsprinting.com](mailto:service@atkinsprinting.com)