

# Sustainable Green Printing An Assessment and Action Plan

Presented By:

**Gary A. Jones**

*Assistant Vice President  
Environmental Health and Safety Affairs  
Printing Industries of America*



**125** YEARS

# Sustainable Green Printing An Assessment and Action Plan

## Today's Agenda

- Overview of Sustainability
- The Green Market and Drivers
- Corporate Sustainability Status
- Consumers and Sustainability
- Sustainability in Printing
- Action Plan
- Sustainable Green Printing Partnership



# What is Sustainability?



## Definition

“...an economic state where the demands placed upon the environment by people and commerce can be met without reducing the capacity of the environment to provide for future generations”

- *Leave the world better than you found it*
- *Take no more than you need*
- *Try not to harm life or the environment, make amends if you do*

Paul Hawkin – *The Ecology of Commerce*

# Sustainability Observations

- Sustainability is about more than being “green”
- Sustainability is market driven phenomenon
- Sustainability has changed the manner in which companies are doing business
- Sustainability differentiates companies in the market place
- The printing industry, as part of the supply chain must respond to the sustainability movement



# Corporate Sustainability Trends

“You can’t afford not to have a sustainability strategy. It’s bad business”

- Source: Ernst & Young/GreenBiz Group report, "Six Growing Trends in Corporate Sustainability March 6, 2012

# Green Market Indicators



- Many companies/organizations have not abandoned their environmental commitments
  - *Customer requests for green credentials*
- National & International green pressure
  - *Resurgence of green environmental group activism*
- Bigger, broader issues
  - Carbon
  - Water
  - Forest Footprint
  - Conversion of rain forests to fiber/biofuel plantations



 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

# Scorecards

- Scorecard popularity is growing
- Began November 2006 with Wal-Mart's Scorecard
  - *Reduce packaging by 5 percent by 2013*
    - 9 Criteria – Resources and Material
  - *Released Sustainability Index July 2009*
    - 15 Criteria- Global, Resources, and Social
- Others have followed
  - *Unisource*
  - *XDEPX*
  - *P&G*
  - *Timberland*
  - *IKEA*
  - *Miller Coors*



# Greening of the Supply Chain



- December 2010 survey
  - *200 executives with manufacturing operations with greater than \$100 million in revenue*
- Almost 77% said customers require reporting on
  - *Their company's environmental impact*
  - *Environmental impact of their products or*
  - *Require their vendors to do so*
- More than 80% said that green supply chains will become more important in the next 3 years
  - *Companies making purchasing decisions based on non-financial criteria, including environmental impact of vendors and their products*

■ *Study conducted by IFS North America and Affinity Research Solutions*

# Corporate Sustainability Trends

- 2011 MIT study of 3,000 corporate leaders
  - *Every major industry and region of the world*
- Improved brand reputation is perceived as the biggest benefit of addressing sustainability (2010)
- 70% of companies have placed sustainability permanently on their management agendas
- 66% said that sustainability was necessary to being competitive in today's marketplace, up from 55% in 2010
- 33% said sustainability is contributing to profits
- Sustainability ranks 8<sup>th</sup> on list of priorities
  - Source: Sloan Management Review and The Boston Consulting Group "Sustainability Nears a Tipping Point MIT" January 23, 2012



# P&G Sustainability Program

- 70% of overall consumers want products with environmental improvements, and won't sacrifice performance and value.
- Use Life Cycle thinking
  - *Developed cold water laundry detergent to reduce energy required to heat water during use.*
  - *Reduced packaging and allowed for better display of products.*
- Committed to renewable sources and eliminating harmful chemicals
- Incorporate environmental, social, and business objectives into sustainability goals.



# Consumer Behavior - Green

- National Marketing Institute reports 83% of consumers representing four generations are some shade of green.

- *Baby Boomers, Millennials, Gen Ys and Gen Zs*

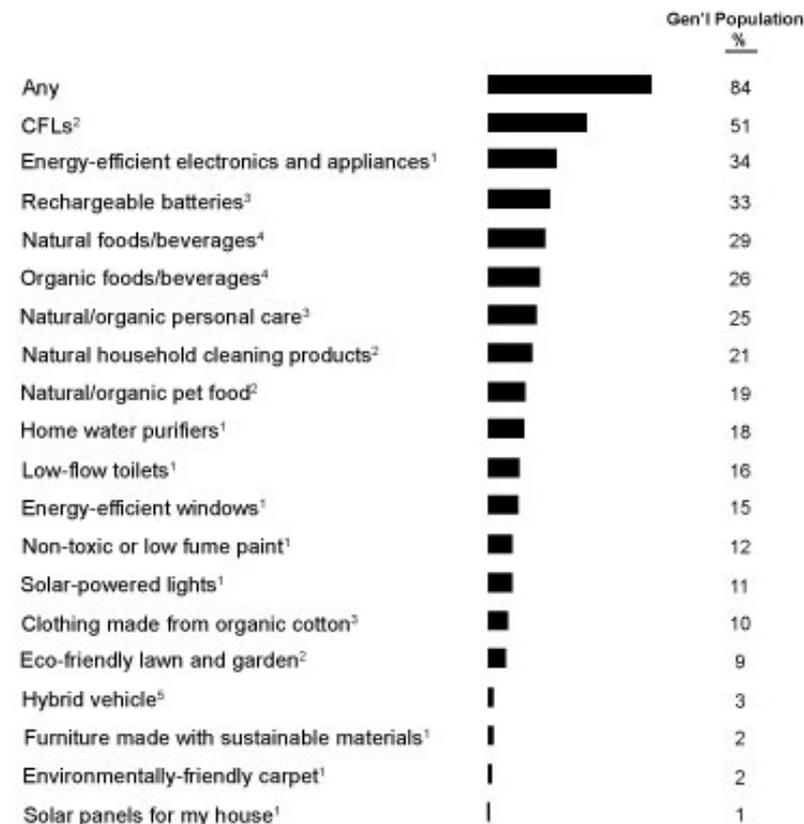
- Reflected in purchasing habits

## ■ GreenBiz

- *90% of Americans claim to have bought a green product*
  - *Only 31% have purchased environmentally friendly products in the last 12 months*
    - *The top 3 products are: light bulbs, paper towels, and laundry detergent*

### Green Purchasing Behavior

% U.S. general population indicating they have purchased products within the last 3 years<sup>1</sup>, 12 months<sup>2</sup>, 6 months<sup>3</sup>, 3 months<sup>4</sup> and those that own/lease a hybrid vehicle<sup>5</sup>...



# Shoppers and Sustainable Packaging

- 2011 survey of 1,000 primarily grocery shoppers, results compared to 2010 survey data. (Ages 18-64)
- More shoppers would like to choose environmentally friendly packaging and (36% vs. 28%)
  - *50% still willing to pay more (despite the economy)*
- 59% state that seeing environmental claims on packaging positively impacts their behavior
  - *Either buy more of the brands they usually do or to switch*



# Shoppers and Sustainable Packaging

- More shoppers feel companies don't provide enough environmental information (26% vs. 20%)
- More are confused by all the different environmental claims (20% vs. 12%)
- More don't know which packages are best for the environment (22% vs. 17%)
- Fewer shoppers feel that manufacturers' motives are primarily honorable (57% vs. 61%)
  - *Source: Perception Research Services "Packaging & the Environment" March 12, 2012*
- 77% of consumers say they would be willing to boycott a company if they thought they were misled
  - *Source: GreenBiz "Earth Day and the Polling of America 2012" April 16, 2012*



# Print Customers and Sustainability

## 2010 Print Buyers International Quick Poll

- Observed changes from 2008 to 2010
- 74% of print buyers said sustainability and environmental issues had become “more important”
  - *26% of print buyers said they had not*
- 82% of printers said sustainability and environmental issues had become “more important”
  - *9% of printers said they had not*



# Packaging/Labeling Manufacturers

## FTA Sustainability Survey 2012

- There was a moderate increase in the number of printers reporting that 1-25% of their customers asking about sustainable printing
  - *Slight decrease in the number of printers who had more than 25% of their customers asking*
- Greater than 58% of customers asking if the printer has a formal sustainability plan
- 27% of customers wanted the carbon footprint of the product
- 20% of customers wanted the carbon footprint of the facility

# Print Customer Sustainability Programs

- **Appointing Corporate Sustainability Officers**
- Developing sustainability plans and statements
  - *Green sourcing, building, and transportation*
  - *Recycled/FSC-certified paper preference*
  - *Instituting energy efficiency programs*
  - *Purchasing renewable energy*
  - *Reduced or zero landfill waste*
  - *Calculating and offsetting carbon footprints*
  - *Implementing social reciprocal programs*
  - *Incorporating supply chain changes*
    - Scorecards and standards



# What is Sustainable Printing?

- It is more than just recycled paper and soy inks!
  - *Holistic approach to all business activities*
    - Reduction in overall environmental impact
    - Reduction in toxics and waste
    - Incorporate more renewable resources
    - Reduce fossil fuel energy consumption
    - Address social issues
- Continuous improvement process
  - *Not a single event such as becoming FSC certified*
  - *Combination of many ongoing activities*
- It is not **Greenwashing!**
  - *Must be credible and transparent*



# Sustainable Printing

## Elements of Sustainable Printing

- Product Issues
  - *Design*
  - *Input materials - paper, ink, coating, adhesives*
- Printing Process Issues
  - *Prepress, press, and postpress operations*
  - *UV/EB curing*
  - *Pollution prevention and waste reduction*
  - *Printers National Env Ass't Center ([www.pneac.org](http://www.pneac.org))*
- Envelope
  - *Building, grounds, employees, energy, etc.*



# Action Plan



- Move beyond compliance with environmental standards, to achieve business value
  - *Focus on the areas where your organization would derive greater value than mere compliance*
- Integrating sustainability into the fabric of a company's operation
  - *Avoids inefficient ad hoc approaches and takes sustainability efforts out of silos*
- Converting a sustainability program into a long-term engine for competitive advantage
  - *Requires staff and stakeholder engagement*
  - *May change an organization's business model*



# Sustainable Green Printing Partnership

## What is the SGP Partnership?

- Independent Nonprofit Certification Organization
  - *[www.sgppartnership.org](http://www.sgppartnership.org)*
- Credible system identifying “Sustainable Green” graphic arts facilities for customers and consumers
  - *Third-party audit required for certification*
- Holistic approach to the development & certification of sustainable business practices
- Set of clear criteria defining “Sustainable Green” printing facilities
  - *Economic Responsibility*
  - *Environmental Responsibility*
  - *Social Responsibility*



# Sustainability and Printing

## Final Thoughts



- Sustainability is not a threat
  - *Journey with many opportunities*
- Sustainability is becoming more mainstream for consumers and businesses
- Sustainability is business critical
  - *More companies demanding sustainability from suppliers*
  - *Need it to keep existing customers and add new ones*
- It will provide a competitive advantage
  - *Domestically and Internationally*
- Start or expand your program
  - *Research, baseline operations, educate management, develop/implement strategy*

# Thank you for listening!

## Gary A. Jones

Assistant Vice President  
Environmental, Health,  
& Safety Affairs  
(412) 259-1794

[gjones@printing.org](mailto:gjones@printing.org)  
[www.printing.org](http://www.printing.org)

