

The Greening of the Print Shop

APS printing facility receives top environmental certifications



Green is more than an ink color at the APS Print Shop. Nowhere was that more evident than when two highly respected international environmental organizations issued certifications attesting the shop's operations are in compliance with the highest environmental standards. The department received those certifications because the Print Shop team members don't just talk "green." Using sustainable business practices is among the department's top priorities.

The two certifying organizations, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), promote sustainable forest management practices that include wildlife preservation, stream preservation, biodiversity and legal logging by tracking wood fiber from its original point of harvest through to the end consumer. After an extensive audit of its operations, the department received chain of custody certifications from both organizations. These certifications attest the APS Print Shop uses paper products that comply with FSC/SFI standards. The standards require the paper to be manufactured using pulp from forests that are replanted after being harvested.

It also can include a mix of replanted forest products and recycled paper.

"We're very proud of the Print Shop's efforts to help the environment as reflected in obtaining these certifications," said **Ginette Daniels**, Manager, Advertising and Creative Services. "They are issued only to organizations that follow stringent environmental business practices. This is a real testimonial to the department's and APS' dedication to sustainability."

The significance of the certifications becomes clearer when you realize the Print Shop uses more than 48 tons of paper each year.

The paper is used in printing everything from forms to posters to hard-bound books for its more than 400 customers within the company and the community.



And that's not all the Print Shop team does when it comes to environmentally friendly practices. The facility's efforts also include extensive recycling of production waste and reducing the use of volatile organic

compounds (VOCs). VOCs are gases emitted from a variety of solids or liquids, such as paints, lacquers, conventional inks, photographic solutions and adhesives, and can cause adverse health effects.

Richard Olesak, Team Leader, Print Services, said, "The Print Shop uses VOC-free solvents and printing plates. We also use VOC-free soy ink. It still produces vibrant colors while helping us create a healthier working environment and cleaner air.



"The department also recycles everything from our production process," Olesak said, "from paper trimmed from publications to cardboard, plastic packaging, metal printing plates, wooden pallets and metal ink cans. In our shop, nearly everything is recycled. About the only thing we throw away are coffee grounds and paper towels."

For more information on APS Print Services, visit the department's Web site <http://eon.apsc.com/main/eon/printshop/default.html>.

– *Bob Farrell*