



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.



10245 Old Columbia Road
Columbia, MD 21046
443-539-2538
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 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 healthy bee colony and pollinator garden, 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. Green Team members and other Straughan Staff are encouraged to contribute to the Straughan Blog found [here](#).



Straughan Green Team meeting

Annual Environmental Goals

Straughan Environmental provides high quality planning, engineering, and management solutions to government 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; each year, Straughan continues to measure and reduce GHG emissions.

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 open house events, 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.

Visit our Straughan Sustainability [website](#) to learn more about our sustainable office building and Green KPIs.

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*
- *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.*
- *For lunch events, we prioritize using the catering menu along with our own kitchen supplies to reduce disposable containers and plasticware.*
- *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 a letter writing event to political representatives on topics regarding sustainability.

Straughan maintains a pollinator garden filled with native plant species and herbs. In addition, Straughan has maintained and monitored 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 are used to educate and inspire the community.

In 2018, the firm has participated in the U.S. Green Building Council's Green Apple Day of Service by constructing an outdoor classroom at Garrett Heights Elementary/Middle School.

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.

Recycling

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

- *Paper*
- *Metals, glass, and plastics*
- *CDs and cases*
- *Batteries (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.

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 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.

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, the Green Team monitors 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, 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

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, one of which is a hybrid fleet vehicle – 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 the criteria for EPA's WaterSense label, 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. The gardens are designed to be drought-resistant 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 2011, 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/company/sustainability/>.

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.

Starting in the summer of 2017, Straughan has been striving to gather data to track the company's carbon emissions from 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 December 2020



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

Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

