



## 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.

# Thorlabs Quantum Electronics

10335 Guilford Road

Jessup, MD 20794

240-456-7112

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

Manufacturing

Member since February 2016

## Management and Leadership

### Environmental Policy Statement

*Sustainability at Thorlabs means meeting the needs and requirements of our customers while actively considering the environmental and social impacts of our operations, so as not to place an undue burden on the environment, our employees, our customers, our community, or future generations.*

*Sustainability at Thorlabs provides not only environmental and social benefits but also serves as another dimension of our customer-focused philosophy as we embrace the expectations of our customers beyond the products and services we provide. Thorlabs recognizes its obligation to minimize our environmental impact and strengthen our local communities while we identify, enable, and accelerate key photonics technologies. By reducing our resource consumption, making our systems more efficient, supporting our community's local economy and people, and fostering a culture of sustainability, Thorlabs seeks to promote a vibrant photonics community as well as healthy ecosystems and strong neighborhoods.*

### Environmental Team

*Members include representatives from Facilities, and Shipping & Receiving including Gap Imjaiharn, Denicia Richards, Reginald McCain, Jack Meharg, and John Messner.*

### Annual Environmental Goals

*We worked with the Regional Manufacturing Institute Green Team program to conduct an energy audit of the facility. We are currently focusing on*

*lighting and HVAC issues. Our older fluorescent lighting is being replaced with LED fixtures (any fixtures which fail or renovated areas will use LED) and we have completed about 15% of the facility. We are also beginning our retro-commissioning process but will first focus on upgrading our chiller from a 200 ton to a 270 ton chiller. Our chillers are at the end of their life cycle and upgrading the system will help to revitalize our capacity at our facility.*

**Environmentally Preferable Products and Services**

*Our green packaging efforts are focused on reducing the weight of our packaging by eliminating any unnecessary packaging and implementing packaging design changes that allow for a reduction in packaging materials. We also continue to look for opportunities to provide packaging that is reusable, recyclable, or biodegradable for our customers when possible.*

**Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

*Our employees are encouraged to take part in Thorlabs' efforts to improve our environmental impact by offering suggestions to improve upon the company's sustainability programs. Earth Day participation is encouraged through specific events at all Thorlabs facilities.*

**Waste**

**Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse**

*By changing our company-wide printing preferences and printer purchasing policy to favor duplex printers, we have also been able to minimize paper consumption. In 2013, our Sales department was further able to drastically reduce their paper consumption through the use of double monitors.*

*Through a program known as Right Fax, we are able to receive and send faxes through our computers without having to print out documents at all. As with many resource conservation efforts, we look to our employees and technology to help us reduce our consumption of resources. From 2012 to 2013, we were able to reduce our copy paper purchases by 6%.*

*Employees are encouraged to think about their paper usage. One way our employees have demonstrated their concern is by electing to use direct deposit.*

*The reuse of supplies is another important part of our waste reduction efforts. Our receiving department unpacks many incoming items each day. Many of the packaging materials that arrive with these goods are diverted from the waste stream to be reused for our consolidated shipments to international*

*Thorlabs locations or recycled. Using these materials again eliminates the need for new packaging materials. While we cannot reuse all supplies, we look for opportunities for these materials to be reused by others. For instance, old fiber spools that could no longer be used in our operations and could not be returned to the manufacturer were donated to an institution of higher education.*

**Recycling**

*When materials cannot be reused by us or others, we look for opportunities to recycle these materials. Thorlabs headquarters has a single stream recycling program, meaning cans, glass, plastic, and mixed paper can all go into the same recycling receptacles. Additional recycling programs are in place for batteries, scrap metal, toner cartridges, e-waste, and plastic bags to move more materials out of the waste stream.*

## Energy

**Energy Efficiency**

*Thorlabs is in the process of upgrading our lighting system to high efficient LEDs. We addressed about 15% of lighting, which equates to approximately 11,000 kWh savings and we will continue to upgrade during remodeling. The RMI Energy Audit highlighted many opportunities to improve upon our HVAC/Process Cooling systems – in 2016 we are upgrading/replacing our chiller system. We have conducted a leak detection of our compressed air system. In addition, RMI installed an Energy Monitoring system which will enable us to monitor our usage in real-time improving upon our ability to operate our building.*

## Transportation

**Employee Commute**

*With many diverse branch locations across the world, employees commute to work in many different ways. We encourage our employees to be mindful of the environmental impact of their mode of transportation and opt for greener forms of transportation when possible.*



*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](http://www.green.maryland.gov/registry)*

