Wal-Mart’s Sustainable Packaging Scorecard

The Sustainable Packaging Scorecard:

On November 1, 2006, Wal-Mart introduced a scorecard that evaluates Wal-Mart and Sam’s Club suppliers on their progress toward developing more sustainable packaging, and helps track the company’s progress to reduce packaging in its supply chain by 5 percent by 2013. On February 1 2008, the online scorecard was made available to all of our buyers to use as a tool to make more informed purchasing decisions, and buyers may show preference to those suppliers who have demonstrated a commitment to producing more sustainable packaging. Suppliers can use the scorecard to measure how their product packaging helps Wal-Mart achieve their goals to be supplied 100 percent by renewable energy, create zero waste and sell sustainable products. The item packaging receives a grade based on the results, and suppliers learn about ways to improve their packaging. Conservative annual estimates of the changes we can make by 2013, based upon a 5 percent packaging reduction in the Wal-Mart supply chain are:

- 667,000 metric tons of CO2 not emitted into the atmosphere (Wal-Mart U.S. only)
- 213,000 trucks off the road annually (Wal-Mart U.S. only)
- 66.7 million gallons of diesel fuel saved (Wal-Mart U.S. only)

The 7 R’s of Sustainable Packaging:

The primary goal of the Packaging Sustainable Value Network is to be packaging neutral by 2025, which means all packaging recovered or recycled at our stores and Clubs will be equal to the amount of packaging used by the products on our shelves. In 2006, the Packaging Network announced its desirable principles of sustainable packaging to suppliers through the “7 R’s of Sustainable Packaging.” The “7 R’s of Packaging” are:

- **Remove**: Eliminate unnecessary packaging, boxes or layers, and harmful materials.
- **Reduce**: “Right-size” packages, optimize material strength, and design packages appropriately for contents and merchandising requirements.
- **Reuse**: Wal-Mart has a goal that all transport packaging will be reused or recycled by 2011 through improved pallets and reusable plastic containers (RPCs).
- **Renew (able)**: Use materials made of renewable resources as measured using ASTM D6866, or select biodegradable materials that meet ASTM D6400 or ASTM D6868.
- **Recycle (able)**: Use materials made of the highest recycled content without compromising quality, including post-consumer recycled material (PCR) where appropriate. Components should be chosen based on recycle-ability post-use, with a goal of increasing the municipal recycling rate to 35 percent by 2011.
- **Revenue**: Achieve all principles at cost parity or cost savings, which requires a supply chain approach.
- **Read**: Get educated on sustainability and how suppliers play a part. The Education Sub-Committee of the Packaging Sustainable Value Network recommends the following curriculum for professionals to learn more about packaging design for sustainability:
  - Sustainable Packaging
    - New Thinking: The Sustainable Packaging Essentials Program
    - More information at www.pac.ca
  - Packaging Fundamentals
    - Fundamentals of Packaging
    - More information at www.iopp.org
  - Damage reduction through Simulated Distribution Testing
    - CPLP training
    - More information at www.ISTA.org
  - Sustainable Packaging Scorecard
    - Training from ECRM and Thumbprint
    - More information at www.sustainability-education.com

For more information visit http://walmartstores.com/Sustainability/9125.aspx