Green Business Hawaii
Fifth Annual Recognition Program
April 24, 2009
Postal Service in Hawaii

- The Honolulu District of the Postal Service encompasses 2,800 employees serving customers across the state and in American Samoa, Guam, Saipan, Rota and Tinian (the great majority of employees are in Hawaii).
- There are 105 Post Offices and affiliated Postal Finance Stations and an additional 22 Contracted Postal Units located in Hawaii.

Processing & Distribution Center

- Located adjacent to the Honolulu International Airport.
- Every piece of mail that is sent to or from any address in Hawaii passes through the Honolulu Processing & Distribution Center (P&DC) at some point.
- The Honolulu P&DC processes millions of pieces of mail a day.
- The Honolulu P&DC is 330,000 square feet.
- The Honolulu P&DC is the work site for 725 postal employees.

Postal Service Environmental Initiatives

The Postal Service’s “green” strategy is built on the principle of integrating environmental activities within day-to-day operations and engaging every employee to take ownership and responsibility. We have implemented a number of programs that reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink our use of resources that impact the environment.

Reduce

- The Postal Service is working to meet its internal goal of reducing energy consumption by 20 percent over the next five years.
- We have integrated a variety of sustainable building design concepts within our national standard design criteria. The result is facilities that use less energy and have less impact on the environment.
- Building systems are being retrofitted with more energy efficient systems that not only reduce operating costs, electricity use, and air emissions, but improve the working environment for our employees.
- We subsidize public transportation for our employees.
- We are committed to a reduction of water utilization in our facilities using technology and best practices to measure and drive results.

Reuse

- Each year, the Postal Service purchases more than $200 million worth of products that contain recycled content, including longer-life recyclable plastic trays and pallets, new hampers and mail containers that contain more than 50 percent recycled material and paper products with recycled content.
- Retail, stamp, and mailing products—including stamped envelopes, postal cards, stamp booklet covers, packaging materials, and Express Mail and Priority Mail envelopes—are made from 100 percent recycled content with post consumer content ranging from 80 to 100 percent.
- Efficient reuse and recycling of tires in our 200,000-vehicle postal fleet results in huge savings—both environmentally and economically.
- To conserve non-renewable resources, postal Vehicle Maintenance Facilities use re-refined motor oil whenever possible, and recycle used oil.
Recycle

Each year the Postal Service recycles more than one million tons of wastepaper, cardboard, plastics, cans, and other material, reducing the use of landfills.

Since 2004, we have recycled more than 2,300 tons of computers and parts, and 63,000 computers were resold instead of being sent to landfills.

Many Post Offices recycle printer cartridges that are traditionally thrown in the trash and end up in a landfill.

Rethink

The Postal Service is testing advanced technology vehicles and alternative motor fuels for their potential to save money and reduce emissions.

New computer modeling tools are helping us create more efficient routes to minimize fuel use. Carriers are trained to reduce vehicle idling and the frequency of their starts and stops. In addition, improvements in processing allow carriers to increase the amount of mail deliveries per route, reducing the number of vehicles on the road.

We’re eliminating hazardous wastes by replacing hazardous chemicals in many cleaning and maintenance operations with aqueous-based cleaners.

We’re committed to using nontoxic inks and adhesives in our stamps.

A pilot partnership in New York is helping the Postal Service evaluate opportunities for recycling undeliverable mail, cardboard, shrink-wrap and other materials.