



2003 EnviroGuard Company Profile

Small Business Operations Category

Companions Animal Hospital is a full-service veterinary clinic. The facility, constructed in 1994, received a Design in Excellence Award for its energy efficient design. Companions is also a long-time participant in Idaho Power's Green Power program.

Forever Green is contracted to care for the lawns surrounding the facility. They use only organic sprays to fertilize and control insects. They also spot treat any weeds to minimize the use of herbicides. Grass clippings are collected and transported to a pasture and fed to cattle.

Alternative transportation to and from the facility is encouraged. Of the ten employees, one bikes to work several times each month and another carpools to work each day. Dr. Soule, DVM and owner of Companions Animal Hospital, specifically purchased a Toyota Echo for its fuel efficiency.

Companions recycles paper, cardboard, aluminum, magazines, and plastic bottles. The materials collected for recycling are self-hauled to Boise Recycling each week. Companions reuses client folders, x-ray envelopes, CD envelopes, and cage cards. They make notepads out of scrap paper, disposable litter pans out of newspapers, and reuse newspapers on the floor of the cages.

Companions has a commitment to purchasing recycled product such as paper towels and toilet paper. They also use surplus surgery drapes, gowns, and other unused supplies from human hospitals. These items are modified for use as dog and cat surgical drapes and used in surgery packs.

Reusable, washable dishes are used to feed and water animals in their care. Staff are encouraged to use refillable water bottles and a refillable, filtered water pitcher is available for their use.

Companions Animal Hospital and staff make a conscious effort not to be wasteful and to reduce the amount of trash produced. They have a commitment to use new products as they are developed to help achieve their environmental goals.