

2002 EnviroGuard Company Profile

Small Business Category



Ten Thousand Villages is a small, non-profit retail business featuring fair-trade arts and crafts from over 30 countries. Renee Johns, manager, along with 35 volunteers have been committed to pollution prevention since its inception in 1995.

Ten Thousand Villages made a conscious decision to repair, remodel, and re-use an existing building located on a city bus route and within walking distance of a large customer base. The remodel included:

- use of recycled wood
- reuse of bathroom fixtures
- refinishing old flooring with a non-toxic treatment
- reuse of display units
- reuse of windows, doors, and door trim

The exterior of the building is maintained with a commitment to low water and low energy use.

- use of a hand mower
- xeriscape landscaping was chosen for its low water usage
- drip irrigation system was installed
- no pesticides are applied
- yard waste is composted whenever possible.

Recycling and waste reduction are a part of the retail store's everyday business practices. Examples include:

- paper, cardboard, and other packing materials are reused, recycled, or shared with nearby businesses who will reuse the materials
- rolls of clean newsprint, recycled from the Idaho Statesman, supplement available packing materials
- paper towels in the restrooms have been replaced with cloth towels
- volunteers are encouraged to use reusable drink cups.

In addition, there is a company policy to carry only products that are environmentally responsible. Many products are made primarily from recycled materials. Ten Thousand Villages carries wood products made only from non-endangered species and coffee that is shade-grown which requires fewer pesticides.