



Mar-Apr 2009

Stay Tuned:

May-Jun Features:
 Refurbished Furniture-
 Furniture Fire Safety

Volume 2, Issue 2



NYU Green Room

Certification Criteria:

- Climate Cool 
- Cradle to Cradle 
- Fair Trade 
- Energy Star 
- SCS 
- Green Guard 
- LEED 

Lean and Green?

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services

As recession fears loom, how is this going to affect the “Green” movement in the furniture and finishes industry? Interestingly enough, recycling and reusing products is just the kind of trend that can fit our frugal times.

We are all aware of the fact that by recycling trash and reducing waste, we are making a giant step to reducing the environmental impact to the earth and it does not take much effort to accomplish. It is a recession-friendly practice we perform as part of our everyday life. One of the biggest obstacles is working against the existing myths, namely that being green is an expensive process. We must first remember the mantra “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”. Waste reduction can sometimes equal financial savings. By reducing waste, whether it is through recycling, surplus resale,

composting or energy efficiency we could reduce the cost to dispose as well as generate extra cash.

This could also be the perfect time for furniture manufacturers to rise to the occasion and offer pared-down, affordable, intelligent designs for a broader audience. It is time for them to be innovative and find that sweet spot between affordability and durability.

Here at the university, we may have mastered the art of recycling but reusing and reducing our consumption is a little more challenging. For one thing, when it comes to furniture, we had the issue of where to store these items on campus. As one of our cost-reduction efforts last year, NYU no longer warehouses surplus furniture items. Besides saving on New York City real estate rents, NYU’s Asset Management has also man-

aged to save approximately \$80,000 in moving fees by removing the cost to redistribute furniture within the university and/or relocating to not-for-profit organizations. Asset Management still offers the service to relocate surplus furniture within the campus at extremely modest fees, but the cost to transport furniture must now be factored into your department’s operating budget. For more information about this service and to check out NYU’s online surplus items you can reference www.nyu.edu/asset.

Another great cost-saving measure is to purchase previously-owned furniture items. Purchasing Services is about to embark on an exciting new I-Buy relationship with a reputable furniture liquidation company. So, purchasing refurbished furnishings will soon be just a click away. Stay tuned.....

Green Organizations

- Environmental Preferable Purchasing www.epa.gov/epp/
- USGBC– U.S. Green Building Council– www.usgbc.org
- Forest Stewardship Council– www.fsc.org
- NYU-Sustainability– www.nyu.edu/sustainability



Meld USA– Chuck/ Recycled Cardboard



Stray Dog Stool -Recycled Cement Bags



Molo Design– Recycled Kraft Paper

Counting Carb*on?

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services

Each one of us combined with the products and services we use on a day to day has a carbon footprint. This is a measurement tool that identifies the relative impact of our actions as individuals, businesses, communities and as a country on a whole through our daily routines and lives. It is measured in carbon emissions, usually in pounds, tons or kilograms.

A carbon footprint is the total amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases emitted over the full life cycle of the product or services.

The goal is to not only slow the growth in carbon emissions but to also shrink the emissions by a whopping 90 percent if we would like to achieve a future climate that resembles our own today.

What's your building made of? Think of all the materials that go into a building – the concrete foundations, wood studs, carpet, steel hardware, doors, etc. Each material represents a proc-

ess of resource extrication, manufacturing, transportation, and installation. These processes are responsible for energy use and are sources of pollution. We can go a long way by making buildings more energy efficient.

Onsite Energy–Energy emissions generated just from building operations alone is just one of the sources to take into account. It is considered a major contributor to a building's carbon footprint, mainly because it arrives in the forms of electricity, natural gas, fuel oil or propane. Unfortunately, burning coal (the most carbon-intensive fuel) accounts for almost half of the electricity generated in the U.S. You can reference the EPA's eGRID database for emission rates of carbon in the U.S. www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-and-you/index.html

Transportation– There are also emissions from transportation to and from a

building. The goal is to locate buildings in transit friendly areas and to be more mindful of providing pedestrian walkways and cyclist lanes. According to the EPA, gasoline contributes about 19.3 pounds of CO2 per gallon.

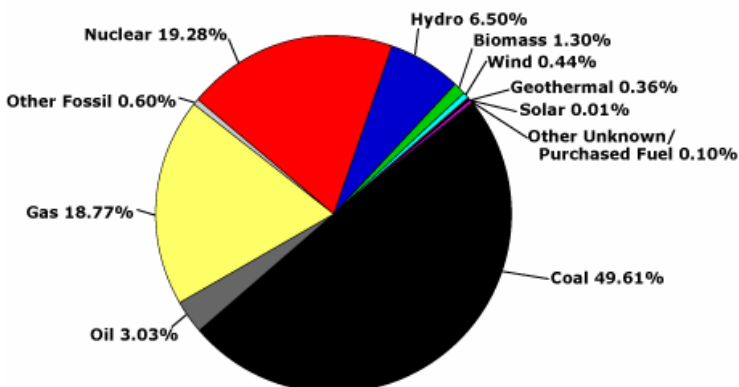
Water– the energy to treat and transport potable water to a building is also substantial. The carbon emissions can be as high as 800 tons depending on how much water the building consumes. Specifying water conserving plumbing fixtures and eliminating the use of potable water for toilet flushing and other unnecessary functions can play a big part in reducing CO2 emissions.

Materials– There are benefits associated with increasing the recycled contents of building materials to help reduce greenhouse gases. CO2 can be released from materials such as limestone in the making of cement, brick, virgin steel and timber.

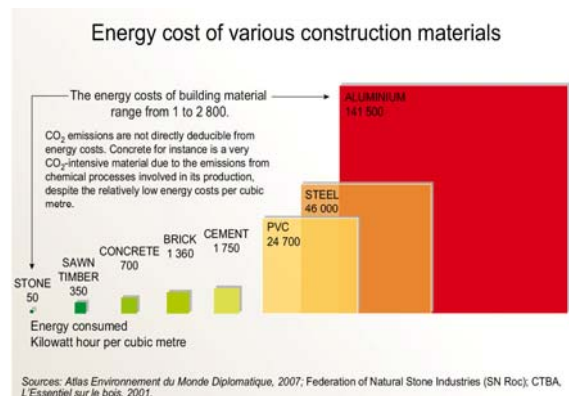


Follow in my footsteps to a better future

"If you don't like something change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."
 — Maya Angelou



U.S. National Average Fuel Mix for generating Electricity
 Source: EPA's eGrid Database



Sources: Atlas Environnement du Monde Diplomatique, 2007; Federation of Natural Stone Industries (SN Roc); CTBA, L'Essentiel sur le bois, 2001.

Image courtesy of UNEP/ Grid-Arendal

Candy can be good for you.

By Giselle Graham—NYU- Purchasing Services



Swala Line— Zulu Mama Stacking cafe Chair

At least you're guaranteed no cavities with these candy colored options for indoor and outdoor seating. The university is seeing a surge of designs that include some form of outdoor terrace or lounge space. I've managed to compile a few options that are both pleasing to the eyes as well as sustainable to the earth.

ICF's Plank **Myto** cantilevered stacking chair is a symbol of innovation at its best. The chair is made up of a miracle material called Ultradur High Speed through BASF. This is a plastic that is resistant to high temperatures, ultraviolet rays, and most chemicals in addition to being strong, flexible, lightweight, and fully recyclable. It comes in light gray, gray, azure, black, traffic red, pure orange, aubergine and yellow green.

www.icfsource.com

Davis' **Loop**, features a one-piece polypropylene

shell on a chromed or powder-coated base. Due to its sculptural shape, every visual angle is a good angle. The chair is available in eight colors paper white, flame red, coal, persimmon, buttercup, aloe, sky and mist. It is 100% recyclable. www.davisfurniture.com

Janus et Cie's **Forest** chair has organic cut-out forms in powder-coated, die-cast aluminum. Sunlight filtering through makes for amazing shadows with this chair. Fittingly, the chair is just as happy outdoors as in. www.janusetcie.com

Zulu Mama stacking café chair for Swala Line is truly one of the most environmentally conscious chairs on the market. It is a take on the traditional African basket crafts but using industrial materials instead. The seats, constructed of ultraviolet-resistant extruded plastic made from recycled milk bottles, are handwoven in the Limpopo region, where jobs are

scarce. The stainless-steel frame is also fully recyclable. www.swalaline.com

The **Miralook** chair by Amat is made for playing inside or out. Its recyclable-polypropylene body can be mounted on a tubular aluminum frame for indoor and outdoor use, or on a steel frame for indoor use only. Available in 12 delicious colors, including chocolate, pistachio, and mango. www.amat-3.com



Janus et Cie— Forest—indoor or outdoor chair.



Davis— Loop Chair



ICF— Plank Myto Chair



Amat— Mira look chair