

Greener Than You Think

Everyone — consumers, businesses, nonprofits and government organizations — use the mail. The U.S. Postal Service is committed to managing resources wisely to minimize mail’s environmental impact. Across the organization, from supply management to facilities to delivery, the Postal Service is integrating sound environmental business practices into day-to-day operations and into our organizational culture. Leading by example, USPS is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the future.

- The Postal Service was the first federal agency — and the first company in North America — to receive Gold status from The Climate Registry for its sustainable efforts in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Gold status is awarded to those who reduce GHG emissions by 5 percent. The Postal Service is the first federal agency to publicly report its emissions and receive third-party verification of the results. USPS FY 2012 Scope 1, 2, and 3 GHG emissions total 12.1 million metric tons.
- In 2012, the Postal Service was the only agency to register on an agency-wide basis for the EPA Federal Green Challenge.
- USPS helps consumers make environmentally responsible decisions about their mail on its website usps.com/green, which also features the Postal Service’s 2012 Annual Sustainability Report. The report highlights USPS sustainability progress and looks at upcoming challenges.
- In 2012, USPS’ recycling efforts captured more than 250,000 tons of material — wastepaper, cardboard, cans and plastics — generating revenue at a total of \$24 million.
- The Postal Service is helping to prevent prescription drugs from contaminating natural resources. In 2012, the Postal Service recovered nearly 172,000 pounds of unused pharmaceuticals through a prescription mail-back initiative.
- The Postal Service’s second green roof is in Syracuse, NY. Designed to reduce stormwater runoff and energy, the new roof has been built at no cost to the Postal Service, thanks to an innovative collaboration with Onondaga County, NY.
- The Postal Service is helping save vanishing species, one stamp at a time, with the Save Vanishing Species Stamp. This postage stamp has raised more than \$2 million for tigers, elephants, great apes, and marine turtles since its 2011 release.
- The Postal Service partners with companies, agencies and organizations in ongoing pilot mail-back programs to safely recycle and properly dispose of small electronics, compact fluorescent lamps and discarded or expired pharmaceuticals. These programs use USPS’ national infrastructure, create customer convenience and find new, innovative uses for the mail.
- “Read, Respond, Recycle” is the message behind Post Office Box Lobby Recycling programs at more than 10,000 postal facilities across the country. By placing secure recycle bins in Post Office lobbies, the Postal Service is making it even easier for customers to make environmentally friendly choices.
- More than 1,300 USPS employee Green Teams are helping build a conservation culture by finding low- or no-cost ways to improve resource use and minimize impacts on the environment.

