



Four Hands

Solid Waste Services started the WasteSMART program to recognize local businesses that reduce and recycle waste and buy recycled products...

The Story

Product, people, and passion are the backbone behind Four Hands. Four Hands provides furniture that changes and affects people's lives in a very profound and inspirational way. The company is dedicated to renewing creativity and sparking not only the evolution of design, but also the revolution of style.

How They Do It

Four Hands has switched two out of three break rooms from disposable plates, plastic flatware and Styrofoam® cups to ceramic dishware, glass tumblers and stainless flatware. They will bring the third break room online as soon as appliance installation is complete. Soda machines have been changed from plastic bottles to aluminum cans. For shipping product, Four Hands has switched from using plastic bubble wrap to biodegradable bubble wrap.

Products Recycled:

- Teak wood
- Mango wood
- Aluminum
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Aluminum cans
- Plastic bottles
- Toner cartridges
- Plastic grocery bags

Since 1996, recycling has been part of Four Hands' corporate objectives. They are a founding member and sit on the board of directors of the Sustainable Furniture Council, a non-profit formed to promote sustainable practices throughout the home furnishings industry. Two of the latest introductions the Fissure and Lucy collections, are 100% recycled teak wood which has been certified by Smart Wood with a Forest Stewardship Council label. Currently over 50% of the line uses eco-friendly raw materials, including plantation-grown and reclaimed wood. Selections in the upholstery lines also include eco-friendly materials. In addition, the aluminum furniture and accessories are made of 70% recycled aluminum.

Above and beyond

Education regarding in-house recycling is accomplished through periodic "all-hands" emails. Four Hands intends to have Balcones Resources speak at a company meeting in the near future, and are currently working on a course covering the environmental history, commitment and company-wide participation as part of the curriculum of Four Hands University, their in-house training vehicle.

Presently measurable results for waste recycling consist of monthly volume outlines on Balcones

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Resources, Austin Shred and Iron Mountain statements, and the decrease in waste hauled through Texas Disposal Systems statements. Not as easily quantifiable, but certainly economically measurable, would be Four Hands' continued highly recognized growth in waste recycling.

Going Green is a Hands on Project

As a leading importer of products sourced around the world, Four Hands recognizes that it is not only their social responsibility to keep the planet green, but it's good business as well. The company strives to sell the best eco-friendly products in the industry. The benefits of the company's hard work are reflected in numerous ways. They have won a plethora of design and achievement awards. In addition, Four Hands recently expanded showrooms in Atlanta and Las Vegas, as well as warehouse and administrative offices in Austin, to include more eco-friendly products. They have exclusive distribution deals with cutting-edge industry leaders such as Old Java (a reclaimed wood furniture company) and award-winning designer, John Reeves. As they continue to expand recycling efforts in the area of organizational waste, Four Hands is keenly aware of the pride and deep satisfaction that come from "walking the talk" they so effectively market.