

# 10 SIMPLE WAYS TO GO GREEN IN BUSINESS

By Alexa Stillwell

South Carolina businesses began taking an interest in the green phenomenon years ago. The University of South Carolina (USC) opened a green dorm in 2004. The West Quad is one of the first newly constructed green college residence halls in the United States, and it is the largest residence-hall complex of its kind in the world. The carpet has no carbon dioxide emissions. It is composed of recycled content and, when it must be replaced, it will be recycled again. All paint used in the building is odorless.

BI-LO leads by example by encouraging customers to go green with reusable bags. Customers can choose woven recycled plastic bags or a stronger canvas bag. BI-LO also offers an eco-friendly online shopping list to highlight environmentally conscious items available. And, BI-LO has created its own "green" products through the Southern Homes brand.

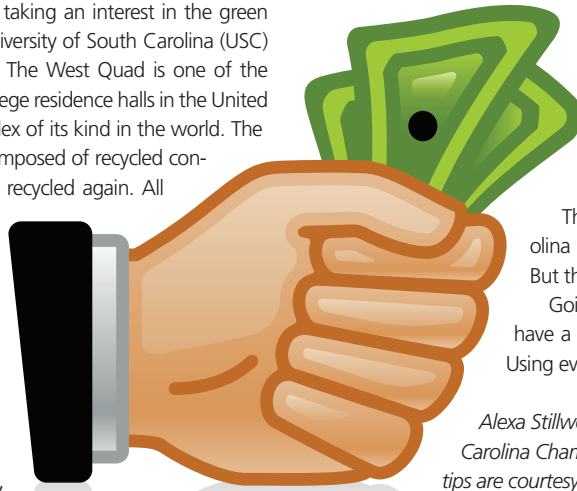
The South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO), through the Plan for State Energy Policy, provides a broad range of resources designed to

help citizens, businesses and public entities save energy and money through greater efficiency, better information and enhanced environmental quality. The SCEO serves as a central clearinghouse for information related to energy use and energy efficiency in South Carolina.

These are just three examples of how South Carolina is making strides to protect the environment. But there is still much work to be done.

Going green doesn't have to be a large project to have a significant impact. And it's not all or nothing. Using even one of these tips is a great start!

*Alexa Stillwell is an events coordinator at the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. The 10 green business tips are courtesy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Greening Operations Guide.*



## Here are 10 simple ideas for running a green business that can be implemented today:

- 1 Communicate by e-mail, and read e-mail messages onscreen to determine whether it's necessary to print them. If it's not, don't! Most computer systems have backup modems, so the need for a hard copy is decreasing.
- 2 Turn off equipment when it is not being used. This can reduce the energy used by 25 percent. Turning off computers at the end of the day can save an additional 50 percent.
- 3 Choose suppliers who take back packaging for reuse.
- 4 Reduce fax-related waste by using a fax-modem and fax cover sheet only when necessary. Fax-modems allow documents to be sent directly from a computer without requiring a printed hard copy.
- 5 Produce double-sided documents.
- 6 Instigate an ongoing search for "greener" products and services in the local community. The further your suppliers or service providers have to travel, the more energy will be used to get them to you.
- 7 Find a supply of paper made of recycled content.
- 8 Do not leave water faucets dripping. One drop wasted per second wastes 10,000 liters or 2,642 gallons per year.
- 9 Install displacement toilet dams in toilet reservoirs. Placing one or two plastic containers filled with stones [not bricks] in the toilet's reservoir will displace about four liters of water per flush - a huge reduction of water use over the course of a year.
- 10 See if your existing office furniture can be refurbished before purchasing new office furniture.

### SCB: Beyond the Pages

#### SOUTH CAROLINA GREEN RESOURCES

City of Columbia Climate Protection Action Campaign [www.coccpac.com](http://www.coccpac.com)

South Carolina's Green Building Directory [www.scgreenbuildingdirectory.org](http://www.scgreenbuildingdirectory.org)

South Carolina Energy Office [www.energy.sc.gov](http://www.energy.sc.gov)

South Carolina Go Green Directory [http://south-carolina.uscity.net/Go\\_Green/](http://south-carolina.uscity.net/Go_Green/)

U.S. Green Building S.C. Chapter [www.usgbcsc.org](http://www.usgbcsc.org)

GenGreen [www.gengreen.org/state.php?s=SC](http://www.gengreen.org/state.php?s=SC)

Go Green Charleston [www.gogreencharleston.org](http://www.gogreencharleston.org)

Green Globes [www.greenglobes.com](http://www.greenglobes.com)

Earthcraft Houses [www.earthcrafthouse.com](http://www.earthcrafthouse.com)

Green Building Initiative [www.thegbi.org](http://www.thegbi.org)