



The Maple-Vail Book Manufacturing Group Environmental Statement

The Maple-Vail Book Manufacturing Group has a long history of environmental stewardship. We pride ourselves on making quality books through the implementation of safe and responsible processes that protect the environment, benefit our employees and provide for the effective operation of our business.

Through the years, Maple-Vail has strived to operate our business utilizing environmentally responsible processes and materials. In the prepress area, our transition to digital technology has resulted in dramatic reductions in the use of water, paper, chemicals and film. The evolution to soft proofing has eliminated most hard copy proofs including the packaging and energy required to transport them. Alcohol-free fountain solutions and non-hazardous solvents were incorporated into our printing process over a decade ago.

We're especially proud of the development of the *THINKTech*® printing system. This innovative process is exclusively offered by Maple-Vail and utilizes unique inks and fountain solution that are nearly solvent-free. The result is a reduction in VOC emissions of over 90% as compared with traditional printing methods. We have implemented this eco-friendly system in our pressrooms to take full advantage of its widespread benefits. The quick drying properties of the web *THINKTech*® printing process enables us to run these presses without using ovens or chiller rollers. As a result, energy consumption is greatly reduced. We are very pleased to have developed this very *green* printing system to benefit both our customers and the environment.

Maple-Vail has also been at the forefront in regards to recycled paper options and was the first U.S. book printer to use chlorine-free, FSC-certified paper. Today we offer 43 different grades and sizes of printing stock containing post-consumer recycled fiber. We also have received Chain-of-Custody certification from both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI).

Our material programs provide our customers with several eco-friendly options for cloth. In addition, our cover boards and cartons contain significant recycled content. We generate no hazardous waste, and adhesives are selected with both effectiveness and VOC percentages in mind. All manufacturing supplies are monitored within our MSDS system to ensure worker awareness and proper handling.

Over 95% of the materials we receive ship out as finished books. Almost all of what remains is recycled as part of Maple-Vail's robust scrap collection and plant-wide recycling program, which includes paper, cardboard, aluminum and 25 other commodities. We also continue to invest heavily in the development of online applications to reduce the use of paper and supplies for internal and external communications. The vast array of information available electronically at www.maple-vail.com supports these efforts.

As signatories to the Green Press Initiative's Book Industry Treatise on Responsible Paper Use and a founding member of the Book Industry Environmental Council, Maple-Vail continues to be a book industry leader in the support of environmental initiatives. We have found that investing in environmentally responsible processes supports our ability to operate cost effectively and helps to ensure Maple-Vail's long-term competitiveness in the marketplace.