

Affordable Housing Education and Development, Inc.

Littleton, New Hampshire



*Sustainability
Assessments and
Master Planning*

In October 2008, we conducted an SSC Green Audit at Affordable Housing Education and Development, Inc. (AHEAD), surveying their employees, calculating their carbon footprint, and suggesting the most strategic and cost-effective way to go green.

Eco-friendly Landscaping

"AHEAD's use of environmentally friendly landscaping is an integrated part of our incorporating Green Building Practices in our developments. Using native species that need little or no watering, local mulches help create a landscape that is both pleasing to the eye and easy to maintain. Not every supplier carries native species, but they are not too hard to find in our area." – Construction Specialist, AHEAD, Inc.

Although using native plants is not the only suggested way of greening your landscape practices, it is important and an effective way to help the environment. Below are benefits to going native:

- Native plants do not require fertilizers.
- Native plants require fewer pesticides than lawns.
- Native plants require less water than lawns - in urban areas, lawn irrigation uses as much as 30% of the water consumption on the East Coast and up to 60% on the West Coast.
- Native plants help reduce air pollution - natural landscapes do not require
- Mowing: one gas-powered lawnmower emits 11 times the air pollution of a new car for each hour of operation.
- Native plants provide shelter and food for wildlife.
- Native plants promote biodiversity and stewardship of our natural heritage.
- Native plants save money - A study by Applied Ecological Services of larger properties estimates that over a 20-year period, the cumulative cost of maintaining a prairie or a wetland totals \$3,000 per acre versus \$20,000 per acre for non-native turf grasses.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/>

[nativeplants/factsht.html#Native%20Plant](http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/nativeplants/factsht.html#Native%20Plant)

Want to learn more about eco-friendly landscaping? Check out the following resources:

- <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/greenscapes/howto.htm>
- <http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/landscap.htm>

Eco-friendly Printing

"Cover printed on Via Felt, 30% post-consumer fiber using Green-E certified renewable wind-generated electricity. Inside pages are printed on Neenah Environment 100% PCW in accordance with Forest Stewardship Council standards. Soy-based inks are used throughout." – AHEAD 2007 Annual Report

Inspired by other non-profits, the Resource Development Director at Affordable Housing Education and Development (AHEAD) took the initiative to make the printing of their Annual Report more environmentally friendly. Consulting the organization's printer and graphic designer AHEAD soon discovered that printing with soy-based inks was so common now, that it would be no additional cost to use that method. They balanced the slightly more expensive cost of the paper by cutting back on the number of pages in the report. This allowed AHEAD to stay within budget, print and mail the required number of reports and be environmentally friendly!

AHEAD is currently transitioning to use recycled materials for other pieces (business cards, brochures, etc) as they use up old stocks and need to reorder.

"Since our Green Audit, our default tray of copy paper consists of only recycled paper. Instead of using fresh, clean paper we use paper that has been used once. So far, we're spending about \$20 less a month on paper supplies. Also, we use Thin Clients, so about 60% of employees in the office have a monitor and keyboard with remote access to a central sever. It is all wireless, using a fraction of the energy. www.thinclient.net/" – Heather Porter, AHEAD



Client

Affordable Housing Education and Development, Inc.

Industry

Non-profit, Affordable Housing

Contact

Heather Porter
Resource Development
Director
161 Main St.
Littleton, NH 03561
603-444-1377
800-974-1377 (toll free)
(603) 444-0707 (fax)
hporter@homesahead.org

Date

October 2008

Key Team Members

Jennifer Woofert
Heather Shand



888 Station Street
Herndon, VA 20170
(202) 684.6447

info@sustainabilityconsulting.com
www.sustainabilityconsulting.com