

Re-Committing to Responsibility

Greening Resolution Passed by Committee Board of Directors

by Jeff Darlington

On the heels of the California power crisis last summer, the Committee re-affirmed its commitment to energy conservation and environmentally sound—or green—business practices.

In July the Committee Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution that states the Committee “will, to the greatest extent practicable, seek to use and promote environmentally friendly products, with a special emphasis on water and energy efficiency.”

Committee Board member and Director at Pacific Gas and Electric Company in San Francisco Guillermo Rodriguez Jr. is taking the lead on having the Committee join the “Flex Your Power Non-Profit Initiative” (www.flexyourpower.ca.gov) that calls for such steps as setting thermostats for minimal heating/cooling, reducing lighting levels, closing blinds and shades, and turning off appliances when not in active use.

“Certainly, the effort to be environmentally responsible is not new to the Committee, but it is one that we are formally affirming through this greening resolution,” says Executive Director of Operations Geoff McQuilkin. “Here in the Lee Vining office we use compact fluorescent lights, monitor and conserve our energy use, and use passive heating and cooling as

much as possible.”

Plans for the upcoming remodel of the Lee Vining office incorporate even stronger green energy use practices. Solar and wind power, passive heating and lighting, better insulation, and an interpretive display about renewable energy are all components of the planned remodel.

“I do my part in the Committee Bookstore too,” says Retail and Wholesale Operations Manager Ramona Robbins-Clark. “We carry clothing made of organic cotton and soy-based inks, water conservation products, and products made of recycled materials.” See the organic cotton T-shirts on page 22.

Another thing the Committee is doing to stay green is seeking out partnerships with businesses such as Planet, Inc. (see below) to ensure we’re using and promoting green products. In fact, the newsletter you’re holding right now is another example of our green business practices (see sidebar)!

To see the ways the Committee is working to protect the environment in its business practices see www.monolake.org/committee/green. ❖

Jeff Darlington is the Committee’s Office Director. He’s calculating how many hours of winter sun his shady home location will allow in.

A Responsible Newsletter Upgrade

The *Mono Lake Newsletter* has been an integral part of the Mono Lake Committee from the very beginning. David Gaines produced Volume 1 Number 1 on a typewriter in the spring of 1978. Since inception it has kept members, visitors, citizens, and politicians abreast of Mono Lake environmental threats, scientific reports, and educational opportunities.

With the Committee’s renewed commitment to environmental responsibility came a close examination of the components of the Newsletter. At the same time we have updated the design of the Newsletter—for the first time in over 10 years!

The environmental responsibility upgrades are:

1. The new paper is acid-free, 100% recycled with 30% post-consumer fiber, and recyclable.
2. The new inks are vegetable based.
3. The new printer incorporates printing, complete recycling, list preparation, and mailing all in one place. Address data is transferred electronically and transportation is minimized.

If you have any questions about the Newsletter please contact Arya Degenhardt (arya@monolake.org) at (760) 647-6595.

Planet Inc. Helps Keep the Committee Green and Clean

Planet, Inc., a leading name in environmentally friendly cleaning products, has agreed to provide the Mono Lake Committee with free cleaning materials for the office and Information Center.

Planet products are certified biodegradable by Scientific Certification

Systems—meaning their products break down quickly into carbon dioxide, basic minerals, and water. Along with a high level of environmental responsibility, Planet products perform as well as non-biodegradable products, and are comparable in price.

Thank you to Planet for helping the Committee be more environmen-

tally responsible! For details about Planet’s commitment to the environment, see www.planetinc.com, and for more details on Planet’s donation to the Mono Lake Committee, see www.monolake.org/committee/green.

