



Georgia Assn. of Counties Uses Carpet with Soy-based Backing

When it comes to counties, Georgia has them—159, in fact, which is second only to Texas (254 counties). It also has a very active Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), and together, the counties and their association have green long before green was cool.

ACCG Deputy Director Ross King says Georgia county governments' proactive environmental stance goes back to the early 1960s and water quality issues. "Now everyone nationwide knows about our drought, but water quality and water conservation have been issues we've dealt with for years. And, it doesn't stop there—whether it's recycling or air quality Georgia counties are likely to be on the cutting edge. In fact, we like to call it 'bleeding edge' that's how important it is to us."

King says that the "ACCG not only talks the talk, but it walks the walk", and their recent installation of soy-based carpeting is just one of many examples. "When David Dunning, a sustainability consultant, and our other friends told us about their carpet with soy-based backing, it was a no brainer. There is no reason not to use it. It's cost competitive and it's of equal quality."

The carpeting is just one of the many "green" aspects of the newly remodeled and decorated headquarters facility. In total, they have installed 13,093 square feet of new carpet of which 5,175 square feet were soy-based carpet (all staff offices).

The ACCG, according to King, recently conducted an informal “audit” based on Office Depot’s Green Purchasing catalogue, and discovered that 30% of their office supply purchases were in that category. ”When Office Depot advised us of the fact that we had the highest “green purchase” percentage of all county association counterparts across the nation we were understandably pleased. They also pointed out several ways in which we could quickly achieve over 50% “green purchases” and we have implemented plans to accomplish that task.” King concludes “it simply takes an organizational awareness and dedication to be a good sustainability steward. I am proud to work for an organization like ACCG which has this high level of awareness and dedication.”

King says the environmentally friendly products purchased and used by ACCG will be publicized widely to their members by use of their monthly Georgia County Government magazine and E-newsletter (County Line).



*Association of County
Commissioners Deputy Director
Ross King had 5,175 square feet of
soy-backed carpet installed at their
headquarters as part of their
greening initiatives.
photo credit: ACCG*