

Overwaita Food Group

FACT SHEET - ENVIRONMENT

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The Overwaita Food Group (OFG) has a long history of demonstrating commitment to the environment, beginning with successful and award-winning recycling programs that started nearly two decades ago with the company's first Environmental Stewardship Award from the Recycling Council of British Columbia.

Today, through all of its stores (Save-On-Foods, Overwaita Foods, Cooper's Foods, Urban Fare and PriceSmart Foods) the company offers customers quality eco-friendly products and environmentally sustainable choices like reusable shopping bags, bulk foods, organics, sustainable seafood and local, Western Canadian products.

OFG recycles over 90 percent of recyclable materials coming through its stores and is committed to developing, building and renovating stores to be 25 percent more energy efficient than 10 years ago. OFG has been repeatedly recognized by BC Hydro for this effort, most recently with their highest honour, the Power Smart Leader award. On an annual basis, through energy efficiencies in British Columbia stores alone, OFG saves enough electricity to power nearly 6,000 family homes.

Following are details of some of the consumer related products, services and programs offered:

Products & Services for our Customers:

Supporting Western Canadian Producers – As a Western Canadian retailer with roots in New Westminster, BC, we're proud to lead the industry in the support of growers and producers across BC and Alberta – sourcing from over 1,200 farmers throughout a typical year. One example of this is our partnership with the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation as the primary distributor for the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Snack program, which distributes locally-produced fruits and vegetables to over 350,000 school-aged children in communities across BC.

Bulk Foods – we've been offering bulk foods for over 30 years (*and technically since 1915 when OFG founder RC Kidd began selling 18 ounces of tea for the price of a pound – giving the company their name ...over-weight-tea*).

Organic Produce – we began sourcing and selling organically grown produce in the late 1980s, and have continued to lead as an innovator in the area of organics and natural foods. More than 2,300 natural or organic products are available in our stores.

Sustainable Seafood

We've partnered with SeaChoice to bring customers more ocean-friendly seafood options. Plus, we've got all of the information consumers need to make buying decisions that support the long-term health of our oceans.

- In 2009, OFG became the first Canadian retailer to commit to sustainable seafood when they announced their partnership with *SeaChoice* and published their six-point *Sustainable Seafood Policy Guidelines* and immediately delisted several red-listed species and commenced an active and ongoing consumer education campaign.

Recycling Plastic Film Wrap and Plastic Shopping Bags

In an average year, OFG recovers nearly 2 hundred metric tonnes of plastic film wrap and plastic shopping bags. This service has been offered to OFG's customers since the mid '90s. Product recovered is used to make other plastic products (like plastic lumber).

Recycling Deposit Containers

Through 11 Lower Mainland **Changes Recycling Centres®**, established in 1998, OFG was the first retailer in Canada to:

- actively promote the concept of return to retail.
- promote full lifecycle responsibility for OFG's Western Family corporate brand packaging.
- promote full lifecycle responsibility of selected national brands packaging (Unilever, Lipton, Kimberly Clark, Nature's Path).
- We also offer consumers the ability to recycle their aluminum cans, plastic bottles and tetra packs – a quick and easy “one stop” solution for our customers.

Business Operating Initiatives:

Cardboard Recovery Program

- OFG established a cardboard recycling program in 1990 and recycles up to 90% of the cardboard that comes in to our stores, in excess of 15,000 tonnes every year.

Energy Conservation Efforts

The majority of OFG stores feature a variety of smart technology designed to reduce energy consumption. Some examples include:

- High-efficiency lighting & sensors in freezer cases
- Energy reduced refrigeration systems certified through BC Hydro's Power Smart High Performance Building Program
- Energy efficient freezer doors
- High-efficiency timed lighting bakery ovens
- Heat recovery and reclaim systems
- Building automation systems that adjust lighting, heating and air conditioning as needed

Recent Energy Awards and Accolades

- 2005 B.C. Hydro – Power Smart Excellence Award
- 2007 B.C. Hydro - Power Smart Excellence Award for Outstanding Energy Efficient Project
- 2007 Phillips – Award for Commitment to Environmental Responsibility and Sustainability
- 2008 B.C. Hydro - Power Smart Excellence Award for Excellence in Energy Management
- 2008 Fortis B.C. – Power Sense Conservation Excellence Award
- 2009 B.C. Hydro - Power Smart Excellence Award for Power Smart Leader
- 2010 B.C. Hydro - Power Smart Excellence Award for Power Smart Leader
- 2012 nominated for B.C. Hydro - Power Smart Excellence Award for Power Smart Leader

The Overwaitea Food Group is a leading retail grocery chain in British Columbia and Alberta. OFG currently operates more than 124 stores under the Save-On-Foods, Overwaitea Foods, Cooper's Foods, Urban Fare, PriceSmart Foods and Bulkley Valley Wholesale banners and employs more than 13,000 team members.

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