

## The Greening of Avnet

It Takes a Village to Go Eco-Friendly

While they go about their environmental efforts rather quietly, be assured that several teams within the company, taking the lead from our real estate and facilities professionals, are accomplishing many notable green initiatives for our large facilities. From carpets to janitorial supplies and from water conservation to recycling, these folks have served up a giant plate of greens we know are good for us and the planet.



Starting with environmentally sustainable building standards provided by [LEED](#) (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), corporate real estate team design and build Avnet offices and warehouses to strict specifications, gaining best use of layout and aesthetics with lowest cost. They research the life cycle of products, materials and energy efficiencies to balance best fit to budget allowance and value. Further, Avnet has recently leased its first LEED gold certified office facility in Alabama.

For example, solar-reflective roofing, energy-efficient HVAC and lighting are incorporated into new and existing buildings. Avnet uses [Lees](#) brand carpet tiles, which pass stringent certification tests, are made of 35 percent pre-consumer recycled content, and are rated to last 15 years. Plus, tiles make for easy replacement, when needed.

Office furniture from [Haworth](#) brings Avnet indoor air-quality certified products with interchangeable parts to increase sustainability. Further, Haworth is a leader in ergonomic excellence. In fact, its new chairs are eco-friendly, green manufactured and totally recyclable. Its furniture-making process uses renewable energy alternatives as the company strives toward climate neutral.

The real estate team is engaged in solar energy studies and will soon be implementing solar testing at select sites.

In waste management, the facilities team has introduced several recycling programs. Employees can drop off paper, cardboard boxes, cans, plastic bottles and software CDs. The maintenance folks collect batteries, light bulbs, ballasts and “mixed” lamps. Those recycling efforts collected 25 tons at the two largest facilities in Arizona. A formal program for the recycling of corrugated cardboard box recycling at the two Chandler, Ariz., warehouse and integration centers has yielded 689 tons of cardboard for reuse. Recycled paper is used in all copiers, and toner cartridges are recycled for Avnet through the toner vendor’s own program.

One of the most visible changes in the buildings is the absence of Styrofoam and paper cups at the coffee stations. Thanks to the efforts of the corporate procurement office,

employees were offered ceramic mugs – or brought their own – and have embraced the change.

To conserve energy, the environmental operating systems were upgraded and their hours of operation were reduced. Further, automatic light sensors were installed in offices and programmed to shut off when no movement inside is detected – resulting in a huge energy savings. The corporate procurement team upgraded the copy machines [to Energy Star-rated](#) models. GIS has contributed to the energy-saving efforts by asking employees to turn off their computers at night and by installing automatic “sleep mode” sensors that power down computers left on for extended periods.

Further, the data center, which controls Avnet’s global IT systems, is busy [winning awards](#) for its environmental efforts.

Phoenix-area residents are perhaps a little more water-conscious, a side-effect of desert living. So, building landscaping, by design, requires less watering. And inside, the team has installed dual-flush toilets and automatic faucets in the restrooms to conserve water usage.

On the transportation front, Avnet supports and encourages car pooling – with rewards like commuter discount cards, preferred building parking and a monthly drawing with cash prizes. Avnet’s Arizona locations are enrolled in a state program for subsidized bus passes and van pooling. Corporate Travel has added hybrid cars to Avnet’s car rental agreement. And to reduce air travel, the company has installed teleconferencing equipment to facilitate meetings with our international teams and the Chandler, Phoenix, and Tempe, Ariz.; Westminster, Colo. and San Antonio, Tex. locations in the U.S.

It should also be noted that many departments allow telecommuting or flex hours for select employees for employees whose jobs can accommodate it and whose managers OK it.

That’s a lot of progress, but these hard-working teams have promised that they’re not anywhere near done greening Avnet. More efforts are in progress or in the planning stages.

Thanks very much to the real estate and facilities teams, the corporate procurement team, Avnet Travel and the information technology professionals for the tremendous jobs they’ve done in moving Avnet forward as an environmentally responsible company. Kudos to all of you!

Green initiatives start with common sense awareness of environmental issues and are then pushed forward by people who care about the Earth. Each of us can make personal contributions, as Avnet has done as a company, at work and at home to save water, trees, energy and CO2 emissions.