



Green Initiatives

Spectrum Skatepark Creations Ltd. has undertaken initiatives to reduce our impact on the environment since 2001. Our first major initiative - requiring the use of Eco-Smart concrete in our skateparks - began in 2004. Below is a summary of our current ecologically sensitive initiatives & programs.



Design & Construction

- 1.) We require "Eco-Smart" concrete in our skateparks. The production of cement powder is one of the planet's significant greenhouse gas (CO₂'s) producers. For example, in Spectrum's region (Metro Vancouver) cement production currently produces approximately 50% of industrial CO₂ emissions, or 13% of the total CO₂ emissions in the area. Eco-Smart concrete (www.ecosmartconcrete.com/index.cfm) uses a waste product (fly ash) to replace significant quantities of cement powder, thus reducing the production of it.
- 2.) Our specifications require concrete curing agents to meet US Federal Air Quality Regulation 40 CFR 52-254 for VOC (volatile organic compounds) emissions.
- 3.) We focus on surface drainage, bio-swailes & infiltration basins, allowing water back into the earth & natural cycles, rather than into storm sewers.
- 4.) We strive to promote planting within the skatepark itself.
- 5.) We're currently testing a new process that replaces galvanizing, thus reducing lead use to nearly nothing at all. Further, this new process results in much longer lasting material, increasing the life-span of our skateparks. The new steel product associated with this treatment process has a higher tensile strength, so a thinner wall dimension can be used, thus reducing the total volume of steel consumed.
- 6.) We're currently researching a new type of concrete from Europe that actually cleans the air during the batching / the mixing process.
- 7.) We participate in a number of Green Building blogs as a way to share our discovery of new environmentally sound products & practices with others.
- 8.) In summary, we're constantly searching for ways to reduce material consumption, improve efficiency; as well as for new, more environmentally sound products.

Office & Management

- 1.) We've implemented systems to reduce air travel by company staff during projects.
- 2.) We're establishing company Reps across the globe to further reduce company air travel.
- 3.) We have a broad Green Office program in place focusing on waste & energy reduction, & a comprehensive recycling program that reaches far beyond the "blue box" items to include everything from foil-lined chip bags to computer equipment.
- 4.) We have an environmentally responsible purchasing program which ranges from simple items including refillable ink cartridges & low energy light bulbs, to contracting only with companies like 'Green Printer' whose printing processes - such as using 100% post consumer waste/recycled chlorine free paper, vegetable based inks, and waterless printing - conserve energy, & reduce toxins in our air & water.
- 5.) Employees are encouraged to take public transit, ride bikes, & of course skate to work!

Giving Back

In an effort to make up for the land that we cover in concrete, we make annual donations to **The Nature Conservancy of Canada**. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is a private, non-profit organization working for the direct protection of Canada's biodiversity through the purchase, donation, or placing of conservation easements on ecologically significant lands (<http://www.natureconservancy.ca/>).

