

4 Going Green

OUR JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN

E-Mission News From the Banks Hardwoods Environmental Committee • Jan/Feb 2009



Passive House?

With all the push to be more energy efficient, a lot of focus has been put on building more efficient heating and cooling systems, and marginal increases in insulation values. So how much better can things get? Quite a bit. An organization called *Passive House Institute* is guiding home builders the world over on how to create superefficient homes using a combination of strategies, and thousands have been successfully built.

A Passive House, focuses on four key areas: super-insulation, extreme air-tightness (leakage one-third of the current best standards), mechanical ventilation for maximum heat recovery, and selecting windows and orienting the house to get maximum solar gain in winter. Passive solar gain involves warming the home by utilizing the sun's



rays streaming through south facing windows. The gain is maximized by strategic placement of heat absorbing materials.

The results: the average Passive House can be heated with energy the equivalent of one or two hair-dryers! For more information, visit <http://www.motherearthnews.com/Green-Homes.aspx>.

“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.”

E-Mission Statement

“As we strive to produce the highest quality lumber and provide the very best service to our customers, we will do everything within our means to do so in an environmentally friendly manner.”

“Fiche-ing” for a Better Way

Banks Hardwoods has come a long way since the days of a single location and a handful of employees. Everything was much simpler back then, including paperwork. But these days, as our Controller Dana Kennedy points out, “The paperwork created by one shipment of lumber could amount to over ten pages per packet.”

Thanks to the hard work of Dana and others, Banks has taken a big step towards reducing paper consumption



Amy Wickey scans documents into the system.

and improving efficiency. In late 2007, we implemented a digital document management system from Laserfiche. This system digitizes all documents in a searchable, automatically backed-up system. Not only does it save paper, it also helps

bridge the communication gap between all Banks locations.

For more information visit <http://www.laserfiche.com/news/archives/2008/12/12/lumber-support/>.

45 Trees! Where the Paper Meets the Road

Since we began utilizing Shred-it recycling services in mid 2008, our efforts have saved over 45 trees.

Have a Suggestion?

Please send suggestions to regina@bankshardwoods.com.