

## WALKER'S PROMOTES RECYCLING EFFORTS

Earth Day was celebrated on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, however in today's times; it is an international effort that is promoted daily. The term "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle", along with the triple arrow logo is now well-known and widely used. In fact, as you look through Walker's Big Boy catalog, you will see the recycled symbol on many product descriptions. The recycling effort not only includes using products that have recycled content but also ones that have been remanufactured, like toner cartridges. It has become very easy to place them in a provided plastic bag, put them in the appropriate box and ship back with a provided shipping label. Walker's encourages this and has a program whereby we receive funds for doing so, which in turn are donated to school programs.

What is the difference between remanufactured and refilled? Cartridges that are refilled are nicknames "drill and fill" by the industry. This unattractive term describes this practice; the cartridge is drilled, filled with toner and then the drilled hole is plugged. That might not seem "unattractive", however, the problem is that inside that cartridge are parts that are built for obsolescence—they only last a certain length of time, not much longer than the life expectancy of the toner in the cartridge. The manufacturer does not put in more expensive parts to outlast the toner. Parts such as drums, wiper and doctor blades, sealing foams, mag rollers and more are contained within the cartridge. Until these parts fail, the end user is typically not aware of them. If your cartridge is only refilled, as opposed to remanufactured, these important parts are not replaced. The likelihood that these parts will fail, rendering your cartridge unsuitable for use, is high.

A common myth is that equipment warranties will not hold up unless the end user uses specific products, like HP cartridges for HP printers, but this is not true. Using compatible inks and toners from other manufacturers, as well as remanufactured items, will save money and are a great deal for consumers. It is important that quality printing is not compromised and Walker's is careful to represent established, credible firms who employ rigorous testing practices.

Recycling efforts are not limited to one product line. If you have any questions on a particular brand, that manufacturer's website usually has an entire section addressing environmental concerns as well as their participation in eco-friendly programs and practices.

In follow-up to the recycled paper feature in the March edition of "The Source", we are offering Gray's Harbor recycled paper at a fantastic bargain. Follow the following link to their webpage to learn more about their renewable energy production--  
<http://www.ghplp.com/green.php>.