

The Ripple Effect

Portland is the center of the green revolution.
Edited by Kasey Cordell
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Shoes from soda bottles

A planet-healing hospital

A better microprocessor

Solar-powered wineries

15 BIG IDEAS that prove it >>

Wonder Wall

[PLANET-SAVING PARTICLEBOARD]

Until we live in houses made of recycled soda bottles, home builders will depend on trees—and a lot of them at that. Erecting a 2,500-square-foot home takes about 60 50-year-old trees, which can exact a heavy environmental toll. Enter the Portland-based Collins Companies. In 2006, they introduced Pine FreeForm, the first FSC-approved particleboard made from 100 percent postindustrial waste, like sawmill shavings and discarded pallets. Pine FreeForm also contains no urea-formaldehyde, the glue that typically holds particleboard together, which has been linked to throat cancer. Not only did the product earn Collins a Top 10 New Green Building Products award at the U.S. Green Building Council's 2007 conference, but Collins reports that sales are going through the roof. —CDB



Portland Monthly

October 2008 Issue

Article on Portland green practices that features Collins innovative FSC particleboard, made entirely from recycled wood.