

## Retail



### Introduction

According to the EPA, Americans visit shopping centers an average of 2.5 times per month. This could be an untapped resource for recycling. Should the industry choose not to supply recycling bins for its customers; it still has the potential to recycle plastic film and packaging supplies for its entire inventory. The first “Green Mall”

specializing in environmentally responsible and socially conscious businesses, opened in Chicago in 2008

### Resources

#### **Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#))**

This website encourages shopping centers to institute a recycling program to improve the bottom line. It also includes information on how to start a program.

#### **Environmental Protection Agency, [Retail Industry Portal](#)**

The Retail Industry Portal provides access to the many programs and resources available to help prevent and resolve environmental issues at retail establishments. Two types of resources are available:

- **Compliance Resources:** Help you meet current regulatory obligations. In addition to Federal regulations, state regulations may also apply to your business activities. Not complying with regulatory obligations can result in enforcement actions.
- **Sustainability Resources:** Help you voluntarily go beyond regulatory obligations to protect the environment.

#### **Eco-Efficiency Centre of Canada**

This fact sheet was prepared by the [Eco-Efficiency Centre](#) - a non-profit, non-government educational and environmental management support centre for small and medium-sized enterprises in Nova Scotia. Even though it is Canadian, the information still applies to American retailers.

#### **Pennsylvania [Department of Environmental Protection](#)**

This is a short tip sheet for starting a recycling program for retailers.

This article describes the plans for opening the first [Green Mall](#).

## **Case Studies**

### **EPA's WasteWise**

[Waste Wise](#) has highlighted three retailers that have successfully implemented recycling and waste reduction programs.

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

This article discusses how [Wal-Mart and Sam's Club](#) implemented a program wherein plastic film was sandwiched between cardboard and baled. This allowed for easier recycling of plastic film.