



## Bay Area Green Business Program

Environmental Values At Work



Karen Choy Singer, owner of The UPS Store, shows where they store reusable packing peanuts customers bring in



Plastic air filled packing bags are reused for shipping



Cardboard packaging material is favored over polystyrene so it can be easily recycled

### The UPS Store

2625 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

650.327.7147

[theupsstore.com](http://theupsstore.com)

Certification Date: September 2007

When Karen Choy Singer, owner of The UPS Store in midtown Palo Alto, finished a recent energy efficient lighting retrofit at her store, a business associate recommended she get certified as a Green Business. "It made sense to get certified because we were doing so many environmentally responsible things already," said Singer.

They have water efficient toilets, provide bicycle storage for employees, and have replaced an aerosol room freshener with a pump dispenser, eliminating the need to manage aerosol cans as hazardous waste.

They've also made significant efforts to reduce waste, reuse and recycle. The store stocks recycled content paper in the public copy machines, employees reuse cardboard tubes for shipping and use both sides of fax cover sheets. They also recycle paper, glass and plastic bottles, cans, copier and fax machine toner and ink cartridges, and plastic packing peanut storage bags. They think about the environment when preparing heavy packages for shipping as well. Instead of using the corporate recommended three layers of polystyrene material to pad heavy objects, they use 2/3 cardboard and 1/3 polystyrene so the material can be more easily recycled by the customer. Customers can bring clean, dry, packing peanuts and air filled plastic bags used for shipping to the store where they will be reused or recycled.

"I've tried to instill a recycling attitude into the employees here and they have really embraced it," says Choy Singer. She has proof of that enthusiasm since, even though her business has grown the past four years, she manages to generate only 32 gallons of garbage or less per week.

For more information on The UPS Store's green efforts, contact Karen Choy Singer.