



Some things we think about when we're not thinking about beer.

When it comes to being green, often it's what you *don't* do that makes the difference.

Like, engaging a hefty fleet of trucks to deliver beer all over the country. Yeah. We don't do that. We have a truck that we run on biodiesel to deliver 90% of our beer around Colorado Springs. A distributor delivers the rest to other parts of Colorado, but that's it. (We like to keep things close to home.) For a couple of our accounts, we do something charmingly earth-friendly: we *walk* it over. Here's another way we help keep trucks off the roads of the world by not doing something. We don't go all over the world looking for raw materials when we can find some of the world's finest right here on our own continent. The majority of our barley is the product of the midwest US and southern Canada, and our hops hail from the lovely Pacific Northwest. And some of our specialty ingredients come from closer still: Black Forest and Venetucci Farm.

Here are a few things we *are* doing to try and make our environmental impact as skinny as possible.

Our brewing system is based on small, multiple batches, which not only allows our brewers to take a very hands-on approach, but also makes for a more efficient use of our collective energy infrastructure because there are no massive peaks and valleys during production. Our system also allows us to reuse 100% of the water needed for wort cooling – that's a whopping 250,000 gallons of water we're saving every year. Our efficient utilization of space eliminates unnecessary heating and cooling. And all of our spent grain goes back to enrich the earth as an organic soil amendment at Venetucci Farm.

Reuse, Reuse, Reuse.

65% of our beer goes out in reusable kegs and 1/2-gallon growlers (we like it that way, of course, because it's fresher). We also offer a 10-cent credit to any and all customers for each six pack carrier they save and bring back to us in good shape. We use recyclable glass for our bottles, so those who don't take advantage of our reuseable packaging can at least recycle.

Recycle.

We recycle paper, cardboard, shrink wrap and glass. The only things we don't plan to recycle are the plastic cups we take to special events. But since they're completely made from corn – yes, *corn* – they're 100% compostable, so we didn't think anyone would mind.

The Lightbulb Goes On.

We are huge fans of the compact fluorescent lightbulb. A brilliant invention. After all, they're five times more efficient than regular lightbulbs. So we've got them pretty much everywhere, inside and out. We're also converting all of our brewhouse lighting to high efficiency T-5 fixtures.

The Beautiful Simplicity of Size.

There are larger breweries that do wonderfully green things with wastewater treatment and power load balancing, and we applaud them. In fact, we believe it's their responsibility to do so. Fortunately, these are not issues for us. We simply have less of an impact on the environment because we're small. And we like it that way. When we started brewing beer in 1994, we just wanted to be your local microbrewery. That's never changed.