



Making Kerr Center “Green”

At the Kerr Center, our focus is profitable, eco-friendly agriculture. But the ethics and values behind our focus should also be evident in our office operations, our travel choices, landscape design, and energy use. Like most organizations, our ecological awareness is growing and we're striving to become “greener” in all aspects of what we do. Here is a list of things we are doing or have started doing to get us on the right path.

- **Recycling:** Office paper, aluminum cans, plastics, steel, old batteries...anything we can! Help us by using recycling containers located in buildings and provided at events.
- **Composting:** When possible, food and other organic wastes are recycled to the land through composting. Composting is done on-site at the Cannon Horticulture Project; finished compost is used on the vegetable plots.
- **Green supplies and paper products:** We are continually exploring and supplanting our consumable products with items made from recycled materials and are more environmentally-friendly. For example, our stationery products are FSC, Green Seal, Carbon Neutral, Processed Chlorine-Free, and Renewable Energy Certified. We use copy paper made from recycled paper whenever possible. A further example includes the “plasticware” we provide attendees for meals at some of our larger events. Manufactured from corn starch, these knives, forks and spoons are fully biodegradable and compostable. Currently, such products come mainly from China. We are seeking a domestic source.
- **Energy use in the office:** Simple things like using the sleep mode on a computer, switching off printers when not in use, and turning off unnecessary lighting are among the small but energy-saving actions we're building into our daily routine.
- **Local foods:** Whether our programs are conducted in Poteau or elsewhere in the region, we try to use caterers and suppliers that provide local and regional foods whenever we can.
- **Landscape:** We begun transitioning to an organic approach for landscape maintenance around our office and other buildings. We use microsprinkler and drip irrigation as a means to conserve water, and are working on plans for xeriscaping.
- **RTVs:** As you watch our Ranch staff come and go, you'll note that most are driving Kubota or Kawasaki RTV utility vehicles. We find these to be exceptionally fuel and cost efficient compared to pickup trucks and larger vehicles. While these larger vehicles are still needed for many tasks, RTVs are used whenever and wherever possible.
- **Fleet Vehicles:** Our current fleet includes several rather large vehicles. These are needed on a working ranch to tow livestock trailers and such. We also need vans for programmatic purposes such as tours and hauling display materials. As these vehicles are retired, we will replace them with the fuel efficient options that may include hybrids and similar alternatives.