

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Gillingham Cabinets of Duncan, BC – is cutting its “carbon footprint” in Half.

Duncan and Nanaimo, BC – A Vancouver Island Cabinet manufacturer has calculated how much greenhouse gas it emits and has implemented a plan that will cut this “carbon footprint” in half.

“We’re not perfect, but we’re very pleased to be able to take this step, and continue our commitment to doing the right things in our community, one of which is to reduce our carbon foot-print. As far as we are aware, we are the first cabinet company on Vancouver Island to take stock of our greenhouse gas emissions, and we are proud to be showing leadership in our industry.” said David Gillingham & Bob Jeffrey – the owners of Gillingham Cabinets.

One of the employees, Duncan Wilcock, calculated the carbon-footprint as part of a training program run by Climate Smart Business (www.climatesmartbusiness.com) and hosted by Vancity. The workshop involved reviewing several aspects of the company – including energy consumption, the amount of landfill waste generated, and commuting distances of the employees.

“Based on this information, it was easy to see that we needed to do something.” said David Gillingham. “It’s an ongoing process of improvement, and we are pleased to be able to make a change to the business that has a big impact in reducing our contribution to global warming.”

Since the beginning of 2009, all Gillingham Cabinets have been built using “low VOC” wood sheets. It used to be that some formaldehyde and other VOC (volatile organic compounds) were emitted by kitchen cabinets (as well as flooring, carpeting, and paints). Although the VOC concentrations did drop off rapidly, of course it is better if the emissions are lower in the first place. All wood – even solid wood – releases small amounts of formaldehyde over time.

Gillingham Cabinets now sends all of its wood waste to Steel Pacific (www.steelpacific.com) for recycling. This diverts over 80% of the company’s waste material from landfills. In addition, they have partnered with Cowichan Recyclists (www.cowichanrecyclists.com) to reduce landfill waste even further.

Said Duncan Wilcock of the process: “Recycling the volume of scrap left over from building lots of cabinets every day isn’t quite as easy as putting out paper & plastic at the curb. However, when we looked at the numbers and saw how much greenhouse gas emissions we could eliminate, it was much simpler to justify making the necessary changes. We hope our actions will encourage others to take stock of their carbon footprint and take steps to reduce it. We also welcome inquires from others looking for help reducing their impact on the environment.”

Gillingham Cabinets is the largest kitchen cabinet company in the Cowichan Valley and makes outstanding service one of its highest priorities. It has been building high-quality, competitively-priced, cabinets at its facility in Duncan for over 20 years. It services Victoria, the Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, and the Comox Valley, from showrooms in Duncan and Nanaimo, as well as through partners in Victoria and Courtenay. Visit www.gillinghamcabinets.com for more information.

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