

SUGGESTIONS FOR A GREEN CAMERA RENTAL HOUSE

Compiled by Koerner Camera & Local 600 Sustainability Committee
Special thanks to Kari Fouts of Koerner Green Team



Local 600
International Cinematographers Guild

PREP

- Create a free account with Brother to [recycle p-touch cartridges](#). Let assistants know they can save their empty cassettes and drop off at the rental house.
- If a shorter job, label with sharpie vs. printed labels.
- Make reusable waterproof covers (i.e. vinyl) to replace single-use plastics (bag-its & cap-its)
- Use less tape on cases for color coordinating. Use 1" in place of 2".
 - > If in the UK, consider [Non-plastic eco tape](#).
 - > Rental house: consider a re-writable tag on velcro to eliminate ACs re-designing a case each job.
- Have white boards for ACs and smaller boards/Boogie Boards for prep techs to eliminate paper lists of gear adds/drops.
- If the rental house has an expendables store, set up a "re-fillery" where ACs can bring their old containers in to refill their chemicals at a discounted price if they bring their own container. (Panchro, Simple Green, Windex, Rainx, screen-cleaner, acetone, lighter fluid)
- Currently there does not appear to be a low-petroleum product for lamination sleeves. Consider [weatherproof paper](#), though note it is not recyclable in all areas.
- Discuss any possible sub-rentals early on to minimize express shipping services needed.

OFFICE

- If you have to print paper, print double sided. Purchase paper from sustainable sources.
- Keep printer ink & toner cartridges for recycling. Staples has a [recycling & discount program](#).
 - > Consider re-fillable ink cartridges and buy ink in bulk. (This will void warranties)
- Recycle office supplies through [BIC Terracycle Program](#) (gluesticks, highlighters, pens)
 - > Note: BIC's free program is currently on a waitlist, see paid recycling program [here](#).
- Ask if contracts can be e-mailed instead of printed.
- Have a green manager on site who can oversee the environmental practices in the rental house. Communicate with manufacturers about green packaging alternatives. Talk to AC's about green on-set products and encourage ideas and feedback.

FACILITIES

EXTERIOR

- No vehicle idling in the parking lot.
- Utilize electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles for the fleet
- Install EV charging stations
- Landscape with xeriscaping and native plants in mind to reduce water needs and encourage a healthy local ecology/habitat.
- Have rain barrels to collect water.
- During icy /snowy conditions, use an eco-friendlier de-icer for the steps and ramp.
 - > ex. [Safe Step - Sure Paws](#). This is a magnesium-chloride based de-icer: it's safer for pets' paws and less corrosive to concrete and plants than rock salt.
- Implement a green roof or wall.
- Install solar onsite.
- Have bike racks & bike-repair stations for commuters. Cover to protect from the elements if able.

INTERIOR

- Conduct a [Carbon Footprint Analysis](#).
- Apply for [LEED Certification](#).
- Participate in your city's green power program. ([LA DWP](#))
- Replace bulbs with LED bulbs.
- Install remote motorized shades on skylights for temperature control.
- Consider how light enters your building and tint windows that face the sun for temperature control.
- Ensure building is properly insulated.
- Update HVAC and keep it maintained.
- Optimize temperature in the most extreme weather and be mindful of opening/closing loading bays.
- Use compostable trash bags, and consider if any smaller bins need bags at all.
- Have water dispensers on-site for staff and guests. Use a point-of-use dispenser to eliminate gas needed for water jug deliveries.
- Unplug chargers overnight for safety reasons and for less power consumption. Turn off unnecessary electricity draws during off-hours/weekends.
- Use non-toxic, EPA-registered cleaning supplies:
 - > Use microfiber cloths or clean rags rather than disposable paper towels when wiping down cameras and accessories.
 - > White vinegar and Bon Ami are alternative cleaning agents for surfaces in bathrooms and kitchens for example.
- Purchase cleaning supplies in bulk or through a service that refills reusable containers.
- Put batteries not in active rental rotation on a longer-term charge cycle schedule that preserves the life of the cells and saves daily energy draw.
- For equipment that has reached the end of its life, see if the manufacturer has a buyback program, or recycle the gear so the components are re-introduced into the manufacturing process.

*** Stock battery powered units to rent. Let ACs know this is new in your inventory.
Encourage rental managers to offer them. ***

COLLECT FOR RECYCLING:

- Cables and electronics.
- Single-use and rechargeable batteries.
- Recycling and compost bins on prep floor & kitchens with infographics of what is & isn't accepted.
- For film jobs, talk with the loader and let them know you will recycle scrap film.

SPECIALIZED RECYCLING PROGRAMS THROUGH TERRACYCLE:

- Free cigarette butt recycling.
- Mask & PPE recycling.
- Candy wrappers (keep a station next to the vending machine).
- Coffee and tea packaging
- Pens/markers/highlighters.
- Free sauce packet recycling.

BATHROOM

- Use bamboo paper towels and toilet paper
- Use rechargeable batteries in hand towel dispensers.
- Install lo-flow toilets with bidet.
- Use a refillable hand soap dispenser, not bladder style.

KITCHEN/CAFE

- Consider a jug of spa water/flavored water to incentivise bringing your own water bottle.
- Use reusable/washable utensils and plates. For take-away, offer paper & bamboo options.
- Consider using locally sourced/farmer's market food as ingredients
- Have a compost bin for food scraps.
- Have a can-crusher to maximize can recycling space and encourage people to take their cans to the recycle bin.
- Use an energy-efficient fridge.
- Use green dish soap and biodegradable sponges.
- Ditch a garbage disposal to keep nitrogen food-waste out of the water system if your city does not filter it.

TECH/R&D ROOMS

- Collect & recycle metal scrap
- Consider the plastic types being used for what purpose and use the optimum green solution when 3D Printing:
 - > PETG - most common, can be used for outdoor use
 - > PLA - indoor use, mostly for cosmetic prints, corn-based
 - > ASA/ABS - very strong and heat resistant, off-gasses VOCs
 - > Nylon/carbon fiber - strongest
 - > Natural materials: Bamboo, wood
 - > [Biodegradable versions of each](#)
- Collect filament scrap and bad prints for recycling.
- Use wooden q-tips, re-use them for dirtier jobs, and compost them at end of life.
- Consider switching to compressed / on-demand filtered air instead of nitrogen tanks or canned air.
- Use rechargeable batteries in all measuring tools & devices.
- Make an easy to understand poster with common chemicals and their uses with green alternatives: Solvents, Adhesives, Greases, Oils, Paints.

SHIPPING

- Use reusable zip ties if you know the end recipient will be able to re-use them. Alternatively, consider a [bio-based ziptie](#).
- Have a station so people can donate peanuts/packaging. Post excess material on a community marketplace app to help other local businesses/individuals.
- Use velcro cable ties instead of plastic blue beaded cable ties.
- Don't wrap filters in plastic. If filter pouches are not being used, place in [Glassine Pouches](#).
- [Recycle palette wrap](#) and consider palette wrap made from [recycled LDPE](#) or [paper wrap](#).
- Use PET plastic for palette straps which is generally recyclable.
 - > Keep an eye on upcoming greener alternatives, like PLA bio-based palette strap.
- Recycle and repurpose plastic shipping tags, use paper stickers when possible.
- Adhere new labels on top of old ones to minimize chemicals needed to clean cases after each shipment.
- Use a paper-based tape to seal boxes instead of plastic packing tape.
- Talk to manufacturers about switching to different packaging materials if they send products in packaging that you can't recycle in your area.

WRAP

- Offer green chemicals & re-usable rags to ACs for any gear cleaning they wish to do.
- Recycle empty air cans (they're steel!)
- Have a way to electronically share "outstanding items" at wrap to prevent printing off multiple sheets when looking for unscanned items.
- Have a shelf to donate free expendables. What one AC won't want to carry to the next job another will.

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