



## News Release

### Fabric Manufacturer wins 2008 Environmental Emerald Award

#### - Plastic beverage bottles used to create fresh line of bedding -

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**These linens are made of 100 percent recycled polyester content.**

Valley Forge Fabrics, founded in 1977, is a privately held, family-owned and operated company in Pompano Beach. As part of their sustainability initiative, they have created a line of fabrics, Fabrics Redefining Environmental Standards for Hospitality (FRESH), which are made from 100 percent post-consumer recycled polyester -- from plastic beverage bottles. The decision to make polyester for FRESH bedding from used plastic bottles saves precious natural resources.

For their environmental concern, Valley Forge Fabrics will be awarded an Environmental Emerald Award with the other 2008 Broward County Emerald Award winners at a special ceremony, followed by a brief reception at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, in the Broward County Commission Chambers, Room 422 of the Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale.



**The FRESH yarn is made of 100 percent post consumer recycled polyester.**

Altogether seven businesses will be given Emerald Awards and several individuals and one municipality/government agency will receive the 2008 NatureScape Emerald Awards for incorporating NatureScape Broward techniques into their landscaping. The program recognizes businesses for their voluntary efforts in four areas: waste reduction, recycling, improved operating practices, and other "green" strategies that reduce pollution and waste. Both large and small businesses are eligible. One business is also honored with the title "Environmental Business of the Year," which will be announced at the ceremony.

Just as vital, Valley Forge finds a home -- not a landfill -- for plastic bottles that are discarded by consumers. Due to the amount of products Valley Forge manufactures, millions of yards annually, the savings of petroleum used to make plastic bottles is substantial. In addition, there is substantial resource savings in the manufacturing process itself when compared to more traditional non-recycled polyester products.

Valley Forge is committed to taking very small profit margins to keep the price point competitive and further the use of these products through its worldwide distribution. Other products in the FRESH line include an innovative, award-winning fiber from a eucalyptus blended with cotton bedding product.

Valley Forge also is the only textile company to date with an established reclamation program for their customers to use to recycle the fabrics at the end of their use.

Until the FRESH program, hotels did not have a way to recycle fabric. By recycling FRESH fabrics, Valley Forge will literally save millions of pounds of waste from entering landfills each year.

Other ways Valley Forge Fabrics shows environmental responsibility:

- Purchasing four hybrid company vehicles, they saved 217,055 pounds of carbon dioxide per year
- Recycling light bulbs, plastic, glass, aluminum, fabric, paper, and cardboard achieving in excess of a 50 percent recycling rate
- Donating 20,431 pounds of fabric to area schools, churches and reuse centers in 2008
- Recycling by employees include batteries, corks, toiletries, light bulbs, bottle caps, electronics, Crocs (shoes) and candy wrappers.
- Conducting seminars with employees, suppliers, and customers about sustainability and the environment.
- Educating and participating with local community and schools to inform and advise on sustainability issues.
- Shipments of fabrics and electricity use are greenhouse gas offset through Renewable Choice Energy.
- Honored by Sustainable Florida with a Best Practice award in the large company category in 2008.
- Achieving industry awards for product innovation, sustainability and leadership for their work with FRESH and on behalf of environmental initiatives
- Each textile exceeds Association of Contract Textiles standards for specific end uses

Receiving an Emerald Award can help companies boost business. Research has shown that a company's environmental reputation will rival quality and brand name as criteria used by customers. Environmentally-friendly business practices can help companies attract new customers, encourage repeat customers and boost employee morale.

More information, including application procedures and guidelines, is available at [www.broward.org/environment](http://www.broward.org/environment), or call 954-519-1257. For more information on Broward County's Green initiatives, programs and services please visit [www.broward.org/gogreen](http://www.broward.org/gogreen).

For more information on Valley Forge Fabrics, Inc. located at 2981 Gateway Drive in Pompano Beach, call 954-971-1776 or visit [www.valleyforge.com](http://www.valleyforge.com).

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