



## WEBSTER INDUSTRIES ANNOUNCES "GREEN PARTNERS" INITIATIVE

### *Sponsors Leading Organizations To Green Schools*

Peabody, MA (September 2, 2008) -- As a growing number of institutions and organizations seek to "green" their supply chain, Webster Industries – a leading manufacturer of certified recycled content plastic trash bags -- today announced a new ***Green Partners Initiative*** to provide information and outreach regarding green procurement and climate neutrality. Webster's *Green Partners Initiative* is designed to encourage and support green cleaning, green procurement, and green building programs that are quickly replacing standard maintenance and janitorial supply procedures.

In kicking-off the new *Green Partners Initiative*, Webster teamed with two of the nation's leading non-profit organizations dedicated to "greening" schools across the country, including partnering with **American College & University President's Climate Commitment** and the **Healthy Schools Campaign**. Through these partnerships, Webster will assist in outreach efforts to encourage green procurement, green cleaning programs and climate neutrality throughout the nation's schools.

Jack Shields, Webster's president, stated, "We formed our *Green Partners Initiative* to support a cleaner and more healthful environment in buildings and institutions across the country. Our certified recycled content trash bags reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, reduce waste and preserve natural resources. We are thrilled to be kicking-off our initiative by working with two leading organizations dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship and green procurement policies in schools across the country."

Dr. Anthony Cortese, President of Second Nature and a co-organizer of American College & University's President's Climate Commitment said, "Over 570 colleges and universities are taking important action to reduce climate impacts. In addition to reducing natural resources and preventing waste, Webster's recycling achievements lower greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to global warming. We welcome Webster's participation in our commitment to achieve climate neutrality at higher education facilities and campuses throughout the country."

Rochelle Davis, Executive Director of Healthy Schools Campaign stated, "We commend Webster Industries' commitment to helping us green our nation's schools. Webster has taken the commitment to green an extra step by providing third-party verification for their products' environmental attributes. There is widespread recognition that the quality of the school environment can have a significant impact on the health and performance of students and staff members. Webster's commitment will support our efforts to educate schools about the importance of green cleaning and provide them with five simple steps for implementing a green cleaning program. We are proud to have Webster as a member of our Green Team."

According to the U.S.-Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) report "*Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Management of Selected Materials in Municipal Solid Waste*," recycling low-density polyethylene plastics saves about half (46%) of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of virgin plastic trash bags. In addition, the US-EPA found that recycling plastics uses only roughly 10% of the energy that it takes to make a pound of plastic from virgin material. Webster recycles over 30 million pounds of LDPE plastics each year that would otherwise be landfilled or incinerated. Webster's *ReClaim*™ brand and private label trash bags contain 75% recycled content, including at least 10% post-consumer material. All packaging contains 100% certified recycled paperboard and the company long-ago lead the industry in eliminating toxic inks and dye additives.

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Webster's *Green Partners Initiative* is designed as a solution to organizations wanting to purchase plastic trash bags that truly provide a quantified, meaningful environmental benefit that is verified and certified. All of Webster's recycled content products are independently certified by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) – a not-for-profit, independent organization that quantifies and validates environmental claims to provide customer assurance of the stated environmental benefits. Webster's trash bags are the first and only products in the category to receive SCS certification. In addition, Webster's trash bags are certified to meet the EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines and Environmental Preferable Product (EPP) designation as well as LEED certification which can be used toward credits for Green Building/LEED status.

Shields added, "A majority of purchasing managers are seeking environmental antidotes to traditional cleaning and maintenance supplies. Through independent certification of our recycled content, Webster's *ReClaim*<sup>™</sup> brand and private label trash bags provide a substantiated environmental benefit to support green cleaning and green purchasing. We applaud organizations, institutions and facilities that are adopting environmental stewardship programs and stand ready to join them in advancing a more healthful and sustainable environment."

Webster intends to extend the company's *Green Partners Initiative* to other industries and organizations committed to environmental stewardship and green procurement. Shields added, "The success of our certified recycled content trash bags has been tremendous as a growing number of customers are using their purchasing power to reflect their strong environmental commitment.

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**About Webster Industries ([www.websterindustries.com](http://www.websterindustries.com)):**

Webster Industries is a full line supplier of branded and private label can liners, containers and food bags, including reclosable zipper bags and microwave steam bags, throughout the country. Webster products can be produced to meet customer needs and are available in a wide variety of sizes, ranging from 7-10 gallon up to 56 gallon glutton bags. All bags are individually folded, with flat bottom construction and packed in dispenser cartons.

Webster has been manufacturing and marketing high quality products since 1957 and is the oldest continuously owned plastic bag manufacturer of consumer products in North America. The company is headquartered in Peabody, Massachusetts with two, state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Montgomery, Alabama.

**About American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment ([www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org)):**

The ACUPCC is a high-visibility effort to address global warming and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate. To date, the leaders of over 570 institutions across the country – representing over 25% of the total student population – have made the Commitment. By joining the ACUPCC, colleges and universities agree to create a plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as practically possible and to promote the research and education needed to dramatically reduce GHG emissions and to re-stabilize the earth's climate.

The President's Climate Commitment is the first such effort by any major sector of society to set climate neutrality – not just a reduction in GHG emissions – as its target. Under the guidance and direction of presidents and chancellors in its Leadership Circle and Steering Committee, the ACUPCC is coordinated and supported by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Second Nature and ecoAmerica.

**About Healthy Schools Campaign ([www.healthyschoolscampaign.org](http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org)):**

The Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) works with school districts to adopt green cleaning policies and programs. To promote green cleaning in schools, HSC is educating school administrators, teachers, facility managers and parents about the benefit of green cleaning. The HSC developed the *Quick and Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools*, a multimedia how-to guide for school administrators and custodial staff that encourages the use of green products, equipment and practices. HSC works with school boards, and organizations, such as American Association of School Administrators, American Federation of Teachers, Association of School Board Officials International, National Parent Teacher Association, National Association of State Boards of Education, and Parents for Public Schools, among other organizations, to promote and distribute the guide.