

DEP Recognizes Rooms To Go for 87% Recycling



**DEP Secretary Herschel Vinyard (right) presents
Rooms To Go President Steve Buckley with a recycling recognition award**

On July 17, 2013, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection recognized Rooms To Go for its outstanding recycling efforts. Rooms To Go is a Florida-based furniture retailer with 1,600 employees in the Florida Division with two distribution centers and 72 stores that recycled almost 3,000 tons (87.25%) in just the first 5 months of 2013.

During the past 20 years, Rooms To Go has embarked on a recycling and sustainability initiative that is today an award winning program. Our recycling journey began in Florida in 1992 with a cardboard program launched with the goal of reducing the amount of solid waste sent to the landfill. In 1996, the program recovered 800 tons of cardboard waste in its first year, later expanded to include plastics. In 2006, our recycling efforts began to include Styrofoam and we also implemented an incentive program based on tonnage. All of our major initiatives in sustainability *began in Florida*, were tried and tested and then expanded to our other U.S. markets. To date, as a company, Rooms To Go (*all distribution centers and stores*) has kept over 200,000 tons of cardboard, plastic, Styrofoam, wood and metal from entering our landfills. This includes all recyclables being returned from our stores, as well as recyclables being returned from our home delivery trucks. Since our program began, our **Florida division** has kept

close to **90,000 tons** of these materials out of the waste stream by recycling them. That amount of tonnage would fill at least 1,800 boxcars and the train would stretch over 20 miles long.

In 2006 we began to retrofit our distribution centers with energy saving lights and fans and saw a significant savings in kilowatt hours used. Further, in December of 2012, Rooms To Go completed an LED lamp conversion project in our retail stores. Rooms To Go deployed more than 80,000 18 watt LED bulbs companywide in place of the existing 60 watt halogen bulbs. The project highlights for this are:

- ❖ An average store energy usage reduction exceeding 35% with project investment payback in fewer than 12 months.
- ❖ LED lamps produce less heat than halogen lamps and decrease air conditioning demand further reducing energy costs.
- ❖ LED lamps come with a 45,000-50,000 hour rated-life with 5-year replacement warranty.

At Rooms To Go, going green is more than just a fad; it's a way of life. Our 1,600 Florida employees are proud of our philosophy advocating the effects of recycling and other sustainable efforts we have now and will continue to put into place in the future. We know that each one of our associates, both as an individual and within the larger Rooms To Go group, can have a positive and sustainable impact on our environment.