



### **Background:**

Whole Foods Market Queen opened in 2017 and is the largest Whole Foods Market store in the Hawaiian Islands. The store currently employs over 300 Team Members. This is the first time Whole Foods Market Queen will be recognized by the Hawaii Green Business Program.

### **Whole Foods Green Mission:**

The primary objectives are simple:

1. Whole Foods Market will be a pioneer and leader in environmental sustainability
2. The Team Members and customers will be very well informed and enthused about commitment to sustainability
3. The Green Mission Team at Whole Foods Market is a solutions oriented group and strives to create meaningful action. These actions should address not only environmental benefits but also bottom line savings and revenue generation.

### *What is our Green Mission at Whole Foods Market?*

At Whole Foods Market, the Green Mission is driven in large part by the passion, innovation, practical experience and a desire of our team members to teach and learn about environmental issues. Green Mission supports all of Whole Foods Market's core values, and in particular the core value of caring for our communities and the environment. The Green Mission includes, but is certainly not limited to:

- ✚ Working Toward Zero Waste by...
  - Reducing waste by replacing, redesigning or eliminating packaging and other store supplies
  - Reusing
  - Recycling
  - Composting
  - As a company our goal is to reach zero waste Conserving Energy and Using Renewable Sources
- ✚ Conserving Water
- ✚ Promoting Carbon-Neutral Transportation for team members, customers and distribution
- ✚ Educating customers and team members about making environmentally friendly choices in their everyday lives
- ✚ Tracking and reducing our Greenhouse Gas Emissions as a result of all of these efforts and more!
- ✚ Education of team members and community and invite participation.

### **Green Initiatives:**

- ✚ Efax service available
- ✚ All office paper is made from 100% recycled paper
- ✚ Recycling of-cardboard, pallet shrink plastic, glass, cans, hard plastics, cooking oil
- ✚ 7 day pick up of food donations by Aloha Harvest, Hawaii Food Bank and Surf the Nations

- Water free urinals and low flow toilets in restrooms
- Hand dryers in restrooms
- Large selections of products for sale made from recycled and eco-friendly materials
- Warehouse and office lights on motion sensors
- LED Lighting
- EMS system installed to control AC and lighting controls
- Closed cases and night covers on all refrigerated cases to help with refrigeration efficiency
- Companywide Green Trek program-team members are rewarded for carpooling, exercise, community service and healthy eating
- Reusable shipping containers known as RPC's reduce the need for cardboard containers
- Low VOC paints and reclaimed wood used for in store décor and fixtures.

Continually developing a Reuse program to support the local community and to divert as much material as possible from trash streams as well as from recycling. Any item or material that can have a second life means less processing in terms of energy and money. At the store we have the following streams of reuse up and running:

- Plastic buckets of all shapes and sizes
- Furniture pieces that have been replaced
- Kitchen materials that have been replaced—e.g. baking pans, cutting boards, cutlery, pans, containers, etc.
- Packing materials that protect shipped products—e.g. bubble wrap, “peanut shells”, cloth protective sleeves for hot/cold water bottles, etc.
- Various lightweight plastic produce boxes
- Pallet shipping materials—e.g. pallet corner supports, plastic pallet twine, and plastic shrink wrap (this is recycled)
- Styrofoam box returns to seafood vendors
- Produce and groceries that are being discarded because of due date issues—these go specifically to nonprofit organizations that serve the underprivileged and homeless [name the orgs], as well as to the Honolulu Zoo, and to farmers for animal feed and composting.
- Composting materials are diverted from the trash and into the hands of numerous local farmers, community garden organizations, and individual gardeners on a regular basis. Primary materials in the composting flow are coffee grounds from our Coffee and Juice bar, egg shells and egg cartons from our Prepared Foods breakfast hot bar, and floral trimmings from our Floral Department.