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A.R.E. Greens its Operations

Hollywood, Fla. (March 23, 2009)— Just a few short years ago, sustainable practices were backburner objectives for retail environments companies. Today, A.R.E. members touting sustainability are practicing what they preach, and so is the association.

Since its move to a new location in 2007, A.R.E. has been active in its new condo association to influence sustainable change. Shortly after A.R.E. moved in, the condo association invested in an air conditioning control system designed to minimize energy use — a paramount initiative in South Florida's year-round warm climate. The condo association recently installed motion sensors throughout the building for automatic lighting control.

A.R.E. has driven efforts for building-wide recycling. In its own offices, A.R.E. encourages the use of electronic documents over printed material. When printing is essential for internal documents, A.R.E. uses 35 percent post-consumer recycled content and recycles printer cartridges.

A.R.E.'s *Retail Environments* magazine and *Buyers' Guide*, as well as *Winners Book* and *Green Guide* supplements, are printed using soy-based inks on paper that incorporates 30% post-consumer waste fiber, third-party certifications, and is processed elemental chlorine-free. The paper, Arborweb Gloss, is manufactured by New Page using renewable energy.

In a broader picture, A.R.E. is looking toward alternative delivery methods of education as well as greening on-site events. A.R.E. University presented its first webinar Nov. 6, 2008, and followed with a recent webinar, *Introduction to LEED: Everything You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask*. More are scheduled for the remainder of the year. The association seeks green facilities for its on-site events and has taken steps to lower the carbon footprint of these events with careful consideration of printed materials, catering practices, and other elements.

A.R.E. has detailed its internal steps toward sustainability at sustainable-retail.com/AREgreening.cfm where members can also find suggestions on how to help the association's sustainable efforts.

About A.R.E.

Members of the Association for Retail Environments (formerly NASFM) are retail environments professionals and proven industry leaders—companies that are well known for excellent craftsmanship, topflight service, and cutting-edge innovation. More than 800 member companies offer a full range of products and services for retail environments, and include store fixture suppliers, retail design firms, suppliers of visual merchandising products, and suppliers of materials and equipment for the retail environments industry. Member capabilities include importing, exporting, consolidating, installing, project management, engineering, design, and more.