



### **Sustainable Practices in the EGD Field & Signage Fabrication**

As designers, contractors, and fabricators, the majority of our projects live in architectural environments. By rethinking how we approach their design and fabrication, we can add to their sustainability.

### **Design & The Manufacturing Process**

In the design / build process, knowledge sharing between designer and fabricator is more integrated. How a project is designed can be a significant contributor to sustainability. The fabricator is key in providing knowledge on all manufacturing processes involved in the creation of signs and other EGD components. Determining how long a design object is meant to last in a specific environment, and under constant use, will determine the most appropriate materials and methodologies.

Environmental graphic design projects use many products that have an impact on the environment. Manufacturing processes and chemicals can influence the longevity of the end products. Low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) paints and water-soluble products can reduce negative effects, as long as they are handled properly.



### **Modularity**

Modularity is also a key factor in sustainable design. Modular products and services are some of the most valuable tools for environmental graphic designers and fabricators. Mechanical elements that allow signs to be easily changed add to the life of the system, and simplify recycling.

### **Cost Issues**

Clients are concerned about green products and approaches driving up project costs and maintenance. Through careful management and appropriate material and process selection, Green approaches can have a minimal impact on overall budgets. For more permanent environments, specifying sustainable systems can result in long-term savings.

### **“Green” Items that Star Signs Can Bring To The Project**

- Locating locally sourced, sustainable materials that can be recycled
- Do more with less. Design for less waste.
- Design easily recycled modular components
- Use screws instead of glues for assembly and mounting
- Use low-VOC paints and energy-efficient lighting