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UC Santa Barbara Bookstore Adopts Green Purchasing Policy

Campus Store Is First In California to Use Environmentally Sensitive Plastic Bags

Santa Barbara, Calif. -- **The University of California, Santa Barbara, Bookstore has switched to buying its plastic carryout retail bags exclusively from producers that employ environmentally sustainable manufacturing practices. UCSB Bookstore's primary plastic bag supplier, Roplast Industries, Inc. of Oroville, Calif., is accredited by the Environmentally Preferred Rating (EPR) program of the California Film Extruders & Converters Association (CFECA).**

CFECA's EPR program was developed to assist manufacturers of plastic film and bags lessen their impact on the environment by reducing any industry contribution to air and waterway pollution, as well as landfill content. Plastic makers, such as Roplast Industries, Inc., that meet strict environmental standards can now receive a "seal of approval" recognizing that they maintain environmentally sensitive production facilities.

UCSB Bookstore, the first campus store in California to exclusively buy EPR accredited products, uses close to 100,000 plastic bags each year.

"We are seeing an increased appetite among public and private sector leaders for environmentally-friendly practices for themselves and from their vendors and customers," says Dave McBride, of LTS Sales, a broker/manufacturer's representative for packaging supplies who negotiated the UCSB – Roplast Industries deal. "This includes the whole lifecycle from manufacturing processes to recycling. Buying EPR accredited plastic bags is an excellent way to address the sustainability of plastic at the source – during the pre-manufacturing and manufacturing stages."

For more information on EPR and a list of EPR accredited plastic bag and film manufacturers, visit www.EPRaccredited.org.

CFECA (www.cfeca.org) is a trade association of manufacturers and suppliers involved in the plastic film extruding and converting industry in California.

Roplast Industries, Inc. (www.roplast.com) manufactures custom polyethylene-based films and bags for retail, grocery, food packaging, and industrial markets. The company's fully integrated 130,000 square foot manufacturing and corporate office facility is located in Oroville, Calif., 60 miles north of Sacramento in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

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