OAK BROOK, Ill., April 22, 2014 – Ace Hardware, the industry's largest hardware cooperative, has made significant strides to reduce its carbon footprint through endeavors in its logistics and supply chain systems, including industry leading efforts at facilities throughout its Retail Support Network across the country.

Two Ace Hardware Retail Support facilities have earned praise for their participation in zero landfill initiatives. The concept of zero landfill redesigns a resource’s life cycle so that the product is reused and nearly no trash is sent to landfills and incinerators. The Ace Hardware Import Redistribution Center located in Suffolk, Va., earned its zero landfill status more than a year ago. Its counterpart facility in Kent, Wash., is well on its way with a zero landfill status measured at approximately 95 percent.

In Suffolk, retail support manager Scott Flanders engaged local waste management authorities and determined that 80 to 90 percent of its total waste could be recycled. Additionally, co-mingled recyclables are sorted and sold by waste management so they can be reused to make new products.

“At Ace, our goal is to be environmental stewards, especially in the communities in which our facilities are located,” said Tim Duvall, supply chain director, Ace Hardware Corporation. “We are proud to say that the efforts that our teams execute locally have a far greater global benefit. In 2013 alone, across our entire Retail Support Network, Ace recycled more than 38,000,000 lbs. or 19,000 tons of pallets, plastic and corrugate.”

Several of Ace’s Retail Support Centers have swapped out energy draining fluorescent lighting for more efficient LED options. In Sacramento, Facilities Manager Reid Barney projects 1.2 million kilowatt hour savings in 2014 and nearly $200,000 in costs avoided. An additional factor Ace facilities consider is energy demand. In Sacramento, Ace has reduced its energy demand on the power grid by more than one third in less than three years.

At Ace’s Retail Support Center in Princeton, Ill., the sprawling 1,100,000 sq. ft. facility transitioned from 400 watt metal halide lighting to LED. In addition to projected energy and cost savings estimated at roughly $300,000 in 2014, LED lighting will significantly reduce the temperature in the warehouse during the summer months, further reducing energy consumption.

Two new Retail Support Centers will open in 2014; Wilmer, Texas and West Jefferson, Ohio. Both will open with energy efficient, motion detection lighting as well as power equipment that will run on hydrogen fuel cell technology. This advancement replaces traditional batteries that are charged using electricity. Instead, hydrogen is created on-site to fuel the batteries – the only byproduct of which is pure deionized water.

The vehicles that Ace uses to transport product to and from retail stores and warehouse facilities are an important factor in Ace’s overall sustainability efforts, as well. Ace’s transportation fleet has been certified as part of SmartWay®, a program through the Environmental Protection Agency. SmartWay encourages
businesses to manage their transportation and logistics in an environmentally responsible manner. Ace Hardware is certified as both a SmartWay Shipper and a SmartWay Carrier.

As a SmartWay Shipper, Ace Hardware only contracts with approved SmartWay carriers for a majority of its freight operations – it has held this certification since 2009. Ace Hardware received designation as a SmartWay Carrier in 2013 meaning that Ace is committed to improving its fleet efficiency and reducing its impact on the environment.

Technology onboard Ace’s private fleet also drives improvement for Ace Hardware’s sustainability efforts. Onboard technology systems track hours-of-service with e-logs and views critical events like hard braking, stability control and excess speed. At each Retail Support Center, tractors get a weekly scorecard for MPG and fuel consumption. Between 2010 and 2011, the fleet gained 10 percent greater efficiency in the use of drivers and equipment by re-optimizing each route.

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**About Ace Hardware**

For 90 years, Ace Hardware has been known as the place with the helpful hardware folks in thousands of neighborhoods across America, providing customers with a more personal kind of helpful. In 2013, Ace ranked “Highest in Customer Satisfaction with Home Improvement Retail Stores, Seven Years in a Row” according to J.D. Power. With more than 4,850 hardware stores locally owned and operated across the globe, Ace is the largest hardware cooperative in the industry. Headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., Ace and its subsidiaries currently operate 14 distribution centers in the U.S. and also have distribution capabilities in Shanghai, China; Panama City, Panama; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Its retailers’ stores are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and approximately 60 countries. For more information on Ace, visit [www.acehardware.com](http://www.acehardware.com).