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**Willaby's Café and
Catering**

Press Release

Willaby's Café and Catering: 22 years of Being Green

White Stone, VA May 25, 2009: Willaby's Café and Catering celebrates 22 years of recycling, donating resources, and providing reusable containers to market their food.

"We have always been in search of responsible methods of managing our resources, said Willaby's owner, William Barnhardt. "As a Boy Scout, my troop master emphasized leaving you're your footprints when you depart a campsite."

Willaby's began as a catering company in Urbanna in 1987; five years later they opened a café in White Stone. They serve a variety of events including office luncheons, small cocktail parties, back yard barbecues, large corporate events and elegant weddings.

Barnhardt added, "I remember in business school, my economics professor 'explained cost externalities'; the costs of doing business that do not show up on an income statement. It only makes sense to be responsible whether you are taking a walk in the woods or serving a party of 300. We all need to do our part."

Willaby's has recycled cardboard over the years knowing it costs less to make cardboard from used cardboard than to make cardboard from trees. It also donates used fryer oil to a local church that has converted their activity buses to burn fryer oil instead of petroleum-based fossil fuels. They pack their take-out foods in reusable, microwaveable containers and choose trays for catering that are so sturdy and nice looking that they can be used again.

"We are looking at new hinged containers made from biodegradable sugarcane to replace the Styrofoam containers we are currently using. There is a lot of political argument about global warming, but we have an obligation to take the extra effort to preserve resources, that makes sense no matter what your agenda." Barnhardt continued.

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Barnhardt was saddened to see individuals and businesses putting recyclables in the garbage dumpster even at the local recycling Center. This practice still happens even after the recent trend towards resource preservation has many companies switching their practices to “going green”.

“I hope this focus will be maintained, increased and will not loose out to the next public relations-determined fad. I remain hopeful and optimistic”, he explained that the added costs are a consideration. “Although this is all certainly more expensive, we went out and purchased a trailer to transport our cardboard, which cost much more, and the labor involved in our recycling efforts adds up, there is no benefit from being irresponsible. Everyone has to do their part: ‘he, who makes an effort in the present, shapes the future’”

Willaby's café recently opened their coffee shop featuring fresh roasted coffees, espresso drinks and smoothies. They open at 7am to serve breakfast and serve lunch from 11am to 3pm, every day except Sunday.

Photo Caption: William Barnhardt, owner of Willaby's, is shown practicing what he preaches and feeds a load of cardboard into the recycling center's bailer.

