



## WAL-MART'S ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD: THE DIRTY TRUTH THAT WAL-MART'S GREEN-WASHING CAN'T HIDE

### THE SPIN...

Wal-Mart has invested heavily in a campaign to sanitize its environmental record. "We are excited that we can lead the way in promoting the use of sustainable building and business practices," Wal-Mart Stores CEO Mike Duke boasted at the opening of a "green store" in McKinney, TX. — *Press Release, 7/20/05*

### ...THE REALITY

"One store out of thousands does not make for an environmental champion...There's lots more that can be done, especially from a corporation that can leave such a huge footprint on the environment." — *Eric Olsen, Sierra Club, Women's Wear Daily, 7/20/05*

In 1993 Wal-Mart unveiled its similar "Eco-Mart" in Lawrence, KS. The store is now being converted to a Supercenter, more than doubling its original footprint. Shockingly, there is no mention of environmental friendliness in the expansion. — *Lawrence Journal World, 4/30/93; Journal-World, 5/12/04, 5/5/05, 7/12/05*

Wal-Mart also has temporarily halted its recycling program at the Lawrence store. Wal-Mart green team coordinator said, "There's just not any money in recycling." — *Journal-World, 7/12/05*

### REPEAT ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENDER

Wal-Mart has a long history of violating environmental laws. In August 2005, Wal-Mart agreed to pay \$1.5 million in penalties in Connecticut for storm water violations. In 2004, Wal-Mart was hit with a \$3.1 million penalty for Clean Water Act violations. That same year, Wal-Mart paid \$400,000 to settle violations of the Clean Air Act. — *Forbes, 8/15/05; NY Times, 5/13/04; AP 1/22/04*

Wal-Mart's constant expansion and conversion of discount stores to Supercenters leaves vacant buildings behind—in 2004 an estimated 13 million square feet. Wal-Mart admitted the company prefers to let the buildings sit empty. "There are times when it's in our interest to get the property moving faster, but we're certainly not going to give a competitor an advantage," Wal-Mart spokesman, Bob McAdam said. — *Wall Street Journal, 9/15/04*



*"As big as it was, Wal-Mart failed to get it right...Its failure was one of corporate culture, going to the upper levels of this corporation...The violations were widespread, systematic, repeated."* — **CT Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, 8/16/05**

### ABOUT WAL-MART WATCH

Along with over 300 supporting organizations, Wal-Mart Watch is sponsoring Higher Expectations Week to highlight our campaign to reform Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart Watch is committed to uncovering the true impacts of Wal-Mart's business practices on our economy, environment and culture. We aim to make Wal-Mart a more responsible company by informing, motivating and supporting the work of consumers, workers, community activists and elected officials who, together, will demand reform in their hometowns. Join us at [www.walmartwatch.com/november](http://www.walmartwatch.com/november)



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\*A small sample of our national and local partners

## WHAT YOU CAN DO!

**LEARN THE FACTS:** What does Wal-Mart cost you? Visit our website at [www.walmartwatch.com](http://www.walmartwatch.com)

**SPEAK OUT:** Tell your friends and family about the negative impact of Wal-Mart's business model.

**ORGANIZE:** Join the growing movement to hold Wal-Mart accountable for their greed and destructive impact on our communities, economy and culture.

