

Message from Mike Duke

The 2012 Global Responsibility Report documents Walmart's steps toward becoming a more sustainable, responsible company and building meaningful, long-term change. It details our progress against specific goals, the wide range of issues we're engaged on and strengthens our commitment to transparency. You will also learn about two new initiatives we launched in 2011: healthier, affordable food and women's global economic empowerment.

Part of our approach to sustainability is to set ambitious goals. We believe that we can make the biggest difference when we leverage our size and, as Sam Walton often told us, "swim upstream." In late 2005, we set three core goals for sustainability: 1) to be supplied 100 percent by renewable energy; 2) to create zero waste; 3) to sell products that sustain people and the environment. We didn't know exactly how or when we would achieve these goals, but we believed we could get there, and we continue to work toward them every day.

Of course, it would have been easier to set a lower bar to achieve something we already knew how to do. But we believe that challenging ourselves to exceed expectations, especially our own, leads us to try different things, break new ground and deliver better results.

Last year, we held our principle of setting ambitious goals to a high standard. In January 2011, we stood with U.S. first lady Michelle Obama and launched a major initiative to bring healthier, more affordable food to America. In one year, we saved customers nearly \$1.1 billion on fresh fruits and vegetables, and we recently launched our "Great for You" icon, making it easier for customers to identify healthier food.

At the Home Office in September, in front of an extraordinary group of leaders on global women's issues, we announced another major initiative to empower women across our worldwide supply chain. We were honored just a few days later when U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recognized our commitment to double our sourcing from women-owned businesses in every market globally and invest in retail training programs to help 200,000 women internationally and 200,000 women in the U.S.

Michael T. Duke

President and
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