



## Full of beans

Mervin, who manufacture great snowboards such as GNU and Lib-Tech, are proud owners of the world's most environmentally-friendly snowboard factory.

The company's "environMENTAL" division is led by riders Mike Olsen and Norm Nelson, who have made snowboards for 25 years, and are dedicated to saving the snow they ride on - so much so, that Olsen has sourced a plastic for snowboards made entirely from castor beans.

Combined with the soy-based elastomer sidewalls, renewable

wood for the cores, and basalt fiber (instead of fiberglass), the boards not only use a water-based ink graphic-printing system (whereas the majority of the industry use highly toxic solvent-based inks and gloss), but are also stronger (for more 'pop' on the piste), and are easier to recycle - even the wood dust is recycled as a soil additive, and any scrap wood is sold as kindling to Safeway.

If that wasn't enough, the factory is heated using renewable bio diesel, which employees can use in their cars!  
[www.lib-tech.com](http://www.lib-tech.com)

## MAKBOARD

The world's first eco-snowboard is finally here, in the form of the Makboard. Made entirely from one sheet of plastic, the Makboard can be melted down and remoulded into a new board once it has come to the end of its life. And it is entirely see-through, so looks unlike any other board on the market.

The Makboard also comes with its own recycling scheme, offering money off a new board when you return your old one for remoulding.

The designers claim the board holds a "whole new riding experience", with extra camber for a poppy feel, while it's "Flow-Thru" technology (holes in the back!) gives a fast ride on both piste and powder.

[www.makboard.com](http://www.makboard.com)



## Smokin' reuse it

Professional rider Mike Basich wanted to know where his snowboard came from this season, and so made 18 Reuse-It boards for Smokin' Snowboards, entirely out of a 400-year-old tree which had fallen in his California backyard.

"I decided to see what it would really take to make a board this winter, and not feel like it came from a big place with profit-hungry manufacturers, just a simple backyard board," Mike told GSG.

"The number one problem with the industry is investors wanting big returns. Before you know it, the market is flooded with too much product and a lot goes to waste, and that becomes a huge problem for the planet. That's why I made my board."

Each board took 10.5lbs of CO2 to make, which Mike said was the same as burning about half a gallon of petrol in your car. "So use what you use in your life well and make it last as long as you can. You might even get to ride more powder because of it."

[www.smokinsnowboards.com](http://www.smokinsnowboards.com)



Mike Basich

