

In February of 2006 Harbor Industries formed the Green Team in an effort to address sustainability in our products and processes. Part of this commitment is providing information and increasing awareness of the steps we have taken so far and what the Green Team is working on for the future. Please feel free to share our progress with customers, suppliers and others in the community who want to know how Harbor is doing on the road to sustainability.

Updated 5/30/2009, look for new and revised information in red.

Conservation

- Converted to a satellite sprinkler system in Grand Haven and reduced our water usage in 2007 by 549,500 gallons. The same type of system was installed in Charlevoix in the spring of 2008.
- Installed an Ecogate variable speed blower for our dust control system and reduced our average kilowatt hours of electricity by 93,650 per month.
- Replaced Metal Halide light fixtures in Charlevoix with energy efficient fluorescent lights. The change resulted in a 49.7% reduction in our kilowatt hours for lighting.

Recycling

- Ongoing recycling efforts, to date we have diverted **1,325,000** pounds of manufacturing waste from landfills earning **\$62,000** as an additional benefit.
- Recycle centers at both facilities have been set up for employees to bring in recyclables that are not picked up curbside.
- Wood scrap from Grand Haven is being sent to a Co-Gen Facility instead of being put in a land fill.
- Obsolete computers and components are sent to a company specializing in electronics recycling to ensure they are disposed of responsibly
- All wood off fall and scrap in Charlevoix is sent to a Co-Gen facility in Grayling instead of being put in a landfill.
- In May Harbor accepted electronics for recycling, employees could bring in anything with a cord or batteries to be recycled by [Comprenew](#) an organization out of Grand Rapids. 5,940lbs of recyclables were brought in between the two facilities.

Environmentally Friendly Materials

- We have switched both facilities to green certified cleaning products.
- Changed from PVC to Polypropylene for black edge banding.
- Due to the new California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Air Toxic Control Measure all of the MDF and Particle Board we purchase after 8-1-08 will have no added formaldehyde and will meet strict emission standards for formaldehyde.

- After January 1, 2009 All of our current PVC Edgeband will be made from polypropylene.

Education

- Provided re-usable water bottles to all employees and set up filtered water systems in the break rooms to discourage the use of disposable water bottles.
- Installed "Green" suggestion boards at both facilities, with space to post information and an area where people can offer ideas.
- To celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd, 2008 Harbor supplied a 6-pack of CFL bulbs to all employees and is also offering the opportunity to purchase additional packs of bulbs at our cost.
- In February of '08 Harbor held a Sustainability Summit for our suppliers. We had 8 companies in attendance that are dedicated to working together toward more sustainable business practices. We plan to hold meetings 3 times a year to share information.
- Harbor is involved with the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum and the Northwest Michigan Sustainability Forum. They are both groups of manufacturing and design companies including education and governmental agencies that meet once a month to discuss trends and best practices.
- Members of the team attended a 10 session Manufactures User Group at Aquanis College in Grand Rapids. The group met once a month for 4.5 hours and were taught by professors and leading researchers in the field of Sustainability.
- Harbor has been invited to speak at several conferences over the past few months. Bob Johnson spoke at the 52nd Annual NAFSM Convention in California in November. He was again invited to speak at the ARE Executive Conference in New Orleans in January, and he made a presentation at the InStore Marketing Summit in Chicago in April.
- A tree giveaway was held in October of '08, each employee received a 4 year old Blue Spruce to plant. We offered additional trees for purchase at our cost and ended up with 950 trees planted through the efforts of our employees and their families.

Sustainable Design

- Knowing that 75% of environmental waste occurs at the design phase of a project, the Green Team is putting together an educational campaign for the developmental group at Harbor. This program kicked off in April and will look to teach the group ways to incorporate the 7 step Low Impact Design process into our daily thinking.
- The team continues to look at Environmental Impact Assessments for the products we manufacture. This is a tool we can use to improve the materials and processes in our product.

In Progress

- Harbor has published its first Corporate Responsibility Report. The CSR acts as a snapshot into our activities to date as well as guide Harbor into the future. The report will be available on our web site.
- In the winter of 2008 we completed a thermal imaging study of our Grand Haven facility to discover areas of heat loss. The report came back and we are in the process of determining next steps to address the areas with the most opportunity for energy savings.

The Future

- Researching a change from epoxy adhesive on the laminators to using a hot melt adhesive. This would require updates to our equipment.
- We are exploring board overlay materials including, polypropylene, polyester and paper as alternatives to vinyl.
- Looking into acquiring LEED certification for the Charlevoix facility.
- Harbor is part of an industry group looking to establish standards measuring the sustainability of our products and practices.
- Harbor has been meeting for over a year with our local Chamber of Commerce in Grand Haven to help develop a forum for local businesses and manufacturers to meet and network on best practices in regard to sustainability. We kicked off our first public meeting last month with great success and are excited about the future of our community.