



Environmental Stewardship

We help customers to improve their environmental practices (see Glanbrook Landfill page 10 and ECO CHILL page 20) but we also seek to improve our own. As part of this ongoing effort, we examined our operations in 2009 and began to take inventory of our environmental practices to form a baseline for a carbon mitigation strategy. It will take time and effort to develop this sustainability strategy but we believe it's imperative to have our own house in order which means having verifiable achievements.

We also continued to encourage our employees to innovate with a goal of doing more with less and increasing our efficiency and competitiveness while reducing our environmental impacts. This led to some big and small changes, a few of which are described below.

To eliminate waste, a pilot project at our Concord, Ontario branch proved to be successful in recycling absorbent pads used to soak up oil and other lubricants. In the past, these pads were either buried in a landfill or incinerated. Dave Tufts, Toromont CAT's Environmental and Facilities Manager, found a company that would collect, clean and return these pads, thereby eliminating a substantial waste stream.

"While this initiative is only cost neutral, it works so well in diverting waste that we have rolled it out to multiple branches," said Mr. Tufts. "In 2009, we diverted 5,400 kilograms of waste from landfill and recycled 3,430 litres of liquids. We will do much more in 2010."

Toromont CAT's Reman operations implemented a lights/computers off policy, installed programmable thermostats and minimized environmental waste by installing a ZEP shurfill brake clean refill system. This system eliminates the use of aerosol from parts cleaning and is less expensive. Electricity use was also reduced – by 20,000 kilowatt hours per month – with the installation of a variable speed air compressor used to power hand tools. Similar efforts were undertaken at other branches as part of a broader pledge made by Toromont CAT to reduce its energy consumption by 10% over three years.

Battlefield invested in two more equipment washing systems, at a capital cost of over \$300,000. These systems not only conserve up to 1,245 cubic metres of water a year per location, they capture particles of oil and fuel residue removed from the equipment while it's cleaned, allowing for safer disposal. More of these systems will be installed in the future. ■