



Green Care: Putting Stewardship into Practice

The concept of efficiency is at the heart of Dart's mission and purpose. Our mission statement says: "Dart sets the industry standard of excellence by efficiently providing high quality foodservice packaging solutions and exceptionally reliable service."

The dictionary defines "efficiency" as producing effectively with a minimum of waste. Efficiency is the cornerstone upon which Dart's business decisions are made. As our mission statement notes, efficiency occupies this central position because it drives creative solutions.

Dart's ongoing drive for efficiency has reaped an extraordinary harvest in reductions of our carbon footprint.¹ From the lighting fixtures in our offices to the technologies on our factory floors, each element of our business is scrutinized for means by which we may reduce energy consumption, air emissions, and solid wastes.

Add it all up and, conservatively, we estimate that as of 2006 Dart's diligent stewardship² efforts in pursuit of sustainability³ have produced energy savings totaling approximately 8.4 trillion BTUs per year and 5 million watts. That's enough energy saved each year to heat nearly 105,000 homes and power over 3,000 homes!

Energy Conservation: Fuel

- Dart recovers waste heat from its manufacturing processes and uses it to heat buildings and boiler feed water.
- Dart's Leola, Pennsylvania plant uses landfill gas to run the boilers for its foam cup production and the ovens for its oriented polystyrene operations, resulting in a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Modernization of Dart's truck fleet has resulted in reductions in the amount of fuel per mile consumed.
- Through proprietary innovations, Dart uses less energy to make foam cups than it did earlier in its history.

Energy Conservation: Electricity

- As a general rule, Dart uses the most efficient appropriate lighting source for each specific application.
- Dart uses electronic ballasts and lower-wattage fluorescent lights.
- Watts per square foot are reduced in warehousing operations using metal halide or sodium vapor lighting.
- Time clocks and photocell motion detectors are used on exterior and some interior lighting to minimize energy use.

- Dart uses LED (light-emitting diode) indicators instead of incandescent indicators (120 Volt AC version). LEDs use less energy and last significantly longer (100,000 hours compared to less than 20,000 hours for incandescent indicators), thereby reducing waste.
- Dart participates voluntarily in equipment and lighting shutdowns to support local electric company needs during times of high usage.
- Dart employs automated building control systems on HVAC units with night setback and occupied/unoccupied modes.
- Economizers are placed on all major HVAC units.
- Power factor correction is used, as needed, on electrical services.
- Dart has updated several direct current (DC) motor/drive applications to more energy-efficient alternating current (AC) systems.
- Dart specifies high efficiency motors on the equipment the company manufactures and uses.
- Dart's Leola, Pennsylvania plant is actively investigating obtaining access to additional landfill gas to run on-site electrical generators.

Air Emissions

- Dart foam products are not manufactured with CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) or HCFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbons). Instead, they are made with pentane.
- Dart has led the expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam cup industry in reducing pentane emissions by capturing pentane emitted during the manufacturing process and using it to make steam for the production of foam products.
- Dart's EPS polymer plants capture and reuse pentane emissions.
- By using non-solvent-based inks, Dart avoids solvent emissions.

Source Reduction

- As a general rule, wherever feasible, Dart uses fewer raw materials to make the same product.
- Many Dart products have been source reduced over time without altering performance.
- Dart packaging film has been source reduced over time.
- Dart corrugated cartons have been source reduced over time.

Reuse

- Dart routinely reuses the pallets, corrugated cartons, and bulk bags used to transport EPS bead from its polymer plants to its cup plants.
- Dart reuses computers and office furniture in order to extend their useful lives to the fullest.
- Conservation and recycling controls enable the continual reuse of water in manufacturing process water systems.

Recycling

- Dart facilities participate in office paper and corrugated carton recycling programs in all areas where collection programs are available.
- To the extent possible, used e-waste (e.g., computer monitors, printers, keyboards, and hard drives) is recycled from Dart plants and offices.
- All hydraulic oils and oils from vehicle oil changes are recycled.
- Polystyrene foam recycling facilities are accessible to the public at five North American Dart plants.
- Since 1990, Dart's Michigan County Recycling Program has collected polystyrene foam for recycling from over 30 sites across Michigan.
- All U.S. plants recycle plant scrap EPS cups.
- Dart routinely recycles all of the trim scrap from its extrusion and thermoforming manufacturing operations.
- Dart plants participate in film tail scrap recycling programs where access to collection programs is available.
- Dart's Machinery Manufacturing Division recycles metal.
- Tires and batteries from trucks, squeeze trucks, and cars are recycled.
- All mercury in fluorescent bulbs is recycled, as are all HID (high-intensity discharge) bulbs.
- Pallets, other than those used in connection with the transport of EPS bead (see under Reuse), are recycled.

1 "Carbon footprint" is the total amount of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, emitted over the life cycle of a product or service.

2 "Stewardship" emphasizes implementation and entails managing our natural resources to ensure that they are available for present and future generations.

3 "Sustainability" implies meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

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The Industry Standard of Excellence

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