



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

- All of Dart's manufacturing facilities, business offices, and fleet departments incorporate recycling into their daily activities. As a result, Dart recycles millions of pounds of materials each year including industrial scrap paper and plastics, hydraulic oil, motor oil, tires, batteries, corrugated containers, electronic discards, fluorescent light bulbs, scrap metal, aluminum, and many more materials.
- Dart strongly supports and has assumed leadership roles in industry associations that are working diligently to advance recycling and/or composting for the products Dart produces including paper, bagasse, PET, polypropylene, polystyrene, expanded polystyrene, and PLA foodservice containers.
- Dart has public drop-offs for expanded polystyrene products at facilities in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, England, Mexico, and in the United States where most types of foam #6 are accepted, including products Dart doesn't even produce.
- Dart operates two reclamation facilities that have wash and dry technologies so even dirty post-consumer foam can be recycled.
- In 1990 we introduced an innovative Cups Are REcyclable program ("CARE") which enables large end-users of Dart foam foodservice products to efficiently collect and compact their post-consumer foam so it can be recycled. This program continues to satisfy many establishments today.
- Dart also has a U.S. mail-back program for foam foodservice containers called Recycla-Pak™ in which customers purchase a corrugated container from Dart that serves as a foam cup collection device as well as a shipping container. The foam is then returned to Dart so it can be recycled.
- In an effort to facilitate the growth in post-consumer foam recycling, Dart has sponsored a website that educates the public, municipalities, and schools how foam can be recycled. It includes lists of buyers and sellers of foam #6, foam recycling equipment providers, and much more. For more details, go to www.HomeForFoam.com.

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.

DART CONTAINER CORPORATION

The Industry Standard of Excellence

Mason, Michigan 48854 U.S.A.

Ph: 800-248-5960 • Fax: 517-676-3883

Email: sales@dart.biz • www.dart.biz