

2006 Cooper Environmental Excellence Award Winners

Gold Award - \$ 7,500

Cooper Power Systems – Waukesha, Wisconsin

Substitution of a new chemical into the e-coat coating process allowed the facility to eliminate the entire powder coating process. This modification resulted in the elimination of the use of dry paint and its associated potential air emissions. In addition, the reduction in raw material (i.e., powder paint) resulted in a commensurate reduction in landfilled hazardous waste. Furthermore, the elimination of the powdered paint operation, a significant energy user, reduced the plant's energy needs thereby reducing the demand on the community's electric generation units, which in turn reduces the amount of greenhouse gases produced by these generation units.

Silver Awards - \$5,000

Cooper Power Systems – Pewaukee, Wisconsin

Re-engineered the paint booth to change from a water curtain filtration system to a dry filtration system. This modification resulted in a significant reduction in hazardous waste (i.e. paint sludge) generation and offsite landfill disposal, thus preserving landfill space for other community users. In addition, the modification eliminated the need to use potentially hazardous chemicals to treat the water from the water curtain. Finally, the modification resulted in a reduction in natural gas usage, which in turn reduces the generation of greenhouse gases at the facility.

Cooper Crouse-Hinds – Amarillo, Texas

Re-engineered gray iron castings of electrical fittings to eliminate various grinding steps with tighter tolerances in our manufacturing process thereby eliminating potential ergonomic issues for our employees. This modification also reduced the amount of airborne grinding emissions in the plant as well as the amount of waste grinding dust disposed of at offsite landfills preserving landfill capacity for other community users. In addition, the elimination of grinding operations reduces the plant's energy consumption, which in turn reduces the generation of greenhouse gases by the electric utility.

Cooper Crouse-Hinds – Syracuse, New York

Discontinued practice of having grinding dust and filter media sent off-site to a metal reclaimer and initiated a new process of onsite extraction of aluminum from used filters.

Bronze Awards - \$2,500

Cooper Menvier – Cedex, France

Replaced ABS plastic (containing brominated flame retardant chemical) in emergency lighting and fire products with environmentally preferred materials (recycled plastics from automotive headlights). The use of recycled product to manufacture the product promotes the recycling of material that would otherwise be landfilled.

Cooper Crouse-Hinds – Ixtapalapa, Mexico

Substitution of water soluble coolants reduced the generation of waste oils. Also, the location has introduced an electrical communication system that will completely eliminate paper documentation. (ISO 14001-certification EHS management program).

Cooper Bussmann – Juarex, Mexico

Plant recycled 100 percent of its wastewater from new melamine and plastic tube cutting processes. This resulted in no wastewater discharge to the City's water treatment plant. In addition, the plant initiated additional waste minimization programs involving the recycling of plastics, wooden pallets and scrap materials once again reducing the plant's solid waste volume and thereby preserving the landfill space for other community users.

Cooper Wiring Devices – Cuautitlan, Mexico

Implemented an aggressive recycling program to greatly reduce scrap hazardous wastewater and plastic from molding operations thereby contributing to a greener environment.

Cooper Hand Tools – Cullman, Alabama

The location was granted a termination of its Significant Industrial Discharge (SID) Publicly Owned Treatment Works discharge permit as a result of decreasing the plant's effluent volume to a level below the threshold for industrial users. This reduction significantly reduces the treatment burden on the City's facility allowing it to treat more of the community's sanitary water.

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Cooper Crouse-Hinds – Syracuse, New York

Installed more efficient air compressor equipment and added automated boiler controls to save energy and manpower to operate these systems. This project reduced energy used at the plant by more 1,000,000 kilowatt hours, 70,000 gallons of heating oil and 6 million cubic feet of natural gas, while reducing air emissions resulting from generating the electricity and burning these fuels at the plant. Another significant environmental benefit of this project was the plant used 16,000,000 fewer gallons of water previously needed to manufacture steam for the plant and other processes and assisted in reducing the amount of greenhouse gases produced by these generation units.

Silver Awards - \$5,000

Cooper Power Systems – Pewaukee, Wisconsin

Eliminated a Naphtha-based, lead-containing adhesive and replaced it with a water-based, lead-free adhesive. This water-based, lead-free adhesive reduced air emissions by more than 100,000 pounds per year, and reduced the hazardous waste generated by the plant by 56 tons per year thereby preserving valuable landfill capacity which can now be utilized by other community users.

Cooper Lighting – Hicksville, New York

Reduced various environmental aspects of their operation while relocating and combining two operations into one facility. The plant installed new higher efficiency lighting fixtures to reduce electrical energy used, which in turn reduces air emissions from electricity generating stations. The plant changed from solvent-based liquid painting to powder coat painting their products and eliminated the need for an air emissions permit. Silk-screening the logo on their products using chemicals and solvents was replaced with a heat transfer process that does not use solvents that release air emissions. The plant also installed a closed loop water-based parts washer system that does not discharge any wastewater to the sewer. Overall the plant reduced electricity consumption through more efficient light fixtures, reduced the use of solvents, reduced air emissions, decreased the number of required environmental permits from 32 to 3 and increased recycling.

Cooper Bussmann – Goldsboro, North Carolina

Facility management redesigned several molds and changed the molding resin from thermo set to thermoplastic resin to manufacture certain parts. The plant doubled the number of parts per mold where practical and reduced the waste plastic by 50% for parts they could not convert to thermoplastic resin. These actions resulted in significant reductions in waste plastic and reduced the raw materials required to produce the same number of Bussmann products.

Bronze Awards - \$2,500

Cooper Tools – Monroe, North Carolina

Facility staff determined the plant air compressors consumed one-third of the electrical energy used to power the plant. Air compressor control system modifications including new valves, control systems and a computer to manage the compressors in real time reduced the electrical energy required to produce the same number of products using 3.1 million fewer kilowatts hours of electricity. This in turn reduced the demand on local electricity generating stations and corresponding reduction in air emissions that would have been released to the environment.

Cooper Crouse-Hinds – Windsor, Connecticut

The Airport Lighting operation introduced a new design of taxiway edge light used at airports. The new lights use LEDs rather than incandescent lamps. The new fixtures use 80% less electricity, the lamps last 20% longer and they are a one-for-one replacement for the old style fixtures. Airport operators do not have to wait to change out an entire runway before they can begin to save energy by purchasing this new energy efficient fixture. The number of new fixtures sold in 2004 reduced the load on the power companies by 420,000-kilowatt hours of electricity thereby reducing the air emissions at power generating stations.

Cooper Hand Tools– Queretaro, Mexico

Facility staff determined that additional water to match increasing production requirements at the operation was not available from the local industrial park. They decided the best option to meet the increasing production requirements was to improve the quality of the water treated in the wastewater treatment system and reuse as much as possible in the plant production and service processes. A reverse osmosis wastewater treatment system replaced the previous deionized water treatment system. The water can now be reused in a new plating system at Queretaro. The new water treatment system has avoided using 7 million gallons of water per year that would otherwise have been required under the old system.

Cooper Crouse-Hinds – Mexico City, Mexico

The facility installed new reverse osmosis wastewater treatment systems and found that they could reuse more water and reduce their new water purchases by collecting and processing rain water as well as water from the showers. The recycled water is used in non-contact cooling, plating rinse tank make-up water, and irrigation and boiler water application in the plant. The new wastewater treatment system reduces water usage by 16 million gallons per year. The facility also increased pallet recycling efforts and reduced the cost of new pallets as well as disposal of old pallets, by having a local company repair pallets using where possible pieces of pallets that could not be repaired. The facility also eliminated the use lead in a product by using lead-free solder. The product now complies with the Restriction on Hazardous Substances (ROHS) directive from Europe and eliminates a hazardous waste.

Cooper Hand Tools – Apex, North Carolina

The plant eliminated the use of a hazardous chemical in its brass plating operation. The modification reduced the plant's need for waste treatment and its associated chemical usage. In addition, it reduced the volume of hazardous waste disposed by the facility.

Cooper B-Line – Highland, Illinois

The plant significantly reduced the scrap coil steel caused during start-up and reel changeover. These actions reduced the raw material steel purchases to produce the same amount of products by 221 tons. Reducing the amount of steel purchased to manufacture the same number of Cooper B-Line products reduces air emissions released while manufacturing and transporting 221 tons of steel as well as air emissions from the trucks that formerly picked up scrap steel.

2004 Cooper Environmental Excellence Award Winners

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Cooper Power Systems – Waukesha, Wisconsin

The plant eliminated rubber scrap from some of its processes. Thereby reducing its solid waste generation by 215,000 pounds per year and improving it's on time delivery to customers.

Silver Awards - \$5,000

Cooper Tools – Cullman, Alabama

The location eliminated lead hammers and blocks used for straightening files with a tin-based Babbitt. This eliminated regulated waste and improved safety in the pot hardening process.

Cooper Crouse-Hinds – Syracuse, New York

The use of bulk molded plastic compound has reduced scrap emissions and solvent usage and provided ergonomic benefits. This has eliminated 18,000 pounds of waste thereby preserving valuable landfill capacity, which can now be utilized by other community users.

Cooper Hand Tools – Monroe, North Carolina

Recycling and conservation of plant cooling water and elimination of water losses reduced waster usage by 8,600,000 gallons, which adds up to a 61% reduction from the previous year.

Bronze Awards - \$2,500

Cooper Crouse-Hinds – Eberbach, Germany

Shredded incoming pasteboard packaging and reused it for packaging material for finished products, reducing waste by 23 tons per year and maintaining compliance with German and European Union packaging waste law directives.

Cooper Crouse-Hinds – Amarillo, Texas

Improved material handling of wastewater treatment sludge thereby reducing potential spills and stormwater contamination.

Cooper Hand Tools – Tlalnepantla, Mexico

By eliminating the use of a hazardous paste for hardening of files, Cooper Hand Tools eliminated the generation of a hazardous waste.

Cooper Power Systems – Badger Drive, Waukesha, Wisconsin

By reducing the diameter and the length of the paint system tubing, Cooper Power Systems eliminated the generation of almost 3 tons of hazardous waste per year.

Cooper Lighting – Peachtree City, Georgia

InVue SLE product provides substantial energy savings by focusing the light into usable areas and eliminating "wasted" or spilled light - an issue of growing concern due to its unwanted impact on the night sky.

Cooper Hand Tools – York, Pennsylvania

By implementing a closed loop regenerative parts washer, reduced spent solvent shipped off-site by 44,600 pounds per year.