



Environmental Stewardship Awards

Honda of America Mfg., Inc. – Marysville, East Liberty, Anna, and Russells Point

In 2009, Honda of America Manufacturing facilities in Ohio received an Ohio Award for Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Stewardship. The award recognizes Ohio companies and organizations committed to environmental compliance and reducing pollution.

The Honda manufacturing operations in Ohio consist of Honda of America Manufacturing Inc. facilities in Marysville, East Liberty and Anna as well as the Honda Transmission Manufacturing of America, Inc. facility in Russells Point. Honda employed 11,580 associates in these operations to produce motor vehicles, engines and drivetrain components.

Environmental Initiatives Yield Results

As part of the Honda drive of “Striving to be a company society wants to exist”, it has initiatives in multiple areas of environmental impact:

- Landfill waste reduction.
- Energy efficiency (impacts regulated air emissions as well as greenhouse gas emissions).
- Support of Ohio’s Tox-Minus Initiative, a voluntary program to encourage Ohio facilities to voluntarily reduce the pollutants they release to the environment. Honda has committed to a 25 percent reduction in toxics emissions.

Honda’s auto plants in Ohio have received Energy Star awards from the U.S. EPA in FY 2009 for advances in curbing energy use during production of passenger cars and light trucks. The award points are based on the amount of energy needed to produce an automobile, and includes factors such as the vehicle size and production volume. For the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2008, Honda’s average CO₂ emissions per vehicle produced in North America were at their lowest levels since the company began measuring in 2001. Honda plants have focused energy reduction in the use of electricity and natural gas; primarily on more efficient use of lighting, chiller systems, motors, metering, heating, compressed air and air conditioning.

In the last two years, Honda continued its long-term trend of reducing landfill waste. Waste sent for disposal in landfills decreased by 34 percent - a reduction of 3.28 million pounds in its last fiscal year. Electricity use was reduced by approximately 9 percent or more than 62.5 million kilowatt-hrs per year. Natural gas use was reduced by 14 percent, or more than 417 million cubic feet per year. Reduction in groundwater use of 9 percent – more than 43 million gallons per

Honda is recognized for achieving substantial improvement in its environmental performance over the prior two years:

- Waste sent for disposal in landfills has decreased by 34 percent - a reduction of 3.28 million pounds in its last fiscal year.
- Reduction in electricity use by more than 62.5 million kilowatt-hrs per year – enough to supply more than 5,500 typical households.
- Reduction in natural gas use by more than 417 million cubic feet per year.
- Reduction in groundwater use by more than 43 million gallons per year and the avoidance of using more than 95 million additional gallons of groundwater through the use of a 7 acre, 2-pond system to capture rainwater.

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year, with the avoidance of using an additional 95 million additional gallons of groundwater through the use of a 7 acre, 2-pond system to capture rainwater.

One activity initiated at the East Liberty facility involves the use of a spinning operation to remove oil and solvents from rags and absorbent materials. This allowed more than 27,000 pounds of used rags to be sent off-site to be remanufactured into auto parts instead of being handled as a waste material.

Another example of an activity with impact to conservation of natural resources involves the reuse of sands from casting operations in the Anna Engine plant. Working with a supplier, more than 7.7 million pounds of material have been diverted from landfill to being reused in soil amendment and mulch products.

Below is an excerpt from the Honda Wing , an internal publication provided to all company associates describing an example of wastewater reduction activity that saved 6.5 million gallons of water per year:

Marysville Auto Plant Water Recycling

Production of pure water using reverse-osmosis systems produces about one gallon of wastewater for every three gallons of “good” water. Beginning in early 2008, wastewater previously released to the sanitary wastewater treatment system in Paint Line 2 was directed to a storage tank for recycling into the body painting pretreatment process, saving roughly 6.5 million gallons of water per year.

In a similar process, wastewater recovered from the reverse-osmosis process on Paint Line 1 is recycled into the Paint Line 1 sludge pits, where it is used to capture and remove painting solids that do not adhere to painted products.

Systemic Approach to Environmental Management

Each of the Honda manufacturing sites in Ohio maintains third-party certified environmental management systems and each has an environmental policy statement signed by senior management, communicated to all associates and available to the public. Honda’s Environmental Policy states, among others, that it will operate and continually improve an environmental management system to monitor and control the environmental impacts of its operations.

All of the Honda’s Ohio manufacturing operations have implemented third-party certified ISO14001:1996 systems in 1998. These management systems were upgraded to the requirements of ISO14001:2004 by 2006. Improvement activity is driven primarily through the use of the business planning process. In addition, Honda celebrated the ten years of Green Factory achievement in 2008.

Environmental management accounting is fully integrated into Honda operations and occurs on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. “Environmental” is one of the core business elements reported to plant and senior management along with “Quality”, “Delivery” and “Cost”. Progress towards monthly targets and activity is reported as well as any countermeasure activities taken if goals were not achieved.

Honda associates are involved in its environmental effort from the beginning of their career – initial orientation training includes information relating to the environmental management system. There is a long history of associate activities that contribute to Honda’s commitment to environmental improvement. One example is that during the 80s, the Waste Watchers from Marysville Auto Materials Service improved cardboard recycling and waste management, which helped the cause of recycling inside the company by inspiring others to inquire about and conduct themes dealing with recycling. Their efforts received recognition from then-Governor Celeste. Through the decades that Honda has been operating in Ohio, employee involvements in environmental effort were highlighted in its internal newsletters.

While cost benefit is certainly a portion of the decision analysis for new environmental initiatives and activities, cost reduction is not the sole driver. Especially in the area of landfill waste reduction, the Honda facilities in Ohio have incurred additional expense to divert materials. For example, while landfill costs may run as low as \$0.035 per pound, some plastic

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materials being recycled may cost more than \$0.20 per pound. In other cases, such as the example from the East Liberty facility, cost reduction is a benefit in addition to the environmental impact.

For more information

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If you would like additional information about Ohio EPA's environmental stewardship award program, contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) at 800-329-7518, or visit OCAPP's website at epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx.