



## Environmental Stewardship Awards

# Masco Retail Cabinet Group – Middlefield and Orwell

In 2009, Masco Retail Cabinet Group facilities in Northeast 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.

Masco Retail Cabinet Group (MRCG), d.b.a. KraftMaid Cabinetry, Inc., has two plants in Middlefield, and one plant in Orwell. It pioneered the built-to-order or “semi-custom” segment of the cabinet industry for kitchen and bath, growing from a small cabinet shop to the largest cabinet manufacturer in the world.

### Integrated Environmental Management

MRCG completed its ISO 14001 certification in 2008, formalizing its environmental management system (EMS) and process for setting and reporting on its environmental impact reduction goals. The company has integrated environmental aspects into current business management tools, such as, document control, visual work instructions, project charter process, corrective and preventative action management, business management scorecards, and operator qualifications. This EMS integration has moved environmental awareness and responsibility from the environmental department to all departments of the company.

As part of its ISO 14001 EMS, Masco adheres to a continuous plan-do-check-act cycle. Examples include repeating its energy audit program on an annual basis, and annually establishing new goals to reduce, reuse and/or recycle materials and waste streams. As Masco works to integrate its EMS into the Quality Management and other business management system other improvement tools are applied to reduce environmental impacts regardless of where they occur.

### Environmental Impact Reduction

At every stage of its process – sourcing, manufacturing, finishing and shipping – MRCG is focused on “The Three R’s”: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. MRCG has seen environmental and business benefits associated with waste reduction, energy reduction, and enhanced recycling. Solid waste generation was reduced to 1,600 tons in 2008, compared with 20,600 tons for the baseline year of 2005, achieving an economic benefit of \$1,950,000 for the company over the period. With its recycling program expansion, Masco recycled 19.3 pounds per unit of production in 2008, compared to 14.5 pounds per

**Masco is recognized for focusing on the three R’s – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – at every stage of its process, from sourcing, to manufacturing, to finishing and shipping:**

- Using sophisticated technology and purchasing wood products in optimum dimensions enabled it to attain the highest possible yield from every raw material board.
- Using Environmentally Preferred Product (EPP) particle boards that include a percentage of recycled material.
- Incorporating environmental impact considerations into every new product decision, Design for Environment (DfE).
- Recycling returned cabinets through its liquidation center in Northeast Ohio.
- Recycling and reusing finish material where appropriate and applicable.

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unit in 2005, totaling 134,000 tons of recycling and realizing an economic benefit of \$184,000 to the company over the period. Further, energy reduction efforts equates reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emission by 8,900 metric tons covering 2007 through the first five months of 2009, achieving an economic benefit of \$500,000 over this eperiod.

Masco optimized its logistics system to reduce miles driven by its delivery trucks. The majority of the cabinetry is delivered directly to the customer's home. All orders are processed in a customized tool based on the delivery location, prior to scheduling production. In April 2008, GPS systems were installed to monitor idling time. Idling time has since been reduced by 32 minutes per month per vehicle, saving over 1,000 gallons of gas annually, saving money and reducing emissions from fuel combustion. In 2009 almost 90 percent of the vehicles replaced in its fleet had the flex fuel option allowing the use of E85 which reduced CO and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to the environment.

#### 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 [www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx).