



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

INEEL Big Shop

Idaho Falls, Idaho

2004

Environmental Commitment

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory's (INEEL) Fleet Operations unit, also known as the Big Shop, maintains and operates a fleet of nearly 1,540 vehicles and pieces of equipment. The Big Shop is committed to pollution prevention and environmental awareness. A key aspect of its pollution prevention program is employee input and involvement.

Pollution Prevention Success

Hazardous Waste Reduction

The Big Shop eliminated 11.2 metric tons of hazardous waste, saving \$9,300 per year in disposal costs, by substituting soap and warm water parts washers for solvents parts washers.

Material Substitution

The Big Shop replaced 976 steel wheels on the INEEL bus fleet with aluminum wheels. INEEL buses travel an average of 120 miles per day. An aluminum wheel weighs over 50% less than a steel wheel, resulting in greater fuel economy. These wheels have helped reduce diesel fuel use by over 29,000 gallons, for an annual savings of around \$36,000 (1998 figures).

Alternative Fuels

The Big Shop has converted 150 vehicles to run on natural gas, reducing nitrous oxide emissions by 50% and particulate emissions by 98% over traditional diesel engines. Currently, the Big Shop is testing a 20% blend of biodiesel (B20) on 18 buses and 1 truck. They've used 8,500 gallons to date.

Green Purchasing

The Big Shop replaced disposable paper cleaning wipes with reusable cloth towels, saving \$21,000 a year in purchasing costs and eliminating this paper waste. The Big Shop buys retread tires for its vehicles and buses and recycles tires that cannot be re-treaded, saving \$248 per tire—or almost \$60,000 annually.

Leadership and Community Involvement

The Big Shop works with nearby Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks to incorporate pollution prevention measures in park vehicle fleets; consults with cities in the region on conversion and maintenance of bus fleets to alternative fuels; and shares its expertise with government agencies, university researchers, and private industry. In 2003, the Big Shop was recognized by Idaho GEMStars, Governor Kempthorne's pollution prevention recognition program.

For More Information

For more information, contact the INEEL Pollution Prevention Office at (208) 526-3952.

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