



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

Allied Waste
Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell, Idaho
2011

Environmental Commitment

Allied Waste has made significant strides to reduce its environmental impact to Idaho and, in particular, the Treasure Valley. In providing solid waste disposal services to the Treasure Valley, including Boise, Meridian, Nampa, and Caldwell, Allied Waste uses a large fleet of trucks. In operating such a large fleet, Allied Waste recognized that the successful operation and maintenance of these vehicles could be completed by using far less fuel with far fewer impacts to the Treasure Valley's air quality, and that the maintenance of these vehicles could be provided without utilizing as many harmful chemicals. As a result, the company actively pursued less toxic and lower impact alternatives to previous practices and in the process is saving money and reducing pollution at the same time.

Pollution Prevention Success

Allied Waste has successfully prevented pollution by reducing fuel consumption through the use of technology and best management practices, as well as by utilizing preferable purchasing in the maintenance of its vehicle fleet. The impacts from these strategies are helping to protect Idaho's land, air, and water.

Waste Minimization

Allied Waste has undertaken steps to reduce the waste its vehicles generate by utilizing synthetic automatic transmission fluid and grease. These products extend the intervals between fluid changes, thereby reducing the waste generated by fluid changes and extending the life of the mechanical arms used by the truck fleet to pick up and empty waste containers.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Allied Waste has chosen to purchase synthetic transmission fluid as well as synthetic grease. These products increase the intervals between fluid changes and, as a result, waste less fluid and reduce pollution.

Energy and Water Conservation

One of the areas of greatest potential savings that Allied Waste has identified is reduced diesel consumption. Allied Waste has a fleet of over 100 trucks, each of which uses approximately 40 gallons per day to complete its rounds. Saving even a small amount of diesel each day from each operating truck could reap significant savings and reductions in pollution over the course of a year. Not only is diesel fuel expensive and subject to volatile price fluctuations, but it also contributes to air pollution in the Treasure Valley's airshed.

As a result, Allied Waste placed a premium on reducing diesel consumption, retraining employees to use fuel-saving driving techniques, installing low resistance tires on its truck fleet to improve fuel economy, and adding idle reduction technology to 90% of the trucks in its fleet. These savings, when multiplied across the entire fleet, have been significant. In a move that has further reduced pollution of the Treasure Valley's airshed, Allied Waste has also converted 53 of its 100 trucks to burn compressed natural gas (CNG). Within five years, all of the company's trucks will be run on CNG.

The pollution prevention savings from this changeover are significant. Not only are volatile organic compounds released by burning CNG, but significant reductions of other compounds occur as well. Fine particulates responsible for summertime ozone pollution are minimized, for example, while carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides are reduced as well. These efforts represent a significant step toward reducing pollution in Idaho.

For More Information

For more information on Allied Waste's pollution prevention initiatives, visit the company's website at <http://www.alliedwasteidaho.com/about/green-initiatives.php>.

Information on this fact sheet represents an example of pollution prevention projects undertaken by Idaho organizations and does not constitute Departmental certification or approval of compliance at this or any other time with federal, state and/or local regulations.