

Micron: 2018 Pollution Prevention Champion

Boise

Environmental Commitment

Micron Technology has set ambitious goals for reducing the environmental impact of its Boise research campus. The accomplishments that they can cite are particularly noteworthy due to the fact that the nature of the research and design process is inherently unstable and unpredictable. Therefore, finding ways to reduce waste can often prove difficult and hard to justify as a necessary investment. Despite these challenges, the company has worked hard to achieve significant success at reducing its environmental impact.

Focusing on reducing climate impact

On-site energy consumption is a significant source of climate impacting greenhouse gas emissions from Micron's facility operations. In order to demonstrate a lasting commitment to sustainability, Micron worked to establish targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all operations at its Boise research facility. By engaging all of its employees, Micron has been able to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 33% below 2014 levels. These savings add up to over 15,500 metric tons of CO₂ annually, equivalent to removing over 3,300 vehicles off of the road.

Reducing electricity use

Micron Technology identified reductions in electricity consumption as an important component of its sustainability strategy. By focusing on efficiency, the company could reduce electricity consumption and continue to ensure that the Boise region's renewable electricity generating portfolio remains adequate to meet the region's needs. Among the opportunities that the company has implemented include upgrades to chiller equipment and installation of low energy boilers. These improvements have resulted in an electricity reduction of 15 gigawatt hours annually, equivalent to the energy use of over 1,200 homes annually.

Reducing hazardous waste generation

Solvents, such as isopropyl alcohol, are frequently used for cleaning and other purposes in high technology manufacturing, research, and development. The disposal of spent solvent is a persistent challenge, as these wastes often characterize as hazardous due to their ignitability or toxicity. In order to reduce the generation of hazardous waste from bulk solvents, Micron has opted to utilize energy recovery to safely dispose of those materials while meeting some of the facilities energy needs. This changeover has increased the recycling rate of hazardous wastes at the company's Boise facility to over 95%.

Minimizing storm water impacts

Storm water can be a significant source of pollution to rivers and streams. The Boise River is one of the principal public assets of the Treasure Valley, and the importance of protecting its ecological, recreational, industrial, and agricultural roles is essential. Recently, Micron has opted to focus on retaining storm water on-site, rather than discharging to the Boise River. This is estimated to have reduced phosphorus loading to the Boise River by over 25,000 pounds annually, as well as recycling over 5 million gallons of storm water generated on-site.

For More Information

To learn more about Micron Technology, visit the company's website at <https://www.micron.com/about/our-commitment/operating-thoughtfully/sustainability>