

Irwin Hodson Press

A Pollution Prevention Success Story

Irwin Hodson Press, a 115-year-old, family-owned business in SE Portland, has recently invested in a new printing press that significantly reduces the company's air emissions. The company also is in the process of developing an environmental management system to further reduce hazardous and solid wastes and carbon emissions.

The new printing press uses ultraviolet light to adhere ink to paper instead of using a solvent-based process that emits toxic air pollutants and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Standard conventional inks dry by evaporation and absorption into the paper. Ultraviolet inks are cured instantly with light and have zero VOCs.

This press prints on both sides of the paper at the same time which reduces wastes, uses less energy and also allows for printing on paper with higher recycled content.

“Being good stewards of the planet is the top of our list” says T.J. McDonald, owner of Irwin Hodson Press. “We have taken several large steps forward and are continually committed to reducing the impact that our manufacturing process has on the environment.”

Reducing hazardous and solid waste

The company has reduced the amount of hazardous waste generated when using solvents by optimizing the equipment and new processes. The company uses alternatives such as palm tree oil and bio renewable based soya coatings and a recycling process that extends the use of solvents by up to 600 percent.

One of the company's goals is to become a zero landfill company. By recycling more, they have already reduced their solid waste to a three-yard dumpster picked up twice a week. Previously, Irwin Hodson Press used a four-yard dumpster picked up five times a week. That's a reduction of 624 yards of landfill debris. Fewer pickups also means less diesel emissions from garbage trucks.

Reducing carbon emissions

Irwin Hodson Press is committed to reducing its carbon emissions. Their carbon emissions come from its energy consumption, transportation, papers, inks, coatings and other factors.



New printing press

The company uses energy produced by some of their equipment to heat their building. They encourage employees to carpool, ride bicycles or use public transportation.

The company participates in the Climate Leaders Program, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) industry-government partnership that works with companies to develop comprehensive climate change strategies. Partner companies commit to reducing their impact on the global environment by completing a corporate-wide inventory of their greenhouse gas emissions based on a quality management system, setting aggressive reduction goals, and annual reporting on their progress to EPA.

Climate Partners, California Inc. has certified Irwin Hodson Press as carbon neutral. With an individualized emissions calculator from Climate Partners, Irwin Hodson Press can tell a customer the amount of carbon emissions a specific print job produces. Then as an additional service, these emissions can be offset through the purchase of carbon offset certificates which support recognized climate protection projects.

For more information

Visit the DEQ Hazardous Waste Technical Assistance web page <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/hw/technicalassistance.htm> or call (503) 229-5913.

Alternative formats

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