Doing What it Takes to be WasteWise

From donating surplus equipment to establishing take-back programs for used products, the scientific, photographic, and control equipment industry has a wealth of waste reduction opportunities. Below is a sampling of the commitments and achievements of WasteWise partners in this industry. These types of activities also can help your company reduce waste and cut costs. For more information or to enroll your company in WasteWise, call 800 EPAWISE (372-9473) or visit our home page at [www.epa.gov/wastewise].

Waste Prevention

The cornerstone of WasteWise, waste prevention means using less material to do the same job, cutting waste before recycling. Regardless of industry sector, everyone can take advantage of general waste prevention goals, such as double-sided copying, packaging reduction, or switching to reusable supplies. Some WasteWise partners in the scientific, photographic, and control equipment industry have gone beyond the basics and implemented activities that target industry-specific waste materials. The following is a sampling of these goals:

- Save and reuse shipping boxes and foam peanuts for outgoing packages.
- Donate surplus or used scientific equipment to local schools.
- Institute a materials-exchange program for lab stations.
- Donate surplus or short-dated medical supplies and equipment to nonprofits.
- Take back packaging from customers and reuse it in the manufacturing process.
- Collect used single-use cameras from customers and reuse parts to manufacture new cameras.
- Decrease garbage bag use by reusing film bags for trash collection.
- Purchase film without cartons—request cartonless film from manufacturer.
- Design products to be easily disassembled and reused in other products.
- Take products back at end of life cycle and reuse parts and materials.
Recycling Collection

WasteWise partners commit to initiating, expanding, or improving company programs to collect recyclables. In some cases, companies add new materials to an existing program, or they increase effectiveness through activities such as employee education or community outreach. WasteWise partners in the scientific, photographic, and control equipment industry have set these goals:

❖ Recycle Tyvek gowns and booties used for manufacturing.
❖ Recycle x-ray film.
❖ Implement closed-loop recycling of HDPE plastic in 35 mm film canisters.
❖ Improve de-inking and pulping processes on photographic paper-making machines to allow operation to recycle more white paper.
❖ Collect PET film for recycling.

Buying or Manufacturing Recycled Products

WasteWise partners commit to increasing the overall recycled content in the products they purchase. WasteWise partners that are manufacturers can either increase the percentage of postconsumer content in the products they make or increase the recycled content in the products they purchase. Buy-recycled activities of WasteWise partners in the scientific, photographic, and control equipment industry include:

❖ Manufacture polyester film base with recycled content.
❖ Use recovered plastic in molded product components.
❖ Use postconsumer plastic in the manufacture of toner and copier cartridges.
❖ Increase number and percent of returned copier parts used to manufacture new machines.

Sample Partner Achievements

❖ Lake Shore Cryotronics, Inc. posts product manuals online instead of shipping individual copies to customers. The company also saves paper and cuts purchasing and disposal costs by sending calibration reports on CDs, setting copying machines to double-sided, and encouraging employees to remove themselves from mailing lists.

❖ PARI Innovative Manufacturers, Inc. worked with its vendors to increase the use of durable, reusable containers and pallets in product transport. When cardboard boxes are more practical than durable containers, the company breaks down the boxes and ships them back to the vendor to be reused.

❖ Waters Corporation reduced white paper consumption by 10 percent. The company encourages employees to print drafts on the backside of used paper and send reports and correspondence electronically.