

Informco

Company Overview

Informco Inc. is a seamless, end-to-end, graphic communication company that produces high quality offset lithographic printing. There is a constant effort by Informco to achieve a minimal impact on the environment while maintaining a safe working environment. The Toronto plant occupies 67,000 sq/ft and employs 107 full time staff.



Sandy Stephens, VP Operations, at Informco's Toronto Facility

Informco became an ISO 9001 Quality Management Standard certified company in 1997. It is maintaining its certification while working towards ISO 9000:2000. Informco is pursuing the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standard and wishes to apply for Eco-Logo certification under the ECP-58-94 standard for lithographic printing. As part of this initiative the senior management has commissioned this Pollution Prevention Assessment to be conducted under the Toronto Region Sustainability Program.

P2 Assessment Process

As part of the Toronto Region Sustainability Program, Informco contracted EcoSoft environmental management (John Piggott) to assess their facility for pollution prevention opportunities. This review included process flow mapping, equipment uses, evaluation of the way chemicals are employed and stored, and waste handling and discharges. From this assessment, many pollution prevention opportunities and sewer use compliance issues were realized. The consultant provided Informco with a detailed report and recommended action plan. Many issues were addressed as they were discovered.

Summary of Findings

One of Informco's major sources of pollution comes from isopropyl alcohol (IPA). It is a 100% Volatile Organic Compound (VOC), smog precursor with a high vapour pressure. It is the one element that would jeopardize Informco's ability to acquire Ecologo certification. Other issues include drums of cleaning solvents and IPA that were open with the bungs or caps removed, collection of all liquid waste for proper storage, treatment or disposal.

"You can measure the positive effects on the bottom line and in many less tangible ways. By taking a holistic approach, which includes treating your staff and the environment with respect, it pays in loyalty, good morale, constant improvement and reduced liability fears."

Sandy Stephens, VP Operations, Informco

P2 Solutions, Environmental Results and Related Cost Savings

The table below summarizes P2 projects being undertaken by Informco from the list of P2 recommendations outlined in the assessment report. When implementation is complete, the P2 measures at Informco are projected to reduce annually:

- 7.2 tonnes VOCs
- 1 tonne hazardous waste
- 1.9 kg metals
- 25 tonnes GHGs
- 106 MWh electricity

With annual savings of **\$14,600** and an overall payback of **1.6 years**.

Process	P2 Solutions	Environmental Reductions	Cost Savings & Payback
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Pressroom:
Fountain Solution

Targeted Pollutants:
Isopropyl Alcohol (VOCs)

Installation of 455 L/day reverse osmosis system and elimination of isopropyl alcohol in fountain solution

Elimination of 3.3 tonnes/year Isopropyl Alcohol (100%) (VOCs)

➔ Annual savings of \$9 K
Payback of 6-8 months

Pressroom:
Blanket Wash

Targeted Pollutants:
Spent Press Wash and Solvents (VOCs and Hazardous Waste)

Vacuum distillation and/or membrane filtration of blanket/press wash and reuse and recycle solvents

95% recovery of solvents
Reduction of 2.8 tonnes/year solvents
Reduction of 1 tonne/year hazardous waste

➔ Annual savings of \$1.7 K

Pressroom:
Solvent Storage

Targeted Pollutants:
Methylene Chloride, Alcohols, Toluene

Enforcement of closed container policy for open solvent drums and containers

Reduction of VOC emissions by 14% (1.3 tonnes/year)

➔ Annual savings of \$2-2.5 K
Immediate payback

Pressroom:
Energy Efficiency

Energy efficient print on-demand copiers

Annual reductions of 105.8 MWh electricity consumption and 24.8 tonnes greenhouse gases

Funding and Program Support:



Delivered by:



For more information, please contact:

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