



The South Landfill is Open!

On Friday, November 13, the Niagara Waste Systems South Landfill officially opened Cell 1 for business. The Ministry of the Environment granted Niagara Waste Systems request to receive waste on the previous day. The site's new entrance is on Taylor Road at the newly installed traffic lights between Thorold Stone Road and Mountain Road. Niagara Waste Systems will be moving quickly to cover the entire Cell 1 floor with approximately 1.5 metres of waste to protect the landfill's liner from the elements.

The South Landfill is one of the most advanced landfills in the province. It is the first landfill in the province to be constructed with a "double generic liner." A double generic liner contains two leachate collection systems and therefore has a life expectancy of approximately 600 years. Pretty impressive stuff!



Duntroon Christmas Tree

Duntroon Quarry has made a Christmas tree out of 100% recycled material! The tree itself is made out of scrap steel from old guarding and the bottom is a wear plate off a crusher. It is decorated with vines from Laurie Wilson's tree lot and the lighting is solar powered. This unique tree was displayed in 5 parades this year between November 28 and December 6.

Great job Duntroon Quarry!

eCO₂ Greeting Cards



Walker Industries is going green this holiday season and has decided to send e-cards instead of the cards and/or gifts that we normally send. The money that usually goes to gifts will be donated to local social service charities in the communities that we operate.

The company chosen to create our e-card is eCO₂ Greetings. When you purchase an e-card you have the option to plant a certain amount of trees. Walker has decided to have 500 trees planted! eCO₂ Greetings

outsourced the planting of trees to a charitable organization called American Forests. They plant their trees in various ecosystem restoration projects across North America and other parts of the world. American Forests specialize in restoring burned or flooded forest areas.

For information on eCO₂ Greetings visit www.eco2greetings.com. Congratulations to Walker Industries for reducing their impacts and taking the extra steps toward helping the environment.

Source and picture source: www.eco2greetings.com

Printer Savings

In December 2008, we started switching our printer defaults corporate wide to double-sided printing, as well as black and white printing.

The combined savings for the past year for Head Office and the WEG building are as follows:
Black & white default printing, 40% savings = \$10,000
Double-sided printing default, 33% savings = \$3,600, 240,000 sheets of paper, or approximately 30* trees.

Congratulations to everyone!
Every step counts to help reduce our impacts.

* Calculated using: www.conservetree.com

15 Tips for a Green Holiday

1. Replace your holiday lights with LEDs
2. Send electronic cards
3. Use reusable cloth bags for gifts or wrap in another gift like a tea towel or table cloth
4. Buy seasonal, local food and beverages when possible
5. Avoid using disposable plates and cups
6. Use your green bin for compostable items
7. Use rechargeable batteries in electronics and gifts
8. Only use outdoor lights for two to five hours a day or when you are having company
9. Decorate with pieces that can be used in other seasons
10. Decorate your home with natural ornaments: holly, evergreen, popcorn and fruit are all compostable
11. Save your wrapping paper, decorations and cards to reuse next year
12. Take your reusable shopping bags with you when you do your holiday shopping
13. Organize a 'Secret Santa' exchange if you have a large group to buy for
14. Treat people to a special experience instead of an item – such as theatre tickets, annual memberships or a weekend at a spa
15. Choose cards and wrapping which contain recycled paper.

Sources: www.christmaslightsanddecorations.com
www.foe.co.uk
www.ismckenzie.com/how-to-have-a-green-christmas

Badger Research in Southern Ontario

Two years ago, a donation was made by Walker Industries to help fund a public outreach campaign to educate citizens on the presence and ecology of our endangered population of badgers. A major portion of this was used to create informative fridge magnets that were mailed out to several thousand households within Norfolk County.

Last year a full-scale badger research and recovery project was initiated in Ontario through Trent University. The magnets have been very effective in getting the word out to people, as well as giving them a lasting reference to keep.

The donation from Walker Industries had a large effect on making the project successful in Norfolk, and if the interest in contributing to endangered species work is still there, it would be possible to expand the outreach efforts beyond Norfolk and into some of the surrounding counties.



This is a great example of how Walker Industries show commitment to environmental issues. For more information visit www.ontariobagders.com

Picture www.ontariobagders.com

Easy Off Update

Norjohn Limited continues to ride the green wave, as momentum behind the division's soya based emulsion pushes through markets across North America. The soya based material is used as a common component in many "Easy-Off" products. Interest in the emulsion has been steadily increasing throughout 2009. With new customers expected to come online in 2010, the sky is the limit for this innovative product.

Looking at the numbers, NJL has increased production by 10,000 Kilograms/month in the last quarter to meet the increasing demands of its present customers in Michigan, South Carolina and West Virginia. Additional production will be necessary as Canadian buyers come online in Alberta and Ottawa. Pending successful trials currently underway, NJL anticipates supplying the emulsion to new customers in Utah, Arizona and Mississippi for 2010.



Edgar Pit is Reducing Their Impacts!

Ryan Dosch, Bill Wyld and Don Wyld



Edgar Pit has been very busy reducing their impacts. They have recently made the following changes:

- constructing an enclosure made of 100% recycled materials including scrap metals and conveyor belting recovered from a site wide cleanup initiative. The enclosure has essentially eliminated dust emissions from a transfer point where material from the sand train and screening belt are transferred to an inclined belt bound for the wash plant
- collecting recyclables generated onsite and transferring them to the municipal depot in Oro-Medonte as curbside pickup is not available
- reconfiguring its process to eliminate the use of a 725 kwh genset
- upgrading its power transmission system, eliminating the need for diesel powered process equipment

Great job, Edgar Pit!

NEST - Niagara Environmental Sector Team

In 2007, Niagara Environmental Sector Team (NEST) was born. About 20 environmental groups located in the Niagara watershed created NEST. The reason NEST was created was to enhance and network the environmental sector in the Niagara Region.

A web site has been launched that provides the Niagara Region with all kinds of information such as:

- environmental organizations in the region,
- volunteer and employment opportunities within Niagara Environmental organizations and,
- promotes environmental events in the community

Membership to NEST is free and is available to all non-profit, and profit organizations as well as volunteer and community groups, academic institutions, clubs, retailers and service providers. Currently, there are 27 organizations registered on NEST such as Fort Erie Conservation Club, Niagara Land Trust Foundation and Niagara Windpower Inc.

Visit <http://nest.niagararesearch.ca/Default.aspx> to find out more information.

Edgar Pit Soaker Hose

The Edgar Pit team discovered an unconventional solution to a conventional dust problem. Taking advantage of geography and their existing site layout, the team at Edgar Pit has developed a soaker hose system to water their site entrance road without use of a water truck or sprinkler system. Because the site's water pumping well is immediately adjacent to the shipping entrance, employees were able to tap into the well and hook up a perforated hose. The hose uses a very small portion of the water and uses pressure to feed the facility's aggregate washing plant. Water from the hose is sprayed onto the roadway at a rate similar to a garden sprinkler hose. Because the entrance slopes downward towards the municipal road, gravity is used to run water from the perforated hose the length of the entrance road, effectively reducing dust and drag out associated with truck movement.

Compost – North Pad Clean-up

As most of you are aware we experienced serious process upsets at our compost facility this summer which caused odours that impacted some of our neighbours. We have worked hard to address this situation quickly and professionally. Our long-term goal is to operate our compost facility in a manner that is acceptable to our neighbours and we believe we can do that.

The weather and the amount of grass really challenged our operations.

To control the odours we:

- stopped receiving most wastes to bring the system back into balance
- submitted to the Ministry of the Environment an action plan to remove material from the North Pad and are under a Ministry of the Environment order to follow that plan
- installed and are now operating a perimeter odour neutralizing system that mists essential oils. The odour neutralizer binds with the odour compounds and knocks them out of the air.
- are paying careful attention to wind direction and if the wind shifts to an unfavourable direction we limit operations at the site
- are doing some processing at night to reduce impacts to neighbours
- are working with local elected officials and joining their discussions on managing household grass clippings in the waste stream

We experienced complaints when we disturbed the North Pad material and as a result have revised the Action Plan to delay the work until freezing temperatures prevail. We continue to look for alternative ways of managing the North Pad Material. In the meantime, we have covered all odorous windrows on the North Pad with a biofilter of finished compost or wood chips to control odour emissions. It seems to be working.

We are still diverting wastes from the facility and will continue to do this until our North Pad becomes operational again.

We continue to receive and process Niagara's curbside organic waste but limit the volume of this material to what can be managed through our GORE facility. Excess volumes of this material are being diverted to other receivers if our GORE facility reaches its operating capacity. Over the fall season it is anticipated that the site will continue to process over 70% of the Niagara Region's source separate organic waste and 100% of it's leaf and yard waste material. With the fall weather, the amount of grass being collected by the Region has significantly dropped which will lessen the number of times these materials will need to be diverted.

Our GORE facility is working well and producing a great compost product that our customers are pleased with.



NJL Reformulating Products to Eliminate Formaldehyde

The Toxics Reduction Act is part of a strategy being implemented by Ontario's Ministry of Environment (MOE). The Act provides an additional level of regulation to Ontario industries that currently report under the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI). The Commission for Environmental Cooperation released statistics that place Ontario among the highest toxics releasing jurisdictions in North America. Further research found that Ontario industries release the second largest amount of recognized toxicants in North America, and the fourth largest amount of carcinogens in North America.

The legislation requires facilities that use or create toxic substances to:

- track and quantify the toxic substances used or created at the facility;
- prepare a toxic substance reduction plan for each toxic substance used or created at the facility and have the plan certified both by company and by an accredited toxics reduction planner;
- prepare summaries of their plans and make them available to the public
- report to the MOE on their progress in reducing toxic substances
- report to the MOE on any substances of concern used or created at the facility

The initial focus of the Toxics Reduction Act will be on reducing/eliminating 47 priority substances starting January 1, 2010.

Topping the list of priority substances included in the Toxics Reduction Act is the chemical formaldehyde, used by Norjohm Limited (NJL) in one of their products. The team at NJL has been carefully tracking formaldehyde usage since 2007 in an effort to minimize reliance on the chemical and develop more environmentally friendly substitutes. Since 2007, NJL has reduced their total formaldehyde usage by 31%. For 2010, the division has mandated zero formaldehyde be purchased. Their goal is to eliminate 100% of the chemical from all products in favour of more environmentally friendly alternatives.



SCHEDULE 1: Priority List of NPRI Toxics and Carcinogens

Substance

PRIORITY TOXICS

Aluminum and compounds
Arsenic and compounds*
Biphenyl
Cadmium and compounds*
Chlorine
Chromium and compounds including Hexavalent Chromium*
Cobalt and compounds
Copper and compounds
Cyanides
Dichloroethane-1,2
Ethylbenzene
Formaldehyde*
Hexachlorobenzene
Hydrochloric acid
Lead and compounds*
Manganese and compounds
Mercury and compounds
Methanol
Nickel and compounds*
Phenol
Selenium and compounds
Silver and compounds
Tetrachloroethylene*
Toluene
PAHs** (some PAHs*)
Triethylamine
Vanadium and compounds
Vinyl Chloride*
Xylene
Zinc and compounds

PRIORITY CARCINOGENS

Acrylamide
Asbestos
Benzene
Chlorinated toluenes***
Butadiene 1,3
Chloromethyl Oxirane (aka epichlorohydrin)
Creosote
Dioxins and Furans
Ethylene Oxide
4,4'-methylenebis (2-chloroaniline)
Styrene Oxide
Sulfuric Acid
Thorium Dioxide
Trichloroethylene

* Known and probable carcinogens from Gap Analysis Report

** PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) includes, but is not limited to, naphthalene and benzo-a-pyrene

*** Chlorinated toluenes: α-chlorinated toluenes (benzal chloride, benzyl chloride, benzotrichloride combined mixtures)



Let it Rain!

The guys over at NBLP have come up with another innovative idea. Starting in late 2008, NBLP has been using rain water to help fuel its biofilter. The biofilter needs water to be re-circulated through it on a regular basis to stay effective in filtering the plant's air exhaust. Due to evaporation and other water losses, water is trucked to the site to re-make up water lost in the system. As rain falls on the storage building's roof, a portion of the water drains into a pipe that connects to a tote that sits along the East side of the building. The tote can then be drained into a sump (by opening a valve) which then begins the re-circulation process. In 2009, the equivalent of 3 truck loads of water was captured and re-circulated through the system, further reducing NBLP's impacts.



Update - WEEE at Drop Off

The collection of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) at the Drop Off has taken off. Since June 2009, over 159 pallets of WEEE have been sent for recycling or reuse; that is over 60 tonnes! Weekly pick ups have been scheduled and approximately 8-10 pallets of WEEE are being sent off-site each time.



As of right now, only Phase 1 materials are being collected. Items such as: desktop and portable computers, computer peripherals, monitors, printers, fax machines and televisions. The Minister has approved collection of Phase 2 materials that will include items such as: phones, cell phones, cameras, audiovisual equipment and many other WEEE items. The collection of the Phase 2 materials will start in April 2010.



So if you live in Niagara bring your WEEE to the public drop-off site. If you live in other locations you can find your local drop off by visiting the WEEE "Do what you can" website at: <http://www.dowhatyoucan.ca/Electronics/>.



Top right group is Bill Bowie, Taylor Webb, Samantha Lyng, and Gord Sisley. Clockwise below them is: Ed English; Patti Rolfe; Ryan Falardeau; Nicole Barker; Lori Pottle; Lisa Immel; Greg Robles and Joe Charette.





Roll your used Tires to the IMS Drop-off Depot

The Waste Diversion Act has introduced a new program. The Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS) program was launched September 1, 2009. OTS is an industry funded organization that has been incorporated under Ontario's Waste Diversion Act. This program is designed to divert scrap tires from landfill and incineration. This program makes it easy for Ontarians to get rid of their old tires for free and also gives them a peace of mind that the tires are being recycled.

As of September, IMS has become a registered site under OTS. They accept used tires (no rims) free of charge for Niagara residents and have collected approximately 220 tires since becoming a registered site. The tires that are sent for recycling are used in products such as rubber mats or rubber products used in making playgrounds, hockey rinks and rubber automotive parts.

If you live outside Niagara you can take your used tires to an OTS depot near you.

For locations: <http://www.ontariots.ca/?q=DropLocations>

Kudos to IMS for going the extra mile in diverting valuable material from landfill.

Niagara Local Food Co-operative



The Niagara Local Food Co-operative is an innovative marketing and distribution system for local farmers, agriculture producers, and consumers.

The food co-op is a virtual farmer's market that allows you to shop online at your convenience. Every first week you will be able to pick your fresh produce from the producer product list and place your order online. Every second week you will be able to pick up the foods you selected in one convenient location. On distribution day each producer brings their orders to Trinity United Church on Pine Street in Thorold.

Delivery dates are available online.

If you would like to become a member of the Niagara Local Food Co-operative or would like more information please visit www.niagaralocalfoodcoop.ca.

Source: www.niagaralocalfoodcoop.ca



Adding Natural Light to NBLP

If you have been at head office you may have noticed the new link building at Niagara Biosolids. The building links the processing building with the storage building enclosing the transfer of product. This reduces dust and odour potential from this operation.

Not only did NBLP reduce the potential of odour impacts from their plant by erecting a link building between their processing and storage buildings, they also incorporated translucent panels to inject natural light into the link building. This great idea will reduce the electricity consumption within the plant and therefore further reduce their impacts. As seen in the adjacent picture, the panels are located on both sides of the link building allowing natural light to flood the room during daytime hours.

Corporate EARTH1st Goals for 2010

We're changing the structure of setting EARTH 1st goals for 2010. Over the past couple of years we have heard that establishing annual goals can be a challenge, that we should have some corporate goals and that the goals should extend beyond one year.

In light of that input we are proposing the following Corporate EARTH 1st goals:

1 By December 2010, review, update or develop standard operating procedures for each operation with environmental protection in mind

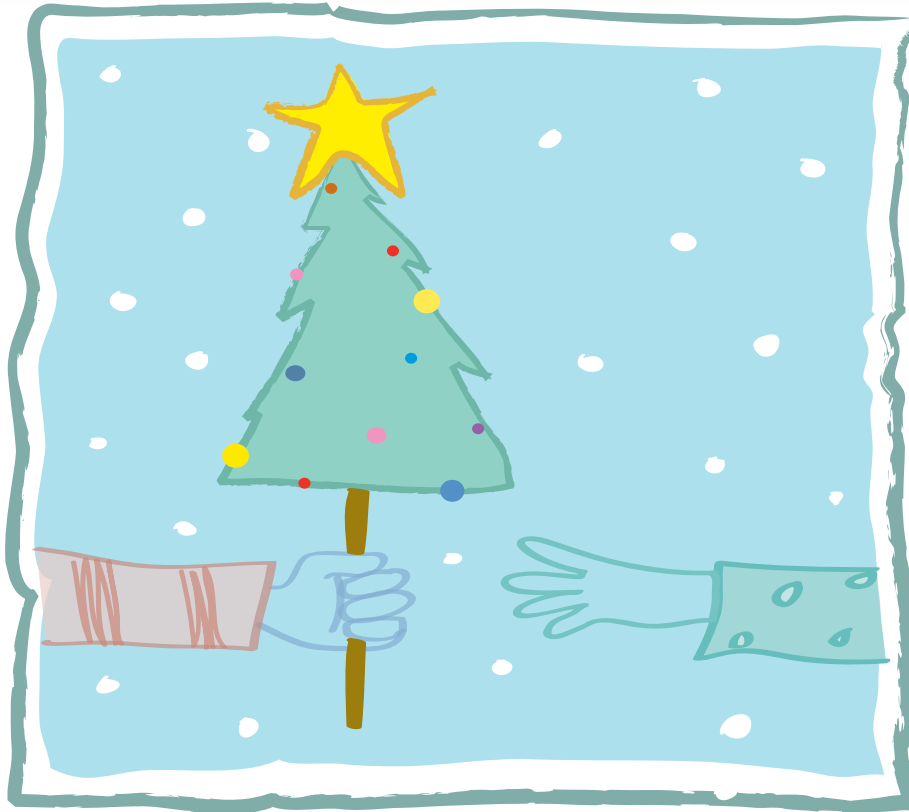
2 By December 2010, identify stationary equipment (fans, pumps, motors, air treatment and water treatment equipment) that requires preventative maintenance in order to protect the environment and develop appropriate PM programs

3 By 2012, calculate the carbon footprint of the Walker Group of Companies and set goals for reduction

4 Be responsible for EARTH 1st committee meetings

5 Develop one site specific goal for your operation.

Please contact the Environmental Performance Department if you have any questions or comments.



Friendship . . . reaching for someone's hand and touching their heart.
Extending all the joys of the season to you and your family.

Who do you know who commits, creates and participates in EARTH 1st?



Who have you spotted "Going Green"?

You can email us at: environment@walkerind.com

You can write us at: Environmental Performance Department

P.O. Box 100, Thorold, ON L2V 3Y8

You can call us at: 905-227-4142 ext. 3850

If there is something you, your company or your co-worker is doing that should be recognized please let us know. You could also write an article for the newsletter to share your steps towards Higher Environmental Performance!

www.EARTH1st.ca

Contact Jamie Mereweather, Environmental Performance Department, 905.227.4142 ext 3850 with your ideas, comments, thoughts and solutions.

