

Sustainability



Innovation in reusable containers eliminates solid waste in supply chains.



Recycled and biodegradable materials are eco-friendly for our flowerpots.



Social sustainability with community service and environmental stewardship – all are part of our values.



Sustainability is in Our Products, the Workplace & Our Communities

Sustainable practices are not just right as part of a business strategy, they are right for our customers, the environment and the communities in which our businesses operate. And they are just good business.

Learn more in the links below about how we are defining sustainability in our business strategy and designing it into our products, services and manufacturing and distribution operations. Check back for regular updates and new examples about our growing sustainability initiatives.

Sustainability in Action



Sustainable Practices

Myers has built sustainable practices into our business for many years. They are part of our growth strategy and responsibility to our stakeholders.



Environmental Programs: Reducing Energy Usage

Akro-Mils® saves energy and costs with more efficient lighting and injection molding equipment.



Recycling Programs:

Growing Green

Myers Industries recycles more than 100 million pounds of plastic annually. Learn more in this video from our Lawn & Garden business.



Community Outreach: Providing Disaster Relief

Buckhorn® supported the communities in Missouri and Alabama after devastating tornadoes.

Sustainable Practices

Myers Industries Sustainability Practices

October 2011

Sustainability Rooted in Our Business Strategy

Within our [Business Strategy](#) and its Five Strategic Principles, Myers Industries strives to create a work environment that places sustainability practices throughout our operations.

- Our **Innovation** focus for products and services helps customers conserve energy, increase efficiencies, eliminate waste and reduce the environmental impact of their businesses.
- We build sustainability into our own safety, sourcing, manufacturing and plastics recycling programs, as well as new technologies that reduce our energy footprint. Each of these works to enhance our **Customer Dedication** and sharpen our **Operations Excellence**.
- Through our **Organization Development** programs, we continue to build a strong, highly ethical workforce. Our employees reach out in volunteer participation and activities to enhance the vitality of our communities and grow our social outreach. And many of our leaders donate time and effort to local civic organizations, matching their talents to the community's needs.
- All of these efforts work to help build our **Financial Strength**, which not only increases our competitive advantage, but also enables us to reinvest to enhance our economic sustainability.

Social Sustainability

In addition to products that reduce waste for our customers and utilizing environmentally friendly manufacturing practices and work processes, Myers Industries' people care deeply about the communities in which we live and work. Our social sustainability is expressed in creating a supportive work environment and culture of care for investing our efforts to give, advocate and volunteer for programs that make a difference in the lives of others.

In 2011, Myers Industries was recognized with the United Way of Summit County's "Spirit of Caring Award." The award is presented annually to a "local company that demonstrates outstanding corporate community involvement," and Myers was also recognized as a leader in corporate donations among the Akron business community.

Economic Sustainability

We conduct our business and relationships to the highest standards of ethics to make sound financial decisions. Character, honesty, integrity and fairness will always direct our code of business conduct as we seek to generate a return on investment for our Company and our stakeholders.

Environmental Sustainability

Myers Industries has a long-standing heritage of respect for our environment. We will continue to minimize waste through recycling and reprocessing plastic and scrap, prevent pollution and conserve energy in our communities. Our facilities comply with all applicable government requirements, and we maintain appropriate environmental management procedures and risk protocols for our operations.

Recycling Programs: Growing Green



When companies do their part, it protects not only the environment, but our industry too. And the Myers Industries Lawn & Garden Group has been ahead of the curve for years, working with growers to reduce the plastics waste stream.

Since 1983, we have invested in technology to reprocess both post-consumer and post-industrial plastics into new containers. Our in-house reprocessing operations recycle more than 100 million pounds of plastic annually, a capability unlike any other manufacturer in our business!

By maintaining strict quality control, we create durable, high quality products while reducing waste and protecting the environment.

Watch our video at the right to learn how our Lawn & Garden Group is "Growing Green" for their industry.

More Recycling Facts: Plastics Production & Recycling

> Plastics production requires significant quantities of resources, primarily fossil fuels, both as a raw material and to deliver energy for the manufacturing process. Plastic production uses 8% of the world's oil production, 4% as feedstock to make plastic resins and 4% during the manufacturing process. (recyclenow.com)

A report on the production of plastic grocery carrier bags made from recycled rather than virgin polythene concluded that the use of recycled plastic resulted in the following (wastewatch.org):

- Reduction of energy consumption by 67%
- Production of only 33% of the sulfur dioxide and 50% of the nitrous oxide
- Reduction of water usage by nearly 90%
- Reduction of carbon dioxide generation by 87%

> Recycling a single plastic bottle can conserve enough energy to light a 60W bulb for up to 6 hours.

> Nearly 1.8 tons of oil are saved for every ton of recycled polyethylene produced.

> Recycling one ton of plastic saves 7.4 cubic yards of landfill space, and recycling a single pound of PET plastic bottles (used for soda and water bottles) saves about 12,000 BTU's of heat energy. (EPA)

> If every American household recycled just one out of every ten discarded HDPE bottles (used in milk jugs and most shampoo and detergent bottles), it would keep 200,000,000 pounds of plastic out of

landfills. (sks-bottle.com)

> The energy saved each year from steel recycling is equal to the electricity needs of 18,000,000 homes per year.

Environmental Programs: Reducing Energy Usage



New energy efficient lighting illuminates the packing line at Akro-Mils.



Plant Manager Gary Taylor explains the anticipated 50% savings in electricity.



New high-speed injection molding machines will draw less energy.



Brighter work areas allow for greater worker safety.

Akro-Mils® Creates “Greener” Workplace and Cost Savings at Wadsworth, Ohio Manufacturing Facility

Our Akro-Mils division announced in April 2011 that it has invested in several energy-saving initiatives for its main Wadsworth, Ohio plant. New overhead lighting fixtures and electric injection-molding machinery are helping Akro-Mils not only to promote an eco-friendly workplace, but also to lower costs and improve safety and quality. Based in Akron, Ohio, Akro-Mils is a North American leader in plastic storage bins and organization containers, shelving systems and mobile material handling products.

“This is a major undertaking for our Wadsworth plant. We’re excited knowing that the outcome will have a positive impact on the environment, as well as increasing the level of efficiency in which our products are created,” states Jeff Gervais, general manager of Akro-Mils. “Akro-Mils is known for providing state-of-the-art plastic products to our customers, so updating our facility and machinery further enhances our pledge to be the best provider of storage and organization container solutions in the industry.”

For many years, the overhead fluorescent bulbs used to light the plant were practical, but inefficient from an energy standpoint and generated a lot of heat. The new T5 and T8 fluorescent bulbs are thinner and brighter, providing a whiter light with half of the energy draw. Plus, proximity switches have been installed throughout the facility, ensuring that lights will only be on when people are working in each specific area.

From a manufacturing standpoint, Akro-Mils is also replacing two of its injection-molding machines with the latest energy-efficient, electric models. The new machinery will produce Akro-Mils’ plastic product lines with less energy draw than their predecessors. Additionally, the equipment is designed so that product molds are mounted and held in place magnetically, allowing products to be molded with even greater precision and quality.

“The positive comments from employees have been astounding,” says Gary Taylor, plant manager, in response to the new lighting. “Not only has the ability to visually inspect products improved, but also increased employee safety in production and warehouse areas – a key factor for the lighting project. Another by-product of the new lighting is how much cooler the work areas are. This should pay dividends toward employee comfort and safety when our summer heat returns.”

Overall, Akro-Mils is anticipating a 50% savings in electricity and lighting costs for the new lights that

were recently completed. Installation of the new machinery, completed in June 2011, should render a 15% to 20% savings in manufacturing efficiencies. This will result in energy savings equivalent to: 6,658,585 kilowatts, or; 1,271 acres of added forestation, or; 894 cars removed from the road.

Dovetailing on the green theme, Akro-Mils is relying on local labor for installation of both the lights and the machinery, thus contributing to the local economy. In addition, the molding equipment was developed by Milacron LLC, a Cincinnati, Ohio-based company.

Akro-Mils Contact: (800) 253-2467 • Visit www.akro-mils.com

Community Outreach: Providing Disaster Relief



Pallets and Attached Lid Containers moved non-perishable food items.

Attached Lid Containers were used to kit much needed supplies.

Buckhorn® Donates Plastic Totes and Pallets to Assist with Tornado Disaster Relief Efforts

In the wake of devastating tornados that shattered parts of the U.S. in June 2011, our Buckhorn company donated more than 1,800 plastic totes and pallets to community outreach programs in Northwest Alabama and Joplin, Missouri.

First, Buckhorn joined forces with TNT Fireworks®, based in Florence, Alabama, to donate over 500 attached lid totes to the local Salvation Army®. The totes were primarily used to help sort goods like non-perishable food items or household products. Eventually, the containers were used to make kits filled with food and hygiene supplies, which were then distributed to families in Phil Campbell and Hackleburg afflicted by an EF5 tornado.

TNT Fireworks, a Buckhorn customer and leader in wholesale distribution for 1.4G Class C Fireworks for over 50 years, is the most recognizable brand around. "Part of our culture at TNT is our dedication to community outreach," said Jim Gough, Marketing Manager.

"The Salvation Army is an outstanding organization. We have supported them for years through various projects like the red kettle campaign. Wherever they are needed, they go. We just want to do our part to pitch in, and we appreciate Buckhorn's support," commented Gough. "Buckhorn's attached lid totes are a reusable, multi-purpose solution. This is important to the Salvation Army, because of the large number of donated items that need sorted, stored, assembled and transported. The totes definitely helped make their operation more efficient."

Shortly after the tornados in Alabama, Buckhorn was called to action again, but this time the destruction hit closer to home. Buckhorn's largest plant, located in Springfield, Missouri, is just a little over 70 miles east of Joplin where another tragic tornado took the lives of more than 140 people.

Buckhorn quickly recognized the need to assist and donated approximately 100 plastic pallets to Ozarks Technical Community College to help transport goods donated by local residents. Additionally,

Buckhorn contributed more than 1,200 straight wall containers to the non-profit organization, Convoy of Hope®. Convoy of Hope, also based out of Springfield, Missouri, was founded in 1994 and has served more than 43 million people throughout the world through international children's feeding initiatives, community outreaches, disaster response and partner resourcing. No matter what they are doing, their objective is to always deliver much-needed food, supplies and hope to the impoverished and suffering.

"I am proud that we could work with our customers and other charitable organizations to make a difference in these communities, " said Rob Tieman, Director of Sales and Marketing at Buckhorn. "When tragedy strikes, particularly so close to home, it reminds us of how fortunate we are. Buckhorn is thankful to be in a position to help."

Buckhorn Contact: (800) 543-4454 • Visit www.buckhorninc.com