

Best Business Recycling Program Vermeer Corporation

The Iowa Recycling Association's Best Business Recycling Award recognizes companies who are committed to responsible, long-term resource management and serve as highly replicable role models for other businesses interested in continually improving their efficiencies through reducing, reusing, recycling and renewing. This year the distinction goes to Vermeer Corporation.

Sustainability

Part of Vermeer's Daily Grind

Environmental Sustainability for Future Generations is more than just a written vision statement for Vermeer Corporation - it is part of their daily grind. They are true environmental leaders with highly aggressive programs in place that address pollution prevention, resource conservation and environmentally sound production innovations. They go above and beyond compliance and serve as an inspiration to their employees, their community and their customers. One such inspiration was Vermeer's partnership in the National Environmental Performance Track (P-Track). This partnership encourages continuous environmental improvement through environmental management systems, measurable results and community outreach - which includes but is not limited to partnerships with Pella Corporation in sponsoring Community Clean up events and mentoring Green Team students at Pella Community Schools. During their inaugural year with the P-Track program, Vermeer was recognized by U.S. EPA for exceptional environmental performance.

Reduce – The First R

Multiple projects have been implemented to reduce the volume of resources required in Vermeer's day-to-day operations. These innovations include but are not limited to the implementation of a steel washing technology that has reduced water consumption by 50 percent - netting an impressive savings of nearly 3.5 million gallons of water annually.

In addition Vermeer has amplified an onsite technology that is synonymous with their company's name - wood grinding. Their onsite wood grinding program includes grinding waste materials produced onsite including pallets, crates and storm debris. Resulting mulch is given to employees and in their spirit of community outreach, donated to local fairs and agricultural events – this program has netted an impressive diversion of 1,000 tons of wood waste annually.

Moving Into the Millennium

Product innovation is at the core of Vermeer's environmental vision including research and development into products that sustain emerging markets such as waste to energy, bio fuels, geothermal and wind energy applications. In addition to continued product development Vermeer's future vision includes incorporating recycled materials into the manufacturing of Vermeer equipment, the establishment of campus Green Teams, a storm water reclamation program and employment of alternative energy sources throughout their facility.

“By pursuing a clear environmental vision, Vermeer Corporation stands as a shining example to other Iowa companies,” commented Erin Novak, Iowa Recycling Association President. “We are honored in presenting them with this year’s Best Business Recycling Program and hopeful that other Iowa companies are following their lead.”