

In Canada, 19 Xerox products were recognized in 1996 by the Environmental Choice Program (ECP) for meeting stringent environmental standards, including the use of reprocessed materials, reduced energy consumption, minimal ozone and noise emissions, and recyclability.

Waste-Free Program

Xerox's Waste-Free initiatives include a range of activities to reduce waste in Xerox's operations. For example, current efforts to reduce total water consumption and wastewater generation in Xerox manufacturing facilities include reusing process rinse water with counter-current flow rinse tanks. Xerox is also switching from the "once through" cooling process, which relies on a continuous supply of fresh water to cool compressors, to a closed loop cooling system.

Air Emissions Control Program

This US initiative is targeting a 90% decrease in all chemical emissions. The new "Flow Coating Process," introduced and implemented by Xerox in 1996 in US and European manufacturing facilities, minimizes waste and pollution by increasing the efficiency of an elastomer roll coating process and substantially reducing the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) needed for cleaning parts.

Xerox's other voluntary initiatives include corporate environmental reporting to the public, a range of partnership activities with various stakeholders, the development of copy and print papers containing 20 per cent post-customer waste and reusable packing for finished products. The adoption of digital technologies, although not a voluntary initiative per se, is yielding economic and environmental benefits. For example, the development of three new printing paradigms – print-on-demand, distributed printing and print-for-one – provides significant efficiencies in material, space, energy and time.

Xerox has realized significant reductions in energy usage, materials usage and emissions throughout its operations. Some examples and summary statistics are given below. In 1996, Xerox's worldwide Waste-Free activities resulted in reusing or recycling 81% of all non-hazardous waste generated, such as paper, cardboard, glass and plastic, compared to 78% in 1995. The amount of solid waste sent to landfill by worldwide manufacturing and supplies facilities has also decreased despite approximately 50% more facilities reporting and increasing production.

Throughout the US, total emissions have been lowered 94% over six years.

When benchmarked against the standard manufacturing method using an electrostatic spray, the new "Flow Coating Process" noted above was found to be 30% to 50% more efficient with overall decreases of 82% in solvents, 50% in solid wastes, 35% in manufacturing costs, and total elimination of vapor degreasing solvents. Extensive field tests project considerable cost savings with longer life expectancies conserving 100,000 kilograms of solvents and 6,000 kilograms of elastomer.