Performance Track Member Environmental Commitments

Performance Track requires applicants and members to demonstrate a commitment to continuous environmental improvement by implementing policies and systems that go beyond regulatory compliance. In meeting this criterion, applicants commit to four quantitative goals for improving their environmental performance. Small facilities are only required to commit to two goals.

Members also complete an annual Performance Report to demonstrate their progress to EPA and the public. Actual examples of Performance Track members' initial commitments are provided below:

Solid and Hazardous Waste

Approximately 87 percent of Performance Track members commit to solid and hazardous waste reduction. In Richmond, Virginia, the Spruance Plant of the E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, Inc. committed to reduce its total solid waste in 2003 to 180,000 pounds, down from 365,000 pounds in 2000. To meet this goal, the company installed and commissioned a $550 million recycling program of pre-polymer waste, which is generated during process start-ups and shutdowns.

The Hewlett Packard Carbide facility in Puerto Rico committed to a significant hazardous waste reduction of lead, solder dross, alcohol, and CFC-laden oils. In 2003, the HP facility pledged to reduce the amount of hazardous waste at the point of generation. They planned to modify the manufacturing process in memory board operations and provide training to operators and materials handlers. They also pledged to eliminate the use of all lead from solder paste in memory board production.

Air Emissions

Approximately 70 percent of all Performance Track members commit to a reduction in harmful air emissions. The Cedar Bayou Plant of the Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. set a goal to decrease emissions of sulfur dioxide. This Baytown, Texas facility committed to their emissions from the baseline level of 800 tons in 2000, down to 40 tons in 2004 by changing caustic treatment to wet-air oxidation.

Energy Use

Approximately 65 percent of all Performance Track members commit to a reduction in energy use. Norco Cleaners, Inc. of Dolton, Illinois set a goal to reduce their total energy use from 4,514 mmBtu in 1999 to 4,032 mmBtu in 2003. To meet this commitment, the facility planned to install a heat-exchange unit to reuse the steam returning to the boiler water makeup system. The return steam from the drying and pressing equipment would be diverted to preheat laundry water before it is used as water for the boiler.

The Delta Faucet Company of Jackson, Tennessee committed to a significant reduction in energy use by decreasing the temperature in water degreasing tanks from 180 degrees to room temperature. The dramatic temperature reduction would decrease the energy use (Btu) by 99.5 percent in the degreasers.

Materials Use

About half of all Performance Track members commit to a reduction in the use of materials. Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc. in Peterborough, New Hampshire made a commitment goal to reduce their total materials use of

oil consumption by 30 percent. Process improvements in primary areas as well as employee involvement were included in their performance commitment to reuse and recycle oil at their facility.

Water Use

Approximately 50 percent of all Performance Track members commit to a reduction in water use. The Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona made a commitment to reduce their water use from 100 million gallons in 2002 to 95 million gallons by 2005. Park officials planned to achieve the reduction goal by working with staff, concessioners, and the state to identify ways to conserve water as well as use reclaimed water.

Land and Habitat Preservation

About 15 percent of all Performance Track members commit to habitat preservation or restoration. USGen New England Inc., a Hydro Generation facility in Concord, New Hampshire committed to protecting and enhancing riparian buffer zones by planting trees and shrubs in areas that are sensitive to erosion and runoff impacts. They also planned to mitigate exotic invasive plant species in affected riparian areas. Their plan called for collaboration with USDA Soil Conservation Service, local community groups, and local farmers, to target priority locations for riparian improvement. These efforts were expected to increase the riparian buffer zones from 4.5 acres of company land in 2001 to 23 acres in 2003.

Discharges to Water

About 15 percent of all Performance Track members commit to reducing toxic discharge to water. International Paper's Androscoggin Mill in Jay, Maine planned to limit their discharges of toxics into the water. Through pulp mill cleaner improvements, the mill committed to reduce discharges from their 1999 baseline of roughly 415 million pounds to 22 million pounds in 2003, a reduction of 95 percent.

Product Performance

Approximately 4 percent of Performance Track members make a commitment to increased product performance. The Firestone Agricultural Tire Company in Des Moines, Iowa committed to reduce packaging materials used in their products. They wanted to decrease packaging material from over 2 million pounds in 2002, to just over 1 million pounds in 2003. To meet this commitment, their departments for purchasing, quality assurance, receiving, and environment worked with material and product suppliers to eliminate the use of wooden pallets for materials shipped to the facility. Now, nearly all products are shipped in returnable containers or on recyclable cardboard pallets. Additionally, the facility receives raw products, such as synthetic rubber, in returnable containers from intra-company providers.

Other—Noise

A small percentage of Performance Track members, roughly 4 percent, pledge their commitment to the reduction of noise levels. CYRO Industries in Osceola, Arkansas committed to reduce noise levels at their facility from a baseline of 90 decibels in 2002 to 85 decibels in 2005. To meet this commitment, the facility planned to install sound-absorbing panels and insulate some pellet conveying piping to reduce levels in high-noise areas.

For examples of other member commitments, please visit
www.epa.gov/performancetrack/tools/envimp.htm
or call **1-888-339-PTRK (7875)**.

Updated February 2006