

April 1997

1997 Evergreen Award For Pollution Prevention

United Paint and Coatings

Spokane, Washington

The Environmental Protection Agency's 1997 Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention honors the environmental efforts of the United Paint and Coatings of Spokane, Washington. United Paint and Coatings' commitment to safeguarding the land, water and air resources of the Spokane area makes the company a deserving recipient of this recognition. The company manufactures paints and coatings for roofing, industrial and architectural uses.

Pollution Prevention Success

Since 1993, United Paint and Coatings' efforts to reduce solid and hazardous waste, air emissions, and water discharges have resulted in the following pollution reductions:

- o The company completely eliminated the use of hazardous products containing 1,1,1-trichloroethane, lead and asbestos.
- o Solvent-based products were replaced with water-based products wherever possible.
- o Washwater for tank cleaning is reused for future batches of paint.
- o By installing a still to recycle all wash solvents, hazardous wastes are significantly reduced.
- o All paint and coating labels are printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks.
- o Dedicated recycling programs have been instituted for mixed office paper, green-bar paper and cardboard; whenever possible, shipping pallets, storage drums, and five-gallon buckets are reused rather than sent to the landfill.
- o By working with suppliers, United uses reusable "supersacks" for chemical supplies to replace standard single-use paper sacks.
- o Employees conduct weekly inspections of hazardous wastes, and daily inspections for leaks in underground storage tanks.
- o Electricity consumption dropped dramatically as a result of a company-wide energy audit; utility usage is posted for all employees as a reminder to turn off lights/other appliances when not in use.
- o *Through such a wide variety of efforts, United Paint and Coatings has reduced its use of hazardous raw material by 40,000 pounds, and saves approximately \$45,000 per year in disposal costs!*

Commitment to Environmental Quality

United Paint and Coating encourages pollution prevention among its employees through its *Green Star Policy*, a corporate statement advocating recycling, energy and resource conservation, and compliance with environmental laws. A company team oversees both pollution prevention efforts and the Green Star program, performing an annual waste reduction audit using cost accounting to underscore the Company's pollution prevention plans.

Environmental Leadership

United Paints and Coatings openly demonstrates its commitment to pollution prevention, and encourages other businesses to follow suit. United's Environmental Policy is posted in each retail store, and the company offers waste reduction training to retail employees. Copies of United's environmental plans are shared directly with their customers to underscore the company's commitment to environmental quality and the Spokane community. United also promotes pollution prevention among other partner companies by encouraging them to join the Green Star Program.

United Paint and Coatings has received the following honors and recognition:

- 1990:** Make a World of Difference Award, City of Spokane
- 1994:** Agora Award, Spokane Chamber of Commerce
- 1996:** Green Star Program Participant, Associated Industries

The Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention

EPA's Evergreen Award recognizes outstanding pollution prevention efforts within all sectors of the greater Pacific Northwest business community. For more information about the Region 10's Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention, contact:

Carolyn Gangmark
U.S. EPA Region 10
(206) 553-4072 or
(800) 424-4372, extension 4072
Email: gangmark.carolyn@epamail.epa.gov

For more information about United Paint and Coatings' environmental achievements, contact Jim Tyler, United Paint and Coatings' Environmental Health and Safety Manager, at (509) 926-7143.