



Zero Waste  
Alliance

## *Companies on the Path to Zero Waste:*



Epson  
Portland, OR

As of March 2000, Epson Portland Inc. (EPI), a manufacturing plant in Hillsboro, Oregon, achieved the impressive goal of sending zero waste to landfill. Through reuse and recycling, EPI diverts 90% of its waste stream; the remaining 10% is sent to a waste-to-energy facility called Ogden Martin Systems in Brooks, Oregon. At this facility, waste is incinerated on rotating grates; the steam generated from the incineration process turns giant turbines, which then produce energy.

EPI has an extensive reuse and recycling program that diverted over 4.5 million pounds of materials from the landfill in 2000. Cardboard boxes and packaging foam are two obvious examples of materials that are reused; one that's not so obvious is liquid ink waste—this can be reused as pigment for paint! Materials that are recycled include: ABS plastic; batteries; cardboard; CDs; circuit board scrap; paper; magazines; metals; packing material polycarbonate trays and carts, polypropylene ink cartridges and trays; polystyrene foam and trays; printer cords and cables; PVC; solder dross and scrap; used industrial oil from compressors and mold machines; used cooking oil from kitchen facilities; wood pallets and yard debris, and many other materials.

In addition to recycling, EPI has reduced its total waste by 37%, its VOC emissions by 96%, and its hazardous waste by 24% since its baseline year of 1997. Factoring in both the cost savings of not having disposal fees and the money paid by recyclers for materials, the company saved over \$308,000 in 2000 by sending zero waste to the landfill.

For its waste elimination efforts, Epson Portland Inc. has received several awards including a BEST (Businesses for an Environmentally Sustainable Tomorrow) award for Innovation in Waste Reduction/Recycling. EPI is also a Distinguished Member of the Business Recycling Awards Group (BRAG).

Last fall, EPI was named the First Charter Member in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) National Environmental Performance Track Program, and it is currently in the final stages of approval for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Green Permit.

For more information contact: George Lundberg, Environmental & Safety Engineer,  
503-617-5607, or [george.lundberg@epi.epson.com](mailto:george.lundberg@epi.epson.com)

<http://www.epi.epson.com/>