



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Hub Labels Inc.



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Label Converter/Printer
Member since April 2014

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

*Hub Labels Environmental Management Program Policy:
Environmental Management Policy or EMP # 1 and # 2:*

It is the policy of Hub Labels to conduct its operations in a manner that is environmentally responsible and befitting of a good corporate neighbor and citizen. In accordance with this policy, Hub Labels complies with all environmental laws and manages all phases of its business in a manner that minimizes the impact of its operations on the environment.

Hub Labels shall:

- 1. Comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations and voluntary commitments to which the facility subscribes.*
- 2. Eliminate, or reduce the release of contaminants into the environment, through pollution prevention, recycling, and through treatment control technologies.*
- 3. Effectively communicate with facility employees, suppliers, regulators, and customers, as well as the surrounding community regarding Environmental Management System performance.*
- 4. Periodically review and demonstrate continuous improvement in the facility's environmental performance, including areas not subject to regulations.*

Environmental Team

Hub Labels created a SGP (Sustainable Green Partnership) team that is

charged with managing as well as implementing environmental projects and efforts. The SGP team consists of 7 employees from the various departments in the plant, including a SGP Coordinator, who are trained on the environmental programs. They are also involved with helping to identify areas of improvement. The team meets quarterly to review and discuss programs, goals, and new initiatives as well as to track performance. The information collected is then presented to all employees during monthly Hub Huddle general staff meetings.

Annual Environmental Goals

- *Continue being a 100% landfill free company*
- *Develop an Environmental Outreach Program for our customers*

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Hub Labels promotes its Linerless product, which is better for the environment because there is no liner. These innovative labels do not incorporate a separate release liner (backing material) and are designed for high-volume manufacturing and processing line applications such as meat, poultry and seafood packs and trays, bottle wraps, cases and other retail packaging. Without a liner, the Linerless Labels are able to create a more cost effective solution that eliminates the environmental waste that thousands of tons of throwaway liner paper create when they are disposed of in landfills. Sleaving or full-wrap applications are effective at reducing the typical material weight of traditional sleeves while speeding up efficiencies.

It is our goal to continue to offer or suggest environmentally preferable liner material. Specifically, we'd like to continue to grow Linerless, which has already grown more than 100% from 2012. With the growth in the linerless segment Hub Labels has saved 141.8 tons of liner from going to the landfill just in 2017!

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

Hub Labels has participated in Adopt-A-Highway since 2009. We are responsible for MD Leitersburg Pike.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

Land Fill Free Benefits

At Hub Labels, we found two main benefits from our land fill free initiative. One is a new home for the thick corrugated cores that labels come on.

Traditionally, the company's customers had to figure out how to deal with these hard-to-grind, bulky materials, but now they go into the mix to make a clean fuel to replace coal. The second solution is a streamlined disposal process. Before, Hub had three dumpsters for multiple streams; now it has one dumpster that its longtime hauler, Republic Services, picks up and ships to Entsorga. Each haul is 8.5 to 10 tons of waste. Since partnering with Enstorga, we successfully eliminated our waste from going to the landfill. Our measurement to show success was the physical amount of waste going to the landfill. In 2018, Hub sent 769,430lbs of waste to local landfills. We are proud to say since October of 2019, all our waste is being used to produce a safe alternative fuel source and we are 100% landfill free.

Recycling

We have eliminated over 750,000 pounds of waste from going to the landfill annually. After reviewing all tipping fees, and other associated fees of waste hauling and disposal, the cost benefit was neutral however we were able to begin utilizing the local fuel resource company which provides them with local business.

Alternative Solution to Bubble Wrap

Everyone knows about the environmental impact of plastic, such as water bottles and plastic peanuts, on our planet. Hub Labels decided to combat the negative impact of plastics by examining many of our standard business practices. Traditionally, bubble wrap is used when shipping packaging containers. At Hub, we started to look for alternative solution to minimize the bubble wrap used. During a visit to a trade show, Hub employees saw a machine that would allow us to reduce the use of bubble wrap and at the same time, allow us to reuse and recycle our corrugated boxes. The HSM Profipack takes corrugated boxes and "punctures" the cardboard in several locations to create a recycled wrapping material. Now instead of purchasing more plastic, the Hub team reuses the corrugated cardboard received from shipments and repurpose it to provide protection for the labels being shipping out. With a small investment of around \$6,000 we were able to eliminate over 60% of bubble wrap used in our facility

Energy

Energy Efficiency

- *Team members shall turn off their computers/monitors at the end of each work day.*
- *All lights shall be turned off when not in use.*

- *Motion sensors for lighting shall be installed.*
- *All thermostats in the plant shall be on programs.*
- *Air Champions will monitor air leaks at start-up/shut-down every week.*
- *Aquaflex presses shall be shut down and cleaned at end of day/shift or when not in use.*
- *Installed T5 and T8 lighting in shop and front office areas*
- *Jobs scheduled based on size/color to maximize press set up*
- *Equipment PM (preventative maintenance) regularly*
- *Lights in front conference rooms switched to LED in 2014*

In 2020, Hub Labels

- *Reduced energy usage by 2,379,279 kWh*
- *Reduced the average number of linear feet of material per kilowatt hour from 83.26 ft/kWh to 67.21 ft/kWh (2016 →2020)*

Transportation

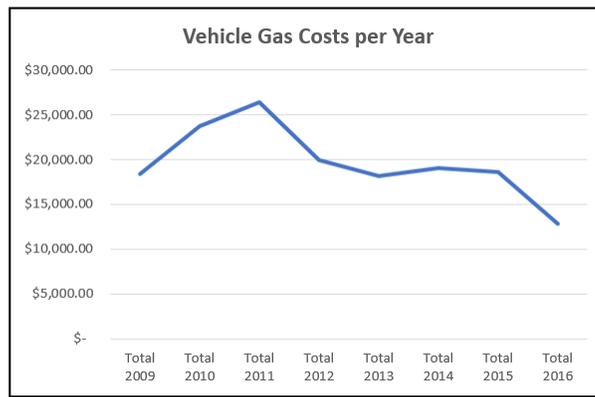


Fleet Vehicles

Hub Labels has achieved a 35.99% reduction in vehicle gas costs between 2012 – 2016.

In 2015, Hub Labels purchased a brand-new Chevrolet Volt to use as a company vehicle. The Volt is unlike traditional hybrid cars because it can be driven purely on electricity for the everyday commute and seamlessly switch to gasoline for longer trips. For less than the cost of a latte, it can be fully charged and get an EPA-estimated 38 miles gas-free and it averages 900 miles between fill-ups. With the standard 120V charging unit, we can fully charge the battery in about 10 to 16 hours. Prior to purchasing the Chevrolet Volt, the sales team used their own personal vehicles to visit customers, and attend marketing events. As is shown in the figure above, the purchase of the Volt significantly contributed to the amount of money spent on gas from 2015 to 2016.

The Volt is a perfect example of how Hub Labels is implementing new “clean” technology to recover wasted energy. “The Volt helps to recharge its own battery through regenerative braking, which captures otherwise lost kinetic energy and transfers it back to the battery.”



Water

Water Conservation

- *Hub Labels uses an After Rinse Water Recirculation system, which was installed in 2012, and an anilox roll cleaner, which collects waste water and filters it to be reused in wash machine instead of being released into the system (drain).*
- *A 250 gallon holding tank feeds the anilox cleaning tank. As each anilox is washed the water is filtered and returned to the 250 gal. Tank and a filter catches the waste that gets washed away. Water is changed once a month by the operator.*

These changes, have resulted in a

- *29.72% reduction in water usage (2012 – 2016)*
- *50.65% reduction in Crystal Clean usage (2012 – 2016)*

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

Certifications:

Sustainable Green Printing Partnership (SGP) Certified: Hub Labels was certified in April 2020. The SGP program was developed to create a true circular economy within the print supply chain through promotion of best practices, innovation, information sharing and validation. It encompasses the three pillars of sustainability – people, planet and profit – to ensure health and safety, a clean environment, and financial success. The process of certification involves Scorecards in which in independent auditor scores a facility on various criteria on Clean Production, Energy and Greenhouse Gasses, Product Design and Management. See www.sqppartnership.org

Landfill Free: In September 2019, Hub Labels announced that all of the facility waste would be diverted from landfills, making it a 100% landfill free facility.

Through a partnership with Entsorga in Martinsburg, WV, all the facility waste is converted to a clean burning alternative fuel called solid recovered fuel or SRF.

Awards: Hub Labels has received the following environmental awards:

- Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce Going Green Award in 2010 and 2014.
- Maryland Green Registry Leadership Award in 2014
- The TLMI (Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute) Environmental Leadership Award in 2017
- The TLMI (Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute) Calvin S Frost Elevation Award in 2020 (Industry Environmental Award)
- The FTA (Flexographic Technical Association) Sustainability Excellence Award in 2020 (Industry Environmental Award)



View our video

Profile Updated April 2021



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

