

ABS Graphics — A Belief in Sustainability

ABS Graphics delivers print communication. As an organization, environmental sustainability has been an integral part of the business and an important part of the success of ABS Graphics.

With the strong, committed leadership of management, ABS Graphics has been able to effectively create, manage, and sustain many of its environmental initiatives and principles to minimize or eliminate pollution in many areas:

1. Make-ready paper reduction initiative: Even more than recycling programs, we have aggressively worked to not create waste paper. Pressroom production has been able to save 1.5 million sheets of paper by running used or old stock during the set up process. Additionally, pressmen are given less paper, which dictates more efficiency. This has curtailed the amount of spoilage that has been created. Year-to-date this has produced 12.5% less in usage of paper from the previous year.
2. Ink reduction initiatives:
 - ABS Graphics is electronically tracking how much ink is actually being used, which assists in efficiently calculating how much is needed for future jobs. Less ink is prepared and less ink wasted. ABS Graphics, Inc. has seen a 5% reduction of ink usage.
 - ABS Graphics utilizes the Bladesetter work flow application which allows for the calculation of reading pixels on a customer file and determines the exact settings of ink for a faster make-ready at press.
 - Alwan Press Optimizer is a software with the GCR (Gray Component Removal) application, which enables us to convert cyan, magenta, and yellow grays or neutrals into black. This ultimately reduces the amount of ink used.
3. Computer donation as goodwill initiative – used computer equipment is donated to Computers for Schools, Inc. where they will refurbish and create new product. 50 monitors, 30 computers, 15 printers have been donated to date.
4. Paper recycling program – waste paper generated by the presses is recycled with Combined Resources, Inc. Annually, ABS Graphics recycles 510 tons of production paper a year, which in turn has saved 8,670 trees, 193,800 gallons of oil, 2.0 million kilowatts of energy, 3.5 million gallons of water, 30,600 lbs less of air pollution.

5. FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified-ABS Graphics meets the ten principles and criteria for forest management.
6. Ink, oil, and solvent recycling program – waste generated is recycled and used for fuel blending purposes, which eliminates contaminants to air and land. 275 gallons/year of waste solvent is diverted from the landfills.
7. Aluminum plates recycling program – 18,000 lbs/year of aluminum is diverted and not added to the landfills.
8. Light bulbs and ballasts recycling and conversion program – 500 light bulbs are sent to recyclers, but more importantly, ABS Graphics has eliminated the T12 light bulb and ballasts and converted to the T5, a more energy efficient and higher producing light fixture. This conversion will also reduce the number of fixtures required to illuminate the building. This is a 50% savings in electricity cost.
9. New technology – Digital presses purchased
 - Elimination of VOC emissions
 - Nominal paper waste -0.5% paper waste at press
 - No solvent usage
10. Flo-Clear fountain solution filtration system – filters and removes all of the contaminants out of the fountain solution, which enables ABS Graphics to reuse the existing fountain solution. This has reduced waste fountain solution.
11. Internal employee recycling program – employees are required to separate out plastic, paper, and aluminum at recycling stations throughout the plant.
12. Water-based coating reformulation initiative – ABS Graphics has worked with Nicoat, Inc. to reduce the VOC emissions from 4% to 1% in most of the coating product. Besides the reformulation all coating products consumed they are all biodegradable.
13. Kodak Insite – Job submission and remote proofing software that reduces transportation costs by submitting files and receiving customer approval via the web.

Due to the aggressive pollution prevention initiative at ABS Graphics, only 11.8% of our total waste is un-recyclable.