

Innovation Line – Sustainability Initiatives

Innovation Line and our team of professionals are deeply committed to sustainability initiatives and in doing business in ways that protect the environment wherever feasible. We manifest our concern through systems we've installed in our facilities, our business practices and policies, our product line, production strategies and our supply chain practices.

As it is for many companies, sustainability is a journey for Innovation Line and ours began in earnest six years ago. While planning to reconstruct our production facility, after a devastating fire in 2015, we committed to investing in as many energy efficient building systems as possible to reduce our carbon footprint while still providing an equal or better working environment for our employees.

Building upgrades included all of the following new systems and infrastructure improvements: 1) state-of-the-art LED lighting, 2) high efficiency HVAC equipment, 3) energy efficient double pane windows and upgraded insulation, 4) a new elevator system which runs on reduced energy consumption, 5) building materials and systems that are high performance, friendly to the environment and low in energy consumption, and 6) enlarging all building windows and adding skylights to bring more natural light into the building in lieu of using as much LED indoor lighting.

Other upgrades are: 1) installation of motion detectors and other sensors to automatically reduce lighting and temperature in unoccupied areas, 2) installation of electric hand dryers to eliminate paper towel usage, 3) installation of automatic shut-off water faucets in all bathrooms to reduce water consumption, 4) a master trash bin system to recycle as much trash as feasible, and 5) to minimize paper consumption, we converted to a mostly paperless system in every area where it was feasible.

In our IT department we have made the following upgrades: 1) installation of energy efficient servers and energy efficient UPS back-up systems, 3) server virtualizations, 4) consolidation of data storage, 5) properly deployed airflow management devices, 6) variable speed fan drives, 7) tighter temperature control which require less electricity, and 8) usage of a hot aisle and cold aisle in the server room layout.

In our production departments, we have undertaken the following actions to reduce waste and reduce our carbon footprint: 1) converted to eco-solvent inks wherever possible, 2) all ink and other solid waste is collected, secured and disposed of by Crystal Clean, an environmentally friendly and responsible waste handling company, 3) all screen cleaning and reclaiming is done in a closed loop automated multi-staged system with no harsh chemicals used in the process, the last stage of which uses drain safe chemicals, and we continue to research improved production methods that eliminate the use of chemicals harmful to health or the environment, 4) we contract with Cintas, a company which reclaims our shop rags and re-delivers for our use in lieu of using one-time disposable rags, 5) all transportation of goods among our buildings is done during low traffic times to avoid excess vehicle pollution generated by sitting in LA traffic, 6) the older fluorescent lighting bays in our warehouses and large production areas have been replaced with lower consumption LED style lighting which has drastically reduced our lighting

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energy usage and 7) in the Summer months our larger bay doors and windows are opened to allow for more air flow thus reducing the use of fans and A/C units saving electricity – and in the Winter months, they are all closed to reduce the need for heating which saves gas and electricity.

In our packaging and shipping departments, we have reduced waste in the following manners: 1) all void fill materials like air pillows which are used for packing are made of biodegradable materials, 2) instead of disposing of inbound shipping cartons and packaging materials, necessitating the need for new cartons for outbound shipments, we now reuse the inbound corrugated cartons and packing materials to the greatest extent possible and re-ship products in those containers, and 3) when we are required to use new cartons for outbound shipments, we trim the cartons down to the smallest size possible to limit the amount of dead space, or need for void fill materials, which reduces fuel transportation costs. We also recycle all of our acrylic and plastic post-industrial scrap which is created in our manufacturing processes.

The Impacts on the environment were key considerations in each of these decisions.

Our environmental objectives do not end with having energy efficient facilities and production systems. We are working towards melding sustainability into our culture, so it is a consideration in all of our policies and activities. Department by department, we have made strides to improving our footprint. Where it is feasible, we began allowing employees to work from home long before Covid made it a necessity. During this Covid period, all office employees are working from home and we anticipate a hybrid approach after the Covid emergency has passed. For employees who must come in to work, we help arrange carpools. Collectively, these policies reduce fuel, minimize exhaust fumes and cut the energy load on our building.

And finally, for the products we sell, we evaluate and consider environmentally sustainable materials wherever it is economically feasible, and where the materials meet our quality and performance standards (many recycled materials do not). We already have some recycled products in our line, and look forward to introducing more in the future. Whether through recycled materials, organic fabrics or other eco-friendly materials, we believe in a circular economy where products at the end of their lifecycle can either be recycled into a new products or disposed of in a way that is not detrimental to the planet. We seek to work with supply chain partners who share our values and demonstrate that commitment through their own environment initiatives.

For Innovation Line, our sustainability journey is still evolving, and we look forward to demonstrating meaningful improvements year after year.