

CASE STUDY

Green Business is Good Business

GREENERFUTURES

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Canadian Maritime

Case Summary

Canadian Maritime Engineering operates out of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The company employs approximately 60 people and is recognized as an industry leader in the inspection, refurbishment and repair of natural gas and diesel engines.

The company realized there was a need for machine flanges ranging in size from four to twelve feet. This could not be done east of Montreal, so the company considered buying the machinery to do the job. Priced at over \$200,000, the flange roller would have been a large investment. Instead, with some creativity and a lot of used parts, CME built their own for \$35,000, including labor. Earlier the company had built their own plate roller entirely out of used parts. Built for approximately \$8,000, it now generates additional revenue in the range of \$26,000 annually.

Next the company undertook the development of a permanent facility for testing cylinder heads. Significant energy losses were occurring due to the use of an annulated temporary tank. Again, the construction took place in house reusing old equipment. The new tank maintains water temperature much longer and reduces the energy costs associated with heating water.

These examples demonstrate a workplace culture committed to solving problems by integrating good environmental practices with creativity and good business sense. Revenue generated from recycling cardboard, paper, packaging materials and beverage containers go to a staff controlled social fund.

Benefits

Business -- Lowered cost, higher employee skill and morale level, less waste, greater benefit from resources, increased income,

Environment -- Less waste is produced; less energy is used, less contamination of area

Customer -- Increased variety of products, faster repair times

Community -- Less waste, greater opportunity for employment, less pollution, lower energy and water demand

Source -- Eco-Efficiency Centre, Dalhousie University <www.dal.ca/eco-burnside>