



Environmental Stewardship Program

Covanta Indianapolis, Inc.

Pollution Prevention Success Story

Hazardous Material Use Reduction

Background

Covanta Indianapolis, Inc. opened in December 1988, serving the residents of the City of Indianapolis and Marion County. Covanta can process up to 2,175 tons of solid waste per day, producing at least 4,500 pounds of steam sold per ton. The steam produced during this waste-to-energy process is sold to power the downtown Indianapolis heating loop. Manufacturing operations include a tipping floor, refuse holding pit, combustion chamber, economizer, and a dry gas scrubber. Covanta Indianapolis, Inc. employs 67 employees.

Covanta Indianapolis, Inc. implemented an environmental management system in August 2007 and has been a member of the Indiana Environmental Stewardship Program since February 4, 2008.

Project Implementation

Covanta Indianapolis, Inc. installed a reverse osmosis system in 2007 to reduce the amount of sodium hydroxide used and eliminate the use of the hazardous chemical sulfuric acid as a water treatment chemical. The reverse osmosis system is one of the nation's largest non-municipality "dual pass" reverse osmosis systems east of the Mississippi River.

Results

In 2006, Covanta Indianapolis, Inc. used 1,220 tons of sodium hydroxide. Covanta originally projected that the project could reduce the amount of sodium hydroxide used to only 305 tons by 2010, which is a reduction of 915 tons. Covanta reduced the amount of sodium hydroxide used by 1,189 tons during 2008, which exceeded their goal for 2010 two years early, as well as eliminated the use of sulfuric acid. This project also minimized thermal wastewater discharges and reduced the amount of caustic usage onsite by 75 percent.

Cost Savings

Covanta Indianapolis, Inc. saved \$186,875 as a result of implementing this project.

Facility Contact

Thomas A. Wehrenberg, CHMM
Environmental Compliance Specialist
(317) 532-6712
twehrenberg@covantaenergy.com