

at the source

Fall Edition

The 2009 Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
Pollution Prevention Award Winners



The winners of the 2009 CCME Pollution Prevention Awards with Minister John Gerretsen, CCME President and Minister of the Environment for Ontario, and Minister Richard E. Brown, Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry for Prince Edward Island.

Focus of this Issue

This issue of At The Source focuses on the winners of the 2009 Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Pollution Prevention (CCME P2) Awards: who they are and what they did to receive an award. The awards were announced at the 13th annual Canadian Pollution Prevention Roundtable held in Charlottetown, PEI, in June 2009. Minister John Gerretsen, CCME President and Minister of the Environment for Ontario, and Minister Richard E. Brown, Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry for Prince Edward Island presented the winners with their awards. These awards recognized seven businesses and organizations showing leadership and innovation in pollution prevention in five categories.

- Small Business - 10 to 49 employees
- Medium Business - 50 to 500 employees
- Large Business - more than 500 employees
- Organization, Institution or Group
- Greenhouse Gases Reduction

The CCME P2 awards reflect the widespread, and growing, emphasis on pollution prevention, and our knowledge that it is more effective to minimize or avoid creating pollutants and waste at the source, than to clean them up after they have been produced. Launched by CCME in 1997, the Pollution Prevention Awards Program gives national recognition to companies and organizations from across Canada for cutting-edge accomplishments and leadership in pollution prevention. Award winners are selected by a panel of representatives from government, industry and environmental non-government organizations.

Let's look in more detail at each category and winner.

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Calstone Inc.

Winner in the Small Business Category

Calstone Inc. is a Canadian, family-owned and operated business that designs and manufactures high quality metal furniture products in Scarborough, Ontario. The facility currently employs 28 people.

Description of Project

Calstone has committed itself to being green in both its manufacturing and its dealings with suppliers and customers. It buys green, renewable-source electricity for its office and showroom from Bullfrog Power. Degreasing of metal components is done with a modern vapour spray degreaser which purifies and reuses the degreasing chemicals. Cooling water for spot welding equipment is stored and reused in a 9,092 L stainless steel tank. Rainwater is collected and used for toilets. A heat exchanger made with an old car radiator provides heat to the plant from the water circulated through the welding equipment.

All of Calstone's furniture has been tested for volatile organic compounds and aldehyde emissions in accordance with ASTM D5116.

Calstone's air emissions are 56% below the permissible levels set by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for companies of Calstone's size and category. It has been used by the City of Toronto as an example of a manufacturing facility that fully discloses the chemicals it uses.

The highlight of Calstone's green commitment is its Re-manufacturing Program, which is intended to keep Calstone products out of landfill sites. Calstone will take back its furniture from customers, and recycle or re-manufacture the pieces. Reusable items are cleaned in preparation for re-manufacturing. Non-reusable parts are sorted and returned to suppliers for reuse or recycle. PVC edging is removed from laminate items, returned to the supplier, melted and reused.

Laminate items which cannot be reused are ground up and sold for farm animal bedding. Victor Innovatex supplies the fabric for Calstone tack boards and privacy screens. Its Eco-Intelligent Polyester textiles, made with a GreenSpec-listed fibre, are suitable for perpetual recycling.

Jim Ecclestone, Calstone's Owner and President, has met with suppliers and outlined Calstone's green initiatives. Calstone's example has inspired many of its suppliers to initiate their own recycling and re-manufacturing programs. Suppliers realize that to continue business with Calstone, they need to re-evaluate their practices, and Calstone has letters from them outlining their planned actions. Calstone's initiatives are changing manufacturing practices for the better. As its suppliers become greener and more environmentally aware, they spread the word to their own suppliers and the effect continues to spread.

Through its Re-manufacturing Program, Calstone has a positive influence on its customers by asking them to make a green commitment. With each purchase, customers receive an environmentally friendly cleaning kit containing Eco Max multi-purpose cleaner (a non toxic, biodegradable solution), and a recycled and reusable, cleaning cloth. They also receive a brochure titled "It's Easy Being Green" which gives eco tips for living greener.

To improve air quality and make the work place more pleasant for Calstone employees, Golden Pothos plants have been hung in the

production areas. Also, Calstone has encouraged greater environmental responsibility among its employees by providing them with a guide to make their lives and homes greener.

Working with Calstone is a way for other suppliers, employees, and customers to reduce their environmental footprint.

Benefits

Environmental

- Water use has been reduced by 65% compared to 2004 levels through the introduction of the 9092L stainless steel cooling tank.
- By collecting rainwater for toilet flushing, water consumption has been reduced by an additional 15% compared to 2004 levels.
- Calstone's air emissions have been measured at 56% below the acceptable standard for its business-size and category as set by the Ontario Ministry of Environment.
- All Calstone furniture is in accordance with ASTM D5116, an international standard for small-scale environmental chamber determinations of organic emissions from indoor products.
- Since 2007, 10MWh per month of power have come from an eco-logo certified generation facility.
- Chemical use has been reduced by 60% compared to 2005 levels through the use of use of a soap-based solvent used in our vapour spray degreaser.
- 5% of steel going into Calstone's furniture comes from the Re-Manufacturing Program. The rest of the steel is composed of 45% recycled content. This is purchased from distributors which source the steel from Dofasco in Hamilton.



Economic

- Calstone estimates that through their pollution prevention measures they have reduced costs by \$20,000 annually.

Social

- The introduction of green plants around the facility has made a more pleasant and healthier work environment for employees.
- By engaging with suppliers about Calstone's environmental initiatives, the company is raising awareness and contributing to the greening of their supply chain.
- Providing customers and employees with informative green-living brochures and supplies has the potential to improve the impact of their personal actions and decisions.

Recognition

- 2008 Scarborough Business Award of Excellence, Green Category
- 2008 Nominated for Green Toronto Award, Market Transformation Category

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