



THE FUTURE BELONGS TO US – TOGETHER

Demand for environmentally friendly print materials has drastically increased in recent years. Hemlock Printers has gained expertise with a wide variety of inks and papers, and with the technologies necessary to achieve printing excellence using such materials. Our sales and production staff stay up-to-date on the latest developments in the field, and are pledged to help you make environmentally informed choices for your printing requirements.

Despite significant advances in the industry, much work remains to be done. Achieving our long-term environmental goals requires a team commitment and ongoing cooperation with employees, suppliers, clients and our industry peers. Hemlock Printers continues to foster such relationships, and to promote environmental awareness within the industry and the community at large.

HEMLOCK MILESTONES

HEMLOCK FIRST CANADIAN PRINTER TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY



Working closely with Offsetters, Canada's first carbon offset provider, Hemlock was able to assess its existing carbon footprint, create strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and source high quality offsets for those emissions that could not be reduced. Hemlock is committed to a 33% reduction in absolute GHG emissions by the year 2020.

HEIDELBERG ECO PRINTING AWARD FOR MOST SUSTAINABLE PRINTING COMPANY



This is the first environmental award in the world recognizing print leaders in the sheetfed offset sector and focuses on sustainable use of resources and energy, climate protection, and environmentally aware business practices. This inaugural international award further entrenches Hemlock's position as a leader in sustainability within the printing industry.

MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY PROGRESSIVE PRINTER IN CANADA (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)



Hemlock was once again honored for its commitment to the environment at the fourth annual Environmental Printing Awards in 2009. This marks the fourth consecutive year that Hemlock has been named the Most Environmentally Progressive Printer in Canada for its efforts in promoting environmentally progressive practices to its clients and industry colleagues. Submissions this year were heavily scrutinized under a new scoring system, making this year's accomplishment even more impressive.

HEMLOCK PRINTERS LTD.

WWW.HEMLOCK.COM

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WE'RE TRUE TO OUR ROOTS

The stately hemlock tree is an expression of Hemlock Printers' profound respect for our natural heritage. In taking the name for our own, we celebrate the important relationship between industry and the environment – a relationship to be cherished and preserved. We hope to provide a sense of our company-wide commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable business practices, outline some specific steps we've taken toward that goal and answer some frequently-asked questions about our environmental efforts.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development composed a definition of sustainability:

“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

At Hemlock, we are dedicated to the promotion of innovative business practices that minimize our impact on the environment. We are working to provide an inspiring and equitable workplace for all stakeholders while becoming a resource and advocate for a better world. We are committed to sustainability.

EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT

In 2004, Hemlock formed a Sustainability Committee to focus on improving the company's environmental performance and contributing to the introduction of sustainable business practices in a resource-dependent industry. The Sustainability Committee consists of 14 dedicated staff members, including President & CEO Dick Kouwenhoven. Richard Kouwenhoven, Vice President of Hemlock's digital division, chairs the committee.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

CONSUMABLES

Plate Technology: As a pioneer in Computer-To-Plate technology, we installed our first CTP device in 1996. Less than two years later, we removed all of our film imaging devices, eliminating our film and chemical processing requirements. Outdated film is disassembled, the mylar is incorporated in the plastic recycling program, and film is processed for silver recovery. Today, over 99% of our projects utilize the industries most advanced, filmless workflow. In addition, Hemlock has taken steps to not only meet but to exceed the Greater Vancouver Regional District stringent environmental standards.

Fountain Solution: In 1988 Hemlock Printers began to investigate ways to eliminate harmful isopropyl alcohol, a chemical in common use throughout the industry, from our press dampening systems. After two years of research and testing we became the first major printer in our market to be completely “alcohol-free” with the installation of our in-house reverse osmosis water treatment system.

Inks: Hemlock inventories inks that contain limited ozone-damaging petroleum distillates and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). In fact, the majority of our inks are vegetable-based. The suitability of such inks for a particular print project, however, is affected by the technical requirements of the job and the client’s objectives. By communicating expectations and objectives, concerned customers can be assisted in making the best choice. At the same time, Hemlock continues to work with suppliers in the quest for the most environmentally sound formulations. In our in-house ink lab, inks are pre-measured for each project to reduce excess ink waste. Any unused ink is re-mixed and re-used using our Mix Master Software to formulate new colours from unused inventoried inks.

PAPER

Forest Stewardship Council: In May 2004, Hemlock became the first printing company in the Pacific Northwest to receive Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) chain-of-custody certification. Since receiving certification, Hemlock has led the way for many other printers in the Vancouver market to pursue certification. We are proud of our involvement in the promotion of responsible forest management practices. (www.fsc.org)

Environmentally Friendly Paper: Hemlock actively promotes the use of recycled and FSC certified papers in the marketplace through our EcoAlternative Program. The program encourages our sales people to propose an EcoAlternative paper specification with higher recycled and/or FSC certified content. With input from our estimating team, an EcoAudit is prepared and sent with the final quotation that describes the environmental benefits of choosing the alternative.

At this time, approximately 40% of jobs printed at Hemlock use paper containing a minimum of 10% post-consumer recycled content. We are working hard to increase our clients’ use of papers that are recycled or from responsibly harvested sources. We hope that in the future, we can say that 100% of the papers we use come from environmentally sound sources.

Hemlock continues to see dramatic increases in the consumption of papers containing a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content. Based on Hemlock’s 2008 purchases of papers that contain over 10%, 30% and 100% post-consumer recycled fibre, the following environmental savings have been realized*:

- Saved 11,646 trees
- Saved enough water to fill 6 Olympic-sized swimming pools
- Eliminated greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 145 cars operating for one year
- Prevented 25 full garbage trucks of waste from going into landfill
- Reduced enough energy to operate 96 average homes for one year

*Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Defense Paper Calculator – www.papercalculator.org

Ancient Forest Friendly: Hemlock is actively working with non-profit organization, Markets Initiative, to lobby paper companies to pursue FSC certification. Hemlock recently became the first printer in North America to sign an Ancient Forest Friendly policy, and we are committed to phasing out use of any papers from old-growth forests. (www.marketsinitiative.org)

EMISSIONS AND RESOURCE CONSUMPTION

Energy: Hemlock’s focus on the environment reaches into all corners of the facilities. The production plant is computer controlled for heat and air-cooling to ensure optimal energy efficiency. Hemlock has also performed a retro-fit to both the office and plant lighting in partnership with BC Hydro’s PowerSmart Program. This upgrade has reduced the company’s power consumption for lighting by approximately 10% for 2008.

In 2005, Hemlock installed a new roof using a Firestone product called Ultraply TPO (white). This product is qualified under the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR program. The product was applied to our roof along with Firestone’s ISO 95+ 1 inch roof insulation. The result of this product is reduced heat build up in our plant by approximately 3-4 degrees Celsius in the summer months. In the winter months the product reduces the amount of heating required.

In 2008, Hemlock purchased and installed 5 Technotrans Beta-f ultrafiltration units for dampening water. Over 90% of wastewater is avoided by using this system. Recirculation of cleaned dampening water also reduces chemical additive requirements. We are the first sheetfed printer in Western Canada to implement this level of wastewater management.

Press Rags: In the press room Kimberly-Clark WypAll paper towels designed for reduced environment impact are used to wash up the presses. The spent towels are collected by an outside source and used for fuel, with no VOC’s released. The remaining ash is used in cement products.

Office Initiatives: All of Hemlock’s office operations use 100% post-consumer recycled paper in printers and photocopiers. We have installed double-sided printing capability on our office printers wherever possible, to reduce our office paper consumption. Standard reports are printed double-sided whenever practical. We are aiming to further reduce our office paper consumption through a variety of strategies including double-sided printing and policy changes.

Another office initiative was the switch to an organic fair trade variety of office coffee, as part of a move toward sustainable purchasing throughout our organization.

RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Hemlock has participated in recycling programs since the early 70’s. Currently, Hemlock collects and recycles all suitable materials.

Inks: As mentioned previously, unused ink is re-mixed and re-used using our Mix Master Software to formulate new colours from unused inventoried inks.

Paper and Paper Products: Hemlock collects and recycles all suitable paper waste in the production cycle, including pre-production trimmings from paper cutters, and post-production waste (including corrugated board) from printing and binding operations. Paper products from the office are similarly collected and integrated into the recycling stream. In addition, we use 100% post-consumer recycled and/or FSC certified papers for our own promotional printing and advertising.

Organic Waste: Hemlock composts all organic and food waste from the office and staff eating facilities.

Wood: All wood pallets and crating off-cuts are shipped to the supplier for recycling.

Plastics: Hemlock collects all hard and soft plastic materials for recycling by outside sources, including plastic shrink-wrap material. In mid 2005 we instituted a CD jewel case re-use initiative whereby we re-use jewel cases supplied by our clients that are no longer needed. These jewel cases are re-used for CD’s containing finished job files when the client requests them. We have not needed to purchase jewel cases since the inception of the program.

Metals: Items such as steel strapping, printing plates and other metals are segregated for outside sources to recycle. Metal drums are refilled by our suppliers. We recycle food tins and pop cans in the office and staff eating facilities.