

## Environmental Stewardship

### **Sustainability**

#### **Ink**

Van Son is Independent Printing Company's in-house ink company. The volatile organic compound content of the process ink set we use ranges from 10% to 15%. Our ink consists of sustainable materials including vegetable oils and modified rosins. These inks are also formulated with organic materials that do not contain any animal-based byproducts and are totally Non-toxic.

We also produce work using hybrid UV-cured ink. These inks instantly dry (cure) using UV energy. UV inks do not contain any volatile organic compounds (VOC) making them an environmentally-friendly choice.

#### **Energy consumption**

Independent continually works to reduce energy consumption. Some examples are:

- Building construction methods that provide superior insulating value and reduce energy use.
- Orion light fixtures that displace 7.2 million kWh over their lifetime (In 2005 Independent received an Environmental Stewardship Award for the installation of these light fixtures.)
- Utilizing the low temperatures of the cold winter months to obtain free cooling for the manufacturing processes.
- Heat recovery wheels in our heating and ventilation system, which reduce energy consumption.

#### **Green Energy**

Independent participates in Wisconsin Public Service's Renewable Energy Program, *NatureWise*, a natural energy alternative. Members are committed to protecting the environment today while preserving resources for tomorrow. Independent has access to renewable energy sold by Wisconsin Public Service/Integrus. Electricity is generated from renewable sources such as wind turbines and biogas, presently available to Independent.

#### **Wastewater testing**

Wastewater is regularly tested to ensure that all applicable standards are met. Independent has chosen to do this proactively.

### **Air pollution control operation permit**

Independent filed for and received an air pollution control operation permit in 2002. Emissions prior to 2002 were tracked, but the permit has helped formalize and expand tracking. We are permitted as a minor source of emissions, which means Independent will emit less than 100 tons of VOC (volatile organic compounds). We actually emit less than one quarter of the limit specified in our permit. We use VOC emission potential as one of the criteria when evaluating chemicals and processes.

### **Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification**

Independent has been an FSC-certified printer since 2006. Our certification, by Preferred by Nature™ confirms that we follow the FSC's rigid standards, and demonstrates our commitment to sound forestry practices.

### **Waste Disposal**

#### **Ink**

Results of a laboratory evaluation of Independent's waste ink indicate that it is a non-hazardous waste and is non-regulated. Although the company could send the waste ink to a land fill, Independent chooses to dispose of it in a more environmentally responsible way by contracting with a local disposal service. On a monthly basis, that service picks up the waste inks which are stored in 55-gallon drums. The waste ink is fuel-blended. The drums are also recycled, unless there's too much ink residue, in which case they are fuel-blended. Ashes from the fuel-blending process are used as a component in cement.

#### **Press solvents**

Independent has installed a solvent recycling system that distills used solvent, purifying it for reuse. This has reduced the amount of virgin solvent we purchase and has also eliminated waste solvent being shipped off-site. The ink remnants are shipped off-site through our disposal service. This waste is fuel-blended.

#### **Rag washing**

Independent contracts with a licensed service for solvent rag washing. Rags are picked up on a weekly basis, washed, and returned. The service has a wastewater treatment plant that treats the water from washing prior to going into the sewer system.

#### **Silver residue**

Silver residue has virtually been eliminated as we no longer expose and process film. We have eliminated our camera and imagesetter which were the major sources of silver.

#### **Aluminum and Film**

Aluminum plates and exposed film are picked up and recycled on a regular basis. During 2017, we recycled over 27.4 tons of aluminum plates.

#### **Paper**

Waste paper is recycled through a company that uses the paper in the manufacture of a variety of products including paper toweling and tissue. During 2017, we recycled 2,172 tons of paper.

#### **Refuse**

All other refuse is disposed of in a proper manner through licensed environmental management services.

## **Packaging and Shipping Materials**

### **Corrugated Shipping Cartons**

Our shipping cartons are purchased from Green Bay Packaging. Our Kraft cartons are 100% PCW. We recycle all used cartons with Ecosource.

### **Chipboard Packing Material**

Chipboard is used as a backer on paper scratch pads as well as packing material. Chipboard is made from 100% PCW and is recyclable.

### **Kraft Wrap Packing Material**

Kraft wrap is used in package wrapping and also as box filler. Kraft wrap is made from 100% PCW and is recyclable.

### **Corrugated Shipping Pads**

Shipping pads are made from 100% recycled Kraft paper and are recyclable.

### **Packaging Peanuts**

Packaging peanuts are made out of biodegradable cornstarch. They will dissolve when exposed to water or can be reused.

### **Steel Bands**

Skids of incoming paper have steel bands securing the paper to the skid. During 2017, we recycled 1,658 pounds of steel bands through a recycling firm.

### **Corner Protectors**

Skids of outgoing paper are protected on all four corners with Kraft corner protectors made from 100% PCW. Corner protectors can either be reused or recycled.

### **Wood Shipping Skids**

Incoming wood skids are either reused or recycled.