

Backgrounder

Zero Waste, Zero Emissions

Epson began group-wide zero waste emissions activities in 1997, encompassing all Epson sites around the globe. From the beginning the company established two levels for its ongoing activities: Level 1 which entails 100% recycling of all waste from business activities and Level 2 which involves limiting waste generation and introducing even more advanced recycling.

In March 2004, Level 1 was achieved by all Epson companies in Japan and all Epson manufacturing companies outside of Japan. The company has reduced the amount of outside resources used in its factories while promoting material recycling, which creates substances usable as raw materials, and rigorously restricting volumes of non-business waste. As a result of these efforts Epson reduced natural resource inputs by 2,370 tons in 2006 with 13 sites achieving Level 2 zero emissions by March 2008.

Epson has undertaken several steps to ensure their activities involve the three steps of reduction, reuse and recycling. It has developed a technology that not only enables closed loop recycling of hydrofluoric acid, but has also reduced the volume of fluorite that needs to be mined as a raw material for hydrofluoric acid.

Epson has also achieved a world first by using inkjet technology to form alignment layers for volume production of liquid crystal panels for its projectors which has resulted in an 80% reduction in the volume of materials used.

Epson recently received the Prime Minister's Prize from the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Promotion Council, run by Clean Japan Center for its promotion of the 3R activities. In the future, Epson will continue striving to reduce environmental impact and promote resource recycling, throughout the entire product life cycle, from environmentally responsible selection of materials to recycling of products after customers have finished with them.

For Further Information see:

Seiko Epson Corporation:

http://www.epson.co.jp/e/company/company_index.htm

Corporate Profile:

<http://www.epson.co.jp/e/company/pdf/epson2008.pdf>

Sustainability Report:

http://www.epson.co.jp/e/community/sr/2007/pdf/2007_en_sr.pdf

Zero Emissions:

http://www.epson.co.jp/e/newsroom/envi_news/0712csr.pdf

Zero Emissions Level 1:

http://www.epson.co.jp/e/newsroom/news_2004_03_29.htm#attachment

Zero Emissions Level 2:

http://www.epson.co.jp/e/newsroom/2005/news_2005_03_28.htm