

EnviroGuard Company Profile

Large Business Category



Idaho Power Company, headquartered in Boise, generates, transmits, and distributes hydroelectric power to more than 397,000 customers in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. Besides its power generating facilities, the company operates four fish hatcheries, 15 developed parks, and numerous boat ramps and picnic areas. Efficiency, recycling, and waste minimization are built into the company culture with many of the company's pollution prevention ideas originating with line-level employees.

Successful recycling and waste minimization projects include:

- recycled more than 993,000 lbs of steel, copper, aluminum, and other metals;
- 2,905 transformers and other pieces of surplus electrical equipment was sold to be refurbished or dismantled for metals recovery;
- 2,600 transformers, regulators, switches, and reclosers were refurbished and returned to service;
- Line hardware in good condition is reused;
- 15,000 gallons of insulating mineral oil was recovered, reconditioned, and reused;
- wood pallets are reused;
- wood waste is sold as fire wood or chipped for animal bedding;
- larger cable reels are used to reduce the number of reels generated;
- some styles of cable are ordered as reelless shipments with cable placed on reusable reels prior to use;
- 16,765 lbs of cardboard and 76,250 lbs of paper were recycled;
- excess office equipment, computers, and furniture are sold for refurbishing and reuse

Idaho Power is also committed to reducing the quantity and toxicity of the wastes generated at their facilities. As a result, all Idaho Power facilities are able to operate as conditionally exempt generators of hazardous waste, the least regulated status allowed by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency. Efforts include:

- replacing solvent-based with water-based parts washers
- eliminating lacquer and enamels paints
- reducing the use of lacquer thinner
- recycling fluorescent lights, streetlights, and small batteries
- using product substitution whenever possible to replace materials with less toxic alternatives.

In addition, Idaho Power sponsors outreach programs that promote energy conservation and efficiency, and contributes to the State of Idaho to assist with winterization of low-income housing.