

ArvinMeritor
Fletcher, NC

Facility Description

ArvinMeritor is a global manufacturer of drivetrain and braking systems for original equipment manufacturers of trucks, trailers and specialty vehicles. ArvinMeritor has facilities in 25 countries and a world-wide employee base of approximately 13,000. The Fletcher facility covers 471,100 square feet and employs more than 500 employees. They manufacture front and rear axle carriers for industrial and military clients.

Waste Reduction Program Overview

ArvinMeritor understands that waste reduction is a key element of productivity. The Fletcher facility has recycled metal scrap from their machining operation since it opened, but plant managers and staff have continuously sought ways to reduce or recycle other waste streams. They launder all of the protective clothing that their employees wear during their shift instead of using disposables, and they recycle materials from the manufacturing facility, administrative offices, cafeteria and break areas.

Operation

The Fletcher ArvinMeritor facility employs a Service Team to handle all internal maintenance and auxiliary operations. The Service Team coordinates the collection of all recyclable materials during the first of three shifts.

Keys to Success

The key to the Fletcher ArvinMeritor's recycling program is its organization, visibility and efficiency with space. Because space is at a premium on a manufacturing floor, the collection containers for metals, aerosol cans, cardboard and plastic shrink wrap must be highly visible yet small in footprint. The Service Team constantly monitors the containers to see if they are in need of collection and if they are being properly utilized.



Continued on reverse.

Type of Facility:
Industrial manufacturing facility



Recycles:
*metal, aerosol cans,
wood scrap, cardboard,
fluorescent lighting,
oils and other lubricants,
office paper, bottles and cans,
shrink wrap*

Other waste reduction programs:
Laundry service for gloves and aprons

Monthly Recycling Stats:
*460 tons of metal
1500 gallons of oil
18 tons of cardboard
1 ton mixed paper, bottles, cans*



French System for Collecting Metal Shavings with Recycled Oil

On the manufacturing floor, where shavings and turnings of steel are generated by machining processes, these shavings are collected with oil that is drawn into a “french system” of trenches. The trenches are routed across the manufacturing floor to a “puck machine.” The puck machine filters the chips from the oil and consolidates the metal shavings into a solid puck that is more valuable to the metal recycler. The oil is then filtered, dehydrated and recycled back into the system.

Other Recycling Procedures

Used gloves are collected by a laundry service, Brent Industries, Inc. in Alabama, and returned clean.



Office paper is collected in all administrative areas. Bottles and cans are collected in all break areas and at the cafeteria. These materials are loaded by the Service Team into gaylords onto a trailer provided by Curbside Management, a recycling company in Asheville, NC. When the trailer is full, Curbside exchanges it with an empty one.



Brass, copper, carbide and aerosol cans are recycled in steel drums. Metals are sorted by type and composition (chips, turnings, pucks). Aerosol cans are punctured and any spent aerosol is emptied into a drum prior to recycling. The spent aerosol is collected by a hazardous waste collection company.



Wood waste and metal scrap are staged outside for collection. Wood waste (pallets, skids, crates, etc.) is collected by Carpenter Design Inc. in Rutherfordton, NC for recycling. Metal is collected by McDowell Recycling in Marion, NC.

Plastic and cardboard are baled on-site. Plastic shrinkwrap is recycled by Cardinal Recycling in Reidsville, NC and cardboard is recycled by Curbside Management in Asheville, NC.



Contact Information

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Waste Reduction Partners

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Triangle J Council of Governments • Research Triangle Park, NC • Phone: 919-549-0551 • wrp@tjcog.org