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Our Planet

RETURN TO TOP

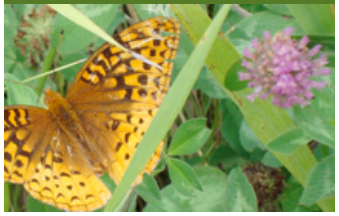
At Fairmount Minerals, we seek opportunities big and small to promote and practice environmental sustainability.

From major capital investments in new and efficient technology to simply turning off a light — our goal is to educate and empower every person at every office and facility to work in a way that respects environmental integrity. When it comes right down to it, we've only got one planet and, as one company, we need to do our part.

Fairmount Minerals follows a comprehensive environmental management system that includes volunteer-based initiative teams focused on issues related to energy conservation, land restoration, recycling, and more. Along with regional Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) coordinators, these teams manage Fairmount Minerals' environmental sustainability activities and report to our Sustainable Development Advisory Committee.

Fairmount Minerals uses the ISO14001 management system as a framework for our environmental practices and has earned certification at seven facilities. In 2009, we created a new process audit manual that helps to assess our efficiency in a variety of areas and allows our facility managers to develop improvement plans.

Energy



Air

Water

We recognize that the environmental challenges presented by climate change require an urgent response from businesses, government and individuals around the world. Learn More >>

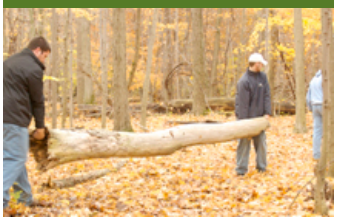
Improving habitats and human health through responsible air and water quality practices remains a critical factor in Fairmount Minerals' sustainability efforts. Learn More >>

Fairmount Minerals recycles nearly all of the water we use in our operations by employing a closed-loop process. Learn More >>

3 Rs

Working with suppliers, customers and our local communities, waste reduction and recycling is a key priority in our environmental sustainability practices. Learn More >>

Biodiversity



Fairmount Minerals' biodiversity strategy revolves around one core commitment: To restore every one of our sites to an environmentally responsible condition. Learn More >>

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DIRECT AND INDIRECT ENERGY

	Direct Energy (MMBtu)	Indirect Energy (MMBtu)
2008	1,316,478	291,223
2009	1,042,066	252,612

Energy and Climate Change

"Not only is Fairmount Minerals approaching carbon mitigation in the right way for the planet — putting the right trees in the right places — they are also establishing many great partnerships in the process." — Kay Charter, Saving Birds Thru Habitat

We recognize that the environmental challenges presented by climate change require an urgent response from businesses, government and individuals around the world.

While global energy demands continue to grow, Fairmount Minerals is committed to reducing our own energy consumption, employing alternative energy, and educating the Fairmount Minerals family on the importance of reducing our carbon footprint.

Energy Conservation

In 2009, we focused on energy efficiency and cost-savings projects to help meet our environmental goals. Technology upgrades, including a laptop and desktop computer replacement plan, resulted in more than $39,000 in energy savings. We consolidated several servers to operate via a virtual network that is more energy efficient than traditional set-ups and eliminates the need for on-site cooling systems. Our Eco-Efficiency Team also formalized a high efficiency motor replacement plan that ensures any new motor purchase will meet specific criteria for energy efficiency.

At the individual facility level, energy audits and special technology investments helped to uncover new opportunities for energy reductions. At our facility in Bridgman, Michigan, we conducted an energy audit in which we inventoried and began replacing dated lighting systems. In Ottawa, Illinois, employees at our Mineral Visions operation introduced a new technology that uses magnets to clean sand, eliminating the energy and water used for washing and drying.

We also made significant progress in reducing energy consumption through several heat recovery projects. With the thermal oxidizer technology we introduced at three Fairmount facilities in recent years, we identified an opportunity to capture waste heat. The heat is redirected and reintroduced into our processes, allowing facilities to reduce the natural gas energy that we typically use for processing. We plan to expand heat recovery projects throughout 2010.

In keeping with our goals to reduce the environmental impacts associated with transporting goods and materials, we worked to improve energy efficiency in our inbound and outbound logistics. We maximized load weights at targeted facilities to increase the amount of product we hauled in each trip. This reduced our total number of truck and train loads, which translates into reduced total fuel consumption. We estimate the savings from this effort to reach $600,000. Additionally, our Transportation Team developed a system to triangulate transportation routes to minimize empty hauls and increase the efficiency of our logistics.

Fuel Type

	2008	2009
1% Biodiesel (gal)	0	83,896
10% Biodiesel (gal)	0	57,562
20% Biodiesel (gal)	195,676	150,279
5% Biodiesel (gal)	147,919	83,231
Diesel #2 (gal)	439,122	213,240
Electricity (kW-hr.)	85,327,549	74,014,673
Fuel #400 (gal)	264,631	360,619
Gasoline (gal)	26,580	31,869
Liquid Propane (gal propane)	1,787,651	1,419,420
Natural Gas (Mcf)	1,010,498	781,538

Total Fuel Use By Facility

	(MMBTU) TOTAL COMPRISED OF ELECTRICAL, NATURAL GAS AND OTHER HYDROCARBON FUELS	
	2008	2009
Best Sand - Beaver	2,390	2,031
Best Sand - Chardon	182,417	137,574
Bridgman	71,810	59,579
CACM	2,733	2,811
Santrol Yixing	N/A	8,354
D.M. Boyd	8,234	N/A
Lakeshore Sand	36,398	25,293
Mineral Visions	30,798	6,733
Santrol de Mexico	9,756	13,998
Standard Sand	19,279	2,930
Technisand Bridgman	18,136	16,337
Technisand Fresno	9,515	9,560
Technisand Roff	46,819	33,782
Technisand Troy Grove	55,841	42,466
Technisand Wedron	50,987	58,156
Wedron Silica	735,723	522,062
Wexford Sand	62,464	72,102
WISC - Bay City	10,054	15,543
WISC - Hager City	66,535	64,897
WISC - Maiden Rock	130,969	118,924
WISC - Menomonie	56,842	81,549
Company-Wide	**1,607,701**	**1,294,679**

Alternative Energy

Renewable and alternative energy projects continue to be a priority for Fairmount Minerals. In 2009, we identified solar energy as a viable energy alternative and started work on a solar array installation at our facility in Chardon, Ohio. The array will supply up to 30 percent of our office energy needs and will be completed in early 2010. We also finalized a wind energy analysis at our Wedron Sand facility. Unfortunately, our Wedron

facility would not produce the amount of wind energy needed to support investment in a wind turbine installation. We plan to continue searching for wind energy opportunities and expand our solar energy efforts to other facilities.

Carbon Footprint

Reducing our carbon footprint is the primary objective of Fairmount Minerals' conservation and alternative energy projects. We successfully reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 1.6 percent in 2009 over a 2006 baseline. Our goal of a 2.5 percent reduction in normalized greenhouse gas emissions proved difficult to meet this year due to reduced production levels. We see opportunity to improve our energy efficiency and carbon footprint across all operations in the future, so we plan to reduce current greenhouse gas emission levels by 10 percent by 2015.

Fairmount Minerals commits to offsetting our greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration. We sequestered nearly 90 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions in 2009 by planting more than 48,500 trees and approximately 55 acres of native grasses.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (CO_2 EQUIVALENTS)
Data reported on a pound per ton produced basis

We report greenhouse gas emissions in the form of carbon dioxide (CO_2) equivalents, which are calculated from fuel and electricity consumption using emissions factors from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) eGRID database, USEPA emission factors from AP-42 (5th edition, Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors, Volume 1: Stationary Point and Area Sources), the FIRE (Factor Information Retrieval System) database, the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines and the World Resources Institute/World Business Council for Sustainable Development GHG Protocol.

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Air Quality

Since 2006, Fairmount Minerals has reduced hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) on a per unit basis by 32 percent.

Improving habitats and human health through responsible air and water quality practices remains a critical factor in Fairmount Minerals' sustainability efforts.

Since 2006, Fairmount Minerals has reduced hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) on a per unit basis by 32 percent. With new resin technologies and continued operation of our thermal oxidizer technology, we achieved an approximately 9.5 percent reduction in HAPs over 2008 totals. While this falls short of our 2009 goal, we see opportunities to improve in the future through expanded use of our Signature Series and Signature Series Gold technology. With more than 20 percent of our foundry tonnage currently using the Gold technology, we will remain focused on finding ways to transition more foundry products and frac sand products to this same technology while maintaining quality and performance.

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Water Conservation

Fairmount Minerals recycles nearly all of the water we use in our operations by employing a closed-loop process.

We know that the global demand for water today exceeds the supply and that responsible conservation efforts must be a part of any sustainable solution.

Fairmount Minerals recycles nearly all of the water we use in our operations by employing a closed-loop process. In the simplest terms, this means we bring in water, use it to wash sand, and then filter it clean before starting the process all over again. While we focused our efforts in 2009 primarily on developing new filtration products for the burgeoning issues related to water scarcity, we plan to make water measurement a key activity in our operations in the near future.

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

With a goal of zero waste by 2015, we focused on finding new and improved ways to reduce, reuse and recycle (3Rs) this past year. Working with suppliers, customers and our local communities, waste reduction and recycling are important priorities in our environmental sustainability practices. As we focused on expanding our measurement practices this past year, we found that our facilities and offices recycled 7.5 million pounds of waste.

The most effective approach to improving environmental impacts associated with waste is to simply eliminate waste before it is created. In 2009, we assessed our unloading practices and found opportunities to reduce the amount of sand left in trucks and rail cars. At our Santrol Yixing facility in China, we developed a process to reclaim off-grade product. Rather than dispose of it as waste, we remove the resin from the product and re-coat it to meet quality and performance criteria. Finally, with one change in the manufacturing process, we successfully reduced scrap in our FlexSand product line from nearly 30 percent to less than 5 percent.

Beyond reductions, reuse projects keep additional waste from entering landfills. Since beginning our bulk bag reuse program with a raw material supplier in 2005, we sought opportunities to expand the program to Fairmount Minerals customers. In 2009, we created informational literature and worked with two key customers to initiate a packaging reuse project that saved more than 194,000 pounds of waste from going to a landfill. We ship product to customers using the bulk bags and then work with a supplier to return and clean them. Once brought back to a Fairmount Minerals facility, we refill and send them out. At the end of their useful life, the reusable bulk bags can be recycled for a cradle-to-cradle sustainable solution.

Promotion and Practice of the 3Rs

Outside of Fairmount Minerals operations, we look at product end-of-life solutions as well as our local communities to promote and practice the 3Rs. We continue our relationship with Paygro, a supplier of soil and mulch products, to recover spent foundry sand from our customers for reuse in agricultural applications. In addition, our Technisand Wedron and Wedron Silica facilities in Illinois invited community members to participate in a recycling day at a local park. Other Fairmount facilities opened their recycling bins to the community and encouraged them to recycle household waste.

Land Restoration and Biodiversity

Fairmount Minerals' biodiversity strategy revolves around one core commitment: To restore every one of our sites to an environmentally responsible condition. Our 4,400 acres of property present significant opportunities to address wildlife habitat conservation, and Fairmount Minerals makes land restoration and biodiversity a key element of our sustainability efforts.

Over the past year, wildlife habitat teams at every Fairmount facility participated in a variety of activities aimed at preserving and protecting natural habitats. Today, seven Fairmount Minerals facilities are certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) for commendable wildlife habitat management and environmental education programs. In 2009, our Standard Sand and Wexford Sand facilities in Michigan sought and obtained Wildlife at Work re-certification from the WHC. In addition to planting native species and removing invasive species around the properties, teams at these sites installed nest boxes to create hospitable environments for migrating birds.

TOTAL LAND FOOTPRINT

Total Acerage	Total Undisturbed	Total Disturbed	Permanently Restored	Percent Disturbed	
324	269	55	0	17	Best Sand - Beaver
527	149	366	12	69	Best Sand - Chardon
323	144	82	97	25	CACM
475	383	68	24	14	Clark Farm
49	49	0	49	0	Gulliver-Peters
8	0	8	0	100	Lakeshore Sand
4	0	3	1	80	Mineral Visions
181	50	24	107	13	Nadeau Mine
149	109	17	24	11	Nadeau Site
133	81	27	25	20	Standard Sand
17	0	17	0	100	Technisand Bridgman
5	0	5	0	100	Technisand Fresno
107	100	7	0	7	Technisand Roff
3	0	3	0	100	Technisand Troy Grove
1417	865	387	165	28	Wedron Silica
345	55	176	114	51	Wexford
10	9	1	0	10	WISC - Bay City
12	3	10	0	79	WISC - Hager City
34	9	17	9	50	WISC - Maiden Rock
365	283	72	10	20	WISC - Menomonie

Total Disturbed: Does not include restored areas (only presently open areas).
Total Undisturbed = Total average minus total disturbed minus permanently restored.

Learning Laboratory

Our Maiden Rock facility in Wisconsin received Corporate Lands for Learning certification in 2009 based on the team's extensive efforts to create the largest bat hibernacula in the Midwest. With this certification, our Maiden Rock site can serve as a learning laboratory for students, college research groups and the local community.