

Project Overview

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Company Background

Graham Tire has five locations in Lincoln and 26 locations in four states employing over 400 employees. The franchise started in 1951 and has been expanding ever since becoming one of the largest independently owned tire dealer ships in the United States. Graham Tire is not just a tire store and services include mechanic, tire, maintenance, electrical, cooling/heating, and transmission. The Graham tire located at 2121 Cornhusker highway services around 1000 vehicles a month. This facility is open six days a week Monday through Saturday.

Project Description

This was a relatively small project for an unpaid position focused on obtaining course credit for participation. Graham Tire’s main source of energy is compressed air in the shop area. The air compressor system was analyzed to identify possible improvements. It was also discovered that all of Graham Tire’s cardboard and used oil filters was being landfilled. An assessment was performed to evaluate recycling options.

Pollution Prevention Benefits

Three P2 opportunities were provided to Graham Tire to reduce energy usage for the air compressor system. It was also found that by recycling cardboard and used oil filters the store could reduce the volume of waste sent to the landfill. The potential impact of these recommendations, if implemented, as listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Pollution Prevention Suggestions and Potential Benefits

P2 Suggestion	Potential P2 Benefits	Potential Costs Savings
Reduce Pressure in Air System	2,500 kWh/yr of energy	\$150/yr
Change Compressor Air Intake Location	920 kWh/yr of energy	\$50/yr
Repair Air Leaks	3,700 kWh/yr of energy	\$220/yr
Recycle Cardboard	Reduce landfilling by 100 yd ³ /yr	
Recycle Used Oil Filters	Reduce landfilling by 3.9 yd ³ /yr	

Additional indirect benefits include:

- Reducing 6.8 MTCO₂e released each year
- Eliminate used oil seeping into groundwater supply
- Improving company image
- Increase employee awareness