



Do you have a "Best Practice" you would like to share with Lancaster Chamber News readers? If you'd like to submit an article for this column, please contact The Chamber's communications department at 717.397.3531 or [media@lancasterchamber.com](mailto:media@lancasterchamber.com). This column is an opportunity for companies to share their best practices in business and the workplace that others can learn from and apply to their respective organizations. Please note that the column is not intended to promote a specific company, organization, product or service.

## High Companies Amplify and Formalize Long Established Green Initiatives

By: **Rick Dickerson**, manager of strategic projects, The High Companies



■ For companies exploring ways to become more sustainable or those looking to enhance their sustainable business practices, see the front cover and mark your calendar for The Chamber's inaugural Business Sustainability Conference.

At the High® companies, conducting business as responsible environmental stewards has been embedded in our practices through the High Philosophy for decades. In recent years, as the focus on sustainability has heightened and best practices factor into business decision making, we've further formalized and systematized our approach in ways that dramatically cut costs. In addition to cutting costs, our reduction of energy usage reduces direct emissions and contributes to improving not only our organization's sustainability, but the sustainability of our community as well.

### Recent efforts through the High companies that support our commitment to sustainability and may serve as ideas for other companies include:

- Replacing lighting in eight facilities to reduce energy usage and improve our carbon footprint.
- Formalizing efforts by establishing a baseline for our greenhouse gas emissions, so that we can set goals and measure success, including the goal to reduce by 30 percent in five years, and developing an action plan to achieve these goals.
- Constructing a new maintenance building at High Concrete Group that earned a LEED silver designation and includes in-floor radiant heat to spot heat where people work, a boiler fueled by recovered waste oil, dimmable fluorescent lighting with photo sensors, and highly efficient doors, windows and insulation.
- High Transit devised equipment for compacting and processing used oil filters so that the oil and steel is recycled and only the paper filter is disposed of.
- Installing naturalized riparian buffers along the stream banks in Greenfield Corporate Center to reduce run-off and protect the aquatic environment.
- Improving painting systems at High Steel Structures to reduce emission of volatile organic compounds which affect the ozone layer.
- Installing motion sensors and timing devices in many facilities to help ensure we only use electricity that is needed.
- Maximizing efficiency of the heating system, roofing insulation and manufacturing equipment at High Steel Service Center.
- Adopting a demand response program that allows us to voluntarily curtail electric energy usage when called upon at peaks demand times, contributing to energy providers' avoidance of using less efficient power plants and having to build new plants.
- Reinforcing overall sustainability and green goals established by our task force and cascading goals through the entire organization.
- Using thermography and compressed air inspections to identify opportunities and correct areas of energy loss.
- Reinforcing through management initiatives, performance reviews and internal face-to-face meetings of energy conservation policies concerning individual human behaviors, to ensure we take advantage of opportunities such as using stairs instead of elevators, turning out lights, using programmable thermostats, turning off computer monitors and purchasing energy efficient equipment.

At the High® companies our task is to meet the needs of today while preserving the environment for the generations to follow.

Learn more at [www.high.net/agreenertomorrow](http://www.high.net/agreenertomorrow).