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**MIKE DELLINGER**



Dave Hanzlik, a painter for Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. (KPI-JCI), paints a counter weight arm guard for a Pioneer screen using the new powder coating system.

PHOTO: KOLBERG-PIONEER, INC.

# It's A Green Thing

Growing Consumer Demand And Incentives Are Prompting More Businesses To Become Eco-Friendly

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As manufacturing in the area has grown during recent years, so too have the demands for the use of eco-friendly processes. Understanding that such procedures are both beneficial to their customers and the environment, many area manufacturers have made an effort to go green.

“Local manufacturers are responding to market expectations. Consumers seek value added by green processes because they are sustainable and create cost savings over the duration of the product use,” said Mike Dellinger, executive director of the Yankton Office of Economic Development. “Plus, it just makes sense and helps us to feel better about our effect upon the environment.”

As part of its mission to be more eco-friendly, Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc., (KPI-JCI) recently implemented a pretreatment and coating process on certain equipment parts that helps performance while minimizing environmental impact.

The pretreatment process helps the coating stick to the metal, slowing corrosion. It also uses Zirconization™, a water-based technology based on highly corrosion-resistant materials that are free of solvents, phosphates and heavy metals.

KPI-JCI also installed a coating system capable of applying and curing a powder coating versus a liquid paint.

“If you have ever used a can of spray paint, you are familiar with the strong solvent odor,” said Bruce Dunham, marketing/technical manager for DuBois Chemicals Surface Finishing Sector, in a news release. “When used on an industrial level, solvent-based liquid paints can add cost associated with environmental and health and safety monitoring and reporting. Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc., has mitigated these issues by specifying a powder coating that provides a durable, corrosion-resistant coating to protect its customer’s investment.”

Sapa Extrusions, Inc., of Yankton has also done its part to go green, said Amanda Potts, purchasing and transportation manager.

“In general, our business is based on green initiatives because aluminum is recyclable,” she said. “And as a secondary smelter, our cast house consumes significantly less energy than an original smelter. Also, 30 percent of the raw material we purchase is recycled aluminum.”

Potts said Sapa has also taken part in the recycling program Yankton began last year for used hydraulic oil. In 2011, Sapa recycled 10,315 gallons that returned to the plant for use.

Jerad Higman, president of MASABA Mining Equipment in Vermillion, said his business makes an effort to be eco-friendly, as well.

“There’s not a lot of waste that comes out of here,” he said. “We recycle all of our wood and our cardboard. Even with the paint process, we use a high-soluble enamel or urethane so it’s not hazardous to the environment.”

Higman said MASABA has also removed its high-energy fluorescent lights, replacing them with high-bay fluorescent lights.

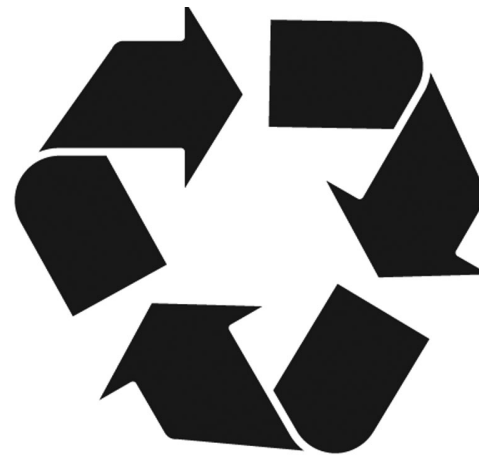
“Things like that, they’re small, but at the end of the day, they consume less energy,” he said. “And we’re striving to do the best we can from that standpoint.”

Along with helping businesses, their customers and the environment, Dellinger said using eco-friendly technology also has a chance to promote economic growth within the area.

“Businesses and families that use green technology within their daily processes find cost efficiencies and savings that multiply over time, creating new opportunities for money that otherwise would be spent on energy usage,” he said. “The savings can then be applied across the board within the local economy.”

With the many benefits of going green, KPI-JCI marketing manager Lisa Carson said her company will continue to explore other eco-friendly technologies.

“We are committed to producing high-quality products while reducing our impact on the environment,” she said.



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