

Volume 9, Number 7

December 2011

## Make Sustainability Part Of Your Company's New Year's Resolutions

*By Robert Beckmann, PE  
Missouri Enterprise Project Manager*

It is a new year and time for a New Year's resolution. The most frequent personal resolution is to lose weight. A company does not measure improvement by the size of its waist, but rather by the size of its waste – so perhaps a corporate resolution may be in order for 2012.

Over the past decade, the concept of Sustainability has grown from a line in the annual report of Fortune 500 companies to an everyday way of doing business in companies with only a handful of employees. The ideals and goals have changed along the way,

but the end result remains the same and that is to improve in three key areas:

- Energy
- Environment
- Economics

These areas are the heart and soul of sustainability and Missouri Enterprise can show you that by addressing sustainability, your company can add to the bottom line while being a good corporate citizen. Missouri Enterprise has been assisting companies with sustainability for a number of years and depending on the processes of a company, the objectives are:

- Maximize energy efficiency.

- Reduce environmental wastes.
- Identify opportunities for reducing carbon emissions.
- Promote sustainable manufacturing practices and growth.
- Reduce business costs.

### Energy

The cost of energy continues to rise with no slowdown in sight. Even if your utility bills are only a small portion of your operating costs now, it will not be long before they can affect the cost of your finished goods. Missouri Enterprise can assist your company in finding energy savings opportunities within your facility and your processes and how to implement projects in a way that will have the quickest return on investment.

The Missouri Enterprise team has experience with energy audits energy users of all sizes – from the very largest users to some of the smallest – with great success at all levels. Some of the energy areas addressed by Missouri Enterprise can include:

- Energy Audit of facility;
- Introduction of new technology;
- Coordination of technical service providers;
- Documentation of energy savings;
- Calculations of reduction of Greenhouse gasses and Carbon Footprint;
- Review of heavy energy users in process;
- Energy VSM;
- Energy Management Review; and



Last month, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon visited Missouri Enterprise client Tech Manufacturing LLC. The Governor toured the company's Wright City plant and met with Company President Chuck Stout and Executive Vice Presidents Tony Delf and Jerry Halley. In the photo above Halley (left) shows Governor Nixon some of the complex parts the company manufactures for its aerospace customers. Check out the link (<http://bit.ly/xPvzvX>) for a news release and YouTube Video about the Governor's visit to Tech Manufacturing.

*Continued on page 2*

# Havco Wood Products LLC Holds Six Sigma Training Sessions

Since 1978, management and staff at Havco Wood Products LLC have worked at creating a culture of continuous improvement in which to manufacture the finest oak hardwood flooring for trailers, truck bodies and containers. Today, the company is an industry leader with state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Cape Girardeau, Missouri and Vonore, Tennessee.

Recently, according to Company Department Manager of Quality Jason Ledure, the company held two days of Six Sigma Problem Solving Training to help employees further develop their skills and their ability to create high value and high quality products for Havco customers. Some 30 employees attended the training program, facilitated by a Missouri Enterprise manufacturing specialist, to learn and experience practical problem solving tools and strategies following the Six Sigma roadmap of Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control (DMAIC).

“The training,” Ledure said, “was especially valuable because it focused on data collection and real life issues



The Havco Wood Products Cape Girardeau plant.

taken from the company’s operations.”

Ledure said that Havco’s manufacturing process starts with green oak lumber placed in pre-dryers and kilns to enhance the lumber quality compared to uncontrolled air-drying. After verifying that the lumber has the correct moisture content, the dried lumber is then manually inspected to eliminate defects, sawn into sticks, and edge-glued under controlled conditions with an adhesive that provides water-resistant glue bonds, he said.

The glued panel of sticks are then sawn into laminated boards and machined to customer specified dimensions. In the final process, boards can be finished one of three ways based upon customer’s requirements. The laminated boards are sold without a finish, with an undercoating applied, or can have a layer of Havco’s patented composite applied to the bottoms.

To ensure long-lasting performance, there are strict quality controls and checks throughout the manufacturing process.

## Sustainability

*Continued from page 1*

• ISO 50001 Energy Management Standard.

### Environment

What was once a concern of only “green” companies is now a focus of almost all industries in the world. Some firms are worried about increased disposal costs for solid or hazardous or liquid wastes and others are concerned about corporate image and environmental impact.

Whatever the reason, Missouri Enterprise can assist businesses to reduce the waste leaving the building envelope. Missouri Enterprise has training and experience in:

- Environmental audits
  - Waste water
  - Gas emissions
  - Solid Waste analysis
- Review of Environmental policy
- ISO 14001 Environmental Management Review
- EIERA and other repurposing of waste
- Design for Green

### Economics

At the end of the day, a company needs to be fiscally responsible in order to stay in business and provide an income to investors and employees.

Missouri Enterprise is acutely aware of this driving force and approaches sustainability with a sharp eye on the bottom line. As opportunities are presented, Missouri Enter-

prise can recommend or evaluate:

- Energy savings calculations / ROI;
- Environmental savings calculations / ROI;
- Environmental impact documentation;
- Assist with documents for various certifications;
- Assist with researching rebates and incentives (varies);
- Documents needed for supply chain success;
- Design for Green (Green-o-vation); and
- Alternate fuels.

Contact your Missouri Enterprise Area Business Manager who can explain how reducing your waste is another way to make your company Lean and more successful in 2012.