AMI 2009 Sustainability Survey Results

SUBMISSION SUMMARY

The responses to the survey include the vast majority of meat processors and further processing industry based off of pounds of product produced. These facilities employ 163,857 people in total and range in size from 150 to 3500 employees. These facilities produce a variety of meat and meat products from beef, pork, turkey, and processed meats. There were 56 submissions to the survey which allowed for individual plant entries as well as corporate-wide responses. The survey encompassed a total of 368 facilities for the water, energy and recycling section, 358 facilities for worker safety, 336 facilities for animal welfare, 363 for food safety, and 342 for employee and community programs. All of the results below compare the changes from 2007 to 2008.

WATER

- Between 2007 and 2008 there was a reduction in water use per pound of product produced by almost 7%.
- Decreased total water input by more than 300 million gallons between 2007 and 2008.
- Water output has decreased by more than 8% from 2007 to 2008 as calculated per gallon of water output per pound of product produced.
- Water reuse has increased by 1.2 billion gallons between 2007 and 2008 – an increase in 37%.

ENERGY

- Electricity use (KWH) has decreased by more than 20% per pound of product between 2007 and 2008 even though electricity consumption increased slightly (1.3%)
- Decreased natural gas consumption by 5.6% as well as decreased natural gas use per pound of product by 5.4% from 2007 and 2008
- Other fossil fuels used include diesel fuel, #6 fuel oil and propane.
- Renewable fuels used include biogas and methane capture as well as usage of animal fats, choice white grease, and ethanol. In some facilities, biogas utilization offsets 5 to 13% of energy consumption.

TRANSPORTATION ENERGY USE

While the majority of respondents to the survey (67%) contract transportation, a third of the participants either own some or all of their own fleet vehicles. Regardless of fleet ownership, it is important to member companies that transportation upgrades are made within both their own fleet as well as contracted fleets to improve efficiency and reduce cost of transporting perishable goods. Transportation upgrades using to conserve energy include fuel efficient or alternative fuel fleet vehicle, long-haul truck routing planning for efficiency, strategic consolidation programs, efficient warehousing planning, use of biodiesel or other alternative fuels, and aligning with certified vendors/services providers. Other areas in which AMI member companies are involved include installation of automatic engine shut down to avoid prolonged idling, driver accountability, employees hook up to electrical power at truck stops, trailer skirts and day cab heaters.

Upgrading or retrofitting vehicles is also another area in which AMI member companies strive to improve transportation efficiencies. For example, speed governors have been installed, APU's have been installed on refrigerated units to avoid engine idling, more efficient tires and diesel particulate filters are being utilized, aerodynamics are improving, and some vehicles have automatic tire inflation systems.

Others innovative ideas regarding improved transportation efficiency include purchasing of hybrid units from carriers, AMS-OIL-Synthetic Lubricates, purchasing flexfuel vehicles for company cars, use of high capacity vehicles, refrigerated trucks are backhauling products to minimize empty hauling time, increase load density to reduce trips and using fuel additives that cool engines.

RECYCLING

- 8 percent increase in solid waste recycling between 2007 and 2008
- 1,224 ton increase in cardboard recycling between 2007 and 2008 – an increase of 2.7%
- Paper recycling increased by almost 28% from 2007 to 2008 resulting in over 85,000 less pounds going to the landfill
- Increased metal recycling by 160 tons between 2007 and 2008
- Increased packaging material recycling by over 15%
- Pallet recycling was up over 12% between 2007 to 2008 resulting in almost 100,000 more recycled pallets
- Increased fluorescent light bulb recycling by 7.4% between 2007 and 2008
- Other items recycled include paunch manure, biosolids, land application of sludge from DAF units, batteries, smokehouse ash and inedible meat

EMPLOYEE PROGRAMS

The following is a listing of employee programs offered by companies responding to this survey:

Child Care Assistance
Tutoring (ESL)
Chaplains
Tuition Assistance
Performance Rewards
Cessation Programs
Wellness Programs and/or health risk appraisals
401k and Match
Profit Sharing
Free Parking
Leadership Development
Employee Assistance Programs
Annual incentives based on plant and individual performance
Employee of the Month
Health Insurance
Discounts on Meat Purchases
Carpooling or Transportation Subsidy
Citizenship Assistance
Gym Reimbursement
Work at home programs
Life, Disability and Vision Insurance
Matching Gift program to Charities
Pension
Diversity Programs
Flu shots
Weight Watchers

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The following is a list of activities AMI member companies are involved in to promote a strong and healthy relationship with the communities in which their facilities are located.

Tutoring local children
Second Harvest/Food Donations
Environmental Clean Up
Community development
Fed Katrina Victims
“Walk for the Cure”
Volunteering at local non-profit events
Habitat for Humanity
Chamber of Commerce
Easter Seals Volleyball
Educational, Wellness or Environmental Foundations
Purchasing 4-H or FFA Livestock
Sports teams or other community organizations
United Way
Hotdog lunch for local elementary school
American Heart Association Fundraiser
Volunteer Fire Department membership
Involvement with county youth programs
Relay for Life
Partners in ‘Feeding America’