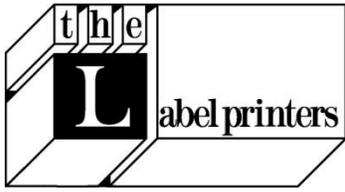


# 2013 Governor's Sustainability Award Winner



ILLINOIS SUSTAINABLE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER  
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## THE LABEL PRINTERS L.P.



From wine labels to anti-counterfeit tags, The Label Printers L.P. produces a wide range of printed products at its two facilities in Aurora, IL.

The label manufacturing process involves a variety of complex materials that the company has carefully analyzed for reduction, recycling, and landfill diversion opportunities.

The Label Printers' commitment to continually improve waste reduction and other environmental performance measures has reduced their costs and earned them Illinois Governor's Sustainability Awards in 2012 and 2013.

### SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND OUTLOOK

The Label Printers has made sustainability a front-and-center piece of their operations and management procedures. Their facilities are ISO 9001 certified, requiring a commitment to continuous improvement. The company was also the first Illinois printer to be certified through the Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute's sustainability assessment program, called LIFE (Label Initiative for the Environment). The LIFE program has developed certification standards focused on common environmental issues for label printers, including recycle-compatibility of adhesives and material construction light-weighting.

Key decision makers from Human Resources, Operations, and Quality Assurance are involved in The Label Printers' sustainability team. The team tracks sustainability progress via a public dashboard and organizes employee engagement activities such as the "Go Green, Save Green, and Earn Green" campaign.

*"The Go Green, Save Green, and Earn Green program was designed to engage all employees in sustainability projects."*

- George Tommasi,  
Director of Human Resources



### KEY STATS

Environmental outcomes in FY2012

#### Outcomes



**33,494** kWh electricity consumption reduced



**150,000** gallons of water reduced



**200** tons of material diverted from landfills



**\$15,836** savings

### ABOUT THE LABEL PRINTERS

Founded: 1967

# of Employees: 60

Headquarters: Aurora, IL

Sector: Tag and Label Manufacturing

NAICS Code: 323112

### ABOUT THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR'S SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Since 1987, ISTC has presented Governor's Sustainability Awards to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to sustaining our environmental and economic health.

Any Illinois public or private organization is eligible to apply.

Find out more at:

[istc.illinois.edu/govsawards](http://istc.illinois.edu/govsawards)

or email [istc-govsawards@illinois.edu](mailto:istc-govsawards@illinois.edu)

## INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS

A breakdown of strategies and technologies that help The Label Printers increase efficiency and reduce environmental impact.

### Energy Use

- ✓ Lighting retrofit

### Waste Reduction

- ✓ Reusables donation
- ✓ Reused/recycled packaging
- ✓ Label waste pelletized for waste-to-energy

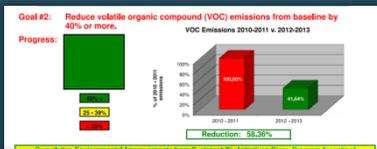
### Sustainable Management Practices

- ✓ Public sustainability policy
- ✓ Sustainability metrics disclosure
- ✓ Multi-functional green team
- ✓ TLMI L.I.F.E Certification ([tlmi.com/about-life](http://tlmi.com/about-life))

## THE LABEL PRINTERS SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD

The sustainability team maintains a public record of progress toward the company's sustainability goals. The data is updated on a quarterly basis.

Go to [www.thelabelprinters.com](http://www.thelabelprinters.com) and click on the Sustainability tab



## THE LABEL PRINTERS L.P.

### RECYCLING & MATERIAL RECOVERY



In 2011, The Label Printers began closely tracking their waste generation, breaking their waste stream down into 19 material categories such as press stock, printing plate material, core plugs, electronics, and material recovery. By seeking out alternatives to landfill for each category, The Label Printers has achieved an 82% landfill diversion rate.

landfill diversion rate.

The Label Printers' recently achieved a breakthrough in diverting label production waste – their largest waste category. This material is shredded and formed into fuel pellets which are used in various energy applications including offsetting coal usage and augmenting biomass fuel sources.



Fuel pellets made from label production waste

The Label Printers' material recovery effort has three components: Reuse, resale, and donation. In 2012, the company moved away from using waste matrix rolls with a disposable core by implementing a reusable core system that eliminated 14,000 cores (2,750 pounds) from the waste stream annually. Furthermore, any label stock that does not meet the company's quality or tolerance standards is



Excess label stock offered free to local teachers

removed from inventory and sold to a partner firm that is able to utilize the stock.

Materials that cannot be reused in-house or resold, such as odd-sized cores, file folders, poster board, and shipping and office supplies, are offered free to local educators at regular *Take Stock for Education* events. Since the program's launch in 2013, over \$11,500 worth of supplies have been donated to local schools.

### WATER USE

In an effort to reduce water consumption, The Label Printers installed low-flow toilets at their facility. However, the bulk of their water savings came from a change in equipment operation. Prior to the change, a piece of their prepress equipment ran at all times during operational hours to ensure immediate availability even though it was rarely used. Engineers at The Label Printers implemented a change that provided advance notice of the need for the equipment, so it would only run when needed. This process change saved the facility approximately 150,000 gallons of water per year.

