



# Environmental Stewardship Program

## Manchester Tank & Equipment - Elkhart

### Pollution Prevention Success Story

---

## Re-Use of Scrap Powder Paint

### Background

Manchester Tank & Equipment has been manufacturing steel and aluminum pressure vessels at the Elkhart, Indiana facility since 1976. Products from this facility include cylinders used for the storage and transportation of propane, fire suppression, refrigerant gases and specialty chemicals. Processes including metal stamping, welding, annealing, shot blasting, metal finishing, powder coating and high-pressure testing. The facility currently has 146 employees.

Manchester Tank & Equipment - Elkhart implemented an environmental management system in June, 2006 and has been a member of the Indiana Environmental Stewardship Program since February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

### Project Implementation

Manchester Tank & Equipment – Elkhart had implemented a recycling program for scrap powder paint in 2007. This program worked well until the vendor was unable to identify enough customers for this waste paint during the economic downturn in 2009. Instead of going back to sending our waste powder paint to the local landfill, the facility worked with the vendor to re-use the scrap powder by having it blended into our most common gray color and then re-applying it to new cylinders. The project required small-scale initial testing followed by a large-scale trial using the *ECO Gray* powder on steel forklift cylinders. The facility took delivery of the first 15,000 pounds of the recycled content powder paint in June of 2012 and is now meeting 42% of our gray paint needs with recycled content powder paint made from our own scrap.

### Results

This project was started to minimize the environmental impact of sending scrap powder paint to the landfill (significant amount of barium sulfate) and hopefully not increase the cost of our products. The lead-time for the finished product was longer than expected due to the quality required by both the facility and the powder vendor. Paint quality and performance were much better than expected and equivalent to the performance of 100% virgin powder paint. The recycled content powder cost was 15% lower than our standard gray. By moving up the pollution prevention hierarchy from landfill to recycling to re-use, the facility was able to prevent sending 10 tons of waste powder paint to the landfill since 2010.

### Cost Savings

Manchester Tank & Equipment – Elkhart saves \$5,000 annually by purchasing recycled content *ECO Gray* powder paint instead of 100% virgin material.

### Facility Contact

Steve Jacobson, CHMM  
(574) 970-8240  
steve.jacobson@mantank.com