

## GREEN BUSINESS: Barrington man's company recycles antifreeze

### [Comments](#)

December 15, 2009

By [TONY A. SOLANO](#) [tsolano@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:tsolano@pioneerlocal.com)



Owner Gary Gunderson holding samples of used, pretreated and finished recycled antifreeze.  
(Brian O'Mahoney/Staff Photographer)

Barrington resident Gary Gunderson is doing his part to make his company, Recycle Technologies Inc., more green.

Gunderson recycles used antifreeze and manufactures it under the MAXSAFE Antifreeze brand, and also recently invested in new equipment to reduce the company's carbon footprint, energy usage and make the recycling and manufacturing process more environmentally friendly. **"About a year ago we decided to go to the next level and make not only our product green but the manufacturing process green," Gunderson said.**

Gunderson's company is still implementing the new conservation measures, but said in the end the company hopes to reduce its water use by 50 percent, its natural gas and electricity use by 20 percent, greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent and diesel fuel use for delivery trucks by 10 percent.

Gunderson said the measures will eventually reduce utility costs, but it could take up to four years for the company to recoup its investment.

"A lot of businesses wouldn't have done some of the things we did because the payback won't be quick," said Michael Brown, a Recycle Technologies employee who has been charged with compiling the data to determine if the company reaches its goals.

Continued.....

# BarringtonCourier-Review

[BarringtonCourier-Review.com](http://BarringtonCourier-Review.com) Member of Sun-Times Media

Gunderson hired an outside consultant, Skokie-based Energy Cost Reduction Associates, LLC, to evaluate Recycle Technologies' manufacturing facility in Wood Dale. Green measures included everything from reducing and reusing water and recirculating heat produced by machines to reduce heating bills.

For example, in 2008 Recycle Technologies used two gallons of water per every gallon of antifreeze produced. The goal is to get that number down to one gallon of water per gallon of antifreeze produced and as of October that number was still over 1.5 gallons, Brown said.

In terms of natural gas use, in 2008 the company used 0.15 therms of natural gas per gallons of antifreeze produced. The goal is to get that number down to 0.13 but Brown said since July the company has exceeded the goal and been near 0.1 therms.

Brown said electricity and diesel use has increased since implementing the new green measures and said he is evaluating the data to find out why some use have been inconsistent with expectations. "The bottom line is I think we're doing all the right things to get our carbon footprint down," Brown said.

Gunderson started the company in 1994 and now has over 2,200 clients. Clients include car dealerships, auto repair companies and corporate truck fleets. He said he made the investment in green technology because it was the right thing to do and because it could also provide a business advantage as the company continues to grow.

"Basically 'sustainability' is the new buzz word in big businesses," Gunderson said. He said many large corporations have an eye toward purchasing their products and services from companies that have environmentally friendly practices.

Recycle Technologies can recycle 5,000 gallons of antifreeze per day at its facility and the product meets all the same standards as virgin, or newly manufactured, antifreeze, Gunderson said. "We only use 20 percent of the carbon footprint to recycle antifreeze that other companies use to create virgin antifreeze," Gunderson said.

He said it was a risk to invest the money in green measures given the current state of the economy, but the demand for antifreeze has remained steady.