

Grand Valley GREEN

SMALL TRUCKS OFFER BIG "GREEN" BENEFITS

PALISADE DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION FIRM EARNS STATE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD FOR EFFORTS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS

Phil Castle
Business Times

Scott Fasken purchased smaller trucks for his document destruction business in part to reduce operational costs. In addition to burning less fuel, though, the smaller trucks produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions believed to contribute to global warming. And that's made an already "green" Grand Valley firm that much greener.

"We spent a lot of money, but they will pay for themselves," said Fasken, vice president of operations for Colorado Document Security, the Palisade-based company he started with his wife, Jill, in 2003.

Colorado Document Security recently received recognition for its efforts in winning an Environmental Leadership Award. The firm was among 33 companies and organizations designated as Bronze Achievers through a program that awards efforts to comply with environmental regulations and promote environmental improvement.

A total of more than 80 companies and organizations received awards at the bronze, silver and gold levels as part of a program sponsored by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in cooperation with the Pollution Prevention Advisory Board and Colorado Environmental Partnership.

The Colorado Yurt Company in Montrose also was designated a Bronze Achiever. Alpine Bank, headquartered in Glenwood Springs, has been a Gold Leader since 2008.

"I am pleased to be part of a program that recognizes so many companies and other agencies for their leadership in helping make Colorado a greener



Scott Fasken

state," said Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter. "It is my hope that the voluntary efforts of these companies — to go beyond what is required in the state's environmental regulations — will set an example for others to follow."

Colorado Document Security provides secure, onsite destruction of financial statements, medical records and other documents containing confidential information. The firm holds AAA certification from the National Association for Information Destruction and assists customers in meeting federal regulations that require them to properly dispose of confidential information.

Responding to growing demand, the company has expanded over the years to serve not only Western Colorado, but also Farmington, N.M. and Rock Springs, Wyo.

Looking to cut costs associated with operating in such a large area, Fasken replaced a Peterbilt shredding truck in 2007 with a much smaller Peashooter truck manufactured by AXO Shredders Corp. in Canada. He subsequently purchased a second truck. In doing so, Colorado Document Security became the first document destruction firm in the nation to convert its fleet to low carbon footprint trucks.

Compared to the Peterbilt, the AXO truck uses about 50 percent less fuel and reduces the company's carbon footprint by at least 33 percent, Fasken said. He estimated Colorado Document Security reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by 156 tons last year.

The smaller trucks offer other advantages: they're easier to maneuver into the alleys and parking lots behind businesses the company serves and they don't require a commercial driver's license to operate.

Colorado Document Security also helps to lower emission by recycling the paper it shreds into so much unintelligible confetti.

Counting the reduction in emissions associated with paper recycling, Colorado Document Security has become an increasingly green operation, Fasken said. He figures the company has recycled nearly 900 tons of paper over the years.

According to a formula developed by the Environmental Protection Agency, every ton of mixed paper that's recycled rather than dumped in a landfill reduces the emission of carbon dioxide by 4 metric tons.

That means Colorado Document Security has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by about 3,600 metric tons. That's the equivalent of generating electricity for nearly 500 homes a year, driving nearly 800 cars for a year or burning more than 1,200 rail cars full of coal. Moreover, recycling that much paper helps save trees — the equivalent of 93,000 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.

Fasken said the AXO shredding trucks cost \$190,000 each, but he expects to recoup the investment over the long-term in economic and environmental benefits. "Green is greenback," he said.

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