





Eureka Springs, Arkansas
Best Western Inn of the Ozarks
Sept. 19 - 21, 2016



**26th
Annual
Conference
and
Trade Show**



www.recycleark.org
501-915-8241



Find us at www.facebook.com/ArkansasRecyclingCoalition



Don Curran
Facilities Manager
Virco Mfg. Corporation
Conway Division

Arkansas Alternative Energy Commission



Equipment for Educators



Virco Mfg. Corporation's Conway Division opened in Conway, Arkansas in June of 1954. The original building was located on Hwy. 365 South. The Conway Division initially employed only seven individuals.

The History of Virco Mfg. Corporation's Recycling and Waste Prevention Program

In February of 1988, Virco's Conway Division changed managers, which led to new initiatives for an environmental program to be established at Virco.

In June of 1988, a W.O.W. (War on Waste) Committee was formed to find ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle the various forms of waste produced at Virco's Conway Division.

In October of 1989, Virco initiated a pilot recycling program. We were already recycling metal, so we decided to expand our efforts to include cardboard and oil.

In 1989, Virco's Conway Division recycled approximately 550,000 pounds of cardboard.

In 1993, Virco added a powder paint system to the manufacturing process, which reduced waste created by painting mistakes and eliminated paint sludge and solvent waste.



Powder Paint System

Cash for Cardboard Program

In April of 1993, the Conway Division helped a local elementary school raise funds for a trip to space camp by holding a cardboard recycling drive. This small drive grew into the “Cash for Cardboard” recycling program that now includes eight businesses and thirty-four schools throughout eight school districts. Each facility has a cardboard bin built on-site for collection. Virco’s employees collect, bale, and recycle the cardboard. All of the money earned from the recycling is in turn distributed to the schools to be used for various programs and projects. Since the program began, over \$176,000 has been given to the schools.

This program teaches children, teachers, administrators, and members of the community the importance of recycling and the benefits that can result from their efforts.



Load of cardboard collected from the Cash for Cardboard Recycling Program



Cardboard Collection Bin at Conway High School

In 1998, Virco introduced plans to build a new 1.2 million square foot facility and to purchase \$30 million in new equipment.





New Automated Baler Purchased in 1999



New Slitter Purchased and Installed at Plant One



Virco Mfg.
Corporation and
Community Outreach

In addition to the “Cash
for Cardboard”
Program, Virco is very
active in other
community activities
and programs.

Virco baled approximately 500,000 pounds of cardboard for the City of Conway. Over \$10,000 in profits were returned to the City after baling.

Virco provided the local Faulkner County Keep America and Arkansas Beautiful with seed money to begin its program.

Virco donated 32 bales of cardboard for an archery range at Camp Aldersgate.

Approximately \$500 from Virco's aluminum can drive was donated to the Faulkner County Habitat for Humanity Program.

Approximately 96 trees were transferred from the new Virco building site to local schools throughout Conway.

Virco purchased a Freon Recovery Unit for the City of Conway Landfill to aid its recycling program.

Virco donated old trailers to the City of Conway Landfill, the Faulkner County Sheriff's Department, and the City of Conway Police and Fire Departments to be used for storage units.

Virco gave two forklifts to area recycling centers.

Virco picked up and sold cardboard for the Conway Human Development Center for their recycling program. The proceeds were returned to the Conway Human Development Center.

Virco Mfg.
Corporation's
Buy Recycled
Program

Virco has purchased over \$25 million worth of recycled materials. Over 80 million pounds of the materials (from both divisions) had 20% or more post-consumer material.

Some of these items include: steel, wood products, wood dust, and packaging material.

Virco strongly believes that to complete the recycling loop an organization or corporation must actively recycle and purchase recycled materials.



Recycled Products Purchased

Climate Change

In 1998, the E.P.A. designated the Central Arkansas area as an Ozone Alert Zone. Virco responded by landscaping our new facility to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, we took specific initiatives as detailed below.

- *Specific mowing plans

- *Planting trees to shade the parking lot

- *Landscaping with plants native to the area, which require less water.







In 1994, Virco joined the EPA Waste Wise Program.

In 2003, Virco became a charter member of the EPA Waste Wise Hall of Fame.

Today, Virco continues to be actively involved with the Hall of Fame, which currently includes nine businesses and entities from across the United States. The EPA Waste Wise Program has over 1500 members consisting of businesses and organizations.

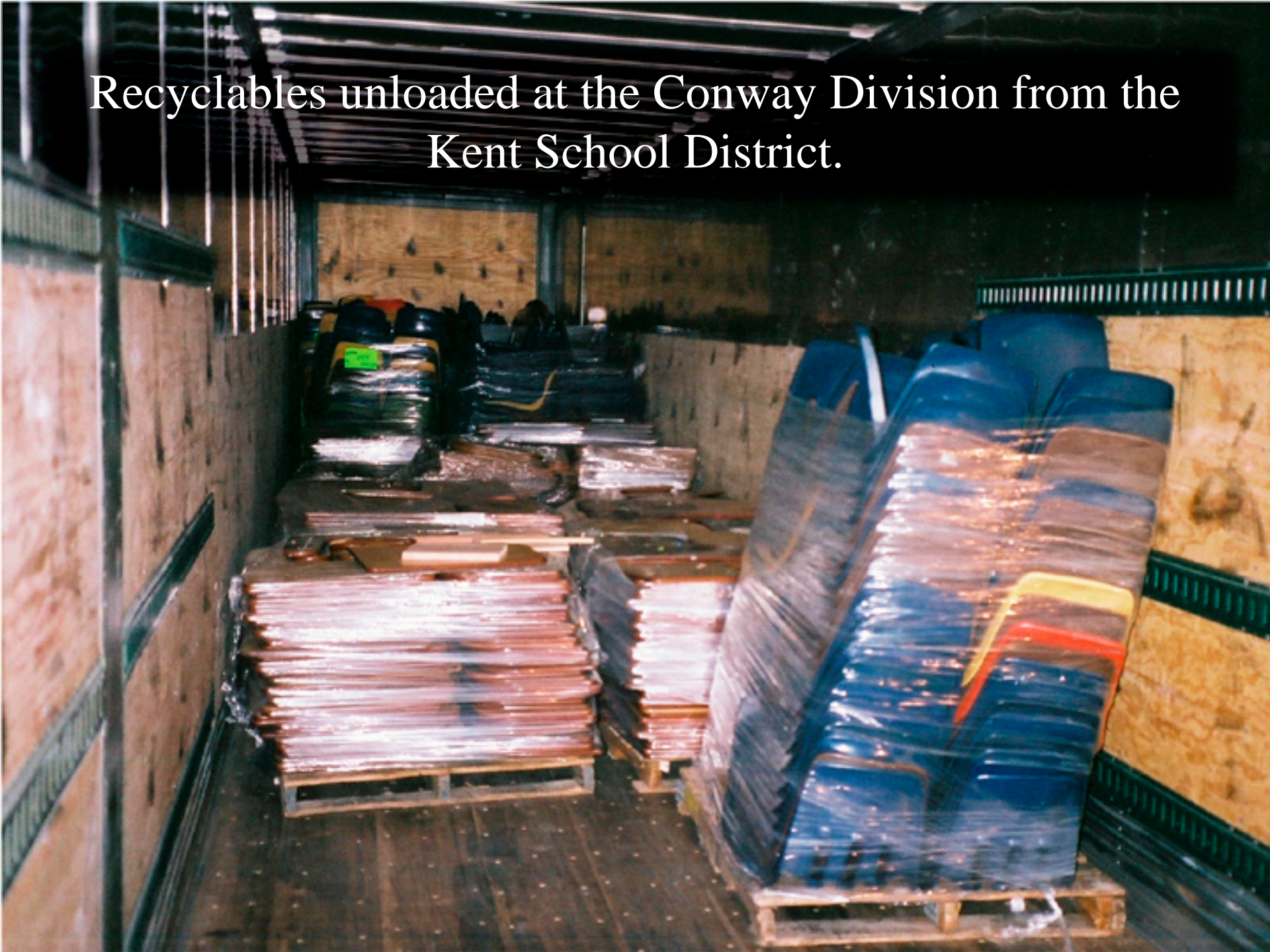
New Initiatives:
Virco Mfg.
Corporation's
Take-Back Program

In 2003, 1,500 units were returned to Virco from Conway area schools in a test Take-Back project.



In another test project, hundreds of disassembled desks and chairs from Washington's Kent School District were sent to the Conway Division providing new insight into the Take-Back process.

Recyclables unloaded at the Conway Division from the
Kent School District.





Buckets from the Kent School District being baled for storage. Currently, 72 Take-Back projects have been completed.

In 2004, Virco formed a Green Committee to map out future steps that need to be taken to strengthen and expand our current environmental program throughout the corporation.

Green Product Development

Currently, Virco is intensively developing a Green Line of furniture utilizing both existing and new furniture lines.

These products will be potentially manufactured from waste streams and items from the Take-Back Program.

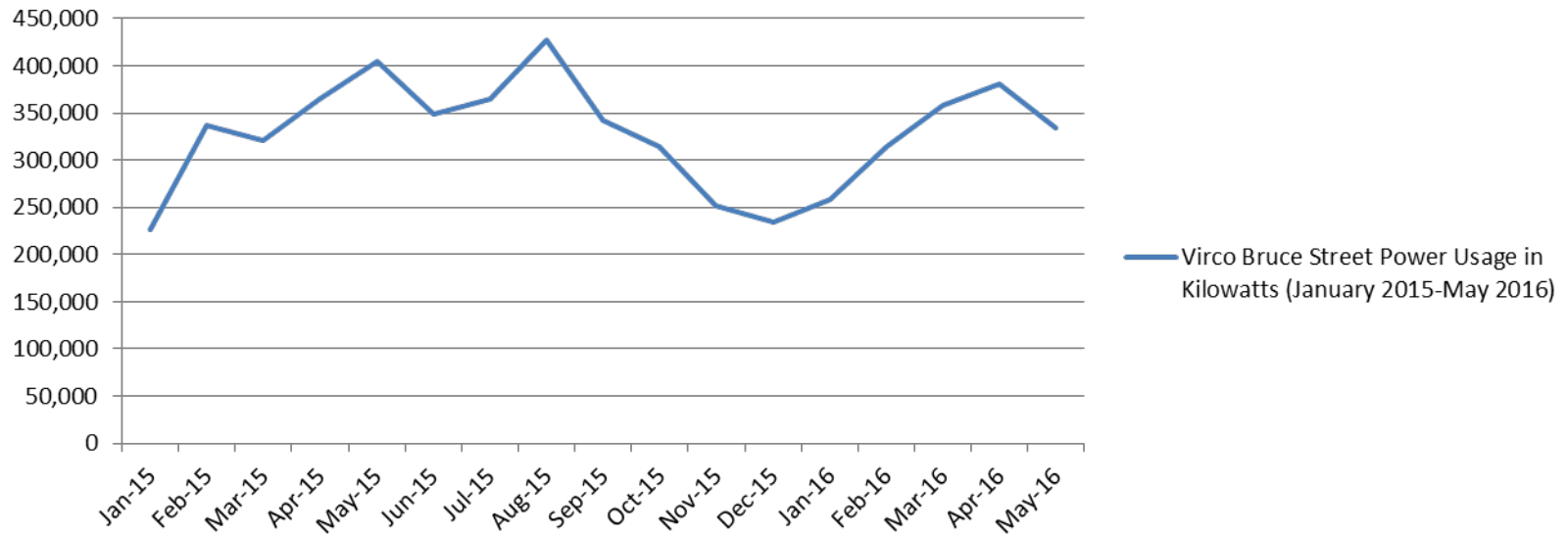
Since 1991, Virco has
received 29 national,
state, and local awards
for its recycling
program.

Key Highlights of Virco's Recycling Program:

- Over 380 million pounds of materials have been recycled since the beginning of the program.
- Our “Cash for Cardboard” Program has paid out over \$176,000 to local schools in the county over the past twenty years.
- Achieved waste free status for several years.
- The Take-Back Program has successfully expanded to several schools across the United States.

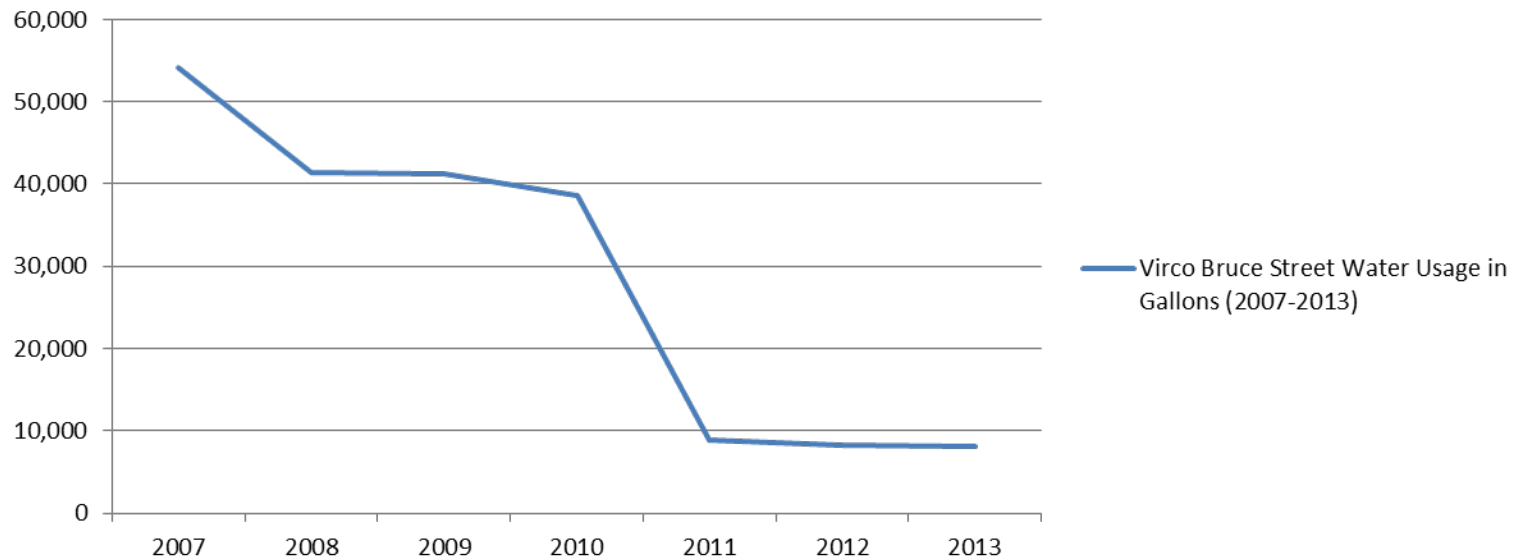
Virco's Energy Conservation Initiatives

**Virco Bruce Street Power Usage in Kilowatts
(January 2015-May 2016)**



Virco's Water Conservation Initiatives

Virco Bruce Street Water Usage in Gallons (2007-2013)



What Makes Virco's Program Successful?

Dedicated individuals in all
positions throughout the
corporation!

If you need any assistance,
please feel free to contact me
at:

Virco Mfg. Corporation

P.O. Box 5000

Conway, Arkansas 72033

Phone: (501) 329-2901 ext. 12244

Email: doncurran@virco.com

Cell Phone: (501) 336-7479