

CASE STUDY



IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TOGETHER

CUSTOMER

As a pioneer of many technologies used in the oil sands industry today, this mining operator is one of the largest in Canada. It is a major producer of crude oil from oil sands, responsible for 15 percent of Canada's total oil requirements, with daily production of up to 350,000 barrels of crude oil.

CHALLENGE

This oil sands mining operator can generate upwards of 4.2 million litres of used oil annually, with a large fleet of vehicles and equipment that requires regular maintenance. Additionally, the company was in search of a waste management partner for all of its waste streams that could assess its needs and develop a customized solution so the company could remain focused on its core business.

The mining operator was challenged to find ways to implement more environmentally sustainable practices for its used oil and reduce its carbon footprint. With environmental and safety regulations becoming increasingly more important and companies being more scrutinized, the company was also looking for ways to improve its corporate reputation.

SOLUTION

In 2011, the oil sands mining operator approached Terrapure to address and improve its waste management process, including fleet waste, to achieve both financial and environmental gains. After an initial consultation, Terrapure's Technical Services team visited the site to investigate the various waste streams and work directly with the customer to develop a customized solution for its used oil and hazardous waste management needs.

To better manage the used oil generated by the vehicle and equipment fleet, Terrapure installed larger tanks at the company's facility. The tanks use a web-based beacon system with remote, real-time monitoring of each tank's oil level, which allows Terrapure to schedule fewer pick-ups, proactively as required, as opposed to standard weekly pick-ups. As part of the hazardous waste management program, Terrapure collects oil filters, bulk antifreeze, grease, rags, absorbents, aerosols, batteries, light bulbs and small electronics on a regular basis for proper recycling or destruction.

Additionally, Terrapure found ways to reduce waste by repurposing plastic totes in which the customer receives antifreeze to be used as receptacles for automotiverelated waste, such as absorbents, filters and

plastics. This not only diverts these totes from disposal, it also helps the customer reduce costs by avoiding disposal and the renting of new receptacles.

RESULTS

Terrapure provided the customer with a certificate quantifying its sustainable waste management efforts due to the changes in its approach. In total, the oil sands mining operator has recycled over 4 million litres of used oil annually since 2011 through re-refining. By reusing these natural resources and repurposing other materials such as the plastic totes, Terrapure has helped the customer enhance its environmental sustainability and reduce its carbon footprint.

By implementing larger tanks and partnering with a local transportation company, Terrapure also facilitated an increased volume for each shipment of used oil for recycling, minimizing travel time on more high-risk highways and optimizing operational efficiencies.

Now, with more efficient processes and a more environmentally responsible and sustainable waste management solution, this oil sands mining operator can worry less about its waste management needs and more about protecting and growing its bottom line.

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