



Employee efforts bring results

In recent years, CN employees have started to act locally on matters of the environment. At CN's Walker Yard in Edmonton, for example, employees have been making small energy-efficiency improvements in the 80-year old Car Repair Shop that are making a difference.

The enthusiastic employees were already actively recycling paper, cardboard, metals, wood, oils and lubricants from shop operations when they decided to expand their efforts. They made it a point to look at energy-saving alternatives whenever something in the shop needed replacing. First, in 2005, they installed new synthetic rubber doors and insulated the brick and metal walls of the shop. Over the years, they replaced approximately 80 old space heaters with more efficient and reliable ones. Only one heater is now needed to do the work of five.

The ideas got even brighter as they began to replace 96W incandescent lights in the shop with compact fluorescent bulbs that consume only 24W of power. In 2007, the Walker Yard team replaced 40 high intensity mark and warning lights, which are used in the shop to indicate such things as switching movements, with low-energy and long-life LED lights, immediately saving 1,248W of power. Timers and motion detectors have also been installed throughout the shop to regulate lighting in work areas that are unused for 30 minutes or more.