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Verpol Facility
P.O. Box 10
Whipple Hollow Road
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people at Omya

Out of South Africa



Wayne Wilmans, Assistant Plant Manager, joined the Verpol team in Vermont in June of 2013. He and his wife Sharon, both natives of South Africa, met at Stellenbosch University near Cape Town where Wayne received degrees in Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering as well as an MBA. Prior to leaving South Africa, Wayne was employed as a process engineer for the De Beers Diamond Company in Kimberley, South Africa.

Before coming to the United States Wayne and Sharon spent almost a year backpacking in Europe. In 1990 they arrived in California where Wayne was employed by a major Silicon Valley computer networking company. After four short years, Wayne and his family were transferred to Belgium. There they lived in a small village called Overijse, located just south of Brussels. There he was responsible for maintaining network equipment in large computer networks in different countries. In 1997 they returned to the United States where Wayne became a Senior Process Engineer for the J.M. Huber Corporation in Fairmount, Georgia. He was promoted to Plant Manager at the Hawesville, Kentucky PCC Plant and later to Operations Manager for all J.M. Huber Corporation PCC Plants in North and South America. In 2007 Omya acquired the J.M. Huber PCC Plants and Wayne joined Omya as Operations Manager for the PCC Plants in Region Americas. In 2009 he was promoted to Plant Manager at the Omya Arizona Plant in Superior, Arizona and remained there until his recent appointment to the position at Verpol.

Wayne and his family attained U.S. Citizenship in 2008. Wayne, Sharon and their three boys are no strangers to adapting to new and different places. Being avid sports and outdoors people that enjoy ice hockey, hiking, hunting, fishing and skiing they are looking forward to all the opportunities that Vermont offers. Wayne considers it a privilege to be able to work at the Verpol facility and be part of a very strong team.

Significant Growth In Use of Omya SPS

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construction or decommissioning, and topsoil replacement above the final cover.

Pavement Sealer

Omya SPS successfully replaced a portion of the mineral filler in an emulsified asphaltic sealer. The typical mixture includes water, clay, sand polymers and refined coals tar or asphalt. Since SPS is classified as "pre-consumer recovered/

reclaimed material," it is perfect for environmentally aware markets such as Green Building/LEED certifications.

Compressed Block Producer

Omya is partnering with a compressed block producer to utilize SPS in their compression formed masonry blocks. The compressed block, which contains approximately 50 percent of Omya SPS, can be used as part of a wall system in single or multistory structures. The blocks are highly resistant to fire, wind damage, projectile penetration, insect infestation and sound infiltration. Other blocks containing SPS are used in architectural applications, pavers for walkways, and for building facades.



Land Management

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The team has also developed an innovative land reclamation technique to return quarry landforms back to productive forest lands. The success of black locust trees planted on a reclamation landform at Omya's Hogback Quarry is just one example. The first photo on page 1 shows black locust just one year after planting. The second photo shows the same trees five years after planting.

Omya relies on the natural environment and the long-term sustainability of local natural resources. Robbo emphasizes, "Keeping forests with a wide diversity of species and tree sizes provides a wide range of wildlife habitats and ecological benefits."



Significant Growth In Use of Omya SPS

Omya produces high quality calcium carbonate products which are used in the manufacturing of paper, paint, plastics, food and pharmaceuticals and various other products. The processing of our raw material, marble ore, also yields a by-product, Omya SPS. Omya SPS is a mixture of calcium carbonate and other minerals. Due to its mineral content, low permeability, small particle size, inherent alkalinity and its ability to support vegetation, Omya SPS has found a home in many applications as an economical, environmentally friendly alternative to traditional fillers and extenders. Omya SPS has also proven to be an excellent agricultural liming agent and landfill cover. Omya SPS also qualifies for a recycling credit as a “pre-consumer recovered/reclaimed material” and is an excellent example of how Omya is putting its commitment to sustainability into action! Read on to learn how Omya SPS is being used to bring sustainable value to different processes and products.



Omya SPS is an Effective Agricultural Liming (Aglime) Agent

Soil tends to become acidic from heavy use of nitrogen-containing fertilizers. Conditioning the soil with aglime, “lime”, or agricultural lime, a finely-ground limestone or dolomite; however, will change the soil pH from acidic to nearly neutral. The addition of aglime to the soil benefits crops by maximizing plant nutrients, reducing aluminum or manganese toxicity, promoting soil microbe activity, and

improving the soil structure. Omya SPS is a “natural” when it comes to Agliming. It provides many benefits including increasing the pH of acidic soil, providing a source of calcium and magnesium for plants, and improving the availability and absorption of major plant nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium).

Omya SPS, also known as Agrocarb, is a natural fit as an agricultural liming agent and is currently being used throughout the New England area. Agrocarb is a registered liming agent in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island and is registered as a bulk fertilizer in New York.

Omya SPS is an Effective Landfill Cover

If you look hard enough, you’ll see them everywhere... landfills. At first thought, they seem pretty simple, find a hole, and fill the hole and when it’s full, move onto the next hole. In reality, they are complex, engineered structures and Omya SPS has a role to play.



Omya SPS, classified as a “pre-consumer recovered/reclaimed material,” has been used in a variety of landfill applications such as in a daily cover, an impervious layer – either as part of the landfill

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Land Management



First year planting

With over 30 years of on-the-ground experience in managing forests throughout Vermont and neighboring states, consulting forester, Robbo Holleran, has provided over 25 years of technical expertise to Omya’s land management team. He has been key to Omya’s efforts to improve forest health, protect diverse wildlife habitat, and enhance timber quality on Omya’s forested lands from Dorset to Middlebury.

Did you know that Omya Vermont uses a small percentage of acreage (approximately 10%) for its quarry and mineral processing operations? The remaining landscape supports Vermont’s heritage, tourism, and recreational lifestyles. Omya believes that sustainability is the future to our success. That is why our land management team continues to manage Omya’s Vermont properties focusing on sustainability.

In Middlebury we have strived to preserve shag bark hickory for potential future Indiana bat habitat. Robbo’s practice of uneven aged forest management with selective harvesting not only improves the health of the forests, but protects a diverse range of wildlife habitat.



Planting after five years

In Pittsford, and lands surrounding Omya’s Hogback Quarry, Robbo continues to successfully enhance critical winter habitat for white tailed deer through the expansion of softwood cover and the development of nearby hardwood browse areas, an important source of winter food for deer.

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what's new

Business and the overall marketplace proved to be challenging; however, the team in Florence was successful in meeting our goals and obligations for 2013. During the year we implemented programs to trim our costs and improve performance. Hopefully the economic signs from the pundits will prove correct and we will see an improvement in the market in 2014.



The LNG facility was fully commissioned in October 2013 and is proving to be a successful project. There were some quirks in the start-up, one of which was the fire control panel sending false alarms to the fire department. We worked our way through them and all is well. We were glad to send six Pittsford fire department members, as well as other fire departments for LNG fire training. We received positive feedback that indicated the training was worthwhile and effective.

We plan to install an LNG truck fuel loading system which will replace diesel fuel in our haul trucks. The cost of LNG is usually significantly less than diesel fuel and results in fewer pollution emissions. We are excited about the benefits of this project and anticipate it will be up and running by October 2014.

The rail line extension into the Hogback Quarry was completed in January 2014. The additional rail will extend our ability to competitively reach markets that are out of reach by trucks.

Omya employees greatly appreciate the two new, smooth, railroad crossings with safety signal lights on Whipple Hollow Road. This was not an Omya project but one conducted by the railroad and the Town of Pittsford.

Omya has worked closely with our neighbors, Community Issues Team, the Town of Pittsford, West Rutland, and Proctor on preventing our customer’s trucks from using the ‘back’ roads into the plant. Even with increased signage on the roads, persistent and adamant complaints to our customers, and consultations with the DMV, our efforts were not successful. Subsequently in February we contracted with the Rutland Sheriff’s department for special patrols on Whipple Hollow Road, in March on West Creek Road into Proctor, and both Whipple Hollow and West Creek Roads in April. A total of twenty-one trucks were stopped and eighteen tickets were issued over the three month period. We will continue with patrols throughout the summer months.

Omya will host another Open House at our Middlebury Quarry on Saturday, September 13, 2014. Last year’s event drew approximately 1,500 visitors and we are excited to host this event again. Please mark your calendars to attend and meet the employees that make it happen!

Your comments, concerns and suggestions about Omya are important to us. Please contact me directly at 770-7617 or use our automated 24 Hour Community Feedback line at 802-770-7644. We will do our best to assist you. Thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful summer!

Best Regards,

Jim Stewart
jim.stewart@omya.com

Plant Tours

We invite you to visit our facility and see what we do. Schedule a private tour or come as a group (school groups, 4th Grade and up are welcome). See how our highly skilled employees use state-of-the-art processes to produce the highest quality of calcium carbonate products. Our products are used in thousands of consumer applications including diapers, paper, duct tape, vinyl siding, carpet, PVC pipe, and so much more!

The Verpol plant is the largest of the Omya operations in the United States and is the third largest of the Omya plants in the world. Here, Omya quarries marble, which then is ground, milled, and purified to produce a finely ground calcium carbonate.

For further information, please contact Jill Blanchard at 802-770-7500 or leave a message on our Community Feedback Line 802-770-7644.



recent & upcoming events

March 29
LNG Truck Transportation Meeting at Pittsford Fire Station*

April 15
American Red Cross Blood Drive – Lothrop Elementary School*

May 2
Omya Employees Green Up Day

May 3
Town of Pittsford Green Up Day*

May 19-23
Biannual Water Monitoring Event (includes Quarterly Surface Water Monitoring)

June 26
Community Issue Team Meeting

August 16
Pittsford Fire Station - Satin and Steel Band – 6:00 p.m.*

September 13
Omya Middlebury Quarry Open House 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

October 20-24
Biannual Water Monitoring Event (includes Quarterly Surface Water Monitoring)

*Omya is a sponsor of this event

Omya Gives Back

At Omya we feel it's our civic responsibility to support local efforts that benefit our community and neighbors. In the past six months we have made donations to the following organizations and community groups:

Civic Fundraisers

Brandon Free Public Library
Maclure Library
Middlebury Rotary
Middlebury Land Trust
RAFFL
Rutland Cutting Edge

Youth Events

Black Ice Hockey
Boys and Girls Club of Brandon
Boys and Girls Club of Rutland
Camp Thorpe
Castleton Village School
Cobra Gymnastics
Cub Scout Pack 44
Fair Haven Football
Fair Haven Union High School
Four Winds Science Program
Lakes Region Youth Orchestra
LEAP – Lothrop Enrichment Afterschool Program
Leicester Central School
Lothrop PTO Basketball Shootouts
Mentor Bowl
Mill River Union High School – Project Graduation
Mount Saint Joseph Academy
Otter Valley Banner Renewal
Otter Valley Raft Race
Otter Valley Union High School
Pittsford Recreation Department
Proctor Elementary School
Proctor High School – Homecoming
Proctor High School
RISE
Rutland Free Library – Robo Rattlers
Rutland High School
Rutland Recreation Department
SOAR After School Program – Brandon
Twin State Field Hockey
Vermont State Drama Festival
Wallingford Elementary School
West Rutland – Booster Club

Parent Teacher Organization- Association (PTO-PTA)

Neshobe PTO
Rutland Town Boosters Club
Quarry Hill School

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Calcium Carbonate in Paper



Twenty years ago when my son was young I was a Boy Scout leader in Proctor, VT. If some of you were in my troop, congratulations on having entered early adulthood fully prepared for the challenges of life...well, let's not get carried away. One of the things you learned was the production, use, and value of paper. Yes, there is a merit badge on this topic which I taught on several occasions. Remember the parsley and flower petal laced paper you made in the Proctor lab? That was just for fun but in fact there are commercial

examples of similar stationary paper (for you very young folk this is paper used to actually hand write a letter) even in this age of electronic communications.

Paper (and paperboard) has many uses common in daily life. In the production of paper, calcium carbonate, like that produced at the Vermont plant of Omya, plays a key role in making paper less expensive to produce, brighter, and with better printing properties. It has become a common filler and coating pigment in almost every form of paper.

One of the several requirements for the Boy Scout merit badge is to find 10 examples of paper (or paperboard) used in your own home. If you would like to take this challenge with your family, read no further. Just have a look around (hint: I already gave you one example). I think you will be surprised. (The answers are shown upside down in case you get stumped.)

And the answers are: Newspapers, magazines, copy paper, photographic paper, envelopes, greeting cards, playing cards, cash registers, lottery tickets, scratch offs, cereal boxes, business cards, calendars, book paper, labels, to name a few. See if you can come up with a few more!

Mike Strutz, Manager Technical Service Forest Products Industry

No Stranger to Omya

In February 2014, Heather Fowler took on the role of Safety Environment & Quality (SEQ) Coordinator at the Verpol plant. Heather joined Omya in 2004, in the Engineering Division of Omya Inc. where she supported the Director of Engineering and 35 engineers. In 2008 Heather moved to the Paper Division where she provided support to Paper Technical Services in Proctor.



Heather participates on the Middlebury Quarry Open House planning committee and is an active member in Omya's successful Health & Wellness program established in 2012. She will support and enhance the internal and external communication efforts at the Verpol plant in Florence. Additionally, Heather will be active on the Community Issue Team and help support the OmyainVermont website. She looks forward to promoting good will for the organization through publicity efforts and community events.

Heather, a native Vermonter, grew up in Clarendon. Outside of work, Heather enjoys spending time with her family; husband Bill, daughter Abigail and stepdaughter Keana. The whole family enjoys boating and biking together. She has an Associate's Degree in Applied Science in Business Technology and Management from Vermont Technical College and a Bachelors Degree of Science in Business Administration from Castleton State College.

We look forward to Heather's creativity and participation in the various events and activities that take place at the Verpol plant.

Legislative Bus Trip to the Vermont State House



Omya sponsored the Rutland Chamber of Commerce Annual Legislative Bus Trip to Montpelier. On March 27, 2014 Jim Stewart, Plant Manager, Wayne Wilmans, Assistant Plant Manager, Dennis Carroll, Environmental, Health and Safety Manager and Heather Fowler, Safety

Environment and Quality Coordinator attended along with twenty-nine others representing business in the Rutland Region. Those in attendance were introduced throughout the State House and provided the opportunity to take part in discussions with elected officials on items of interest or concern.

Representative Butch Shaw led an introduction at the opening of the session followed by discussions with Senate Pro Tem Shawn Campbell. Meetings were held with Governor Peter Shumlin who addressed the transportation challenges in Rutland County and the importance of rebuilding the western rail strip for high-speed freight and passenger travel from Rutland to Burlington. He also discussed the value in extending the natural gas pipeline to Rutland, and touched on education spending and health care costs. The group was also welcomed by Speaker of the House Shap Smith. Lunch was provided at the Capitol Plaza and featured speaker Lt. Governor Phil Scott. The afternoon provided an opportunity to visit committees and listen to floor debates. The group returned to Rutland after a full day of meetings and discussions.

Who's Out There in the Community?

We are!

Omya is proud to be a business that recognizes and supports employees so that they may participate in various outside community activities.

At the Florence plant, we have a number of employees that have been involved in coaching for years. You will find them at local middle schools, recreational departments, and high schools. We also have employees involved in various clubs, churches, town organizations and countless community and town events.

The following Omya employees get involved for many reasons: They want their children to be involved, they enjoy being involved and they like helping others: Brad Kendall, Pete Dayton, Matt Carrara, Heith Cardi, Adam Parry, Troy Young, Randy Arnold, Tim Brough, Robert Treworgy, Liz Gregorek, Tom Sawyer, Kipp Denis, Nate McKay, Chris Rathbun, John Anderson, Jim Prior, Ray Shortsleeves, Rusty Chapin, Adam Parker.

"Volunteers are what make our local communities and state function. Whether it's coaching, teaching classes, donating blood or organizing fundraising events it's about giving back. It's important to me that my children know you have to work hard and work together to make positive changes to build a brighter future." – Jill Blanchard

"I coach because I get great appreciation out of watching the kids (boys/girls) having fun and learning from someone who also has fun, while coaching." – Randy Arnold

"I coach kids' sports because I feel I can make a difference, number one, and number two there is almost always a need for coaches in this area. I contribute to the RAVE car club because I believe in giving back to the community I belong to. I help in scouts because I believe we are educating and raising our next generation of leaders. I have always been of the mindset that we as individuals should find time/make time to give back to society somehow." – Nate McKay

We are proud to be involved in:

Rutland/Brandon coach for recreational boys soccer, flag football, basketball, wrestling, girls & women's rugby, assistant coach, Varsity and JV football • Civic organizations - Masons (Fair Haven), Shrine (Fair Haven), Moose (Rutland), Aktion (Rutland), Crown Point Road Historical Society, Elks Lodge (Whitehall NY) • Chamber of Commerce Brandon, Rutland • Rutland Economic Development Corporation and Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board • Firemen Pittsford, Chittenden • Booster Clubs members • Director of Otter Valley Football • Cub Scout and Boy Scout Leaders West Rutland, Pittsford, Whitehall NY • Maclure library fundraising • Pittsford ski program • Pittsford rec field maintenance • Pittsford & Brandon Green Up Day • West Rutland church leader for over 20 years • RAVE (Rutland Area Vehicle Enthusiasts) officer and board member • VT Army National Guard several deployments • raise guide dogs to become guiding eyes for the blind • Vice President Snowmobile Club Granville NY • Modern Woodsmen of American Building & Grounds • Proctor skating rink manager • Black Ice Hockey founder & coach and so much more!

Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) Awareness Training



The Omya-hosted LNG training session at the Pittsford Fire Station

On March 29, 2014 Omya hosted a Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) Awareness Training session at the Pittsford Fire Station. Firefighters and First Responders from Castleton, Proctor, Pittsford, Rutland Town and West Rutland were on hand to learn from industry experts what LNG is, how it is transported and how it is handled.

Career Firefighter and Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy Instructor Norm Seymour, along with the Director of Safety & Compliance from L.P. Transportation Inc., provided a comprehensive training that included examining a truck with a double walled (shelled) insulated design dedicated only for transporting LNG. Omya employees in attendance were Dennis Carroll, Environmental, Health & Safety Manager, Mike Laurent, Pre-grind Area Manager and Dan Firliet, Process Engineer.

contact us

Do you have a comment or suggestion?
We want to know.

802-770-7644

The Omya Community Feedback Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also reach us through our website at www.OmyaInVermont.net. Simply click on "Contact" and select any one of the contacts listed or fill out the on-line comment form at the bottom of the page.

All calls and website inquiries will be returned by 5:00 p.m. on the next regular business day.

Omya Academic Scholarship 2013

Omya announces the recipients of its 2013 Academic Scholarship Program. Omya designed the scholarship program to offer incentives for the development of Vermont's future workforce and to encourage area students to pursue degrees in math and science. Students chosen for the scholarship awards demonstrate a commitment to learning, leadership, and community involvement.

A total of \$14,000 dollars in scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

Cody Bradish - Fair Haven Union High School
Josh Cody - Rutland High School
Brandon Groh - West Rutland High School
Abigail Harvey - Mount Saint Joseph Academy
Abigail Elliott - Mill River Union High School
Thomas McKean - Woodstock Union High School
Amy Morale - Otter Valley Union High School
Samantha Raymond - Mill River Union High School
Thomas Roberts - Otter Valley Union High School

Congratulations to each of our 2013 scholarship recipients!

Omya Gives Back < continued from page 2 >

Fundraiser Walks & Runs

3 Day Stampede for Cystic Fibrosis
March for Babies
Maple Run
Ripton Ridge Run
Rutland County Relay for Life
Susan G. Komen

Community Events

Addison County Field Days
Brandon Chamber - Concert Series
Brandon Independence Day Parade
Brandon Recreation Department
Brandon Senior Center
Brandon Toy Project
Castleton Cares
Castleton College – Concerts on the Green
Castleton Community Seniors
Chaffee Art Center
Fair Haven Sunshine Fund
Festival on the Green
Friends of Brandon Town Hall
Friends of Vergennes Opera House
Paramount Theatre
Town of West Rutland – Concert Series
RAVE
Rutland Creek Bike Path
Vergennes Opera House
Vermont Folklife Center
WARMTH

To make a donation request please contact us at 802-770-7500. You can also make requests through our website at www.omyainvermont.net or mail requests to the Omya Verpol Facility at P.O. Box 10, Whipple Hollow Road, Florence, VT 05744. The Donations Committee meets monthly to review requests.



For more information about Omya's North American and International Operations visit www.omya-na.com and www.omya.com.