



## Water Management and Conservation

Water is the life blood of the Verpol Facility's processing operations.

Water used to process our products is obtained from several sources. The two main water sources are: recycled water from facility operations and stormwater runoff collected on-site. Secondary sources, which supplement our process only as necessary, include groundwater from two on-site wells and water purchased from the Florence water system.

While we are fully permitted by the State of Vermont to discharge stormwater and process wastewater, our internal objective is to conserve water and achieve "zero discharge". We have several programs in place to help us meet this goal.

Inside the plant, we have made significant process changes that maximize recycling of process solids and water. Examples include direct recovery of residual solids and water from grinding mills during routine maintenance and from the washing of returned rail car interiors prior to reuse.

The Tailings Dewatering Facility (TDF) which was recently commissioned

is another example of our water recycling efforts. The TDF is an engineered mechanical system that recycles the process water back into the plant for reuse in the production process. Previously, the tailings were dewatered in open settling cells adjacent to the plant.

Other progress includes the recent closure of the Dolomite Tailings Management Area (TMA) in accordance with the State-issued Interim Certification. The Dolomite TMA is now capped and graded such that precipitation is more efficiently shed and captured for potential use.

Finally, an application for Full Certification to construct a lined Tailings Management Facility with direct water recovery was submitted to the Agency of Natural Resources in April 2009. This project is intended to be complete in 2010.

These efforts are examples of important advances in water conservation and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to plant improvements that are good for the business and good for the environment.

## Tailings Dewatering Facility Commissioned



A ribbon-cutting and tour was held on October 8, 2009 in Florence to mark the opening of our new Tailings Dewatering Facility (TDF). The event was officiated by Governor Jim Douglas, joined by Omya CEO Tony Colak, Verpol Plant Manager Pierre Masuy and a gathering of 60 other State and local dignitaries, neighbors, and Omya employees.

The TDF is a mechanical system that improves our tailings

management by recovering process water and recycling it back into the plant systems. In addition, the TDF enhances the marketability of our tailings by producing a byproduct with consistent moisture and particle size characteristics.

This project was a long-time in the making. The concept was first proposed in Omya's 2005 application for Interim Certification to continue on-site tailings management. The concept was formally requested in June 2007 when Omya filed an Act 250 permit application to allow for its construction. In October 2008 the request was granted when the State of Vermont issued Omya its Interim Certification. Construction of the TDF which began in early 2008 was designed, engineered and built by Vermont-based firms. By January of 2009 we began the operational

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## what's new

### A Year of Change



It's hard to believe that already a year and several months have passed since I arrived in Vermont from France. Time has flown by so fast and it has been a period of many adjustments.

The first challenge for me and my family was to get used to the new language, weather and culture. We are learning and we enjoy discovering the area and meeting neighbors and members of our community. Vermont is a wonderful place to live and I survived the infamous mud season – which is a good sign!

The economic difficulties faced worldwide began to affect Omya at the end of last year. 2009 has been a tough year that required us to scale back the plant workforce for the very first time in Verpol's thirty-year history. This decision was not easy for any of us. However, through all of the changes, adjustments and improvements within our organization, the Verpol team has remained positive and dedicated. I am pleased with, and proud of, our team.

Even during these demanding economic times, Omya's long-term business commitment remains strong and we continue to pursue innovative ideas and invest in Vermont. We have just invested over \$10 million to build our new Tailings Dewatering Facility that officially opened in October (see the related article).

As I become more involved in our community, I look forward to meeting you. I welcome your questions and comments. You can reach me directly at 770-7617.

Best Regards,

**Pierre Masuy,**  
Omya Verpol Plant Manager

# recent & upcoming events

## October 8

TDF Ribbon Cutting Event

## October 17

Omya Middlebury Quarry Open House\*

## October 26 - 30

Fall Water Monitoring Event

## December 3

Omya Community Issue Team Meeting

## December 22

Gift of Life Marathon – Red Cross blood drive at Rutland's Paramount Theater\*

\* Omya is a sponsor of this event

## OMYA GIVES BACK

### RECENT DONATIONS TO ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

- AAU Basketball: Vermont Shooting Stars, Rutland Bandits, VT Celtics
- Addison County Field Days
- Addison County Humane Society – Woofstock
- Bowen-Walker Fund – Pittsford Harvest Day
- Bridport Central School – New Playground
- Castleton Concert on the Green – Summer Concerts Series
- Catamount Radio – WSYB Sports Schedule
- The Children's Center - 2009 Summer Programming
- Christ the King School – Athletic Association
- Community Cupboard, BROCC, Salvation Army – Pack the Paramount Donation
- Coughlin Inc. – Bike Giveaway
- Fair Haven Sunshine Fund
- Foxcroft Farm – Harvest Program
- Goshen Gallop – Cross Country Trail Race
- Jay Wilson Scholarship Golf Tournament – Scholarship Fund
- Make-A-Wish Foundation
- Marble Valley Players
- Meals on Wheels – Providing Meals for Homebound People
- Memorial Sports Center – Banner Renewal
- Middlebury Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) – 5K run/walk
- MSJ – Athletic Association
- Orwell/Benson Baseball Team
- Otter Valley Football Club – Golf Hole Sponsorship
- Otter Valley Project Graduation
- Pittsford Day
- Pittsford Lions Club
- Pittsford Town – Memorial Day Flags
- Proctor Baby Center
- Proctor Elementary School – Golf Hole Sponsorship
- Proctor Free Library
- Proctor High School Class of 2013 – Class trip to Hulbert Center
- Proctor Lacrosse Team
- Proctor Our Yard
- Proctor Pool
- Proctor Youth League
- RAVE Car Show
- Rutland County Humane Society
- Rutland County Relay for Life
- Rutland County Soccer Club
- Rutland Cutting Edge – Hockey Team
- Rutland High School Project Graduation
- Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District – Conservation Field Days
- Rutland South Supervisory Union – Summer Enrichment Initiative
- SOAR (Success through Opportunities, Academics & Recreation)
- Sunshine Nursery School
- West Rutland Town – February School Vacation Week Activities

# Getting To Know You

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Omya is committed to building positive working relationships within the community by participating in a wide variety of events and contributing to educational scholarships and charitable organizations.

Several local events over the past few months have provided great opportunities to work together. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, as part of the statewide Green Up Day effort and what has been an Omya tradition since 1997, Omya employees cleaned up the roadsides in Pittsford, Florence and Proctor. Over 80 bags of trash and 30 old tires were collected. The momentum carried over to May 2<sup>nd</sup> when Omya and the Town of Pittsford held its first "Team Up for Green Up" event at the Town office building. The community was invited to drop off their trash and then stay to enjoy lunch. By all reports the roadways were noticeably cleaner and a good time was had by all. Baird Morgan, one of the Town's event organizers, offered these words, "Our hats are off to Omya for its help in cleaning up our town and for its support of our Green Up Day festivities."

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Omya participated and sponsored the Pittsford Day Celebration organized by the Town of Pittsford Recreation Department and the Pittsford Day Committee. The day proved to be one of the best the summer had to offer. Randy Adams, Pittsford Recreation Director noted that, "Working with Omya and its employees to benefit the residents of our community has been my pleasure. Their enthusiasm and participation certainly helped make the event a huge success." No rain, plenty of glorious sunshine and lots of smiling faces were

seen as youngsters and those young at heart enjoyed the food, music and many family activities. Back by popular demand again this year were the Omya sponsored bounce houses – an activity that never seems to lose its appeal no matter how hot it is outside!



Omya's Middlebury Quarry Open House, held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, delighted people from around the state and even some tourists as well. Now in its ninth year, this free educational event celebrates Earth Science Week: a state-wide school program. The Quarry Open House included a tour of the quarry, displays of mining equipment and activities to help visitors discover the world of geology. Many children enjoyed the massive trucks and rock collecting. The marble sand pile and scavenger hunt also were huge hits. Complimentary refreshments were available throughout the day and visitors were able to speak with Omya managers and other company personnel involved in our mineral processing business. It was a great day filled with enthusiasm and fun. If you missed it, we will see you at the Omya Middlebury Quarry Open House, the same time next year.

## Rail Tour – May 2, 2009

On a sunny Saturday in May, over a dozen Omya employees eagerly awaited the arrival of a train at the Verpol facility in Florence. This train was not our everyday white and blue railcar; rather, it was a rare passenger train that arrived at the Florence spur, carrying one-hundred rail enthusiasts and members of the Rutland Railroad Historical Society (RRHS). The RRHS is a non-profit historical and educational organization dedicated to the preservation of the memory of the Rutland Railroad. The group was on an extended afternoon excursion which included a tour of the Omya production facility as part of

its annual convention.

The Omya employees on hand to welcome the visitors came from various departments throughout the company, including: Logistics, Geology, Plant Operations, Environmental, External Affairs, Packaging, and Human Resources. Dave Saums of the RRHS said, "The hospitality extended by Omya's employees reflected how proud they are of their operation."

The train departed from the Vermont Marble Museum in Proctor, and brought the group to Florence for an educational and

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## Scholarships for Graduating Seniors in VT

Over the past five years, Omya has annually awarded between \$10,000 and \$14,000 in college scholarships to Vermont's graduating seniors. Two categories of scholarships are available: one for the dependents of Omya employees (\$1,000 each); and, the other for any Rutland or Addison County seniors who are planning to major in a science or engineering discipline (\$2,500 each).

Each year a scholarship committee comprised of nine Omya employees faces the challenge of selecting only four "non-dependent" awardees from approximately forty highly-qualified applicants representing twelve area high schools. Selection is based on the student's academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, and a personal leadership essay. The committee works diligently

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# Spring 2009 Water Monitoring

As required by The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) Omya conducts regular environmental monitoring of the surface water and groundwater at the Florence plant and in the surrounding vicinity. During the May 2009 monitoring, a total of fourteen surface water samples were taken from nine on-site locations, two off-site locations and three locations from the Hogback Quarry north of the site. The groundwater monitoring includes samples from 26 monitoring wells and five off-site drinking water sources. Samples from those 45 locations are analyzed for a variety of constituents in accordance with VTDEC guidelines. All samples for off-site and on-site wells were consistent with previous monitoring results and in conformance with regulatory

requirements.

Along with water quality monitoring, a water balance study of the Pittsford Italian Quarry (PIQ) was completed this spring. The PIQ is an open quarry used to store surface and storm water for recycling back into plant processes. The study, which was initiated in 2007, uses automated flow monitoring devices and local meteorological data to identify the amount of water that flows into and out of the PIQ. Findings from the study are also combined with groundwater elevation data from adjacent monitoring wells. The results from the completed study concluded that the PIQ has little to no net effect on local groundwater.

For more information about our water monitoring efforts and results, visit: [www.OmyaInVermont.net](http://www.OmyaInVermont.net) and click "Environment".

## RCO v. Omya Lawsuit

### COURT RULES IN OMYA'S FAVOR

On September 30, 2009, the U.S. District Court issued its final decision in the case of Residents Concerned about Omya (RCO) v. Omya. In light of the evidence presented during a three-day hearing held in March 2009, the Court ruled on all pending motions in the favor of Omya. The Court decision stated:

- "Based upon a review of the entire record including the exhibits and testimony, the Court concludes that Plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden to show that Defendants' (Omya's) actions have created an imminent and substantial endangerment to health or the environment."
- The Court also noted, "the

absence of AEEA in any water currently used as drinking water [and that] AEEA has never been detected in the groundwater offsite."

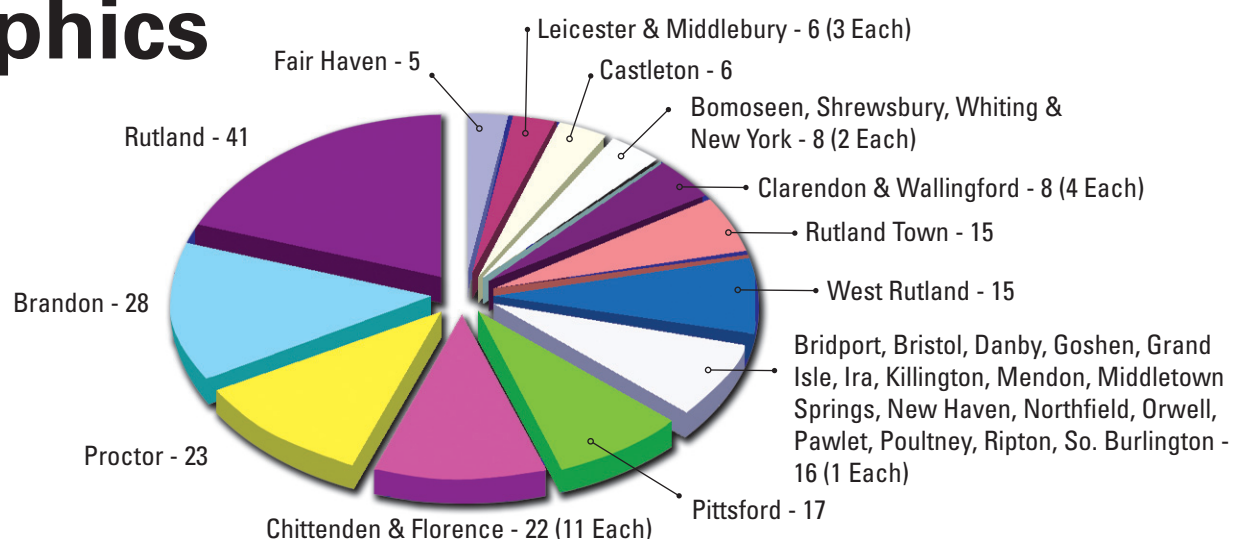
On October 30, 2009, RCO appealed the recent decision by the U.S. District Court. This appeal has been filed with the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Tony Colak, Omya's CEO, stated that, "We believe that the Court's September 30<sup>th</sup> decision is well-reasoned and accurate. We have been, and will continue to be, in full compliance with federal and state regulations."

For the complete Court ruling, see [www.OmyaInVermont.net](http://www.OmyaInVermont.net).

## Employee Demographics

Omya employees are your neighbors. You will find many Omya employees actively involved in their communities throughout the 34 towns in Vermont and also in New York State. As one of the largest employers in the local area, Omya and its employees bring significant economic and social benefits to the wider community.



# 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](http://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.

## Proctor Technical Center

OFFERING SOLUTION-BASED EXPERTISE



Since opening in 1978, Omya's Technical Center in Proctor has supported both our customers and production facilities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Our staff includes chemists, biologists, geologists, mineralogists, and chemical engineers with papermaking and plastics expertise.

These highly-qualified scientists use world-class laboratory technologies to diagnose and address customer application issues, develop new products and formulations, and improve current products.

Our chemists work with plant-based process engineers to evaluate and qualify new, more environmentally-friendly process chemicals. Our paper technologists have helped customers reduce their energy consumption while simultaneously making brighter paper. Our plastics experts have helped make baby diapers more breathable and have moved us closer to rust-free cars. And our geologists and mineralogists work together with plant managers in developing ways to process ore more efficiently, saving energy and utilizing essentially all of the stone resources that we quarry.

We have great tools with which to do our jobs but we have even better people who make a difference every day at work and within our communities.



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We encourage your questions and comments.  
**(802) 770-7644** or  
**OmyaInVermont.net – click “Contact”**

Verpol Plant  
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# people at Omya

## TOM SAWYER

Tom grew up in New Haven, Vermont on a dairy farm that is still being run by his parents. Fascination with how things worked led him to the field of engineering. Tom earned both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a MBA from Norwich University.

Tom's career with Omya began in 1993. During the last sixteen years, he has traveled throughout the world while holding the positions of: Inventory Control Engineer; International Engineer; Environmental, Health and Safety Manager; and, Production Superintendent. Currently, Tom is a Process Engineer at Verpol in the PX Mill area. He is responsible for improving process efficiency in order to reduce the amount of electricity and materials consumed. Tom is committed to Omya's culture of innovation and continuous improvement to provide quality products and service to its customers while at the same time minimizing environmental impacts. Tom stated, "The people at Omya are unique, good hearted and care tremendously."

Outside of work, you'll find Tom enjoying his talented and musical family and helping his neighbors, community and church. Tom, and his wife Carol, have eight children: three girls and five boys ranging from 4 to 21 years of age. George, Beth, Tom Jr., Ken, Peter, David, Becky and Suzy all play the piano and several other instruments. Tom and five of his children are members of the Rutland City Band and perform on Sunday evenings in Rutland's Main Street Park. Not one to be idle, Tom has been actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America for 20 years and his boys have achieved, or are working through its ranks toward, Eagle Scout. In addition, true to his Vermont roots, Tom and his family manage to produce a bountiful harvest of vegetables from their garden every year.



## < Continued from Tailings Dewatering Facility Commissioned >

commissioning and fine-tuning. By October 1, 2009 the TDF was fully commissioned and consistently achieving operational targets.

At a cost of over \$10 million, the TDF is a good example of Omya's long-term efforts to improve environmental performance and minimize potential environmental impacts. The new facility recycles approximately 750,000 gallons of water per day back into the plant for reuse in the production process. The TDF also allows for more efficient handling of tailings, eliminates the use of open settling cells and creates new opportunities and markets for other commercial uses of the tailings.

"This multi-million dollar project is an example of our long-term commitment to developing our business here in Vermont," stated Tony Colak, Omya's CEO. "The state-of-the art facility represents our investment in the future, both economically and environmentally."

## < Continued from Scholarships For Graduating Seniors in VT >

through an exhausting two-day process of reviewing and approving the final awardees.

Committee members announce their selections during the recipients' respective schools' senior awards ceremonies. It is always a great moment to share Omya's mission, compliment these deserving seniors on a "job well done", and offer them our best wishes and support as they enter the next exciting phase of their lives. Invitations are extended to awardees to visit and tour the Florence facility. Students receive their scholarship funds during the winter break of their freshman year.

The 2009 Omya Vermont Scholarship recipients are:

Claire Cipriani – Proctor High School - \$2,500

Julie Ketcham – Otter Valley Union High School - \$1,000

Connor Quigley – Otter Valley Union High School - \$2,500

Katie Borsch – Woodstock Union High School - \$1,000

Ethan Peterson – Rutland High School - \$2,500

Alessandra Hodulik – Mount Saint Joseph Academy - \$1,000

Patricia Danahy – Fair Haven Union High School - \$2,500

Molly Miles – Otter Valley Union High School - \$1,000

## < Continued from Rail Tour - May 2, 2009 >

informative plant tour. The RRHS group was initially oriented to the Verpol facility on board the train by Erik Bohn, Omya's Logistics Director, and then divided into five smaller groups for a tour. "A highlight of the tour for us was the opportunity to view the control room, where a single operator can monitor as many as 16,000 functions," said Saums.

Saums wrote an informative article for the RRHS's summer *Newsliner* newsletter, which described the group's tour and Verpol operations with an emphasis on Omya's extensive use of rail. In fact, Omya, because it accounts for the majority of the state's total freight traffic, plays a vital role in the viability of all rail service in Vermont.

More information about the RRHS and its *Newsliner* newsletter can be found on their website at [www.rutlandrr.org](http://www.rutlandrr.org), or by contacting Bruce Curry c/o the RRHS, P.O. Box 6262, Rutland, VT 05701.