

Sun Valley Bronze: 2018 Pollution Prevention Champion

Bellevue/Carey

Environmental Commitment

Sun Valley Bronze is a manufacturer of bronze and steel door hardware and accent pieces. With a foundry located in Carey and sales and operations located in Bellevue, the company has successfully managed to reduce its environmental impact through innovation and a commitment to its values.

Reducing hazardous waste generation

Sun Valley Bronze utilizes a vegetable based cutting oil for its machining and milling of bronze and steel door fixtures. The company would regularly have to dispose of spent oil due to fouling caused by microbial agents. Knowing about the biocidal applications of copper, the company experimented with utilizing bronze shavings in the oil recirculation process to determine if the anti-microbial properties could extend the life of the machining oil. The results were successful, and the company has significantly reduced its generation of hazardous waste oil.

Minimizing energy use

Rather than install a separate HVAC system for the company's foundry in Carey, heat from the foundry furnace is used to regulate air temperature to ensure adequate work conditions during the winter months. Opting to utilize waste heat from the foundry allows the company to save on propane, heating oil, or electricity that would otherwise be used to heat the building between October and April.

Recovering useful materials

Bronze and steel are both highly recyclable metals. In order to effectively recover and recycle these materials, Sun Valley Bronze has worked to establish processes to maintain the purity of these waste streams. This helps to ensure the highest possible recovery rate of recyclable materials. Once recovered, the shavings and discarded portions from the company's milling and manufacturing processes are all recycled and re-forged into new products.

For More Information

To learn more about Sun Valley Bronze, visit the company's website at <https://www.sunvalleybronze.com/heritage#our-story>

