

## **Northwest Airlines Wins Smart Business Award**

Northwest Airlines has been recognized as a Minnesota Waste Wise Smart Business.

“Northwest Airlines is proving that less waste is smart business,” said Mark Blaiser, Minnesota Waste Wise executive director. Minnesota Waste Wise is a business membership program of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce devoted to help businesses reduce waste voluntarily and save money.

NWA established a fuel conservation and resource management program in 2000. Through modernization of its fleet, NWA saves more than 250 million gallons of jet fuel per year – the equivalent of removing 500,000 cars from the road for one year. In addition, NWA has replaced fuel trucks with fuel carts at MSP International Airport. The carts are stationed at each gate and connect to a system of fuel hydrants, reducing the need for fueling the trucks on the ground.

The company also has focused on recycling and reuse initiatives, reclaiming all used airplane parts and reusing as many as possible. Normal operations require recycling of all scrap metal, aircraft parts, tires, wood, chemicals, oil, paper and cardboard.

NWA's fuel conservation and recycling efforts prove that by increasing efficiencies and reducing waste, companies can save substantial amounts of money, Blaiser said. NWA has saved more than \$500 million each year since implementing these waste reduction measures in 2000. In 2005 and 2006 alone, a total of 2.6 million pounds of solid waste was recycled.

As a result of these actions, NWA received a 2008 Minnesota Waste Wise Smart Business Award and was presented the Governor's Award for waste and pollution prevention at the Minnesota Air, Water, and Waste Environmental Conference in February.

“On behalf of my colleagues here at Northwest Airlines, I am excited to accept this award for our efforts. This is another example of Northwest's strong desire to promote environmental change, and we will continue to strive to be a conservation leader in the airline industry,” said Tim McGraw, director of corporate environmental and safety programs.

Minnesota Waste Wise helps businesses find ways to reduce, reuse or recycle under the philosophy that “less waste is smart business for a better environment.” This service is available to all businesses in Minnesota. For information, call (651) 292-4662, or visit [www.mnwastewise.org](http://www.mnwastewise.org).