

New Washer is Easy on Environment, Mechanics

Plant Facilities and Services mechanics at Argonne-East's Building 46 recently volunteered to participate in a pilot program to test a new device that provides an environmentally friendly way to degrease and clean automotive parts.

This device, manufactured and showcased by Solvent Systems International, uses a proprietary non-solvent based cleaning agent and water. "The only thing we had to do was to add water," said Barb Markwenas (PFS).



Use of this parts washer is anticipated to lower the cost of degreasing parts, reduce volatile organic emissions (VOCs), and lower the waste disposal volume and cost. Waste oil is separated and can be recycled using this system.

The pilot program was sponsored by Argonne-East Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention Program in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Waste Management Research Center (WMRC) as part of the laboratory's continuing effort to reduce harmful VOC pollutants released into the atmosphere.

Representatives from 22 public and private organizations interested in the technology, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency attended a demonstration of the device in Building 46.