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For Release Immediately
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Eaton's Shenandoah plant recognized for reducing waste, GHG emissions through zero waste-to-landfill program

SHENANDOAH, Iowa ... Power management company Eaton is recognizing its Vehicle Group facility in Shenandoah, Iowa, for achieving “zero waste-to-landfill” by recycling, re-using waste streams and modifying work processes.

Eaton is encouraging its manufacturing sites to achieve zero waste-to-landfill as part of its waste management program and also as a means to reduce the release of greenhouse gases (GHG) associated with landfills. The predominant GHG from landfilled waste is methane, a GHG 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. In 2018, Eaton added 20 zero waste sites to its growing list of 148 facilities around the world that have achieved this goal, including 40 percent of its manufacturing sites. Since 2015, Eaton has reduced its waste to landfill by 25 percent, which equates to 8,300 metric tons. In 2019, Eaton plans to further reduce its waste to landfill and strives to add another 20 zero waste sites to the company's total.

“Waste reduction is environmentally responsible and the right thing to do for our Shenandoah facility and our community,” said Rob Murtfeld, manager, Environment, Health and Safety, Eaton's Vehicle Group North America. “It directly contributes to us achieving our vision of improving the quality of life and the environment.”

The more than 100 employees working at the facility produce main cases, shift bar housings and rear plates for heavy-duty commercial truck transmissions.

Based on the Underwriter's Laboratory definition, Eaton defines "zero waste-to-landfill" as consistently achieving a landfill waste diversion rate of 98 percent or more through either reuse, composting, recycling or incineration – but only if the heat generated by incineration is collected and used in order to create more energy than was required for the incineration process. Each of Eaton's zero-waste sites are subjected to an audit process that includes verifying conformance to our definition, and ensuring proper tracking and oversight practices are maintained.

The Shenandoah facility's waste reduction program began in 2014. A plan was developed to create a work environment that engages its employees through opportunities to positively impact the environment, adopts operating practices to minimize waste and energy consumption, and serves as a model of sustainability within its community.

"Our plant is proud to achieve zero waste to landfill status and happy that we were able to find ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle instead of throwing out our waste," said Murtfeld.

"Eaton's commitment to zero waste-to-landfill helps deliver the environmental performance that reflects Eaton's leadership in sustainable business practices," said Harold Jones, executive vice president, Eaton Business System and Sustainability, Eaton. "And, we are striving to get better. It all starts with our employees generating the ideas and enthusiasm to help us be active stewards of the environment."

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