

# Fast Charging Means More Productivity for International Paper

“We’ve reclaimed \$1 million in costs each year.”

— Len Schroer, operations manager



*Fast Chargers allowed International Paper to eliminate battery changes and the battery room. Lift trucks charge right where they park while operators are on break.*

With a three-shift, 460,000 square-foot facility in Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.-based International Paper was looking for ways to save money and improve work flow. Their 85 battery-powered lift trucks worked well, but operators were spending 40 minutes each shift waiting while the battery was changed in each truck.

And it wasn't just the 2 hours per day per truck in battery changes that was slowing them down. The room where they stored all the extra batteries was taking up valuable floor space. The changing equipment required specialized maintenance and the safety risks involved with changing two-ton batteries made everyone uncomfortable.

The lift truck dealer for the Cincinnati site suggested they switch to a fast charging system, and International Paper's management studied their options. With fast charging, they would only need one battery per truck, and they could recharge the

batteries while operators took their scheduled breaks.

International Paper knew that there would be an initial investment for the fast chargers, as well as upgrades to



*Len Schroer and assistant operations manager, Brian Burt, in front of an Aker Wade® TwinMAX® fast charger.*

the site's electrical infrastructure. But the elimination of the battery room, battery changes and extra batteries cancelled out those initial costs. “Basically, it was a wash,” says Len Schroer, operations manager.

“We’re really benefiting from improved productivity,” says Schroer.

“By eliminating the battery changes, we’ve reclaimed 40,000 hours per year. That adds up to about \$1 million in reduced labor costs each year.”

Safety has improved as well. Allocations for worker's compensation has greatly declined.

“We haven't changed the headcount. The layout is exactly the same. But, operationally, it has allowed us to grow. We have reached production numbers in this facility we didn't think we could get to,” says Schroer. “It was the right decision.”

“It allowed us to grow...it was the right decision.”

— Len Schroer



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