

DEP Recognizes Arthrex for 57.6 Percent Recycling Rate



Arthrex's Maya Alfonso, Associate Manufacturing Engineer/Safety Team Chair, displays certificate flanked by Keith Reynolds, EI, Associate Environmental Engineer, (left) and Michael Dock, CSP, Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager

On April 22, 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection recognized Arthrex Inc. (www.Arthrex.com) for achieving a 57.6 percent recycling rate. Arthrex is a world leader in orthopaedic medical device design and manufacturing and has developed more than 7,500 innovative products and surgical procedures to advance minimally invasive orthopaedics worldwide.

Arthrex promotes environmental impact reduction in all product development stages, product sales and corporate facilities, and is committed to providing a work environment that is both safe and environmentally responsible. With more than 2,600 employees worldwide, Arthrex's corporate headquarters, along with two manufacturing facilities, are located in Collier County.

Arthrex manufactures its products using different metals and plastics. The CNC machines (computer-controlled machines that make medical devices and implants) mill engineered rods and screws out of bar stock. The left over materials are collected and run through a chip spinning process that allows Arthrex to recover and reuse 4,320 gallons of oil a year.

In addition, approximately 6,500 pounds of metal chips and other commingled metals and materials are collected and recycled at Collier County's recycling center each month. Left over plastics from Arthrex's molding processes are also collected and recycled, and close to 10,000 pounds of cardboard are recycled each month.

To further reduce waste, Arthrex provides every new employee with an Arthrex Tervis Tumbler, which reduces the use of disposable cups throughout the facility. Motion sensor switches are installed in all office spaces and high-tech efficient lighting is placed throughout all manufacturing facilities. Arthrex properties also feature earth-friendly landscaping and "smart" high-tech irrigation that eliminates over-watering.

Arthrex will continue to minimize its footprint by finding ways to reduce and reuse materials and is currently working toward becoming ISO 14001 certified.