

Environmental Sustainability Report 2020

LoweMartin

1908

Lowe-Martin is founded by Ernest David Lowe and Thomas Henry Martin

1984

Donald Griffin purchases Lowe-Martin Company Inc. focusing on commercial printing

1992

Lowe-Martin acquires the Runge Press

1993

Lowe-Martin launches its warehousing and logistics division

1991

Lowe-Martin launches its digital printing division

1995

Lowe-Martin becomes one of the first printers in Canada to become ISO certified

1998

Lowe-Martin becomes one of the first printers in Canada to obtain EcoLogo Certification for lithographic printing

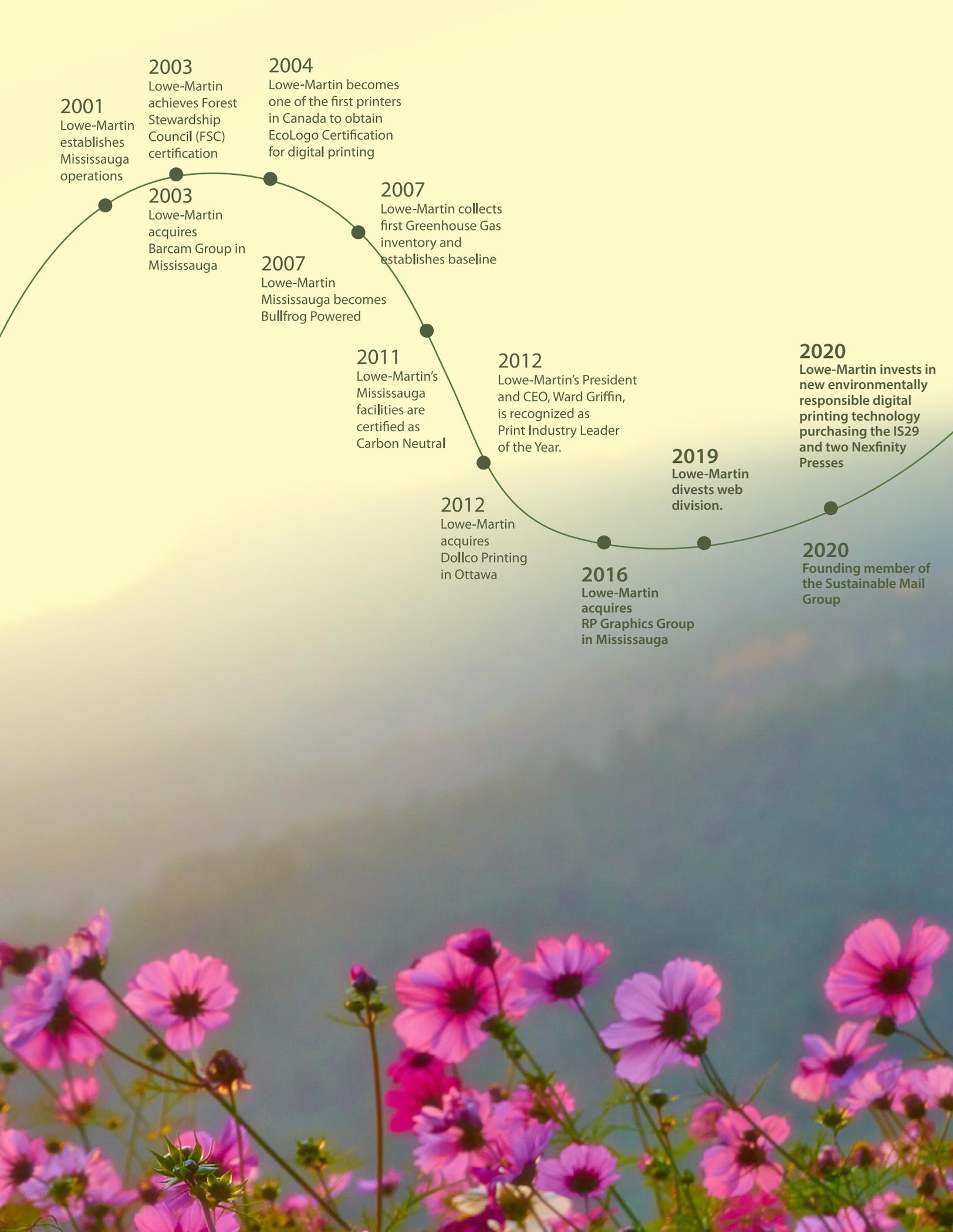
1996

Ward Griffin & Tracy Griffin take over for their father as new owners of the Lowe-Martin Group

1998

Lowe-Martin launches e-business online services division





2001
Lowe-Martin establishes Mississauga operations

2003
Lowe-Martin achieves Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification

2004
Lowe-Martin becomes one of the first printers in Canada to obtain EcoLogo Certification for digital printing

2003
Lowe-Martin acquires Barcam Group in Mississauga

2007
Lowe-Martin Mississauga becomes Bullfrog Powered

2007
Lowe-Martin collects first Greenhouse Gas inventory and establishes baseline

2011
Lowe-Martin's Mississauga facilities are certified as Carbon Neutral

2012
Lowe-Martin's President and CEO, Ward Griffin, is recognized as Print Industry Leader of the Year.

2012
Lowe-Martin acquires Dollco Printing in Ottawa

2019
Lowe-Martin divests web division.

2016
Lowe-Martin acquires RP Graphics Group in Mississauga

2020
Lowe-Martin invests in new environmentally responsible digital printing technology purchasing the IS29 and two Nexfinity Presses

2020
Founding member of the Sustainable Mail Group



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**"Start by doing what's
necessary; then do what's
possible; and suddenly you
are doing the impossible."**

- Francis of Assisi





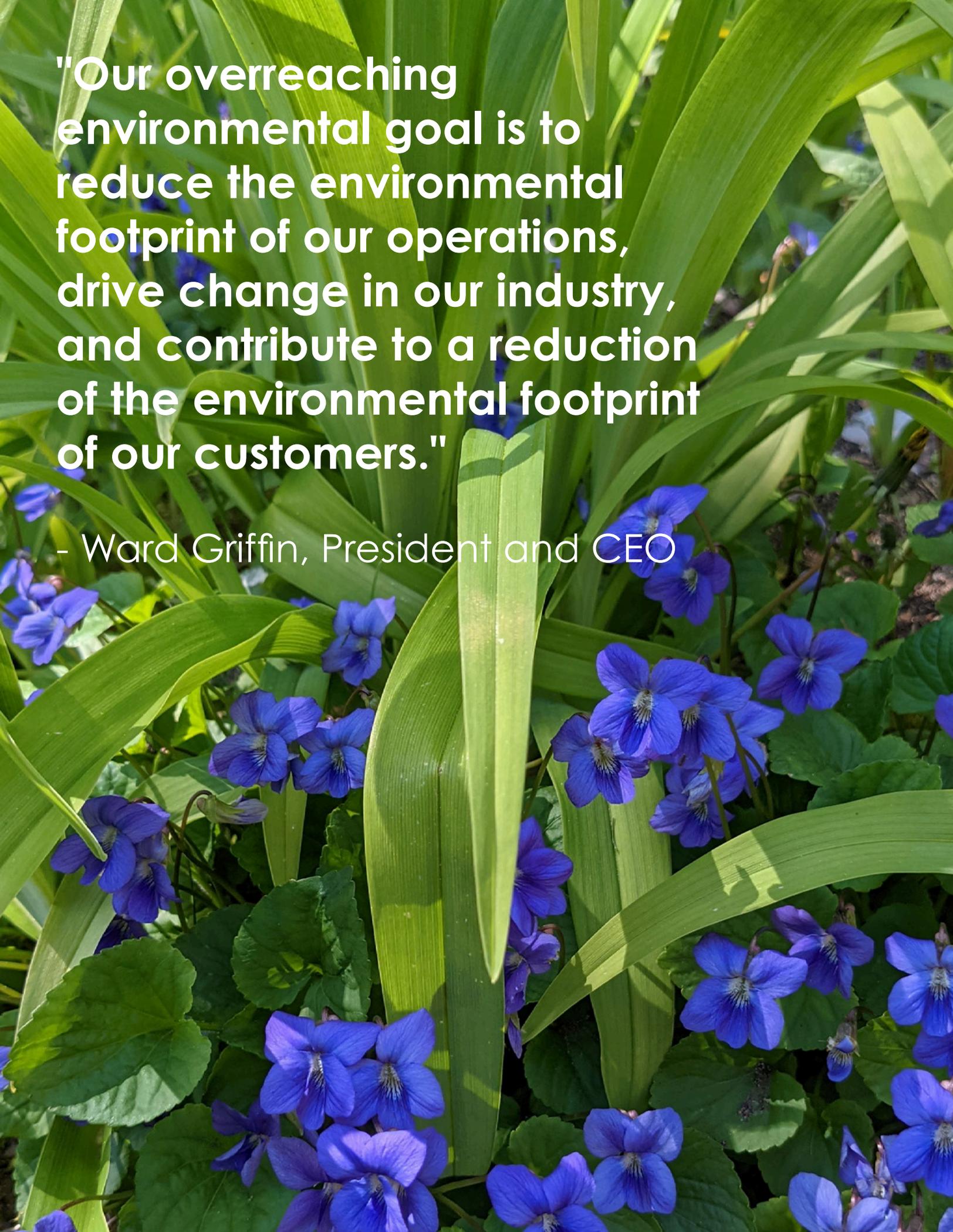
A Message from the CEO

The sustainability report we produce annually is our report card to ourselves and our community. It answers the hard questions. “What is the impact of all our new initiatives and ongoing efforts? Are they making a difference?” I am pleased to see that our efforts are moving us forward. We continue our 13 year relationship with Bullfrog Power and 10 years working with Carbonzero resulting in increasing our carbon neutral printing by 5% and had a waste diversion rate across all facilities of 93%.

The progress we made in the last year is, in large part, the result of decisions and actions taken over the past thirty-two years. Early on, we focused on using recycled papers, vegetable inks and less harmful chemicals. Next came the opportunity to improve R-values, clean and recycle air, and install more efficient lighting. More recently, adding power from renewable resources and providing carbon neutral printing has moved our environmental initiatives to a new level. And we have many plans for the future, such as a reduction in usage of plastics, developing environmentally branded solutions and also partnering more with our vendors on environmental solutions. Continuous improvement is a matter of committing to the principle of sustainability, developing the tactics that suit the organization's context, and measuring progress each step of the way. Although we have accomplished a lot, it is never easy. To continue to lessen our impact on the environment we need to increasingly collaborate with our many stakeholders and work together to show the benefit of environmental sustainability as we grow.

Small and medium-size businesses can make a difference greater than our size would suggest. We set an example by thriving while being environmentally responsible. Spreading the message to other businesses has a multiplier effect. In conference speeches and magazine articles, I have shared our vision for sustainable manufacturing practices. The response has convinced me that most businesses want to do the right thing and are willing to invest in our future. Our staff – approximately 270 people – have shown the same kind of enthusiasm. For example, our green teams have set up e-waste collection campaigns to allow employees to dispose of their own electronic items at a convenient location at work. Person by person and business by business, we can improve our performance and spread the word.

Sincerely,
Ward Griffin



"Our overreaching environmental goal is to reduce the environmental footprint of our operations, drive change in our industry, and contribute to a reduction of the environmental footprint of our customers."

- Ward Griffin, President and CEO

Environmental Policy

Lowe-Martin is committed to continuous innovation, customer satisfaction and sustainable environmental stewardship. To support this commitment, we will maintain a company-wide focus on environmental performance and sustainability.

At Lowe-Martin we constantly strive to improve our environmental performance by continuing to lead the industry and by going beyond compliance. We were an early advocate and adopter of environmental protection practices in our industry. We will continue to do so.

It is our philosophy that we can operate and grow a highly successful business while effectively managing our impact on the environment today, and into the future.

Since 1998, the company has pursued an environmental strategy that builds on five fundamental elements: leadership, resource stewardship, risk management, verification, and regulatory compliance, all on key environmental issues.

Leadership: Our focus is on environmental issues that are particularly significant for Lowe-Martin including climate change, forestry management, hazardous materials, energy management and renewable energy. Lowe-Martin is committed to leading positive change in our company, our industry, and our community.

Resource stewardship: Through more efficient use of natural resources, we will also lower the cost to develop, produce and deliver our products. Our promotion and use of FSC® certified paper and vegetable based inks, our in-house energy efficiency, and our recycling programs are some examples of our efforts on this strategy component.

Risk management: Lowe-Martin will continually evaluate environmental issues that we must effectively manage, such as hazardous materials and resources utilized and consumed during our operating processes. We will continue to identify and address these issues on an ongoing basis. We will also strive to conduct business with suppliers who share our same philosophy for the environment, through selective procurement practices.

Verification: Lowe-Martin will continually evaluate environmental performance to ensure we are effectively managing environmental initiatives. We will continue to identify and address through internal audit processes, and ongoing assessment through our modified lean/5-s processes. We will benchmark our performance against scientifically proven parameters and criteria. Lowe-Martin will utilize third party auditors to verify reporting information where appropriate.

Regulatory compliance: Lowe-Martin's environmental strategy begins with being in compliance with all environmental laws and regulations 100 percent of the time. Our regulators, our customers, and the communities in which we operate expect us to meet the requirements of the law, and we expect no less of ourselves.

While we are proud of what we have accomplished to date, we know that we can accomplish much more. By focusing and maintaining clear priorities, we will deliver on our promise of environmentally and economically sustainable growth.

For a copy of our environmental policy refer to www.LMGroup.com/sustainability

Reporting Approach

Lowe-Martin has been an environmental leader in the commercial print industry for several years. We continually look for new technologies and initiatives that will reduce our impact on the environment. In continuing with our efforts, we wanted to measure the actual carbon footprint of each of the Lowe-Martin facilities.

Lowe-Martin has been tracking and measuring our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in accordance with the GHG Protocol and best practice methodologies since 2007.

We utilize the ECM software license from Climate Smart to capture, measure and report on our GHG emissions inventory. Quantifying GHG emissions helps Lowe-Martin identify reduction opportunities, and track our progress from year to year.

Lowe-Martin collects data for each of our facilities from:

Scope 1 – direct emissions,

Scope 2 – electricity and heat indirect emissions

Scope 3 – other indirect emissions.

Lowe-Martin chose to include Scope 3 in our inventory as it represents a large portion of our emissions as well as opportunities to implement reduction strategies for our customers as well as ourselves.

The data collected for our inventory includes:

- **Natural gas consumption**
- **Purchased electricity**
- **Generated electricity**
- **Corporate fleet (including personal vehicles, corporate vehicles and delivery trucks)**
- **Business travel (both road and air)**
- **Employee commuting**
- **Landfill waste**
- **Paper consumption (both internal use and paper purchased for client print jobs)**

Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2020

Lowe-Martin's Scope 1, 2 and 3 operational emissions for 2020 are shown below. Emissions from other Scope 3 sources including paper used in printing of customers' products and employee commuting (503.94 tonnes CO₂e) are considered outside the operational control of Lowe-Martin. The paper used in the printing of customers products resulted in an additional 23,449.04 tonnes of CO₂e emissions. These emissions fall within the boundaries of Lowe-Martin's customers and have not been included in this report. By tracking and monitoring the emissions from Scope 3 sources outside of our operational control, we are able to identify opportunities to promote change that makes an even greater impact than we can within our own operational footprint.

SCOPE 1



Generated Heat
518.79 tCO₂e



Company Fleet
20.37 tCO₂e

SCOPE 2



Purchased Electricity
140.18 tCO₂e

SCOPE 3



Business Travel
48.64 tCO₂e



Lowe-Martin Paper Consumption
31.5 tCO₂e



Waste to Landfill
67.69 tCO₂e

Corporate Sustainability

Guiding Principles

Lowe-Martin is committed to sustainable environmental stewardship to protect our environment and our economy. Our overarching environmental goal is to reduce the environmental footprint of our operations, drive change in our industry, and contribute to a reduction of the environmental footprint of our customers. We believe that this commitment has and will continue to enhance the economic success of our operations and will allow us to continue to deliver benefits for all stakeholders.

This report provides an overview of Lowe-Martin's environmental priorities and our approach to environmental sustainability. Key to our approach is the consideration and engagement of our ownership, customers, employees, suppliers and the communities in which we conduct business and raise our families.

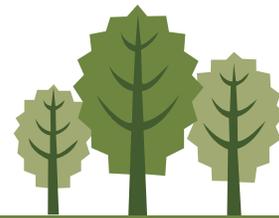
Priorities

The five fundamental elements of our environmental strategy are Leadership, Resource Stewardship, Risk Management, Verification, and Regulatory Compliance on key environmental issues. We believe that the priority areas of focus in which we can have the greatest impact include: **CLIMATE CHANGE**, **SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY**, **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** and **WASTE MANAGEMENT**.

Our progress in each of these priority areas in 2020 is highlighted in the following pages.



Climate Change



Sustainable Forestry

"Everything depends on our ability to sustainably inhabit this earth, and true sustainability will require us all to change our way of thinking on how we take from the earth and how we give back."

- Deb Haaland



Resource Management



Waste Management

Climate Change



Lowe-Martin is officially recognized as a Carbonzero certified operation and is committed to our ongoing support of Canadian Offset projects through Carbonzero. Many of Lowe-Martin's customers have made Carbon Neutral or Carbon Reduction commitments. In addition to providing our customers the first "carbon neutral" print facility in Ontario, Lowe-Martin also offers "Carbonzero Certified" print projects. Lowe-Martin tracks and calculates the emissions associated with our customers print projects and then has these calculations verified by Carbonzero and purchases offsets on our customer's behalf.



In 2020, 145 tonnes CO₂e Carbon Offsets were purchased by Lowe-Martin, an increase of 43% over 2019. The offsets purchased support two Canadian projects:

Patriotes School Board Energy Conservation Project

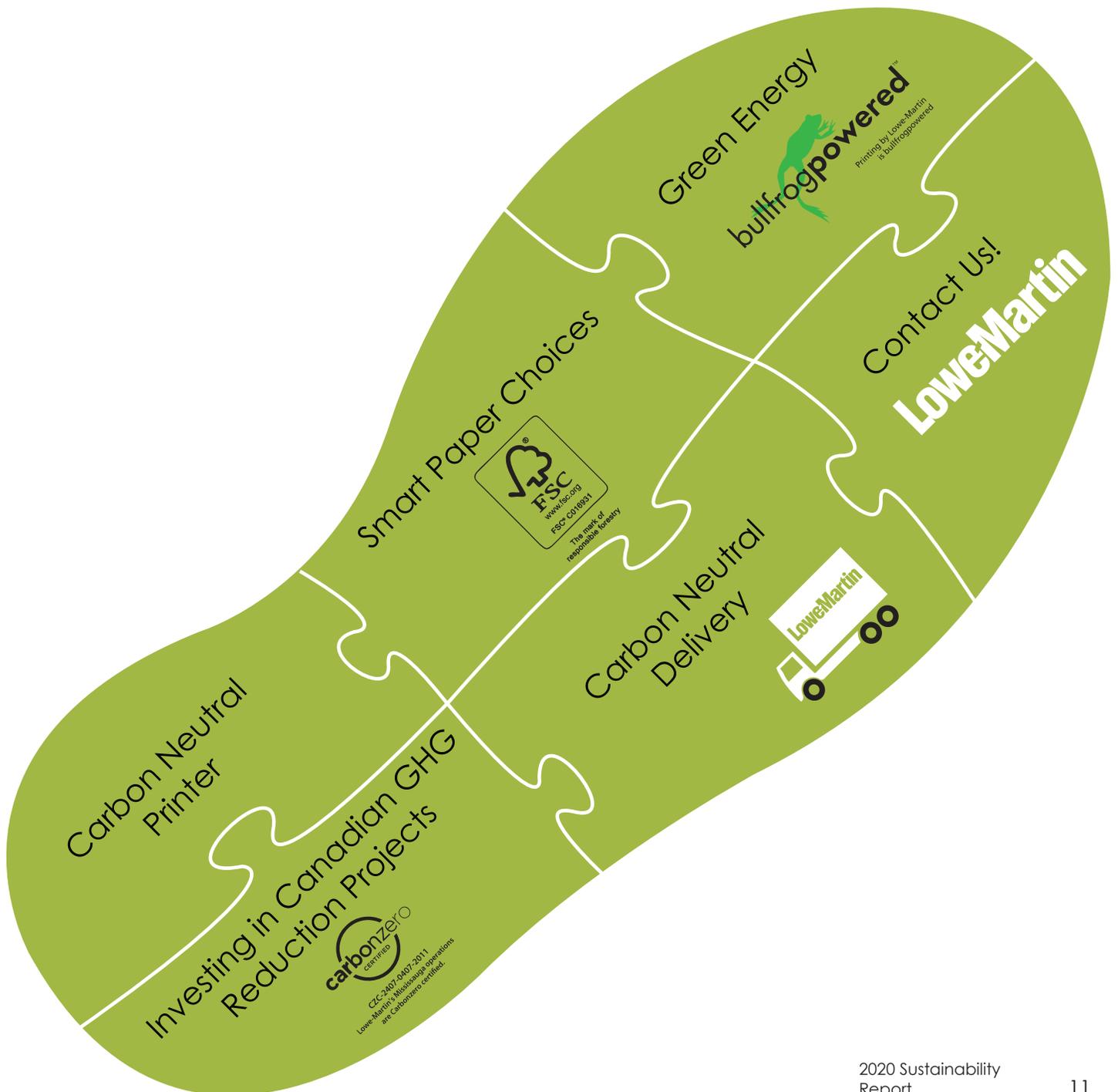
This project aids in reducing the GHG emissions generated from the combustion of natural gas through the installation of more efficient boilers, advanced control system and other energy conservation measures. In addition, this project strives to reduce the footprint of its travel by investing in charging stations and electric vehicles for service employees.

Nanaimo Landfill Gas Capture Project

This project reduces greenhouse gas emissions by capturing the methane that was previously vented to the atmosphere and converting to fuel for electricity. This project supplies enough electricity for 1200 homes, it improves local air quality, and also provides additional income for the local municipality.

The Carbon Neutral Puzzle

By putting the pieces together, we can help our customer's reduce their carbon footprint.



Sustainable Forestry



The mark of
responsible forestry

As a leading print, communication and publications company, Lowe-Martin uses a significant amount of paper. We are a Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certified by Preferred by Nature, formerly NEPCo and are committed to guiding our customers in the use of the most environmentally responsible paper choices. These choices include using the highest percentage of PCW fibre suitable for each project and the promotion of FSC certified and Ancient Forest Friendly certified products.

Lowe-Martin regards FSC as the gold standard in responsible forestry. FSC is the only certification system that prohibits the use of genetically modified trees, prevents the conversion of natural forest to plantations and requires a precautionary approach to the management of areas with high conservation value.

Many of our customers have made formal commitments and developed purchasing policies regarding FSC certified paper. Our customers value the detailed reporting, guidance and education that we provide through various seminars, lunch and learns and events. Simply being FSC certified does not differentiate Lowe-Martin. It's what we do with the knowledge we have and our ability to influence responsible paper choices.

Lowe-Martin purchased 2,770.66 tonnes of paper in 2020. Our commitment to promoting responsible forestry and FSC certified products resulted in over 2,123.40 tonnes being sourced from FSC certified forests, paper mills and merchants.

Lowe-Martin promotes the use of paper made with varying levels of post consumer waste where appropriate. In 2020 Lowe-Martin was able to increase the use of PCW fibre in the paper used by our customers resulting in 417.07 tonnes of post-consumer waste fibre and had the following environmental impact:

21, 241 trees preserved*

75, 316 lbs of solid waste not generated *

Equivalent to 18,110 people generating solid waste/day

2,252,120 gallons of water saved *

Equivalent to 1,818 clothes washers operated/year

9,342 million BTUs of energy conserved *

Equivalent to 10,597 residential refrigerators operated/year

4,843,008 lbs CO₂e Greenhouse Gas prevented *

Equivalent to 912 cars eliminated per year.



*Environmental impact estimates were calculated using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator Version 3.2.

For more information visit www.papercalculator.org

**FSC is not responsible for any calculations on saving resources by choosing this paper

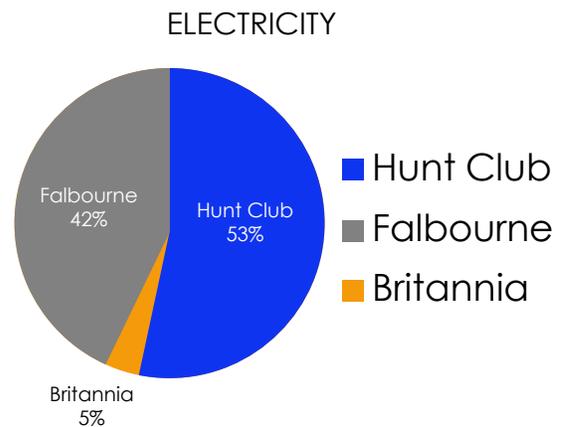
Resource Management



On November 1, 2007, Lowe-Martin's Mississauga operations became Bullfrog Powered. Lowe-Martin joined the growing list of Canadian businesses that are showing their support for the supply and development of green power. In 2020, Lowe-Martin purchased 314 mwh of clean renewable electricity.

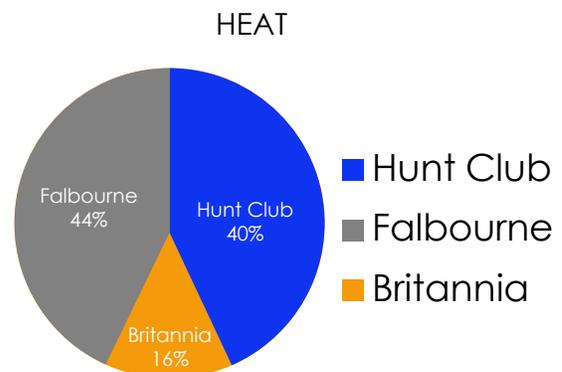
2020 Electricity Consumption

Lowe-Martin consumed 4,635,097 kwh of electricity in 2020. Our Hunt Club and Falbourn print operation facilities utilized 95% of all corporate electricity consumption.



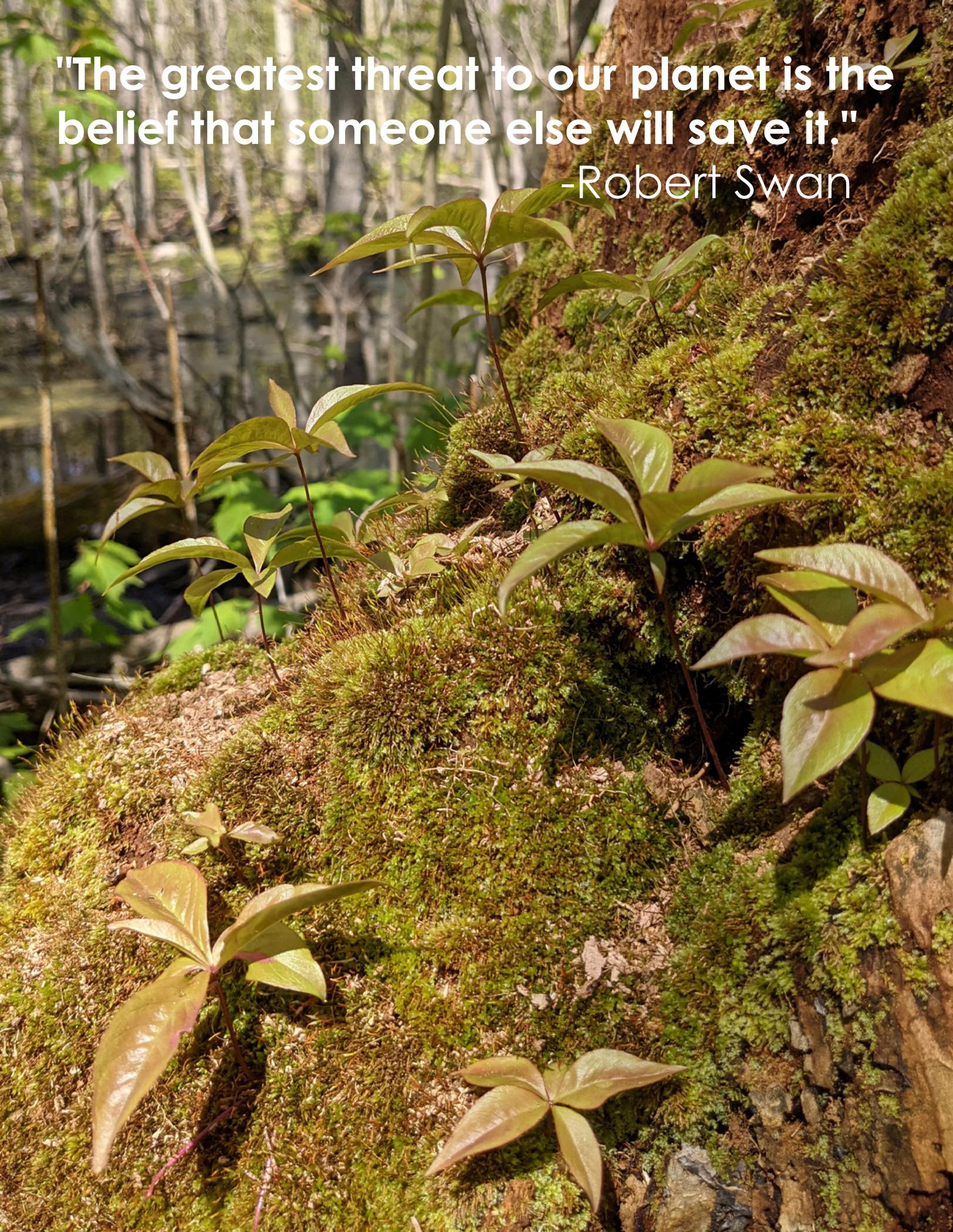
2020 Natural Gas Consumption

Lowe-Martin's overall natural gas usage was 258,041 m3 for all three facilities in 2020



"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

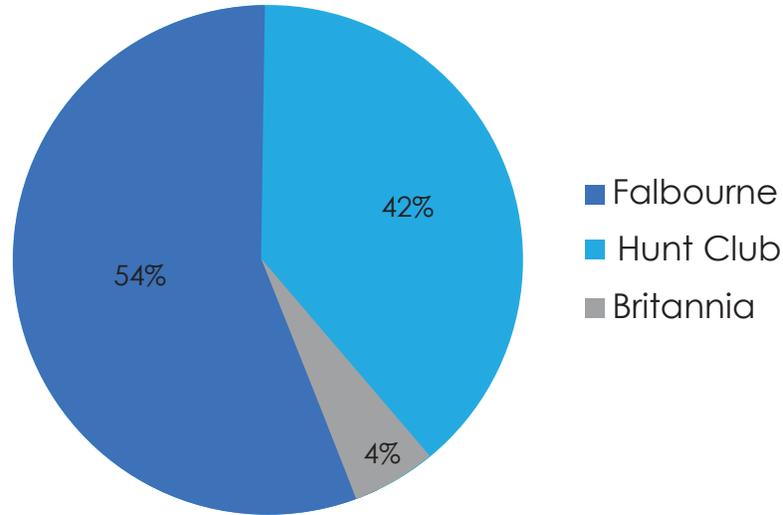
-Robert Swan



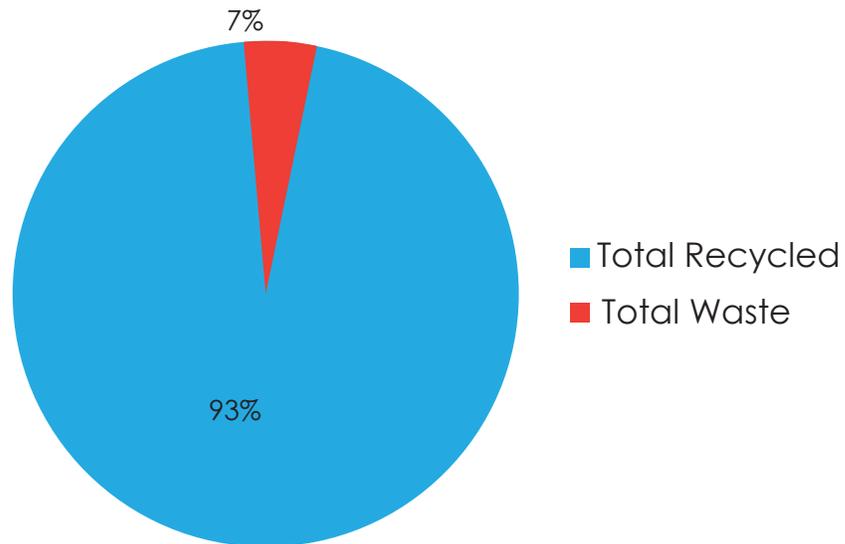
Waste Management



Lowe-Martin has measured waste to landfill and waste to recycling facilities to ensure that continuous improvement opportunities are identified. We have commissioned waste audits to examine all garbage and recyclables at Lowe-Martin in order to determine whether more materials can be reused or recycled.



In 2020 our average diversion rate across all facilities was 93%.



**"Try to leave the earth a better
place than when you arrived."
-Sidney Sheldon**



Certifications

Lowe-Martin's technological leadership, commitment to continuous improvement and spirit of innovation are applied not only to the work we do for our clients but to the community in which we live and operate, and to the planet we are leaving to our children. It is our philosophy that we can operate and grow a highly successful business while effectively managing our impact on the environment today, and into the future.

Lowe-Martin has won awards for our holistic approach to lessening the environmental impact of our products and processes, and maintains the following environmental certifications.



Carbon Neutral

On May 18, 2011, Lowe-Martin announced our Mississauga facilities became carbon neutral. Lowe-Martin partnered with Carbonzero in order to produce measureable, verified emissions reductions that will offset our operational emissions from this facility. In addition, we purchase offsets supporting the Patriotes School Board Energy Conservation Project and the Nanaimo Landfill Gas Capture Project, providing them with clear environmental, economic and social benefits. We also track and calculate the emissions associated with individual print projects and purchase offsets for customers who wish to produce and label their materials as "Carbonzero Certified".



Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

In an effort to continuously improve our environmental practices, Lowe-Martin received its Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain of Custody certification in March 2003. Lowe-Martin strongly believes in the importance of preserving the environment and has therefore committed itself to developing practices that conform to the Chain of Custody certification.

Awards and Recognition

Most Environmentally Progressive Printer in Canada

For the past thirteen years Lowe-Martin has been recognized as one of the most environmentally progressive printers in Canada. In November of 2019, we were presented with the gold award for the Most Environmentally Progressive Printer in Canada at the Canadian Printing Awards. This prestigious award is presented by PrintAction magazine for our holistic approach to lessening the environmental impact of our products and processes.

Smartmail Marketing™ Partners Environmental Award

Lowe-Martin was recognized by Canada Post Corporation receiving Honorable Mention for their first annual Smartmail Marketing Partners Environmental Award. Lowe-Martin was recognized for our Responsible Mail initiative which is focussed on sustainable printing and related services. It directly addresses many of the concerns that consumers express about traditional mail and prepares mail providers for the upcoming regulatory environment.



Community Participation

Lowe-Martin, as part of our sustainability efforts, believes it is important to support the local communities where we live and work. We participate in various ways through fundraising, donations, events and providing resources.

Lowe-Martin participated in the following programs:

- **CURE Foundation for Breast Cancer Research**
- **Peel Regional Police Toys for Tots**
- **Tourette Canada Trek for Tourette**
- **Purchase of carbon offsets for the Patriotes School Board Energy Conservation Project**
- **Purchase of carbon offsets for the Nanaimo Landfill Gas Capture Project**

Local charities supported by Lowe-Martin and our employees include:

- **Tourette Canada**
- **Canadian Cancer Society**
- **Knights Table**
- **Greater Toronto and Ottawa Area Food Banks**

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following for their direction and recommendations through the process of gathering data for our inventory and our ongoing reduction strategies:

Environmental Steering Committee: Ward Griffin Joe Goski Suzanne Olley	Ottawa Green Team: Jennifer Doughty Karen Poisson	Mississauga Green Team: Suzanne Olley Betty Errington Kerri Corail Keri Scott
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LoweMartin



CZC-2407-0407-2011
Lowe-Martin's Mississauga operations
are Carbonzero certified.



The mark of
responsible forestry



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