

Enermodal Engineering first to join regional Smart about Salt™ program



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Local green building consultant, Enermodal Engineering, is the first organization to join the Region of Waterloo's Smart about Salt (SAS) program. As part of the program, Enermodal has committed to reducing its salt use through a variety of strategies and reporting on its progress to the Region. The Smart about Salt program is a regional initiative to reduce salt use (both private organizations and the Region itself).

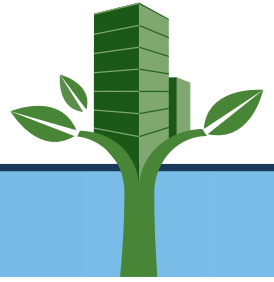
During January, the "addiction" of Canadians to using salt to melt road and sidewalk ice is evident. However, according to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, road salt is a "toxic" substance. Over 4 million tonnes of sodium chloride are deposited onto roadways across the nation every year. Toxic levels for aquatic animals are as low as 210 mg/L while levels in urban waterbodies can reach as high as 4,000 mg/L! Beyond this, the fertility of soil (a significant issue for the farm-land rich Waterloo Region), concrete, and steel are corrupted by excessive exposure to salt.

Becoming an SAS certified site is part of Enermodal's green operations policies which will help the firm's headquarters, *A Grandeur View*, achieve the first LEED-EBOM (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design: Operations and Maintenance) Platinum certification in the country.

This involves hiring a Smart about Salt Professional Contractor (approved by the Region), training staff, and reporting on performance to the Region. Enermodal strategies include the following:

- closing extra pathways to reduce salt and emissions from snow blowers
- any salt used is pre-treated to increase effectiveness
- contractor will ensure equipment is calibrated to apply the correct amount
- contractor plows rather than using salt whenever possible

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Caitlin Carpenter at ccarpenter@enermodal.com.



- no salt is stored on site to prevent contamination with the water supply
- alternative de-icers to salt are used whenever possible (Enermodal is currently using two)
- stormwater runoff from the roof is collected in an underground cistern for internal use which eliminates icing hazardous from rain outlets

Other site policies at Enermodal's head office, *A Grandeur View* (Canada's most energy-efficient office), include no pesticide use, exclusively native landscaping, no irrigation, employee organic garden plots, preferential hybrid/carpool parking, a stormwater treatment unit, and the minimum amount of parking spaces legally required.

For more information on safe alternatives to salt, check out the Priority Substances List Assessment Report for Road Salts by Health Canada (2001) or visit the SAS website.

Enermodal Engineering is the largest consulting firm in Canada exclusively committed to creating buildings and communities that are energy and resource efficient. With a professional staff in Kitchener, Calgary, Edmonton, Denver, and Toronto, Enermodal is working on over 250 buildings pursuing LEED across North America and is responsible for over 45% of LEED Canada certifications.