

A successful collaboration:
National Centre for Electrochemistry
and Environmental Technologies
(CNETE) and Société Laurentide



Laurentide
embouteillage



➤ Recycling Used Antifreeze: Science Working for Business

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The role of the National Center for Electrochemistry and Environmental Technologies (CNETE), a member of Réseau Trans-Tech, is to provide its partners with economic environmental solutions. Familiar with the realities facing businesses, the CNETE contributes to the economic development of the Mauricie region. It fulfils this mission by conducting environmental applied research, specifically in the fields of industrial bioprocesses and membrane separation technologies.



Société Laurentide, a major manufacturer, has “had the pleasure of working with the **CNETE**” several times, according to Guy Burgess, General Manager of the Bottling Division. The system for recycling used antifreeze is the company’s most recent cooperative effort with the CNETE, as well as the most successful and profitable.

company called on the CNETE. With the help of a grant from the Technological Research Assistance Program (PART) of the Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sports (MELS), the Centre developed a specialized process using filtration membranes designed for the product. The results were impressive: the process recovered 50% of the ethylene glycol, a key compound that makes up 97% of pure antifreeze.

➤ An environmental solution

Société Laurentide needed to prepare for an upcoming legislative change scheduled for the summer of 2012 aimed at recovering and reconditioning used antifreeze. Inspired by the success of other recycled products (paint, oil), the new law envisioned a network of drop-off points (for people to leave their used antifreeze), where the product could be collected and transported to recycling sites. To become part of this dynamic environmental approach and qualify as an authorized recycler recognized by the government, the

➤ An economic advantage

Today, Société Laurentide is one of a handful of completely independent and competitive businesses working in the recycled antifreeze market. If it is recognized as an authorized recycler, its recycled antifreeze will be reused in economical products.

Furthermore, other companies, who did not take advantage of the CNETE’s services, will have to pay subcontractors like Société Laurentide, for example, to recycle their inventory.

➤ An additional benefit

Finally, this project strengthens the company’s brand image as a key player in sustainable development. Société Laurentide successfully achieved its aims by monitoring and complying with legislative and environmental measures taken in its field. In the process, the CNETE fulfilled the mandate it was given. As Mohamed Rahni, the researcher in charge of the project, explains: “The goal of our applied research is to efficiently meet economic and environmental criteria. We want our partners to be satisfied!” □

