

The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community

Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is dedicated to maintaining an Environmental Management System that continually strives to go beyond regulatory compliance.

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is committed to conducting all operations in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all employees and the public, preserves natural resources, and protects the environment. This commitment to protecting the air, water, and land is carried out through energy conservation initiatives, recycling programs, and on-going process improvements.

San Diego “Cool Communities” Shade Tree Program

By Sarah Hawkins, Production Associate



In partnership with San Diego Gas & Electric, San Diego County is giving away more than 17,000 free shade trees to single family homes and businesses. This program provides up to five free trees per household, depending on lot size and necessity.

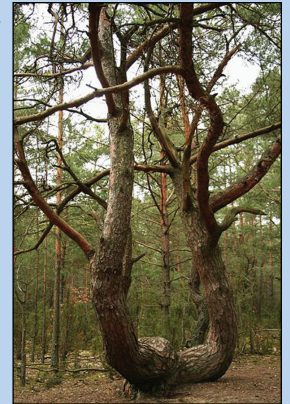


Though free, the program has some requirements. First, the recipient must be a customer of San Diego Gas & Electric. The recipients of the trees must also attend a single afternoon class on how to plant and care for them. San Diego County offers more than 20 different varieties of trees to choose from, each with its own size and shape. But the primary purpose for these trees is to provide shade.

There are many reasons why planting trees benefits both the owner and the community. Shade from trees planted on the East and West sides of your house help conserve energy in the summer, which will save you money. It is estimated that a mature shade tree can cut air conditioning costs by 15 to 35 percent. Trees also form a wind barrier, which will reduce your heating costs in the winter.

Planting trees on your property can increase a property's value by up to 15 percent or more. Trees also increase the beauty of your home and neighborhood, while helping the environment by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen back into the atmosphere.

The program is open to all San Diego County landowners who are SDG&E customers. For more information visit www.sdenergy.org.



NASSCO Wastewater Treatment Facility Gets a Facelift

By Sara Giobbi, Environmental Engineering Specialist



Juanita Espinoza cleans the oil/water separator (left) while electrician Jorge Barragan replaces electric lines.

After years of reliable service, NASSCO's wastewater treatment facility recently experienced a major overhaul. The improvement was needed for NASSCO to continue to provide on-site treatment of process wastewater, including bilge and ballast water, as well as wastewater generated from steam cleaning, pressure washing, and other shipyard activities.

Maintenance Department employees removed the aging steel surge tank, dissolved air floatation tank and old steel piping. Next, replacement tanks made from a composite (plastic) material were set into place. Engineers from Jalbert Environmental, the company that designed the original facility and the replacement tanks, finished the installation of new PVC piping and flexible chemical feed lines. Many valves and air and electric lines also were replaced. Finally, system operators from the Blast, Paint, and General Services Department received training on the new system.

The replacement tanks were designed to be identical in function to those used in the original system. However, because they are made from a non-corroding composite, they are expected to have a longer service life than their predecessor's 13 years.

This project was successful because of the efforts of the Facilities, Maintenance, Environmental Engineering, and Blast Paint and General Services Departments. Their support of this project allowed it to be completed a full day ahead of schedule!



The removal of the old Dissolved Air Flotation Tank (left) and the installation of the new composite tank (right).