

# Recycling business enjoys exhaust-free warehouse thanks to electric forklift



Lance Chastek of Certified Recycling and Dougie the electric forklift.

The 15,000-square-foot warehouse at Certified Recycling in Burnsville is getting full these days after a busy spring, summer and fall of collecting items big and small from metro and southwest suburban businesses and homes.

The company processes about a million pounds of recyclables each year, according to co-owner Lance Chastek. Mountains of mattresses, towering pallets of shrink-wrapped microwaves, rows of stoves and bins of smaller throwaways dominate the warehouse.

Everything is processed and re-used when possible with the more intricate recycled items dismantled in the winter months, which keeps the staff of six busy full time

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT CERTIFIED RECYCLING

14305 Ewing Avenue  
Burnsville, MN 55306

**Co-owners:** Tony Boerner  
and Lance Chastek

**Founded in 2000** and in  
current facility since 2006

**What they do:** commercial,  
residential and subcontract  
collections to recycle  
electronics, appliances and  
hazardous waste

### Services include:

1. Residential curbside
2. Removal of items  
from homes and  
garages
3. Special reclamation
4. City-wide cleanups
5. Commercial/city  
refuse pickup
6. Recycling for hotels  
and other  
businesses.

### Learn more at:

[www.certifiedrecycling.net](http://www.certifiedrecycling.net)

### Rebates utilized:

\$2,000 for electric forklift

\$200 for high frequency  
electric forklift charger

For more info on rebate,  
<https://www.mvec.net/business/efficiency-rebates/>

when collections are low. Hazardous elements are removed, raw materials separated for re-use, and what remains is usually shredded.

**Helping to move the mountains of unwanted stuff, is Certified Recycling's electric forklift – or Dougie as they have nicknamed it.**

The company bought the 2018 Doosan 25 model about a year ago, switching from a 2006 propane-powered forklift. "It's quiet, efficient and odorless, and it's incredible the difference it has made, said Chastek. "Especially in the winter."



**Chastek said the energy savings is not just measured by the fuel the electric forklift doesn't use.** Without the exhaust an internal combustion engine forklift generates, he said the air exchanger runs less. The big garage doors don't need to be open in the winter, which means the furnace runs less and the warehouse can easily maintain 62 degrees despite the cold outdoors. In the summer, doors can be open without needing fans to chase out the smell and smoke.

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*"The air we breathe now is a huge difference," said Chastek. "You don't go home smelling like exhaust and having soot all over everything."*

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Now, instead of spending \$150 to \$200 on propane each week, Dougie is simply plugged into a smart charger overnight, giving plenty of charge time to run a 6 to 8-hour day, sometimes 6 days a week. "We get 8 hours of straight run time a charge, which is about two days of work," said Chastek.

Chastek said the electric forklift is more powerful than its combustion engine (*or propane powered*) counterpart. "The weight of the load actually helps with the battery recharge," he said. "There's no clutch, no braking and the sensitivity of the controls is very light to the touch."

Paired with the electric forklift is Dougie's "baby," an electric pallet jack nicknamed Clark after the manufacturer. "It's the coolest item we use all day," said Chastek. He said the company also kept its newer Nissan propane forklift as a back-up when things are busy. "It's named Roach, because it smokes all the time."

As with any industry, Chastek said over the years he has noticed trends, as once-in demand appliance choices fall by the wayside. "We're starting to get flat screen TVs and front-loading washing machines. When we started the business, appliances were better

quality and were 10-plus years old and usually trashed simply because they were out of style. Now we're seeing things that just last one to five years."

One thing he doesn't see as a trend is the electric forklift. Despite the initial \$40,000 cost, Chastek already sees the payback. "We are a company of our word. If we buy something, it has to be reliable."

"We don't need to be the biggest or baddest to be a leader in the industry," said Chastek. "As there are needs, we diversify. Needs, technology and resources keep changing."

As for others considering an electric forklift, Chastek said do your research and see what's available. "Don't be scared away by the initial cost. It's not just the fuel savings. It goes into saving so much more."



**Dougie, the electric forklift at Certified Recycling, quietly and efficiently moves mountains of unwanted appliances, mattresses, electronics and other unwanted residential and commercial items. Complimenting the forklift is Clark, the electric pallet jet. Both are powered by electricity, which keeps the Burnsville facility free of fuel exhaust while improving ventilation and has lowering the heating and cooling bills.**

## TRY IT BEFORE YOU BUY IT

MVEC offers business members a way to "try before you buy" short-term lease option with electric forklifts, allowing you a chance to see how it can work for your business.

Electric forklifts have a much smaller environmental impact than propane or diesel models. There is also an overall lower total cost of ownership – an average of 30 percent less – when maintenance and support infrastructure considerations are taken into account.

In addition, companies that adopt all-electric forklift fleets are reducing ventilation and monitoring costs by removing the combustion sources. Employees are safer, too, because they no longer must handle propane cylinders and they are able to experience a much quieter work environment.

Although there are several differences between traditional and electric forklifts, the controls and configurations are nearly identical. Electric motors and batteries power the electric models, with some even utilizing regenerative charging by recapturing energy during braking, which extends their operational time.

Contact your MVEC key account rep [Craig Lofdahl](mailto:Craig.Lofdahl@mvec.net) (952.492.8207) or [Joe Green](mailto:Joe.Green@mvec.net) (952.492.8236) for more information on the "try before you buy" program for electric forklifts or visit our rebate page at <https://www.mvec.net/business/efficiency-rebates/>

