

Another factor the climatologists have studied are changes in circulation over the past few decades. Since the winter of 1976-77, the sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific have remained anomalously warm.

"Most readers will by now agree that it is difficult to draw a simple picture that summarizes the many parameters and multidimensional aspects of observed climate change and variability, no matter how complete the record.

"Global warming" has been introduced by the scientific community and the media as the term that encompasses all potential changes in climate that result from higher average global temperatures.

The Earth's climate is the result of extremely complex interactions among the atmosphere, the oceans, the land masses, and living organisms, which are all warmed daily by the sun's energy.

GREENER LOGISTIC SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

Y.V.Chortok, PhD student

'Logistics' is the term used to describe the management of the entire materials supply chain, from cradle to grave. Logistics management is one of the important behind-the-scenes processes that will come under scrutiny as not just products, but companies' entire approaches are bought by the consumer.

Logistics managers are beginning to realize that the environment is becoming an issue of competitive advantage. The movement of goods impacts on everybody's life, and so is highly visible. Pressure is beginning to bear on the industry to 'clean up its act' and look on means of accomplishing this.

Logistics has important consequences for the environment. Vehicle emissions are a major source of pollution in the most European countries. Road traffic noise is experienced by 89% of the population and is cited as the worst form of noise disturbance by 16%.

The decisions made in one area can have environmental repercussions in another, but most logistics decisions will have some

impact on the environment. There are several ways in which logistics can affect the environment:

- Transport management
- Materials handling
- Warehousing
- Management of human resources.

Companies must develop coordinated greener logistics strategies for the short, medium and longer term. The emphasis in the short term is to maximize the efficiency of the existing logistics system, while in the long term companies should plan to adopt more efficient and less environmentally damaging logistics operations as technology develops (see figure 1).

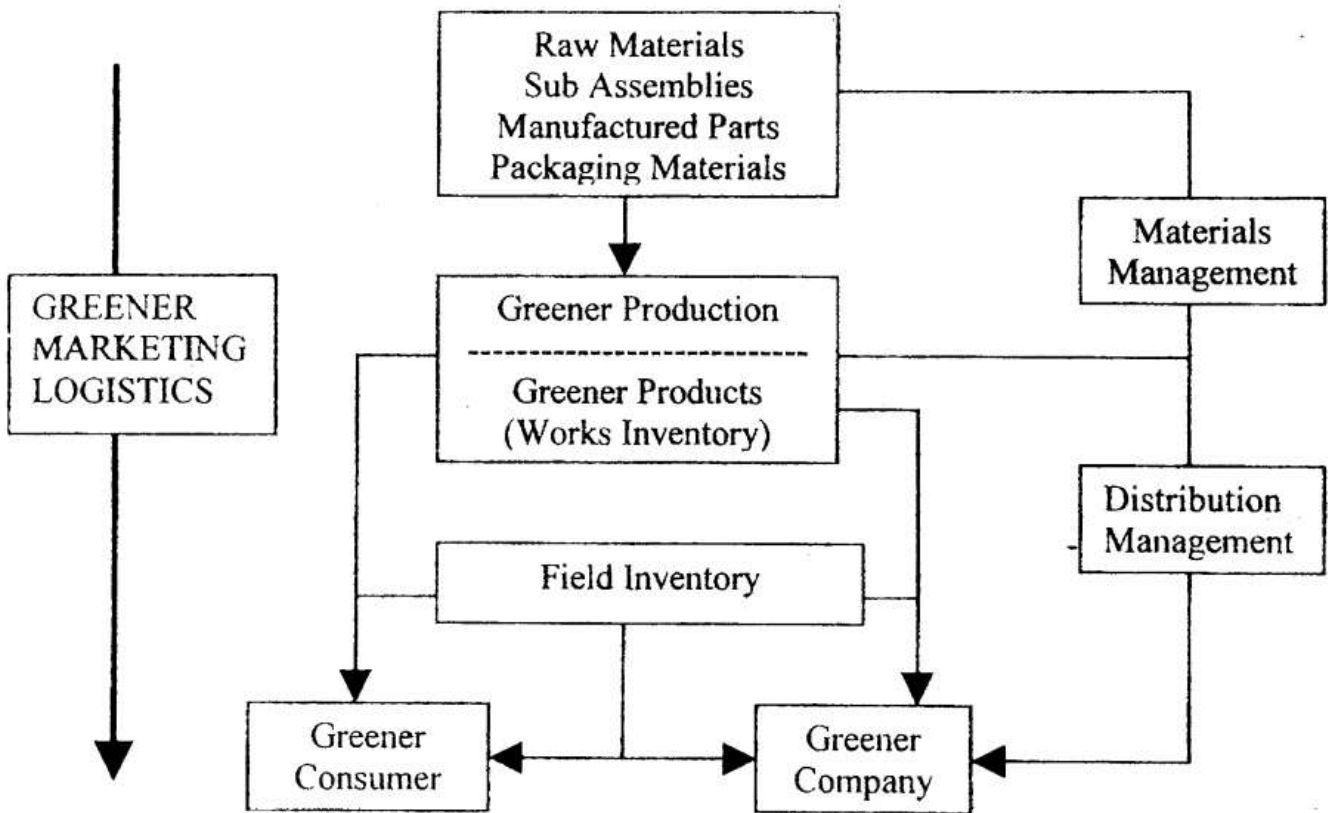


Figure 1 - The Greener Logistics System

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (FOREIGN EXPERIENCE)

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The Earth is the only planet in the solar system where there is life. If you look down at the Earth from a plane you will see how