



2018 Recycling Excellence Awards

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APPLICATION NARRATIVE

Program Summary

The Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center's Zero Waste Program follows the TRUE Zero Waste rating system administered by Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI).

All minimum Zero Waste program policies and practices must be met for a project to be considered for the TRUE Zero Waste certification. The TRUE Zero Waste rating system is broken down further into 15 credit opportunity categories: Redesign, Reduce, Reuse, Compost, Recycle, Zero Waste Reporting, Diversion, Zero Waste Purchasing, Leadership, Training, Zero Waste Analysis, Upstream Management, Hazardous Waste Prevention, Closed Loop and Innovation.

The Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center was able to achieve Platinum Level TRUE Zero Waste Certification in June 2018.

Facility & Challenges

The Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center sits on a 95-acre campus, which consists of a 700,000-square foot grocery warehouse, a 435,000-square-foot perishables warehouse including both produce and frozen items, and a 120,000-square-foot health/beauty/cosmetics and pharmacy warehouse. More than 24,000 items are offered

for retail delivery from the warehouses. Warehouse operations move approximately 1.75 million cases of product on a weekly basis.

Also on campus is a graphic production department with a print shop and sign shop that provides simple design work and a variety of printed items for Hy-Vee's retail and distribution locations, including convenience stores, pharmacies and restaurants.

The truck shop, fuel island and truck wash maintain a fleet of more than 155 tractors, more than 250 reefer trailers and more than 160 van trailers.

The diversity of site operations creates numerous reduce, reuse and recycle opportunities.

How GBCI TRUE Zero Waste Platinum Level Certification Was Achieved

REDESIGN:

To ensure volumes, amounts and the number of pickups for each material types is accurate and appropriate, containers were evaluated and service levels changed to an as-needed basis to eliminate wasted trips and/or partial loads.

Solid waste collection agreements were reviewed and changes made to ensure that outgoing loads contain the greatest volume possible.

A thorough review of all aspects of waste generation in every area of the facility was completed to ensure materials are being diverted via the highest method possible on the zero waste hierarchy.

REDUCE:

Efforts to reduce waste throughout the Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center were taken. A new payroll system allowed a 66.6 percent reduction of required paperwork to be maintained on file and still remain compliant. In addition to the payroll system, all employees are required to use direct deposit or pay card, eliminating all paper checks.

The Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center uses a warehouse management system (WMS) platform for managing waste upstream. The WMS platform maintains control of inventory levels of all product. When loads are physically received, the producer/manufacturer code date is entered into the system via a barcode or manually if the producer doesn't utilize a barcoding system. This detailed tracking ensures first-in, first-out (FIFO) and first-expiry, first-out (FEFO).

Other implemented means to reduce unnecessary waste include adding duplex printing capabilities as the default setting to all printers. In addition, groundskeeping requirements were formally implemented, including such as the grasscycling and practices to help with water conservation and the reduction of yard trimmings through xeriscaping and the use of mulching.

REUSE:

The Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center Perishables Warehouse temperature recorder program is organized through TempTRIP, and radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags are acquired by our temperature-sensitive food product suppliers. Upon arrival, the information is uploaded from the RFID tag and wirelessly reset to be used again.

To quantify reuse activity and reduce the need for new pallet and shipping containers, our service provider WestWind Logistics provides the volumes of return-to-supplier whitewood, PECO, CHEP wood pallets, plastic pallets and reusable plastic containers (RPC). After being picked up by WestWind Logistics, the previously listed pallets and RPCs are counted and returned to their respective owners for reuse. The whitewood pallets are also counted but retained by WestWind Logistics, which then are repaired and resold.

The health/beauty/cosmetics and pharmacy warehouse uses plastic hinged-lid totes for transporting items sold in less than case quantities.

Other types of reuse programs consist of the inter-office mail department collecting unneeded paper clips and binders, then sorting, bagging and re-distributing them for further use. In an effort to encourage the use of durable goods by employees, the Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center distributed more than 1,300 reusable Yeti tumblers. Partnerships with numerous local organizations to donate applicable salvaged food waste that is safe for human consumption is in place. In addition, partnerships with local animal shelters to divert applicable animal food donations and salvaged cat litter is also in place.

COMPOST:

The Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center utilizes Green RU as our site compostable service provider for the compostable materials which are collected separately from other materials generated in our break areas. Green RU compost is also the compost distributed and sold to customers at Hy-Vee stores.

The groundskeeping crew collects any yard trimmings that cannot be left for grasscycling and places them in an onsite composting bin. Other process technologies for organic materials, in addition to composting, is an anaerobic digestion facility in Riceville, Iowa.

RECYCLE:

All campus materials generated among the 12 master categories of commodities/discards was reviewed with the intent of identifying opportunities to reduce, reuse and upcycle materials prior to recycling. Documentation from every recycling service provider describing where materials from our campus are sent for final processing was gathered to verify the lifecycle of all materials generated.



ZERO WASTE REPORTING:

Each commodity and solid waste stream is documented (including diversion costs and revenue) with data broken down monthly showing an overall annual average diversion from landfill. To also understand environmental benefits of our waste reduction activities, the 2017 fiscal year's diversion data was entered into the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WARM Model tool. This report lists environmental benefits such as net greenhouse gas emissions saved, total BTUs saved, oil saved, gas saved and the reduction of "average" passenger cars on the road per year.

2017 Fiscal Year – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Saved: 2,377.62 MTCO₂E

- Which is the equivalent to removing annual emissions from:
 - 501 passenger vehicles
 - 267,539 gallons of gasoline
 - 99,068 cylinders of propane used from home barbeques

2017 Fiscal Year – Energy Use: 14,699.93 (millions) BTU's

- Which is the equivalent to conserving:
 - 128 households' annual energy consumption
 - 2,530 barrels of oil
 - 118,321 gallons of gasoline

ZERO WASTE PURCHASING:

An Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Guideline was adopted and implemented that helps reduce waste and other impacts to the environment. This EPP Guideline includes items such as a preference for durable goods, preference for certified sustainably produced paper and wood products, a requirement to purchase a minimum of 30 percent post-consumer recycled content office/copy paper, and a requirement to purchase minimum of 20 percent post-consumer recycled content janitorial paper products.

LEADERSHIP:

The Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center adopted a Zero Waste Policy, Zero Waste Mission Statement and Zero Waste Goal to affirm commitment to Zero Waste. In celebration of Earth Day 2018, employees were encouraged to share Zero Waste ideas which was incentivized with a drawing.



Zero Waste Mission Statement:

Committed to being an organization that is identified as Zero Waste throughout our business, employees and community.

Zero Waste Policy:

To manage all waste in a way that maximizes resource value while minimizing environmental impacts. Our goal is to eliminate all waste to landfills thus reducing the volume and potential for toxic discharges to the environment so that our company, employees and community can thrive.

Zero Waste Goal:

Committed to continual improvement by reducing our residual waste to landfill by 1% each year until Zero Waste is achieved.

To promote Zero Waste understanding outside the facility, the Compliance Manager/Zero Waste Coordinator presented ideas to the four local fifth-grade classes.

TRAINING:

As part of all new employee orientation, basic Zero Waste principles are communicated on the first day of employment. An in-depth Zero Waste training interactive module was created and implemented as part of the Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center’s annual training program for all site employees.

		Chariton Distribution Center Zero Waste Initiative			
<p>CRITICAL INFORMATION: The Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center is currently under an effort to become TRUE (Total Resource Use & Efficiency) Zero Waste certified through GBCI (formerly recognized as US Zero Waste Business Council). Zero Waste maximizes recycling, minimizes waste, reduces consumption and ensures that products are made to be reused, repaired or recycled back into nature or the marketplace.</p>					
<p>How does this policy apply to you?</p>			<p>Always ensure that the correct recyclable material is placed in the proper recycle location.</p>		
<p>Basic Waste Streams – Color Coding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic – Orange • Straps – Light Green • Wood – Yellow • Corners – Purple • Paper – Blue • Cardboard – Dark Green • Trash – Black/White <p>This is an on-going effort and changes may & will occur; signage added, recycle locations moved & new waste streams added.</p>					
<p>Zero Waste Coordinator Brandan Reed 641-774-7608</p>		<p>Perishable Training Coordinator Cecil Pruiett 641-774-7626</p>		<p>Grocery Training Coordinator Jason Newton 641-774-7631</p>	
		<p>HBC Training Coordinator</p>		<p>Paul Evans 641-774-7327</p>	

Constant communications regarding Zero Waste efforts are promoted via electronic bulletin boards throughout site break areas, site newsletters and postings throughout the campus.

ZERO WASTE ANALYSIS:

To understand what opportunities to reduce waste continue to exist, annual physical waste audits were completed. The most recent audit centered on break area waste, which led to the implementation of the compostable waste stream outlined earlier.

UPSTREAM MANAGEMENT:

To help prevent waste upstream produce, buyers have worked with vendors to eliminate non-recyclable packaging such as switching to RPCs.

HAZARDOUS WASTE PREVENTION:

Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center handles all hazardous waste materials in accordance with HAZCOM, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), federal, state and local laws. To provide opportunities for employees to safely recycle universal waste, battery collection is offered on an ongoing basis as well.

SUMMARY:

The Hy-Vee Chariton Distribution Center is committed to being an organization that is identified as Zero Waste throughout our business, employees and community. As of June 2018, a Platinum Level certification under the TRUE Zero Waste rating system was achieved with a 12-month diversion rate prior to certification of 99.15 percent.