Dial Corporation

CASE SUMMARY 4

DIAL CORPORATION

Fort Madison, Iowa
Lee County

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The Company

The Dial Corporation has manufacturing and distribution facilities across the United States. Dial is the producer of the world-renowned Dial soap. The Fort Madison plant produces shelf stable foods, canned meats, microwaveable meals, dried beef and consumer-sized packages of corn starch.

Project Background

Dial has a pollution prevention policy statement and has implemented the following pollution prevention projects:

· In 1990, most chemical supplies were changed from drums to bulk, thus minimizing empty drum cleaning and disposal requirements.

· In 1991, a substitution was made for the solvent used to melt and glue the ends of foam labels, reducing total usage by 50 percent.

· A hazardous waste minimization program has been in place since 1992.

· In 1995, a replacement ammonia refrigeration system was installed with many extra design features to minimize refrigerant releases.

· Plant efficiency in terms of pounds of product produced per total energy units used has been tracked and has increased during seven of the last 11 years. From the initial year of tracking to last year, an overall increase of 20.6 percent in production units per energy units has occurred.

Incentives to Change

Dial desires to reduce the tonnage of material landfilled to achieve landfill reduction goals. The local landfill, Great River Regional Waste Authority, started composting and producing soil conditioner in 2003. This creates an opportunity for Dial to reduce landfill tonnages by two-thirds.

Results

Three opportunities for potential annual savings are:

1. **Composting waste** - $72,540

The local landfill began composting waste two years ago. Because Dial's trash is 80-90 percent compostable, this created the opportunity to substantially decrease landfill tonnages. Dial operates two trash compactors, one of which will be used for compostable waste only. Although Dial's trash is largely compostable, plastics are generated at most locations. Separation of compostable waste will be achieved through minor changes in waste handling and plant-wide employee training. Once composting is implemented, 4,836 tons of waste can be diverted from the landfill annually, saving the company $72,540 each year in disposal costs.

2. **Shrink/stretch-wrap recycling** - $1,600

Dial uses stretch-wrap to secure components during shipping and receives many raw materials with this wrapping. Shrink-wrap is used in the customized casing process for various products. A manual baler was tested and it is recommended that a recycling program be implemented for this material. By purchasing a mechanical baler, about 40 tons of landfill waste can be diverted, saving the company $1,600 in disposal costs each year.

3. **Cardboard recycling** - $4,900

Dial operates a cardboard compactor for uncontaminated material. Additional containers to haul cardboard will be purchased to address the current problems associated with dumping the cardboard into the compactor shoot. Segregating all cardboard plant-wide will double cardboard recycling tonnages each month. This would produce an annual savings of $4,900 in tonnage and hauling fees.

Project Summary Table

P2/ Waste Reduction Opportunity	Waste Reduced	Cost Savings	Status
Composting	4,836 tons/year	$72,540/year	Implementation pending
Shrink/stretch wrap recycling	40 tons/year	$1,600/year	Recommended
Cardboard recycling	50-70+ tons/year	$4,900/year	Implementation in progress