Pallet Waste Reduction at Bosch Automotive Service Solutions

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Driven to DiscoverSM



Bosch Automotive Service Solutions



BOSCH

Invented for life

Company description

- Bosch is a multinational engineering and electronics company headquartered in Gerlin, Germany
- Over 125 locations worldwide with 400,000+ employees
- Bosch Automotive Service Solutions in Owatonna, MN is a high variety-low quantity manufacturer producing over 100,000 unique tools required to service vehicles











Project Overview

Why waste reduction?

- Overall waste has increased from 1519 tons in 2017 to 2354 tons in 2019
- Bosch Corporate has set goal of maintaining waste regardless of yearly production increase

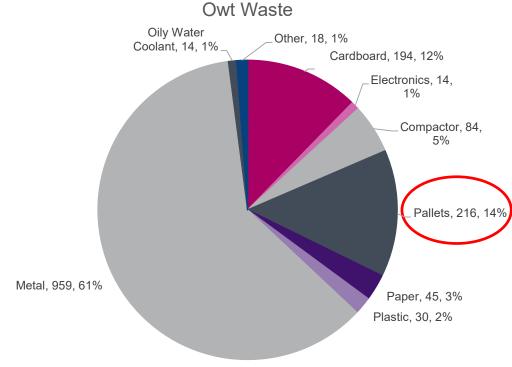




Project Overview Cont.

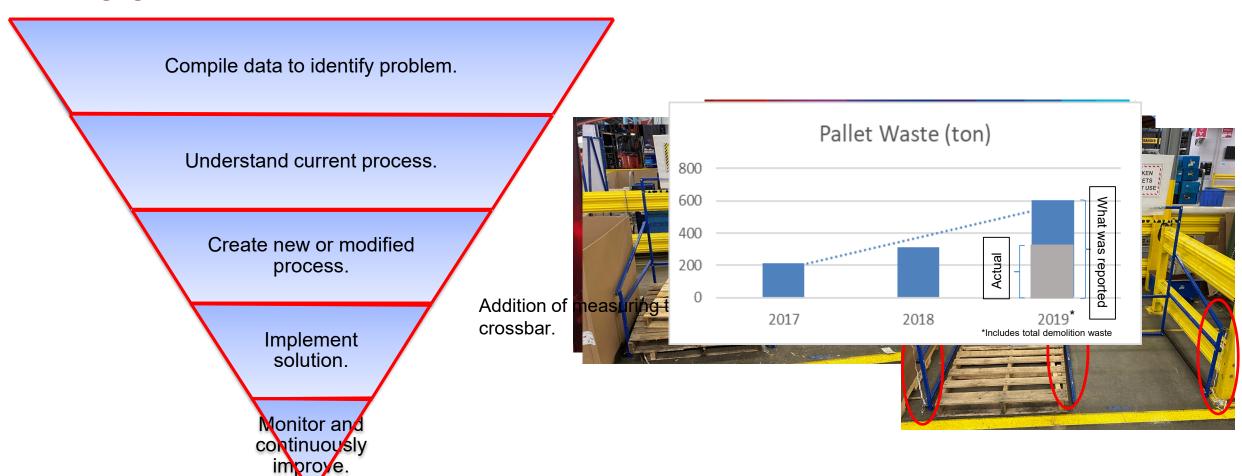
Why pallets?

- In 2018, 13,200+ pallets were purchased at ~\$5.50/pallet, while over 20,000 mixed pallets from receiving & purchasing were recycled into mulch at no cost to Bosch
- Metal waste was investigated and required significant capital, which Bosch Corporate has placed on hold due to COVID-19
- Small enough project to implement within 12 week timeframe, required no capital





Approach





Implemented Recommendation: Improve Pallet Storage

- Installed pallet storage shelving & enclosure
 - Increased pallet storage by 3x
 - Used existing racking at no cost
- Case Study
 - Programs had a job requiring 40+ pallets in one day
 - Programs used pallets from the storage rack
 - Programs did NOT use any newly purchased pallets





Implemented Recommendation: Establish Sorting

Process & Train Associates

Example Sign

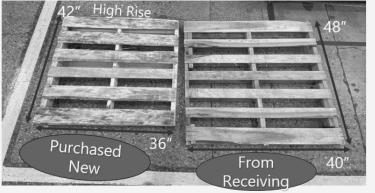
Example Training Slide

Difference between two common pallet sizes

▶ 36" x 42" pallets are used in primarily in High Rise and Assembly due to shelving restrictions



Can fit 3 pallets in High Rise instead of just 2!



- Anything going into high rise
- Assembly area
- Picking materials out of high rise
- Outbound shipping
- Internal use
- Anything to warehouses



What constitutes a broken or bad pallet?

If there is more
than one broken,
missing, or
cracked (more
than half of
length) boards

If ANY of the
bottom stringer
boards are missing
or damaged

If the pallet simply does not have bottom stringer boards present

The pallet is **odd sized** (very large,
very small, very
long)

If pallet is made from cork/plyw ood/flimsy material



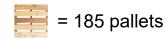
Solutions Overview

Recommendation	Annual reduction	Total cost	Annual savings	Payback period	Status
Create & train on pallet sorting process using new pallet storage shelving	50,000 lbs of Wood	\$0	\$9,166	-	Implemented 7/1
Repair waste pallets through pallet refurbishing vendor	570,000 lbs of Wood	\$0	\$26,444	-	Recommended
Optimize fan timer settings	50,833kWh	\$600	\$5,498	1.5 months	Recommended



Impact of Using Refurbishing Vendor





Closing Remarks

- Asking the right questions will lead you in the right direction
- Reach out to your network when you're stuck
- It is crucial to include the right people when implementing





