

U Market Services – Packaging Waste Reduction

Hope Werstler

MnTAP Advisors: Laura Babcock & Matthew Domski

Company Supervisors: Dave Saniti & Dave Crane



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U Market Services (UMS)



•Company Description

- 45 employees
- 68,000 sq. ft.
 - 58,000 sq. ft. warehouse
- Procurement and logistics

•Intern Project Focus

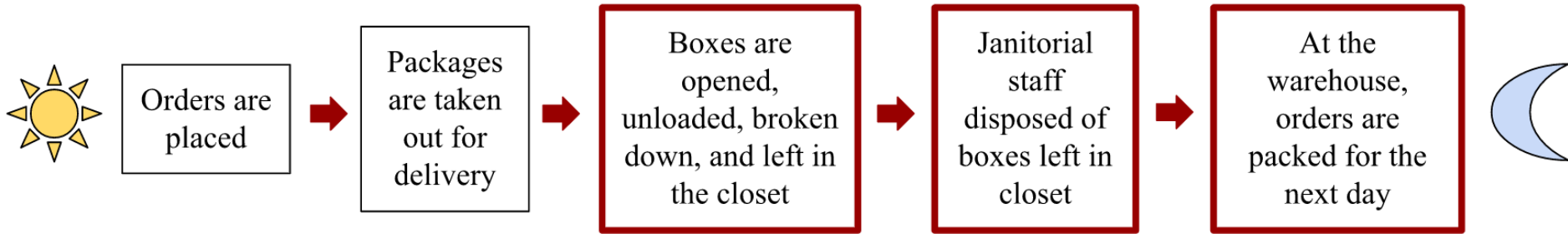
- PAR-Level packaging use
- Other source reduction options



Incentives for Change

- Supports the University of Minnesota's sustainability goals
- Purchases 20,000 cardboard boxes purchased annually
 - Costing > \$15,000
 - Weighing 13,000 lbs
- Purchases 240,000 labels purchased annually
 - Costing \$8,400
 - Weighing 690 lbs (272,000 sq. ft. of liner waste)
- Generates cross campus waste

Packaging Use in PAR-Level



Reasons for Reusables

- Makes frequent shipments
- Experiences minimal seasonal fluctuations
- Controls their shipping process
- Recycles many streams currently



Stakeholder Feedback



- Challenges reported by drivers
 - Reading labels
 - Sliding while on the carts
 - Restacking needed
- Adjustments made after feedback
 - Utilize adhesive sleeves
 - Purchase 2 new bin sizes
 - Provide grip tape

Benefits

- Reduces material usage
- Uses salvaged boxes
- Creates marketing opportunity





Process Advantages

- Reduces cross campus waste
 - 13,000 lbs annually
 - Maximizes usage of salvaged boxes
- Pilot project
 - Total cost \$973
 - Total savings per year \$7,500
- Full implementation
 - Total cost of \$2,307
 - Total savings per year \$15,000



Summary Table

Recommendation	Change Type	Annual reduction	Total cost	Annual savings	Status
Reusable bins (trial)	Material	6,500 lbs	\$970	\$7,500	Implemented
Reusable bins (full)	Material	6,500 lbs	\$1,330	\$7,500	Implemented
Recyclable labels	Material	690 lbs	\$3,900	\$5,000 + end of life management	Implemented
Stamps replacing stickers	Material	^^^	\$110	\$150 + end of life management	Investigating
Recyclable packing list envelopes (trial)	Materials	9 lbs	\$40	NA	Implemented
Recyclable packing list envelopes (full)	Material	280 lbs	\$760	\$20 + end of life management	Implementing
Reorganize waste stations	Procedure	760 lbs	\$0	\$310 in end of life management	Implemented

Personal Benefits

- Applied knowledge gained in the classroom
- Gained real world work experience
- Saw the inner workings of campus
- Made new connections

