



Boston Scientific - Arden Hills



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Organization Background

Boston Scientific is dedicated to transforming lives through innovative medical solutions that improve the health of patients around the world. Since 1979, the company has grown to become a leading supplier of medical solutions, specializing in areas such as peripheral intervention, cardiology, endoscopy, urology, rhythm management, electrophysiology, and neuromodulation products. Boston Scientific has 40 locations around the world, two of which were the focus of MnTAP Intern Projects in 2023: Arden Hills and Maple Grove, MN.



“During my internship at MnTAP this summer, I had the privilege of working at Boston Scientific, where I contributed to their efforts in achieving TRUE® Zero Waste certification. This experience has been incredibly rewarding, as it not only exposed me to innovative environmental solutions but also provided me with the opportunity to work alongside dedicated professionals who are truly making a positive impact on sustainability. I’m leaving this internship with a deeper understanding of environmental challenges and the tools to help find practical solutions. MnTAP has been a valuable stepping stone in my journey towards a career focused on sustainability.” ~ AS

Project Background

In line with the company’s commitment to sustainability and reducing environmental impact, Boston Scientific has set strong Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals. One of these goals is for all locations to be Total Resource Use and Efficiency or ‘TRUE®’ certified by 2030. TRUE® is a zero-waste certification program administered by Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI). The program is dedicated to measuring, improving, and recognizing zero waste performance, all of which were key objectives of the 2023 MnTAP Intern Project.

Incentives To Change

The primary motivation for working towards TRUE® zero-waste certification at the Arden Hills facility is the company’s ongoing commitment to sustainability and its high standards for addressing how operations impact the environment, human health, and the economy.

The Arden Hills facility has strong practices in place when it comes to waste prevention and diversion, but will need to take things a step further in order to achieve 90% waste diversion, a requirement for TRUE® certification.

SOLUTIONS

Recycle Silicone

In a molding production process, a portion of silicone waste is essential for processing, yet cannot be reused. However, this waste is recyclable and a vendor partnership is being pursued which will divert approximately 3,000 lbs of waste from landfill.

Recycle Copper

A valuable waste stream containing copper wire was discovered in one of the Arden Hills campus production lines. By integrating this waste into an existing recycling stream, the site can divert 2,100 lbs of waste and save \$2,900 annually.

Reuse Bubble Wrap

On Boston Scientific’s capital equipment production line, bubble wrap is required following final assembly. It was found that many production lines in the same business unit produce bubble wrap waste, which could be collected and repurposed for reuse on the line. Though this change

Solutions

prevents just 20 lbs of waste (2,200 sq ft of bubble wrap), it is a creative way to reuse materials on-site and reduces purchase of new bubble wrap, saving \$550 annually.

Switch to Compostable Lids in Café Operations

To counteract contamination in the cafeteria compost waste stream, switching to compostable lids for compostable bowls is recommended. This change harmonizes disposal practices, mitigates confusion, and prevents contamination. This change would help divert 360 lbs of waste to composting annually.

Require Paperless Receipts for Café Transactions

Cafeterias at the Arden Hills site currently have equipment that allows digital delivery of transaction receipts. By eliminating the option for printed receipts, paper waste can be reduced by about 170 lbs, saving \$380 annually.

Implement Office Supply Reuse Stations

At least one office supply reuse station is in place at the Arden Hills campus, which gives employees the ability to reuse materials and help minimize purchase of new office supplies. The site would benefit from implementing more of these stations across campus, with the potential to reduce 440 lbs of waste, saving \$6,000 annually.

Expand Communication and Training

Through the TRUE® waste assessment, it was discovered that a significant portion of waste leaving the site as trash can be reduced or diverted from landfill. Key elements in reducing and diverting more of this material include communication and training. Strategies are underway to address this need, including tabletop resources in cafeterias, a SharePoint webpage dedicated to zero waste, and integrated training for employees. With a 2.5% improvement in waste diversion, the site can divert 28,000 lbs from landfill.



“Arun was able to jump right into learning more about what TRUE® Waste was and identifying ideas of how our organization would be able to contribute to this certification. At a site of our size, it can be challenging to learn the best approach to align with stakeholders, but Arun was able to meet with the right people and started collecting the data that we needed for this internship.”

-Nicole Lancaster, Boston Scientific

Recommendation	Annual Waste Reduction	Annual Savings	Status
Recycle Silicone, Copper, and Reuse Bubble Wrap	5,120 lbs	\$3,450	Recommended
Switch to Compostable Lids and Paperless Receipts in Café Operations	530 lbs	\$380	Partially Implemented
Implement Office Supply Reuse Stations	440 lbs	\$6,000	Recommended
Expand Communication and Training	28,000 lbs	TBD	Implementing

MnTAP Advisor: Matt Domski, Intern Program Manager