



POLLUTION PREVENTION WORKS FOR IOWA

CASE STUDY

COMPANY	S q u a r e D C o m p a n y
LOCATION	Cedar Rapids Linn County
PRODUCT/INDUSTRY	Electrical Switchgear (SIC Code 3613)
WASTE STREAM	Solid waste. Incoming packaging wastes,
MODIFICATIONS	-Recycling: Implemeted programs to recycle and reuse: incoming packaging
BENEFITS	Eliminated disposal of reusable materials, in sanitary landfill Realized over \$26,000/year in avoided waste disposal-costs and.. generated revenue.

Opportunity

Square D Company manufactures basic components for industrial circuit breakers and control panels and assembles them into final products. Some components are received from outside suppliers and result in a considerable amount of packaging requiring disposal as solid waste to the local sanitary landfill. These wastes include wooden pallets, cardboard boxes,. plastic bags and Styrofoam "peanuts". The company has begun to review-waste disposal and 'consider alternatives. During an on-site assessment, WRAP recommended several alternatives to disposal for the company- to review and decide which best suited its needs;

C h a n g e

The company established recycling/reuse programs for four types of incoming packaging wastes.

Wooden Pallets- About one-half of those pallets not reused in the plant are either sent to a local trucking company for use as dunnage. The remainder are being evaluated by two local pallet, reclaimers; one has a permitted chipping operation for composting, bedding and similar biodegradable end uses. These arrangements are being finalized and the company is optomistic about removing all pallets and similar-wood wastes from the landfill in the near future.

- Plastic Bags - The various sizes and types of bags and plastic packaging are now segregated with some bags and bubble pack being reused for shipping by Energy Inc. at Monticello, Iowa and In Tolerance at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This arrangement is cost free for all parties. Expensive shielded bags are returned to the component supplier for reuse. Landfilling of these materials has been eliminated. (Continued on back)

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The Iowa Waste Reduction Assistance Program is a non-regulatory technical assistance program offered by the Waste Management Assistance Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

- Cardboard/White Paper - A reuse and recycling program has been implemented for nearly all cardboard. Many boxes with Styrofoam inserts are stored, palletized, stretch wrapped and returned to a vendor for reuse. This return stream is estimated at 28 cubic yards annually. A baler has been installed to manage cardboard for recycling. It was procured for shipping charges only. Currently, the company is generating 29 tons per year of cardboard for recycling. This program provided a platform from which to begin the baling and recycling of white office paper also.
- Styrofoam Peanuts - Incoming Styrofoam peanuts and similar shapes are separated, stored and reused for outgoing product shipments. More than 90 percent of incoming loose Styrofoam packaging is reused in this manner.

Savings/Other Benefits

Significant quantities of recyclable and reusable materials are no longer being landfilled. Square D currently receives revenue only for the baled cardboard and white paper, but avoids landfilling costs for all of these materials.

The company has documented the following project analysis:

<u>Material</u>	<u>costs</u> <u>Avoided</u> (\$)	<u>Revenue</u> (\$)	<u>Total</u> <u>Savings</u> (\$)
• Wooden Pallets	12,000		12,000
• Plastic Rags	12,500		12,500
• Cardboard - Returned	756	- -	756
Baled - Recycled	828	288	1,116
• White Paper - Recycled	180	60	240
TOTAL ANNUAL SAVINGS			\$26,612

Square D also is conscious of the savings in trees, fuel and energy that reuse and recycling of packaging materials can produce. The company is now working with suppliers to reduce the amount of incoming packaging where feasible. This will produce additional savings in packaging costs in addition to avoiding disposal costs.

WRAP recommends that Iowa businesses work with local solid waste and recycling programs, local vendors, suppliers and other company divisions to find markets for waste materials wherever appropriate.