Reusable Transport Packaging
Improving Business through Reuse

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Today’s Talk

- What is StopWaste
- Our path to Reusables
- Reusables in Action & Benefits
- Looking for good opportunities
- Resources available through the Use Reusables Project
StopWaste

- Countywide public agency with 17 member agencies, 1.4 M pop.
- Mission is to reduce waste
- Programs in Business Recycling/Composting, Green Building, Bay-Friendly Landscaping, Environmental Purchasing, proper hazardous waste disposal
- Funded by per ton disposal fees
Under 10 by 2020

- 60% in 2008
- 10% in 2020

Recycling: Now It's the Law for Businesses and Multi-Family Residences.
Materials Management Cycle

- Reusable transport packaging
- Food Waste Prevention
- Food Service Ware

Recycled Content:
- Building materials
- Compost
- Mulch
Assisting Businesses Since 1996
Reuse Comes into Play

ANG Newspapers, 2001

- Transitioned to reusable plastic pallets
- Prevents 37 tons of wood waste/year
- Cut labor costs by $46,000
Reuse Comes into Play

Ghirardelli Chocolate Company, 2003

- Switched to reusable totes to move products “work-in-process”
- Prevents 350 tons/yr
- Cut disposal costs by $2,700/yr
- 1,208 MTCE GHG reductions/yr
Top 5 Materials from Businesses Going to Landfills

1. Food waste
2. Other paper
3. Uncoated Cardboard boxes
4. Unpainted wood pallets
5. Film plastics stretch wrap
Reusables Defined
Reusables are Not:
Single use or Limited use
Reusables are:

Merriam Webster defines Reusable as:

re·us·able adj \rē-ˈyū-zə-bəl\: capable of being used again or repeatedly

Reusable Packaging is comprised of pallets, containers, wraps, bands and dunnage designed for reuse within a supply chain.
RPA Definition of Reusable Packaging Product or System

- Typically never disposed of by the end user
- Used to move components, finished products or raw materials
- Durable construction
- Lifetime is measured in years
- Qualifies as source reduction
Everyday Reusables
Reusables In Action & Benefits of Making the Switch
Benefits of Reusables

• Reduce costs (waste & material)
• Improve efficiency
• Improve worker safety/ergonomics
• Improve product protection
• Lasting operational change
• Corporate responsibility
Reusables in Action

Reusable Totes for Office Relocation

- Ergonomically designed reusable totes + dollies reduce bending, lifting and handling injuries.
- Rigid totes offered better protection of contents.
- Increased moving truck capacity by 40-50%, cutting GHG emissions.
- Cost neutral

Benefit: Improved Efficiency, Safety & Ergonomics
More Health & Safety Benefits

- No more building and breaking down boxes = reduced injury from repetitive motion and time savings

- Reduce injury from broken pallet debris hazards such as splinters, nails and wood on the floor.
Reusables in Action

Tesla, Inc. & Veritable Vegetable

http://www.usereusables.com

Use Reusables
Reusable Transport Packaging Saves Your Company Money and Resources

Case Studies
Many companies are realizing the benefits of reusable transport packaging already. Here are some case studies highlighting different applications for reusables.

- PepsiCo Gatorade Plant: Reusable Pallets
  PepsiCo’s switch to more durable reusable pallets was cost-neutral, and brought numerous product protection, safety, and labor benefits to an Oakland bottling plant. Download case study (pdf).

- Savoy Spinach: Driving down costs with returnables
  Switching from wooden bucket baskets to reusable, nestable and stackable HDPE containers has driven costs out of the supply chain for the Savoy Spinach industry. View case study.

- StopWaste.org: Reusable Moving Crates
  When StopWaste.org moved to a new office, staff wasted to avoid generating the mountain of cardboard waste typical of a traditional move. By choosing reusable moving crates they reduced waste, cut back on labor, and improved the efficiency of the move. Download case study (pdf).

- ANG Newspapers: Efficiencies from plastic pallets
  ANG Newspapers worked with the StopWaste Partnership to identify how they might further improve their environmental performance. StopWaste assessed the situation and determined that ANG had the ideal distribution system for reusable plastic pallets. Download case study (pdf).
Stability
Cube Efficiencies
### Environmental Benefits

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<th>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</th>
<th>Energy Consumption</th>
<th>Waste Generation</th>
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<td>29% less with reusables</td>
<td>39% less with reusables</td>
<td>95% less with reusables</td>
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- Reusable transport packaging containers
  - generate 29% less total greenhouse gas emissions;
  - require 39% less total energy; and
  - produce 95% less total solid waste on average
Attributes of Good Reusables Opportunities
Attributes of Good Reusables Opportunities

• Flow of Consistent Products in Large Volumes
• High Turn Rate
• Large and/or Bulky Products, or Easily Damaged Products
• Suppliers or Customers Grouped Near One Another
• High Waste Disposal or Recycling Costs
• Sustainability Goals or Mandates
Reusables Systems: 3 Types

• **Work-in-Process**: Used in-plant for storage and transport within a single facility. (Ghirardelli)

• **Closed-Loop**: Reusables move through supply chain without 3rd party management; this approach is ideal for reusables. (ANG Newspapers)

• **Open-Loop**: A 3rd party company manages the return of empty containers and distribution of containers back to the manufacturer; best for consistent flow with high volume. (StopWaste Office Move)
The Use Reusables Campaign

Think Outside the Box:
Think Reusable

Reusable transport packaging saves your company money and resources
The Use Reusables Campaign

• Helping businesses convert to more sustainable reusable alternatives.
• Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and solid waste associated with one-time and limited-use transport packaging materials.
The Team

• SAIC for technical assistance
• Partnership with RPA for vendor/supplier facilitation
• Supported by EPA’s Climate Showcase Communities Program
How StopWaste can Help

- Workshops & Trainings – 14 in 3 states with 850 attendees
- Technical Assistance
- Cost Benefit Analysis
- Facilitate Vendor/Supplier Conversation
- Follow-up to monitor and assist
- Case Study Development
- Funding Assistance
- Toolkit for Other Agencies & Partners
www.UseReusables.com

• Reusables Basics

• Interactive Cost Comparison Calculator

• Case studies / videos

• Events calendar

• List of suppliers
Reusables 101 & 102

Think Outside the Box: Think Reusable

Reusable transport packaging saves your company money and resources

A cost comparison model for Reusable Transport Packaging

How Businesses Have Successfully Switched to Reusable Transport Packaging
Grants & Loans

Reusable Transport Packaging
• Up to $30k ($5-10k ave.)
• 3rd & final round this Fall, $60k available
• Applications due September 10th
• 10+ projects funded to date, totaling $130,000

Revolving Loan Fund for Recycled & Reused Materials
• $10k-$30k, 5 year term
• Interest rates: WSJ Prime to Prime + 6%
THANK YOU!

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