

## **3.15.2 Retail/Warehouse: Food Retail Outlets**

*Tip Sheet #1*

**WASTE ORIGIN:** General Operations

**WASTE TYPES:** Papers, Plastics, and Food Products

### **WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING METHODS:**

- ! Implement a **source reduction program**; key features to include:
  - ! Management must **support the program** by allocating staff time and supporting ideas generated by employees;
  - ! Select a **lead person** to manage the program; duties could include program planning, implementing, and monitoring;
  - ! Involve the employees by **encouraging ideas** for waste and energy reduction measures, support use of e-mail and suggestion boxes for ongoing communication;
  - ! **Keep employees involved**;
  - ! **Publicize attained goals**, reward these efforts with promotions and incentives.
- ! **Office and break rooms** provide many waste reduction opportunities:
  - ! Encourage use of **washable mugs, plates, and utensils**;
  - ! Reuse **scrap paper** for note pads; recycle office paper, store ads, cardboard, cans, and glass;
  - ! Make **double-sided copies**; consider using electronic mail or routing memos rather than making copies of them;
  - ! Re-ink **printer ribbons** for reuse;
  - ! Refill **laser printer** and personal copier toner cartridges;
  - ! Purchase **post-consumer recycled products**, like office paper, store ads, and receipt rolls;
  - ! Use **electric hand dryers** or cloth towel dispensers in rest rooms.
- ! Avoid stocking **products that are excessively packaged**; work with store managers and buyers to be aware of this goal.
- ! Close the **recycling loop** by stocking products packaged in or made of recycled materials; work with store managers and buyers to be aware of this goal.
- ! **Food wastes** can be handled in creative ways:
  - ! **Donate** older, hard-to-sell but edible bakery goods to food banks or other charities;
  - ! Give **non-edible, perishable food** to pig farmers (consult county offices and public health officials for help in complying with all regulations).
- ! Provide **consumer initiatives** for waste reduction:
  - ! **Educate consumers** about waste reduction through signage, brochures, ads, etc.;
  - ! Sell **canvas or other reusable bags** or boxes. Give credit to customers who reuse them;
  - ! Sell **returnables and bulk food**;
  - ! Provide **collection of recyclables** at the store for plastic bags and aluminum cans;
  - ! Let customers know the good things the store is doing for the **environment**;
  - ! Contact public agencies working with solid waste management for information on **consumer education programs**.

- ! **Energy reduction** reduces energy bills and power plant emissions, and conserves fuel resources by:
  - ! Replacing *incandescent light bulbs* with fluorescent bulbs (exit sign lights, too);
  - ! Installing *low-flow nozzles* on faucets;
  - ! *Maintaining* refrigerators and freezers;
  - ! Purchasing new, *energy-efficient equipment*;
  - ! Lowering *water heater* temperature;
  - ! *Insulating* effectively.
- ! Work with city or county solid waste officials to get contacts and ideas for **reuse and recycling programs**; use the phone book, and **network with other businesses** to learn about their programs.

**Source:**

Fact Sheet: *Waste Reduction for Grocery Stores*, Minnesota Office of Waste Management, September, 1992.