

4.3.1 Hospitality Industry: Food and Beverage Services

Case Study #1

BUSINESS: Thunderbird Hotel/Totem Pole Restaurant; Bloomington, Minnesota
WASTE ORIGIN: Commercial Restaurant Food Preparation
WASTE TYPES: Solid Wastes, Food, Cardboard, Glass, Aluminum, and Tin

COMPANY BACKGROUND

The Totem Pole Restaurant prepares meals for its patrons and caters meals for events held at the Thunderbird Hotel.

MOTIVATION

Reduce waste volumes after disposal costs more than doubled in one year (from \$35.75/ton in 1990 to \$95/ton in 1991).

STRATEGIES

Monitor food wastes and change preparation processes. Recycle leftover foods and reduce other dumpster materials by recycling, where possible.

ORIGINAL PROCESS

The restaurant filled its dumpster every five days with food preparation wastes, leftover foods, and food containers and packages. Disposal costs were \$95/ton.

NEW PROCESS

Food waste is collected for recycling as animal feed by a local food by-product recycling firm. Cardboard, glass, aluminum, and tin are separated and recycled by independent haulers at a cost substantially less than waste disposal costs. A computerized system is used to monitor food inventory, amount of food used per meal, and the percent waste per meal.

RESULTS

Waste Reduction

- Reduced volume of restaurant's total waste by 50 percent.
- Reduced dumpster pick up from every five days to once every three to four weeks.
- Recycled 4.75 tons of food waste each month.
- Recycled 4.5 tons of cardboard each month.
- Recycled 2 tons of glass each month.
- Recycled 500 pounds of tin and aluminum each month.

Economics

Savings: \$919.25 per month in disposal costs (\$596.25 for recyclables, \$323.25 for food waste) after recycling costs.

Capital Cost: \$5,000 for a one-time purchase price of a cardboard baler.

Operating/Maintenance Cost:

\$45/month for cardboard, glass, aluminum, and tin recycling.

\$128/month for food waste recycling.

Payback Period: Information not available.

PROBLEMS

The program needs daily recycling area management and support of the employees to be effective.

4.3.1 Hospitality Industry: Food and Beverage Services

Case Study #2

BUSINESS: Mel's Corner Tap; Milwaukee, Wisconsin

WASTE ORIGIN: Bar Operations

WASTE TYPES: Bottles, Cans, and Cardboard Boxes

MOTIVATION

Reduce volume of waste and associated disposal costs.

STRATEGIES

Establish a cooperative hauling arrangement for waste and recycling materials.

ORIGINAL PROCESS

Mel's paid individual business waste disposal costs.

NEW PROCESS

Mel's joined four business neighbors, all restaurants or bars, to share trash and recycling bins.

RESULTS

Waste Reduction

Reduced waste hauling costs.

Economics

Savings: \$125 each/month (\$400 to \$275 each month).

Capital Cost: None.

Operating/Maintenance Cost: None.

Payback Period: None.

4.3.1 Hospitality Industry: Food and Beverage Services

Case Study #3

BUSINESS: Pandl's in Bayside; Milwaukee, Wisconsin

WASTE ORIGIN: Food Preparation

WASTE TYPES: Food Wastes

COMPANY BACKGROUND

Pandl's is a family-owned 200-seat fine dining restaurant with 85 employees.

MOTIVATION

Reduce waste volumes and associated disposal costs.

STRATEGIES

Reduce the weight of the dumpster by recycling restaurant waste. Reduce energy costs.

ORIGINAL PROCESS

The restaurant threw virtually all wastes into the dumpster, creating 30 cubic yards of waste each week.

NEW PROCESS

Employee involvement through training replaces old habits with new habits focused on recycling and waste reduction. A food compost program recycles restaurant waste to an organic farmer for use as fertilizer. Compactors, bailers, and recycling bins were installed to collect various wastes. Running refrigerator Freon lines through a hot water tank saves energy by cooling the Freon line while heating the water and reducing the condenser workload.

RESULTS

In 1992, Pandl's won an award from the City of Milwaukee for the Five Star Reduction and Recycling Program.

Waste Reduction

Reduced dumpster wastes by 92 percent by recycling efforts (recycling 27.5 cubic yards of 30 cubic yards produced each week), or 832 cubic yards/year.

Food composting for fertilizer reduced dumpster weight by 1,500 pounds of food waste/pick up.

Recycled 20 to 25 percent of food waste as fertilizer.

Economics

Savings: \$1,800 to \$3,000 estimated annual disposal costs savings.

Capital Cost: \$8,000 for compactors, bailers and recycling bins.

Operating/Maintenance Cost: Information not available.

Payback Period: Information not available.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In 1991, Pandl's received a matching grant of \$20,000 from the state of Wisconsin for a study to find if food waste could be used as a fertilizer.