

BryanLGH Health System: An Economic Case for Recycling

THE STEPS

Not only is recycling environmentally responsible but it can also be economically viable. In 2005 BryanLGH Medical Center in Lincoln, Nebraska began expanding their waste management program to include recycling.

It started with an internal waste assessment to establish a baseline for materials and volumes generated.

A business plan was developed to determine return on investment, identifying equipment, space and labor resources required as compared to revenue and cost avoidance.



THE TANGIBLE RESULTS

The results of this analysis motivated BryanLGH to invest in 3 cardboard balers costing approximately \$10,000 each. This equipment is low-maintenance with a life expectancy of more than 15 years.

BryanLGH recovered their investment in the balers in less than 2 years as a result of revenue generated by the sale of baled cardboard. (It should be noted that the commodity price of cardboard fluctuates—sometimes greatly—depending on the market.) From 4th Quarter 2006 to 4th Quarter 2010 BryanLGH earned between \$0.00 and \$134.00 per ton for their cardboard.

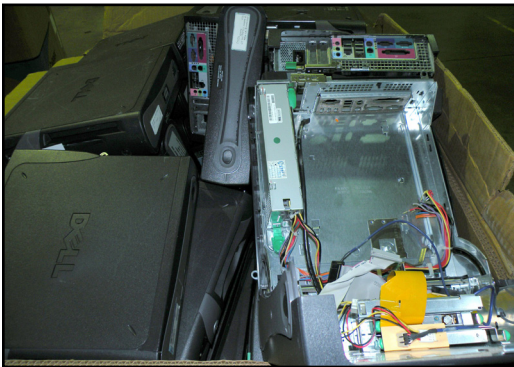


THE TANGIBLE RESULTS CONT.

Other aspects of BryanLGH's waste management program benefited from the purchase of balers. Labor costs were static since staff was already collecting the materials, and it opened up more storage space for recycling. These factors enabled BryanLGH to expand their recycling program to include paper, plastics, batteries, and scrap metals. As a result, they were able to shrink the size of their waste compactors and reduce landfill tipping fees by \$3,000 annually.

In 2006 WasteCap Nebraska helped BryanLGH establish a recycling program for rechargeable batteries. Since inception, this program has diverted 7243 pounds of batteries from the landfill and saved BryanLGH more than \$18,800 + shipping.

In total, between 2005 and 2010 BryanLGH diverted 2,027 tons of materials from the landfill.



THE INDIRECT EFFECTS

Not all the benefits of BryanLGH's recycling program can be measured in dollars. Some of the intangible benefits are:

- Improved employee morale.
- Organizational pride - everyone has a role in recycling
- Community benefits - supporting local business, creating local jobs, and extending the life of Lincoln's landfill

Financial Benefit of Recycling 4th Quarter 2006- 4th Quarter 2010

632.01	Tons of Cardboard Recycled
\$38,050.00	Revenue Generated by sales of Cardboard
7243	Pounds of Rechargeable Batteries
\$18,831.80	Money Saved on Battery Recycling Program
\$13,272.00	Money Saved from Reduced Landfill Fees
\$70,153.80	Sub-Total Financial Benefit of Recycling

Programs Implemented in 2010

\$2175.00	Electronic Recycling
\$4868.00	Scrap Metal Recycling
\$77,196.80	Total Financial Benefit of Recycling



CONCLUSION

BryanLGH's recycling program increases their bottom-line while benefiting the community and the environment.

