

Northern California Equipment Staging and Tagging Recycling – Top Marks

Environmental and Human Health Impact: Increased recycling rate from 16 to 92 percent in 2010 for all waste generated by Northern California capital and project equipment staging, tagging, and distribution. Average for annual material recycled equals 88,000 pounds or 44 tons.

Business Impact: Cost avoidance of \$5,200 annually from pallet reuse.

Challenge

Due to Kaiser Permanente's high rate of renovation and facility construction, we must procure, stage, and deploy a similarly high volume of medical and non-medical equipment. To facilitate swift installation of equipment, prior to deployment equipment is unpacked at a deployment center. This equipment is unfortunately packed in significant volumes of material. While we are working with suppliers to slim down their packaging, we are at the same time applying internal recycling practices, and we are requesting that our suppliers do the same within their companies.

Aim/Goal

Implement a structured, measurable recycling program for our Northern California (NCAL) equipment staging, tagging, and deployment operations in partnership with our third party logistics provider, Service West.

Team

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Patrick Poynter, Director of Operations, NCAL Supply Chain

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Actions Taken

- ✓ Engaged Service West in 2009 regarding KP's strong focus on recycling and waste reduction.
- ✓ Evaluated current waste stream from Livermore STC, and identified waste that could be diverted/recycled, as well as potential reduction or elimination of hazardous waste, if applicable.
- ✓ Set recycling rate and reporting expectations with Service West.

Results

- ✓ By implementing new practices in late 2009, Service West's recycling rate jumped from an estimated 16 percent of total waste in 2009 (mostly cardboard), to an average of 92 percent with the addition of pallets, metal, foam, and more cardboard.
- ✓ In 2010 Service West **recycled 88,000 pounds of pallets, cardboard, metal, and foam** on behalf of the Livermore STC associated with unpacking and deploying new equipment for KP. Reports from 2011 show the same average recycling rate and volume.



Lessons Learned

- ✓ In order to ensure external metrics are accurate and comprehensive, it is important to manage service providers, clarify expectations, and set up recurring check-ins and report outs.

Next Steps

- ✓ Ensure trending toward direct to site equipment delivery continues to support exceptional recycling rates.
- ✓ Identify top suppliers to partner with to slim down packaging to reduce waste overall.
- ✓ Sustain and build on recycle rates from 2010 and 2011 by increasing awareness and socializing importance of recycling with other KP departments outside of supply chain.