

What is Waste to Profit?

The Waste to Profit Network facilitates the transformation of one company's waste, or by-product, into an industrial input for another company. This process is known as by-product synergy. Synergies formed between participants turn costly waste streams into productive revenue streams while reducing the impact on the environment.

How can I participate?

There are two types of networks. One is a **Community Network**. In this model, company leaders attend an information meeting on waste reduction topics and strategies. They break into sub-groups to identify waste matches.

Innovation Networks are member-based. Companies meet frequently in highly facilitated sessions to generate waste and synergy matches. IMEC and ISTC staff members will coach companies to explore, identify and test potentially valuable synergies. The participating organizations will have an agreement that spells out deliverables, confidentiality, intellectual property and other important elements needed to create a safe zone for interaction and collaboration.

IMEC will launch Networks in the Rockford, Peoria and Metro East St. Louis areas.

Has it been done before?

Proven successful, Waste to Profit is modeled after a program developed by the Chicago Manufacturing Center (CMC). To date, companies that are part of the Chicago network have identified more than 100 potential synergies. As a result of its success, IMEC has received a grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to help support initiation of the program outside of the Chicago area.

Thanks to our program sponsors:



**Illinois Sustainability
Technology Center**



Environmental Impact Goals

- Implement 10 synergies
- Reduce waste to landfill by 15,000 tons
- Reduce company operating costs by \$500,000
- Increase sales for new products by \$350,000

Community Benefits

- Attraction and retention of workers
- Opportunities for entrepreneurs
- Company collaboration
- Improved awareness of by-product synergies
- Promote Illinois as Green
- Track CO2 emissions

Chicago Network Results

- 42,000 tons CO2 emissions reduced
- 22,000 tons solid waste diverted from landfills
- \$300,000 in new revenue created
- \$4,000,000 reduced costs realized

Waste to Profit Success

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Christy Webber Landscaping
Smurfit Stone Recycling

WASTE INVOLVED

Plastic landscaping containers

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 13 tons of black plastic waste diverted from landfill to date; constitutes up to 10% of City of Chicago contracted landscaping projects
- 100% ROI on Chicago Waste to Profit membership fee in six months
- Furthered discussions on landscaping specifications
- Closed loop lifecycle for previously unrecyclable plastics
- CO2 reductions from landfill diversion

Waste to Profit Success

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Schulze Burch Biscuit Company
Smurfit Stone Recycling
Other local companies willing to participate in "milk run"

WASTE INVOLVED

Packaging

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Enhanced recycling within Chicago Food Industry
- Created cost savings in disposal and hauling fees
- Sets a standard which other food industry members can replicate
- CO2 savings from increased recycling of fiber and paper products

Waste to Profit Success

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Cloverhill Bakery
Smurfit Stone Recycling

WASTE INVOLVED

Packaging

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2000 tons of high value packaging waste to be diverted from landfill annually with a savings of roughly \$4M
- \$10,000 investment in new equipment
- Created a profitable community recycling center which benefits all contributing companies and spreads the values of sustainability
- Closed loop life cycle for previously non-recyclable plastics and fiber products
- CO2 savings from diverting plastic from landfill and proximity aggregation of recyclables

Waste to Profit Success

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Curb Appeal Materials
Baxter Healthcare
Sherwin Williams
Cook Composites and Polymers
Department of Fleet Management
Chicago Center for Green Technology

WASTE INVOLVED

Unrecyclable plastic (mixed, contaminated)

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 15 Tons of plastic waste diverted from landfill to date; likely 50+ additional tons will be diverted from spin-off projects
- New standards established for City Department procurement
- CO2 diverted by use of low energy recycling into new material as opposed to landfill
- Potential for jobs to be created as business grows
- Closed loop life cycle for previously non-recyclable plastics

Waste to Profit Success

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Abbott Laboratories
ArcelorMittal Steel

WASTE INVOLVED

Sodium hypochlorite (industrial bleach)

ACHIEVEMENTS

- A 40,000 gallon tanker of industrial bleach was diverted from the public sewer system and used to create cleaner process water for AcelorMittal Steel
- Taxpayer savings from reduced water treatment
- Transformed a hazardous waste into a beneficial reuse byproduct
- CO2 savings from local sourcing of raw materials
- Created greater inter-company communications and efficiencies regarding water treatment

More Information

Learn more about Waste to Profit at upcoming Community Meetings in Rockford, Peoria and Metro East St. Louis.

For program or meeting details call:

in Northern Illinois:

Mary Hallock 815-721-4474

in Central Illinois

Jim Pankey 309-846-8032

in Southern Illinois

Lori Amerman 618-453-6659

or visit:

www.imec.org/wastetoprofit



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