

CASE STUDY



Landfill-Free Facilities, General Motors

General Motors' (GM) waste management program is about recovery, efficiency, and achieving landfill-free facilities. Globally, the company boasts 110 landfill-free facilities and a 90 per cent recycling and reuse rate of manufacturing waste. According to the company, GM vehicles are on average 85 per cent recyclable by weight at end-of-life.

GM's landfill-free footprint includes manufacturing facilities such as assembly, powertrain, casting, and stamping plants; and non-manufacturing facilities such as office buildings, warehouses, and distribution centres. Globally, approximately half of company operations in Asia boast landfill-free status, including 17 in Korea; 10 in China; four in Thailand; and two in India.

According to GM's Fast Lane website, the Rayong and Talegaon facilities in Asia replaced wood pallets for reusable, recycled-content plastic containers. The new containers weigh and cost less than before, and reduced waste by a combined 146 tons in 2012.

Two additional more examples that illustrate how recycling drives innovation at GM:

- Cardboard shipping materials from various GM plants are recycled into a superior sound-dampening material into 25 per cent of the headliner in the Buick Lacrosse and Verano to help keep the cabin quiet.
- Plastic caps and shipping aids from the Fort Wayne facility are mixed with other materials to make 25 per cent of the radiator shrouds for the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickups built at the plant.

GM accounts for approximately one billion dollars in revenue annually from by-product recycling and reuse. To help pass on the savings and success, GM created a downloadable blueprint for eliminating waste.

To learn more visit: <http://www.gm.ca/gm/english/corporate/about/environment/overview>



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Core Recover Program, Ford Motor Company

From 2003 to 2013, 120 million pounds of damaged and broken auto parts were diverted from landfills as part of Ford's Core Recovery Program. The company has been reusing and recycling parts removed at dealership service centres for use in the production of new vehicles. Specifically, Ford dealership service centres are charged a fee when they order a new part from the company that is refunded if the dealer recycles the old part through the Core Recovery Program. Collected auto parts are then examined for potential refurbishment and placement into a new Ford vehicle. Parts that can be remanufactured are cleaned, machined, and tested to meet quality standards before being used in new Ford vehicles. If a part cannot be remanufactured, it is sent to a third-party facility for processing into small pellets. The pellets are then shipped back to Ford for use in the new-vehicle manufacturing process.

Developed to unify fragmented local recovery programs, the program has increased efficiency and quality while saving money for the company.

For more information visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1DHI7Q-Ns>

