



Haworth achieves Zero Waste to Landfill status in its Holland, Michigan corporate headquarters and in its manufacturing facilities in the United States, China, and India.

Zero Waste to Landfill

The Objective:

Eliminate waste and emissions associated with corporate operations and the production of products and services.

How we support this objective:

Haworth operations targeted waste reduction, recycling, and zero waste to landfill in all North American facilities. Our corporate headquarters' waste recycling center opened in 1993 and to date has recycled over 206,000 tons of waste. ISO 14001 environmental management systems (EMS) and lean manufacturing strategies and tools helped us generate new ideas and opportunities to reduce waste further and achieve zero waste to landfill, reduce hazardous waste, VOC emissions, and wastewater.

How we achieved the Zero Waste to Landfill aspect of this objective:

To accomplish this remarkable task, Haworth leaned heavily on the passion and inspiration of its team members the world over. Here's a snapshot of how we have reached Zero Waste to Landfill, and the ongoing effort required to maintain it.

In our North American Plants

Haworth's volunteer Plant Champions helped drive a sustained change in behavior. They used time-honored Kaizen and 5S techniques to improve processes, identify new opportunities to recycle items normally thrown away, and to set new benchmarks in reducing, reusing, and recycling throughout the plants. These Plant Champions continue to conduct training for team members and conduct routine audits. The audit results are distributed via highly visible process boards throughout the plants. The boards track progress and provide instructions for members to dispose of materials properly. Teams continually work to identify and eliminate waste.

Showcase: Douglas, Michigan, USA

The Douglas plant exemplifies the commitment Haworth members feel toward environmental stewardship. In their effort to accomplish Zero Waste to Landfill, the Douglas team placed a lock on its compactor in early January 2009. By vowing to recycle intentionally, the plant members reduced the month's waste (typically 5,000 to 10,000 lbs per month) to just 140 lbs. They reduced it further the next month, and, bolstered by the results, the team continues its practice and maintains the plant's Zero Waste to Landfill status.

Corporate Headquarters

At One Haworth Center in Holland, Michigan, the endeavor for Zero Waste to Landfill was driven in the front office by the volunteer Ecommitment team and the Sustainable Solutions team.

This team created the corporate challenge to raise awareness of intra-company recycling and waste reduction opportunities. The team conducted regular audits of W2E (Waste to Energy) and recycling bins to ensure all were being properly utilized and to identify trouble areas. Haworth members stayed up to date on the success stories, common questions and answers, and results on an internal web site. This effort garnered excellent results! It raised awareness and spurred implementation of several great ideas from members. One idea put easy-to-understand signage in high-traffic areas explaining our recycling opportunities; another, added more recycling and waste to energy locations in our facilities.

Haworth Recycle Center, West MI Statistics

- Constructed 1993
- 1995: 18 million pounds of recyclables processed
- 2006: 26 million pounds of recyclables processed
- 2008: 47 million pounds of recyclables processed

Haworth Landfill Reductions: US Factories & Distribution Center

- 2006: 19 million pounds to landfill
- 2007 & 2008: 5 million pounds to landfill each year; reduced through diversion of wood waste to cogeneration
- 2009: 0.9 million pounds/year to Waste-to-Energy facility; [Zero Landfill Achieved April, 2009]
- 2010 Target: Reduce another 35%, to less than (0.6) million pounds/year to Waste-to-Energy facility
- 2010 Waste-to-Energy rate vs. 2006 Landfill rate: 97% reduction

In our Asia Pacific Facilities

Our Shanghai, China, and Pune, India facilities met Zero Waste to Landfill status in 2008 by using lean manufacturing processes that are environmentally friendly.

Showcase: Shanghai, China

The 19,000-square-meter steel and wood factory produces 11,000 parts every day; yet it maintains Zero Waste to Landfill status by recycling waste materials to manufacture new products and by practicing industrial symbiosis with its suppliers.

- Between 2007 and 2008, the Shanghai factory reduced its waste to landfill by 1,910.5 cubic meters. In 2008, Haworth's Shanghai factory recycled the equivalent of:
 - 80 tons of steel or 95 small cars
 - 4.8 tons of paper and 79.5 tons of cardboard, saving 1,095 trees
 - 210 barrels of oil
 - 345,630 kWh/m² of landfill
 - 2,790,054 liters of water
 - 10 tons of fabric (stretching 24 kilometers)

The most important factor in meeting the goal of Zero Waste to Landfill in Shanghai is member education. Team leaders make sure all team members are schooled in the benefits of sustainability, and they offer training courses, informational videos and presentations, and tours of the factory. The teams also perform regular audits of the facility to gauge progress.