From coffee cups to hydraulic fluid, Pfizer is taking innovative approaches to the “reduce, reuse, recycle” imperative to reduce our environmental footprint.

**REDUCE**

*Green Chemistry at Cambridge*

The Global Operations Maintenance Department identified and implemented a “Green Chemistry” opportunity in all outdoor hydraulic operations at the Cambridge North site. The Department substituted biodegradable vegetable-based hydraulic fluid for petroleum-based hydraulic fluids in three hydraulic lifts and two trash compactors.

All outdoor hydraulic operations have the potential for leaks that can reach storm drains and the bordering wetland area. Pfizer has controls in place to prevent these types of leaks, and procedures in place to minimize impact if and when such leaks occur. The change to a non-toxic fluid further reduces the impact a spill would have on the local environment. Formulated from canola oil, the fluid also helps maintain operational efficiency and durability of the hydraulic equipment.

**Goa Repackaging Means Less Waste**

The team in Goa, India has reduced packaging in two key areas. First, they began using reusable drums instead of plastic bags for transferring linen. As a result, they have seen a cost savings of $450 per year, a 27% reduction in plastic bag use and reduced non-hazardous waste generation. Second, they changed medicine packaging from tube to blister packs. This move reduced costs by $11,000 and cycle time from 21 days to 10.5 days, and eliminated plastic tube waste.

**REUSE**

*Go Green with Your Morning Caffeine*

Pfizer Global Engineering’s administrative staff wanted to implement an Environmental Sustainability project. They noticed that while some of the paper cups being used in the office were being recycled, many were thrown out in the general trash. To reduce the amount of paper cups used, the administrative assistants distributed ceramic coffee cups to colleagues. Ceramic cups help reduce the environmental footprint associated with production, distribution and disposal of paper cups and provide a departmental cost savings. Similar efforts have been successful at other Pfizer locations.

*Thinking Outside the (Reusable) Box at Hsinchu*

Approximately 1,300 cartons and big polyethylene (PE) plastic bags per month were being used at the Hsinchu, Taiwan plastic bottle manufacturing company to transfer the plastic bottles to a buffer zone before going to the manufacturing site.

Procurement, warehouse, manufacture and quality colleagues at Hsinchu worked together to replace the cartons with reusable boxes. This change will save 15,600 waste cartons and big PE bags per year. It will also reduce waste site-wide by 24%. The project represents an extraordinary effort by the colleagues that went beyond normal job responsibilities.

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RECYCLE

Puurs Total Waste Management System
Puurs, Belgium, Pfizer’s largest European production and packaging unit, has instituted a three-year program at four sites to reduce hazardous waste. In collaboration with the local waste vendor, the Puurs team reviewed all waste streams for proper classification. The team also created 45 separate waste streams to allow for the best waste management options. As a result, hazardous waste has been reduced from 300 tons to 40 tons and 75% of non-hazardous waste is recycled.

RETHINK

Whether it’s something as easy as using a mug for morning coffee or changing the way we package and transport products, Pfizer colleagues are proving that simple actions and teamwork can result in positive, lasting changes.