

How Green Practices Benefit the Bottom Line

“Our message to other companies considering a greater focus on environmental efforts is to go beyond the “feel good” aspect... take advantage of the improved economics that a strong environmental program can provide.”

Mark Shriver, Curbell Inc.
Director, Safety & Environmental Affairs



Curbell Plastics, Inc., along with its parent company Curbell, Inc. continued its aggressive focus on sustainability and environmental practices in 2017 making improvements in its recycling program and implementing more efficient and environmentally friendly lighting options in its Orchard Park, NY, USA headquarters.

While the company has been recycling for several years, in 2017 Curbell implemented single-stream recycling that does not require the sorting of materials at the disposal point, making recycling more convenient for employees. Working with an outside waste management company, the materials are sorted for recycling after pickup from Curbell and then recycled at no extra cost to the company.

Before implementation, employees attended an information session and were invited to sign an environmental pledge. This new approach increased Curbell's overall recycling rate to more than 90 percent with the remainder going to incineration. Curbell has maintained Zero Landfill status in its two largest facilities in Orchard Park, diverting more than 2.25 million pounds of waste from landfills. Since inception, Curbell's recycling program has helped reduce the weekly number of 8-yard dumpsters picked up at headquarters from 10 to one, reducing costs for the company and carbon emissions with fewer waste pickups. Curbell Plastics' recycling efforts have prevented more than 90 percent of their plastic scrap from going to landfills and instead the materials are recycled or repurposed.

In addition to increased recycling, Curbell also focused on responsible energy consumption in 2017 by equipping all light fixtures in its headquarters with more efficient LED bulbs. The company also installed a computer-based building management system that allows control of heat and air conditioning from a desktop computer or cell phone. With more convenient control systems, temperatures can easily be monitored, controlled and changed remotely. This saves energy, lowers the labor costs of manually adjusting the system and improves employee comfort.

The company made a serious commitment to improving its environmental practices starting in 2006 and has since been recognized in the

plastics industry as well as by local and federal agencies for its leadership in sustainability and environmental practices. Curbell Plastics is an active IAPD GreenScene™ member and supports environmental education and advocacy efforts within the performance plastics industry. Curbell has also realized economic benefits with reduced dumpster fees, income from material recycling, reduced energy and light replacement costs and reduced labor costs for maintaining energy systems.

According to Mark Shriver, director, safety and environmental affairs, “While we are certainly proud of the deep commitment the company and its employees have made to protect the environment, it is also important to note that many of these efforts result in reduced costs. Our message to other companies considering a greater focus on environmental efforts is to go beyond the ‘feel good’ aspect of this type of program and take advantage of the improved economics that a strong environmental program can provide.” www.curbellplastics.com.

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