

CASE STUDY: HARMAC MEDICAL PRODUCTS

A JOURNEY TOWARD SIGNIFICANT HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCTION



**AWARDED 2019 SILVER LEVEL
RECOGNITION AND MOST INNOVATIVE
SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT**

COMPANY

A global manufacturer with nearly 41,000 square feet of environmentally controlled production space

Harmac Medical Products is a full-service contract engineering and manufacturing company of single-use medical devices that has served the global market place for nearly 40 years. It is headquartered in Buffalo, N.Y., with additional facilities in Ireland and Mexico. Harmac has approximately 1,000 employees worldwide. The Buffalo Facility has roughly 400 employees and covers approximately 80,000 square feet, 18,454 of which is environmentally controlled production space.

Harmac's sustainability journey began when its President & CEO saw the need to improve its neighborhood, not only to attract customers and top talent, but also because 25% of its workforce resides within its zip code. This started the community and people portion of Harmac's voyage. The environmental journey was led by their facility in Ireland, as the ISO 14001 standard is a norm for European companies, while still catching on in the US. Harmac's Ireland plant was ISO 14001 certified in 2011, and the Buffalo facility achieved certification in 2014.



CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Reduction efforts driven by engineering teams

In 2015, Harmac was a large quantity generator of hazardous and bio-hazardous waste with significant costs for disposal and mandatory training. Harmac then set goals to reduce its generation, and now it is a small quantity generator. It has reduced pounds of waste, minimized costs of disposal and is no longer required to do HAZWOPER or DOT trainings annually, i.e. an eight-hour class for approximately 50 people.

During the first couple of years, the actions were driven by Harmac's EH&S department and Green Team. However, slowly but surely, these efforts became part of the company's culture, and its reduction initiatives became driven by other teams as well.

For example, in 2018, Harmac's manufacturing and engineering members found that they were discarding 3,000 foam sheets and over a case of nylon wipes every week. The material was used to protect molded parts manufactured in one clean room, as they were transported to another clean room for final assembly. In response, the engineers began working with operators to implement a process to save the packaging materials, return them to the warehouse, and re-use them. While this may seem simple for most industries, Harmac had to implement this process in accordance with all FDA and ISO 13485 regulations, to ensure the integrity and quality of the product was not compromised.

RESULTS

By setting environmental goals, implementing actions and continually monitoring changes compared to its baseline, Harmac has been able to achieve a 98% reduction for bio-hazardous waste generation and a 79% reduction for hazardous waste generation.

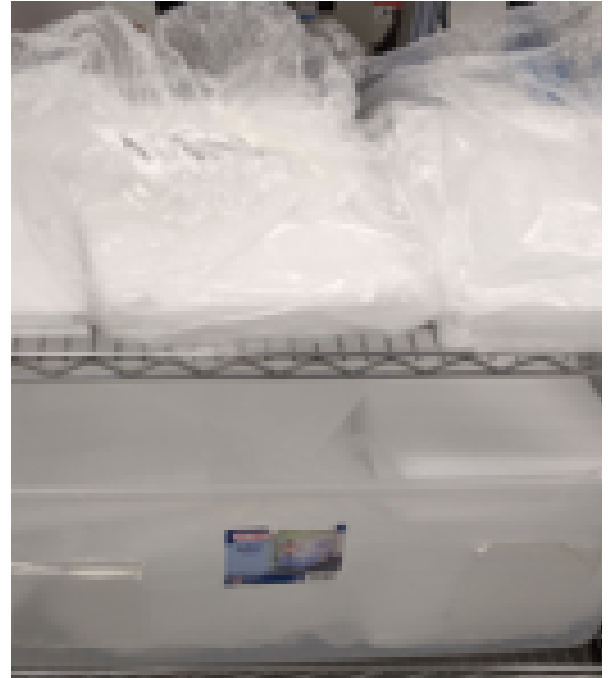
The process initiated by the engineering teams took about six months to implement and had a significant impact. In just five months, Harmac saved almost \$30,000 by reusing the materials and has kept 60,000 foam sheets and 20 cases of wipes out of landfills.

“One of the most rewarding pieces of this project is that it was completely driven by our manufacturing colleagues – not by my department or the Green Team,” said Harmac EHS Director Kris Ann Bolt.

Harmac is committed to pursuing and achieving ongoing sustainability goals supporting the environment, the safety and wellness of its employees, and the communities in which it works.

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The WNY Sustainable Business Roundtable has helped us to make connections and bring resources together to assist us in sustainability.



Harmac's actions and results have been reported within the framework of The WNYSBR's Recognition Program, a continuous improvement program structured to help businesses reach achievable sustainable targets. The program encourages companies to implement a comprehensive sustainability plan. This includes systematic benchmarking, identifying further environmental efficiency opportunities, and quantifying results when improvements are put into place.

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