

SGP Case Study:

Continuous Improvements in Sustainability Drive Profits at Bolger



As a result of its continuous improvement program, Minneapolis-based printer Bolger Inc. now **recycles 98 percent of its waste, adding 20 percent profit to its bottom line.** Bolger has been an SGP certified printer since 2017, and adhering to best sustainability practices is in the company's DNA. Yearly continuous improvement projects led Bolger to become an impressive facility in which zero product waste is sent to a landfill. Anything used to create a printed product is either environmentally friendly or recyclable. For example, paper and aluminum plates get recycled, ink is vegetable-based, and press washes are non-hazardous. In addition, Bolger uses the SGP Impact Tracker to monitor progress and market its sustainable successes to customers.

Comprehensive Recycling Programs at Bolger

Aluminum plates and paper bring in the most recycling revenue for Bolger. In 2018, the facility received \$174,410 from a community partner, for their recycled paper and \$24,230 from another partner for their aluminum plates.

Project Planning to Reduce Waste

Because sustainability is paramount at Bolger, the company plans all projects with waste reduction in mind. The result is less overall recycling revenue and increased cost savings through reduced purchasing needs. All paper is recycled, as are all of the aluminum plates used in the printing process.

Solid Waste Recycling

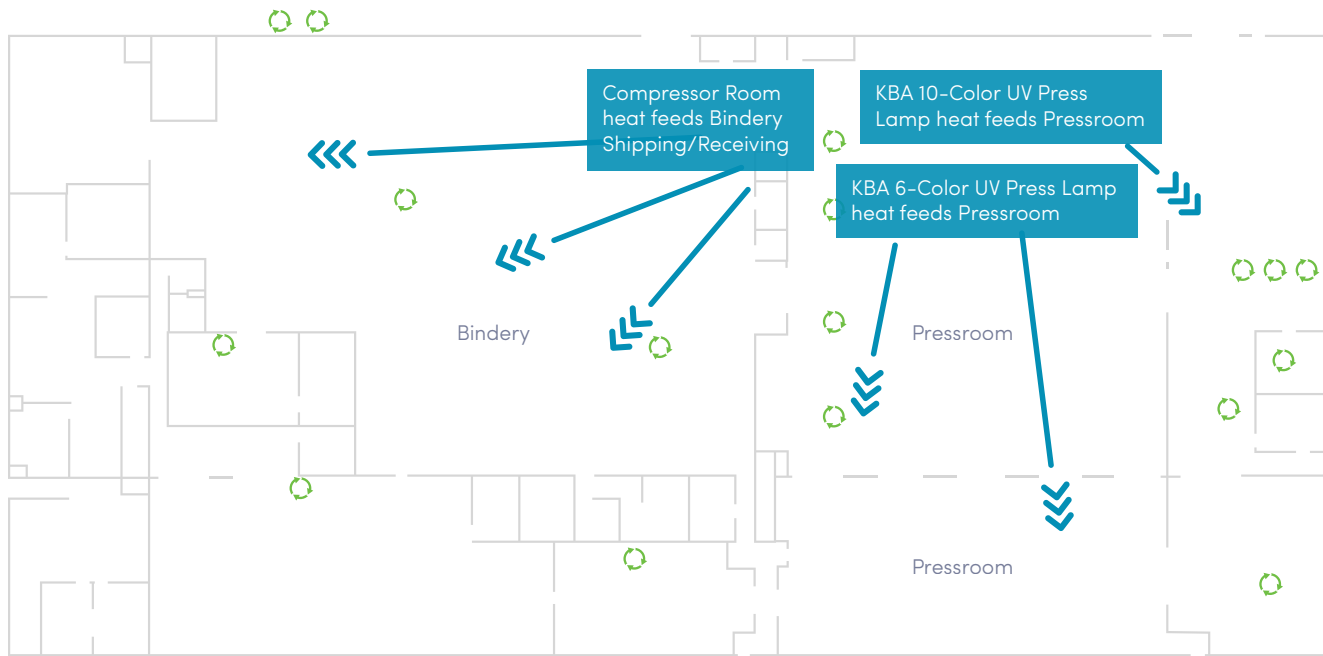
Solid waste has also been reduced dramatically since the implementation of an organic recycling program. About 10,000 pounds of solid waste is recycled each year through this program, yielding a **25% reduction in solid waste** and a **20% cost savings for the facility.**

Recycling Energy to Reduce Natural Gas Consumption

However, one of Bolger's most innovative recycling programs involves the recycling of energy in order to reduce natural gas consumption. As part of a continuous improvement project, Bolger installed UV presses in its printing facility. These cutting-edge printing presses consume a lot of energy, but the facility redirects the heat generated by the UV lamps into other areas of the facility, limiting the need for natural gas. The company uses similar methods to transfer the heat created in its compressor rooms to the production areas. This recycled energy has helped to offset the costs of the UV presses and reduced energy-related operating expenses.

Bolger Vision Beyond Print Director of Compliance Rick Kline says that his facility's SGP certification, "Bolsters its current Environmental, Health and Safety program and provides customers the assurance that Bolger is a responsible company that practices what it preaches with its Sustainable Management System."

Energy Recycling at Bolger



Using the SGP Impact Tracker to Monitor & Illustrate Sustainable Performance

In 2019, Bolger will introduce a new marketing initiative based on the SGP Impact Tracker, a platform that tracks sustainability initiatives, operating expenses, and other metrics. When clients tour the Bolger facility, they will be treated to a display of data from the company's sustainability dashboard, illustrating the operational benefits and cost savings that result from a commitment to environmental best practices. Bolger recognizes the demand for sustainable print and is eager to implement additional marketing around the company's SGP certification and continuous improvement projects. The new campaign will illustrate reduced operational expenses and improved products that result from sustainable choices.

The introduction of SGP's Impact Tracker software has led to improved ease of tracking for sustainability initiatives and continuous improvement projects at Bolger, making it easier for the company to showcase its sustainable successes. Prior to the tracker's implementation, the facility relied on Excel spreadsheets to benchmark data, measuring carbon footprints, kilowatts of electricity, therms of natural gas, and gallons of fuel. Impact Tracker accepts the same data and offers the user-friendly benefit of allowing everyone in the facility to enter data as needed instead of going through a single sustainability gatekeeper.

Bolger is dedicated to sustainability education. The company conducts annual Compliance Training, which includes an entire section on its Sustainable Management System and guidelines for SGP compliance. The results are clear: better practices yield a better product.

To learn more about how SGP certification can help your printing facility reduce operating expenses and improve your product, contact SGP at info@sgppartnership.org or visit www.sgppartnership.org.