

Organization: FGF Brands

Website: <https://www.fgfbrands.com/>

Project: FGF Brands – 590 Barmac

Location: 590 Barmac Dr, North York, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Certification Level: Silver

Percent of Overall Diversion Achieved: 92.5%

Facility Size: 76,943 sq. ft

Type of Operation: Scaling and Warehouse Facility

Project Overview:

FGF Brands is not just a bakery, we are a technology company that bakes. Our vision is to become the world's greatest baker and our mission is to continuously expose people to great eating experiences!

Our passion to bake doesn't stop at the quality of our food. It ripples through to our processes, our people, and our impact on the world around us. As we continuously grow and evolve, we recognize the need to bring environmental sustainability front and center in our business practices.

Across all our facilities, our environmental policy and ambitious environmental goals have been taken up by the same passionate people who drive our company forward each day. Our 590 Barmac Dr, Toronto facility is focused on the distribution of ingredients and other goods to our production facilities. They are highly spirited and highly motivated to be the best at doing just that.

The 590 Barmac facility reached certification status by raising the bar for what it means to be Zero Waste, by being innovative in their strategy to get there, and finally, by being proud of working together as a team to make it happen.

Please see below for a brief look at some of our TRUE certification successes, along with some examples of the credits we earned.

Redesign

The facility is inspected weekly to consistently ensure all applicable points of generation at 590 Barmac have materials meet their highest and best use (Credit 3 – Review all 9 points of generation). Team members conducting the inspection walk through each area of the facility and check the waste bins to determine the effectiveness of the waste programs. After the inspections are completed the Environmental Sustainability Team will use the data to identify trends and implement any necessary actions to improve waste reduction, re-use, and recycling.

Reduce

Reducing waste is a practice consistently encouraged and a challenge that has been championed by the 590 Barmac team. In achieving one of the reduce credits (Credit 4 – Go Paperless for at least one major office function), we also helped support our Team Member's health and safety too. Championed by our IT and Talent & Development (HR) Teams, FGF implemented facial recognition cameras at our 590 Barmac facility. This technology automatically provides facility access and records each Team Member's temperature on arrival. This new digital system replaces the manual process of using a daily paper log, eliminating paper use while reducing necessary contact.

Reuse

Across FGF Brands, we aim to reduce or eliminate single-use materials wherever possible. As we worked towards our zero waste goals, we switched all our internal transfers from our central distribution warehouse and manufacturing facilities from wooden pallets to reusable durable plastic pallets (Credit 1 – Develop systems that emphasize reuse). FGF found that the plastic pallets for internal shipping are much more durable and have a longer life span on average than wooden pallets.



Compost

All lunchroom and office organic food waste is sent off-site to be anaerobically digested to produce energy and fertilizer (Credit 4 – Compost food scraps and/or soiled paper off-site).

Recycle

Gaining the highest and best use of our materials is critical to the operations at the 590 Barmac facility. At every opportunity, we want to maximize what we get out of our materials while also upholding our commitment to deliver exceptional products (Credit 1.2: Meet highest and best use for 100% of materials by weight). This year, we were able to partner with our waste vendor

to create a recycling program for poly-lined kraft bags. This program has been integral to achieving the TRUE Zero Waste certification at the 590 Barmac Facility.

Zero Waste Reporting

Tracking our waste streams, and subsequently, our diversion rates, are imperative to FGF Brands' zero waste mission. Each of our waste vendors provides monthly invoices that detail the quantity of waste generated for the waste streams they receive. The data is then analyzed and tracked by our Environmental Sustainability Team to ensure accuracy (Credit 1 – document diversion by commodity or waste). By tracking our waste diversion progress, we can use these indicators to push for improvements to our waste practices and ensure that we maintain our high waste diversion rate.

Diversion

Diversion rates are top of mind as we try to push far past our 90% base goal. At 590 Barmac, the effort is driven by our on-the-ground Sanitation Team. By constantly seeking to improve waste reduction and separation practices, the facility was able to score a 92.5% diversion rate, and we do not want to stop there! (Credit 1 – Diversion is 90.1-94.9%)!

Zero Waste Purchasing

As FGF Brands began to work towards our zero waste goals, we quickly realized the environmental impacts resulting from our operations and supply chain. This pushed us to create our Environmentally Preferred Purchasing guidelines (Credit 1 – Adopt an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing guideline or policy). These guidelines aim to reduce FGF's environmental impact by stating the preference for purchasing environmentally conscious products and services. There are 11 strategies listed to help guide the operations and supply chain teams to include environmental factors in our purchasing decisions.



Leadership

Going zero waste was first presented to FGF Brands leadership by Team Members with a passion for the environment as a forward-thinking and impactful goal. FGF was ready to take on the challenge and senior leadership was quick to adopt the goal (Credit 1 – Adopt zero waste goal at upper management level). The Environmental Sustainability team was subsequently created to drive this effort and regularly inform the senior leadership about each facility's progress towards our targets.



FGF will become Zero Waste Certified by July 2022

More than 90% of the waste we create across all of our facilities will be redirected away from landfills and incinerators through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs.

- Industrial Recycling**
Large-scale recycling of things like cardboard, wooden pallets, and packaging waste.
- Bakery Waste To Feed**
Directing organic bakery waste to safe animal feed production.
- Digitization**
Going fully digital and phasing out paper-intense processes.
- Product Packaging**
We are always searching for the most sustainable packaging for our products.

Training

At FGF, we recognize the importance of having all waste collection receptacles clearly labeled for our Team Members. We want to ensure there is no confusion with our collection receptacles and therefore have sticker labels indicating the type of waste allowed, including photographic examples, placed on all waste bins throughout the facility (Credit 4 – Clearly label all collection receptacles).

Zero Waste Analysis

We have found that annual waste audits are a great way to gain a fresh perspective and learn about new opportunities for waste diversion. Once a year, we invite an external waste auditor to assess each of our waste streams and help us learn where we can improve (Credit 1 – Conduct annual physical waste audit). At 590 Barmac, we noticed our regular garbage waste stream was mostly composed of materials that could be recycled using our existing waste diversion channels. These results motivated us to improve our waste diversion processes by providing more waste receptacles with clearer and bigger labels. It was changes like these that helped us see improvements in our waste diversion and allowed us to exceed our target of over 90% waste diversion at our 590 Barmac facility.

Hazardous Waste Prevention

Universal waste is a limited but necessary part of operations at our 590 Barmac facility. The small quantities of electronic and battery waste produced are sorted into a designated waste receptacle and managed by the 590 Barmac Facility Team. Once a significant amount of the waste is generated, we send it off for recycling through an appropriate waste vendor (Credit 3 – Reuse or recycle universal waste).