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**TRUE**

**FACILITY CASE STUDY**



**Atlantic Packaging - Greenville**

Greenville, SC USA

# Atlantic Packaging - Greenville

Atlantic Corporation



Certification level: Certified

Diversion rate upon certification: 93.9%

Facility location: Greenville, SC, USA

Type of facility: Warehouse & Distribution

Website: [www.atlanticpkg.com](http://www.atlanticpkg.com)

# Why zero waste?

- Atlantic Packaging has a very impressive Sustainability culture that was started by, and is actively led by, the owners, and has been embraced by all. Initiatives have been started, investments made, new product lines added, trainings hosted, all for a moral obligation that also makes business sense. There is a recurring pattern with customers talking about Sustainability and appreciating our knowledge in that space. We have seen this firsthand in Greenville, SC. Even when sustainable items are not purchased, the discussions regularly demonstrate competency, and open doors for other sales opportunities. To show our commitment to the vision, to demonstrate our leadership to customers, to prove we practice the Sustainability we preach, Greenville wanted to be, and now is, the first Distribution-only facility in Atlantic Packaging to become zero waste certified. This certification was not easy; but never is an opportunity to step out as a "leader of the pack" an easy task.

# Biggest wins

- This is a significant achievement for us, as it demonstrates to other Atlantic Packaging distribution and warehousing facilities that not only is this possible, but it has now become the standard. We are excited to be at the forefront of sustainability initiatives, setting an example for our similar facilities.
- We are especially proud of the collaboration within our facility that helped us get to the diversion. Atlantic Packaging Greenville came together, and each employee played a vital role in earning this achievement.

# Credit category: Redesign

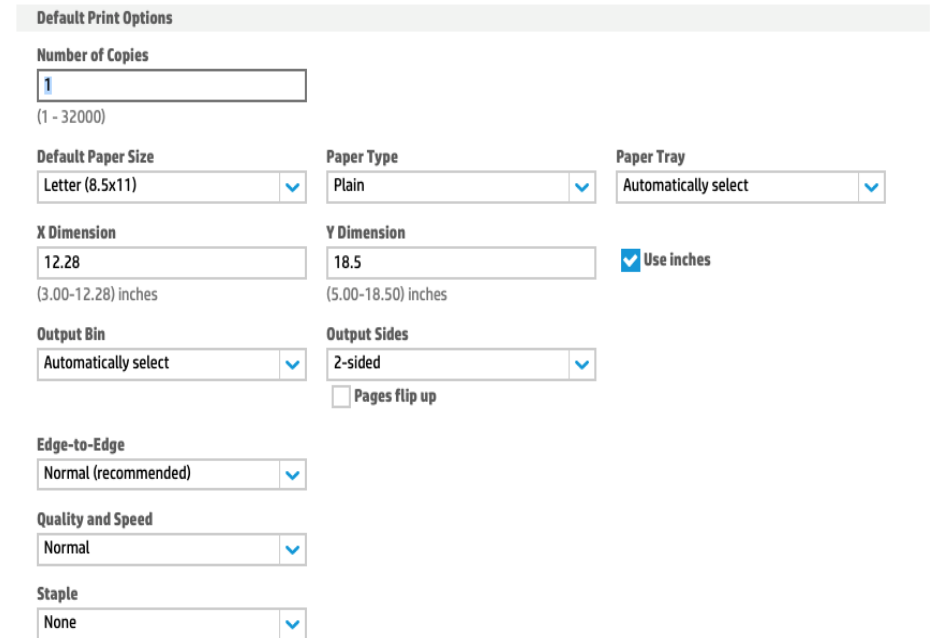
- After reviewing the waste in the dumpster the day before pickup, we determined that we could replace our 8-yard dumpster with a 4-yard dumpster.
- The facility manager and warehouse manager tracked the waste amounts for four weeks, and as a result, we successfully reduced the 8-yard dumpster, which was hauled three times per week, to a 4-yard dumpster, now collected just once per week.



*4-yard dumpster that we were able to exchange for the 8-yard dumpster that we used to use*

# Credit category: Reduce

- Several years ago, Atlantic Packaging Corporation made the decision to implement zero waste practices by setting all printers to default to double-sided printing.
- This practice has been adopted not only at our Greenville facility but across all Atlantic Packaging locations nationwide.



The screenshot displays the 'Default Print Options' interface. The 'Number of Copies' is set to 1. The 'Default Paper Size' is Letter (8.5x11). The 'Paper Type' is Plain. The 'Paper Tray' is set to Automatically select. The 'X Dimension' is 12.28 inches and the 'Y Dimension' is 18.5 inches. The 'Use inches' checkbox is checked. The 'Output Bin' is set to Automatically select. The 'Output Sides' is set to 2-sided, and the 'Pages flip up' checkbox is unchecked. The 'Edge-to-Edge' setting is Normal (recommended). The 'Quality and Speed' is set to Normal. The 'Staple' setting is None.

*A screenshot of our default settings from our headquarters, showing 2-sided or duplex printing as the default. This is applied to all Atlantic locations.*

# Credit category: Reuse

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- Atlantic Packaging Corporation is committed to finding ways to reduce waste through reuse. We have provided each employee with a refillable water bottle, encouraging them to reuse the bottles and eliminate the need for disposable water bottles or paper cups.
- At Atlantic Packaging Greenville, this initiative has been fully implemented, with the installation of cold-water refill stations to further encourage employees to use their refillable water bottles.



*Here is a picture of one of the cups that was distributed to each employee at our Founder's Day Celebration*

# Credit category: Compost (Re-Earth)

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- Earlier in 2024, we decided to take a step farther than any other facility had taken by introducing a compost program to our facility. We partnered with a local Compost company that composts our compostables.
- We compost all of our food scraps, coffee filters, BPI certified cups, plates, bowls, and eating ware, as well as paper towels that are used to dry hands after washing.



*Our 23-gallon compost bin from one of our break rooms*



# Credit category: Recycle

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- We placed 23-gallon blue recycling bins in both breakrooms and 7-gallon blue bins at each desk. To support our efforts, we partnered with a local recycler who collects our single-stream recycling once a week.
- Our employees have played a crucial role in the recycling process. For instance, the bins are kept inside the warehouse, and every Friday evening, the warehouse manager takes them to the curb for collection, bringing them back inside on Monday morning.



*These are our compost bins and recycling bins in the main breakroom*

# Credit category: Zero Waste Purchasing

- Atlantic Packaging developed an Environmental Preferred Purchasing (EPP) Policy, and each location has a designated purchaser who is trained to prioritize environmentally safe products.
- To streamline the process, the Director of Sustainability compiled a list of online platforms for ordering Environmentally Preferred Products, eliminating the need to rely on the old catalog.



*An example of our old purchasing catalog*

# Credit category: Leadership

- Atlantic Packaging has introduced comment boxes in each break room to encourage employee involvement in sustainability efforts. Employees are invited to submit ideas or questions related to waste reduction, with the submissions reviewed weekly by the Zero Waste Champion.
- If an employee's suggestion is implemented and proves successful, they receive a \$25 Amazon gift card as a reward. This initiative promotes active participation, recognizes valuable contributions, and helps drive continuous improvement in the company's sustainability programs.



*The Comment Box in one of our break rooms*

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We knew going into this process that it would not be easy to certify our first distribution-only site. However, each employee at Atlantic Greenville made contributions to this certification and their efforts carried us through. Some employees on the team did not have prior experience with zero waste, but they dedicated time to learning about how to practice and implement zero waste principles. This project proves that with focus and commitment, achieving this certification is possible for all Atlantic sites, and it contributes to our greater culture of sustainability at Atlantic.

*Gabie Giers,  
Sustainability Analyst*

**Zero waste is our mission**  
[true.gbci.org](https://true.gbci.org)