Waste

Ingram Micro is a global leader in technology and supply chain services and plays an integral role in a global supply chain that moves technology products from manufacturers to end customers. Across our lines of business, we employ approximately 28,000 associates, ship approximately 1.5 billion units per year, represent more than 1,500 vendors and serve more than 170,000 customers in approximately 200 countries.

Our global operations generate nonhazardous waste, including paper, scrap metal, plastics, glass, aluminum, food waste and construction materials. We also generate waste from company events, facility maintenance and furniture/equipment disposal. We produce a relatively small amount of hazardous waste in our operations, including used oil, spent solvents, paint, residue in non-empty aerosol cans, batteries and fluorescent light bulbs.

In 2021, we generated nearly 53,000 metric tons (MT) of nonhazardous waste in our operations. While the tonnage of overall nonhazardous waste increased from 2020, our recycling rate also increased to 86% in 2021 from 82% in 2020. The graph to the right indicates our year-over-year improvement in the volume of recycled nonhazardous waste, as opposed to disposal through landfill.

Our Strategy
We have identified key areas and business practices that generate both hazardous and nonhazardous waste, including packaging, warehouse and office operations, facility maintenance, special events, and facility upgrades and renovations. We have implemented strategies aimed at reducing the volume of waste we generate and diverting more materials from the landfill.
Reducing Packaging Waste
We are working to reduce the amount of secondary packaging used to ship products by implementing solutions that improve the dimensions of our cartons, help eliminate the use of excess void fill materials, and optimize the selection of media used to ship our products (e.g., mailers and corrugated boxes).

Additionally, we are working to increase our use of recycled and renewable materials, while sourcing alternate packaging materials that can be reused or more easily recycled or composted by the end customer.

Learn more

Reusing and Recycling E-waste
Through our IT Asset Disposition (ITAD) and Reverse Logistics (RL) services, we refurbish, resell, and recycle electronic devices received through our take-back services and our circular economy partnerships. This helps us reduce the volume of e-waste generated that may end up in the landfill by extending the life of usable devices and responsibly recycling devices that have reached end-of-life stage.

Learn more

Improving Waste Diversion in Our Facilities
A key step in mitigating the impact of the waste we generate in our operations is to ensure we divert as much of this waste from the landfill as possible through recycling, reuse and donation efforts. Our facilities currently recycle materials like cardboard, pallets, film, paper, plastics, aluminum and glass. We also have measures in place to properly collect and dispose of hazardous waste and universal waste according to local and national waste regulations.

We have streamlined our warehouse and office recycling and waste collection programs across our facilities in the United States, with similar actions planned for the remainder of our global operations. Through our recycling efforts, we continue to increase the volume of materials recycled year over year.

In addition to our recycling efforts, we also reuse and donate materials and supplies. For example, in our warehouses, we reuse packaging materials like boxes, pallets and edge protectors from incoming shipments in our outgoing shipments.
Improving Waste Measurement and Reporting

To minimize waste generation and improve our waste diversion efforts, it is important that we have an in-depth understanding of the waste streams across our various facilities. Currently, we track and report the volume of waste generated at each facility, the amount of material that is recycled and the amount of hazardous waste collected. However, we have found that this type of information can be difficult to collect compared to other utilities, like electricity or water.

Our goal is to continue to improve our waste collection, measurement and reporting processes in order to identify opportunities for continuous improvement in our waste diversion efforts. We are also working to better understand the unique needs and challenges at each facility based on the type of waste generated and the availability of services for recycling different types of materials.

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