

# **Beech-Nut Pursues Zero Waste to Landfill**



### Challenge

Beech-Nut requested assistance from NYSP2I to develop a zero-waste program to increase its landfill diversion rate and identify waste reduction best practices for implementation.

#### Solution

Developed a zero waste to landfill implementation strategy which included analyzing Beech-Nut's waste generation processes, reviewing current waste handling activities and waste, and evaluating findings against the desired 90 percent diversion rate.

#### Results

Identified specific opportunities for increasing waste diversion, prioritized each opportunity in terms of relative impact and time to implement, and provided an estimated implementation timeframe.

## **Beech-Nut Nutrition Company**

Beech-Nut Nutrition Company (Beech-Nut) is a baby and toddler food manufacturing company in Amsterdam, NY that is dedicated to "Beech-Nut is committed to deliver nutritious food for parents and babies." Beech-Nut, a subsidiary of the Hero Group, manufactures natural and organic fruit and vegetable purees, cereals, and other snacks while striving to reduce its environmental impact through continuous innovation.

#### Challenge

In 2018, 50 percent of all solid non-hazardous waste generated by Beech-Nut's manufacturing operations was diverted from landfills. Committed to sustainable practices, Beech-Nut established a goal of 90 percent diversion from landfills by 2025. To reach this goal, Beech-Nut requested assistance from the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) to develop a zero-waste program to increase its landfill diversion rate and identify waste reduction best practices for implementation.

#### **Solutions**

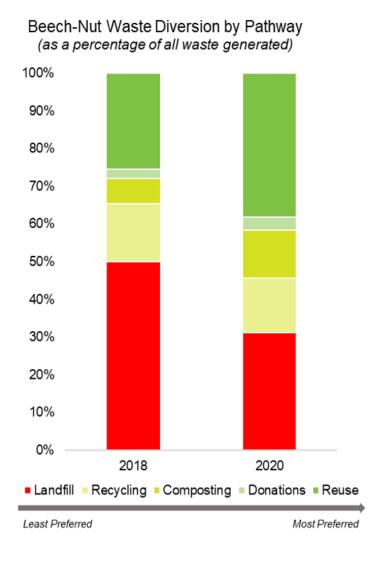
NYSP2I took several actions to develop a zero waste to landfill implementation strategy for Beech-Nut. These actions included the following:

- Analyzed Beech-Nut's waste generation processes, composition, and pathways at the Amsterdam, NY manufacturing facility.
- Conducted a review of current waste handling activities and waste vendor data.
- Evaluated these findings against the desired 90 percent diversion rate and assisted Beech-Nut in determining which zero waste standard to consider aligning with, namely GCBI's TRUE zero waste to landfill standard.
- Completed benchmarking of industry peers and competitors to identify zero waste to landfill strategies, best practices, and industry partnerships that could be effectively implemented.

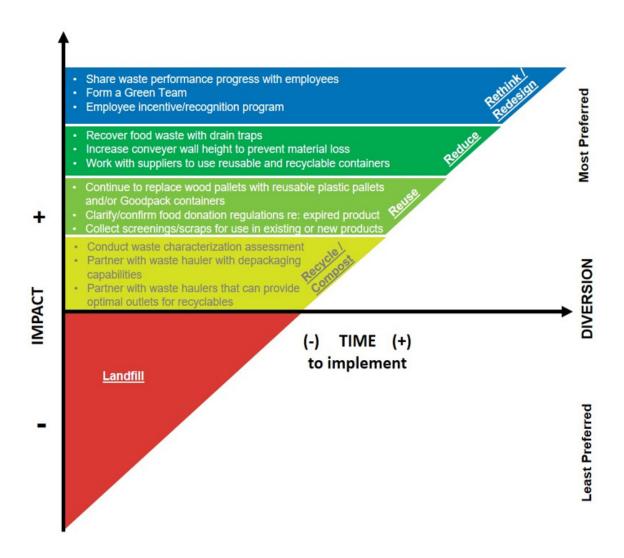
#### Results

The work performed by NYSP2I led to the development of a sustainable waste reduction plan designed to advance Beech-Nut's efforts towards becoming a zero waste to landfill facility. Specific tools and resources within the waste reduction plan created by NYSP2I included the following:

• Determined a zero-waste definition, taking into account acceptable diversion pathways such as source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and anaerobic digestion.



- Established a waste diversion baseline using waste data for future performance comparison.
- Identified specific opportunities for increasing waste diversion at the Amsterdam, NY manufacturing facility, prioritized each opportunity in terms of relative impact and time to implement, and provided an estimated implementation timeframe.



- Provided additional guidance for opportunities such as forming a Green Team, enhancing food donation, conducting a waste characterization assessment, and partnering with optimal waste haulers.
- Provided a template for tracking the implementation status of the improvement opportunities.
- Developed a training package for use with employees detailing the definition of "Zero Waste" and Beech-Nut's goals and objectives.

#### **Partners**















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