

Zero Waste

A Kimball International Case Study



Zero Waste

Eliminating pollution and emissions at the source is key to the elevated action plan for Kimball International’s manufacturing facilities. The company’s dedication to the TRUE (Total Resource Use and Efficiency) process also includes use of renewable materials and maximizing reclamation and recycling. This commitment earned Kimball International a Zero Waste certification at its facility in Santa Claus, Indiana. Verified by GBCI (Green Business Certification Inc.), this certification recognizes continuous improvement and excellence in protecting people and the planet.



“Kimball International’s intent has been to be a leader in not only protecting, but enhancing our world. Our Zero Waste certification demonstrates our dedication to continued excellence, leadership, and stewardship in protecting the environment, the health and safety of our employees, and members of the communities in which we work and live.”

Greg Meunier
EVP Global Operations
Kimball International

CHALLENGES	
1	Zero Waste and Circular Economy are important concepts to understand and apply to advance Kimball International beyond high recycling rates.
2	As the recycling market continues to change, Kimball International has to make adjustments to processes to comply with stricter requirements like the elimination of Styrofoam collection.
3	Real-time implementation of internal and external infrastructures for waste flow improvements is challenging without interrupting operations.

ZERO WASTE INITIATIVES	
1	Formalized policies with clearly defined waste handling practices and applications.
2	Formalized Packaging Policy with education on best practices to protect the planet and the products through the supply chain journey from reception to warehousing, shipping, and installation.
3	Pallet-reuse program implemented with supply partners.
4	Dedicated staff for secondary sorting of recycling to increase waste diversion rates.
5	Optimization of on-site box making machines to reduce waste involving corrugated bales.
6	Zero Waste training incorporated in regular safety and operation meetings as well as in employee orientation.
7	Implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program to redistribute surplus furniture, equipment, and supplies to non-profits, schools, and charities. This strategic partnership with Green Standards diverts a high percent of surplus items from landfills.
8	Extend use of Kimball International’s Corporate Recycling Center to commercial, industrial, and government organizations to expand Zero Waste impact beyond our corporation.
9	Host paper recycle events at the Corporate Recycle Center to promote and extend Zero Waste to surrounding communities.

BENEFITS	
1	Zero waste challenges Kimball International to continue leading and sharing manufacturing best practices in the protection of people and planet. Reducing leachates and greenhouse gases with agile recycling and reuse processes supports healthier communities and companies. As a result of implementing this important corporate responsibility, Kimball International also mitigates risk and optimizes operational efficiency.
2	Kimball International has initiatives in place to continue zero waste efforts. Our goal is to have additional facilities follow zero waste procedures and possibly move through certification.

