

Zero Waste

Danville, KY

A Kimball International Case Study



Zero Waste

At Kimball International, we have long been dedicated to sustainability, and we are continuously expanding our efforts to drive positive environmental change. Waste minimization has become a central focus as we adapt and improve our facilities to reduce their environmental footprints. Recently, our Danville, KY, facility achieved the prestigious TRUE (Total Resource Use and Efficiency) Zero Waste Certification from the Green Business Certification, Inc. (GBCI). This certification underscores our commitment to ongoing improvement and excellence in protecting both people and the planet, marking a significant milestone in our sustainability journey.



“Achieving Zero Waste certification is a testament to our commitment to sustainability, demonstrating that environmental responsibility is at the core of our values. This accomplishment reflects our dedication to reducing our impact, innovating for the future, and leading by example in creating a more sustainable world for generations to come.”

Greg Meunier
EVP Global Operations
Kimball International

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Streamlining systems for waste collection, transport, and storage to optimize efficiency and minimize waste generation throughout the facility’s operations.
- 2 Engaging and empowering members to actively contribute to sustainability efforts, building a shared sense of responsibility and accountability within the organization.
- 3 Forming strategic partnerships with service providers who share a commitment to sustainable practices, ensuring that waste disposal, recycling, and resource management processes meet the highest environmental standards.

By focusing on these objectives, the project not only sought to minimize waste output but also aimed to promote a holistic, long-term approach to resource management that reflects Kimball International’s unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship and corporate social responsibility.

ZERO WASTE INITIATIVES

- 1 Developed and implemented formalized policies to standardize waste handling practices across operations, ensuring consistency, efficiency, and sustainability.
- 2 Introduced a pallet-reuse program with supply partners, reducing waste and promoting circular economy principles by reusing materials.
- 3 Conducted quarterly recycling and waste audits to assess waste streams, identify areas for improvement, and enhance recycling effectiveness.
- 4 Integrated Zero Waste practices into safety meetings, operational briefings, and new employee orientations to foster a culture of sustainability and accountability.
- 5 Return excess or damaged foam to the vendor for recycling or reuse in future products. This initiative helps the vendor reduce the need for new resources in foam production, promoting a circular economy.
- 6 Introduce reusable filters in the finish room, eliminating the need for daily disposal of fiberglass filters. These reusable filters can be cleaned and maintained for long-term use, reducing waste and minimizing the purchase of new filters.
- 7 Expansion of the use of Kimball International’s Corporate Recycling Center to encompass commercial, industrial, and government organizations, extending the reach of our Zero Waste impact beyond our corporation.
- 8 Hosting paper recycling events at the Corporate Recycle Center to promote and extend Zero Waste practices to surrounding communities, engaging stakeholders and driving collective action toward a more sustainable future.

Through these initiatives, Kimball International continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to Zero Waste goals, setting a strong example in environmental stewardship and corporate responsibility.

BENEFITS

- 1 Standardized waste handling practices streamline operations, reducing waste and improving resource management across the organization.
- 2 The pallet-reuse program minimizes waste disposal costs and reduces the need for purchasing new packaging materials.
- 3 Regular audits provide actionable insights to optimize recycling processes, increasing diversion rates and reducing landfill waste.
- 4 Integrating Zero Waste practices into regular training fosters a culture of sustainability, promoting long-term environmental and operational benefits.
- 5 These initiatives collectively lower the organization’s carbon footprint by minimizing waste generation and promoting resource reuse.
- 6 Enhanced community engagement and collaboration through proactive promotion of environmental responsibility, fosters partnerships with local stakeholders to cultivate a shared commitment to sustainability and collective well-being.

These benefits not only underscore the economic and environmental advantages of Zero Waste initiatives but also highlight their broader impact on public health, social responsibility, and long-term ecological resilience.

