

# PRA Introduces New Green Initiatives

Due to the nature of clinical studies, many of the ancillary supply materials that go unused during studies are simply discarded. When a study ends, materials are repurposed to another study whenever possible; however, if the materials cannot be repurposed, they are shipped back to the client's warehouse for donation or disposal. In addition, PRA Health Sciences' Ancillary Supplies Management (ASM) department does an inventory rotation every July at a client warehouse location and discards an extensive amount of unused materials. Typical disposal costs are about \$100 per ton to a landfill and about \$.50 a pound to incinerate.

Upon sharing this information with a client, PRA was able to immediately assist with identifying and implementing a process allowing the client to leverage their existing sustainability program.

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## What are the challenges of going green?

Although the benefits of recycling are clear, incorporating ancillary supplies into the client's sustainability program required PRA and the client to work collaboratively on:



Identifying the parties responsible for recycling at a client's large site.



Touring client-run sustainability warehouse to gauge which materials would be within the scope.

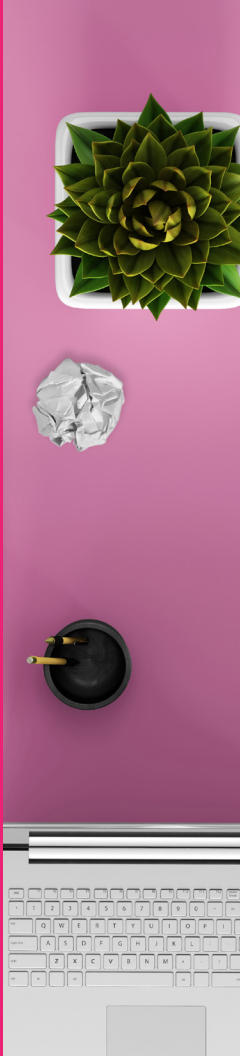


Ascertaining if the cost of shipping the materials back to the client site would negate the benefits of the program.



Changing current disposal habits and educating the staff at client's warehouse.

PRA's embedded resources collaborated with the client's staff to arrange the recyclables pick up and delivery by the client's dedicated transportation staff.

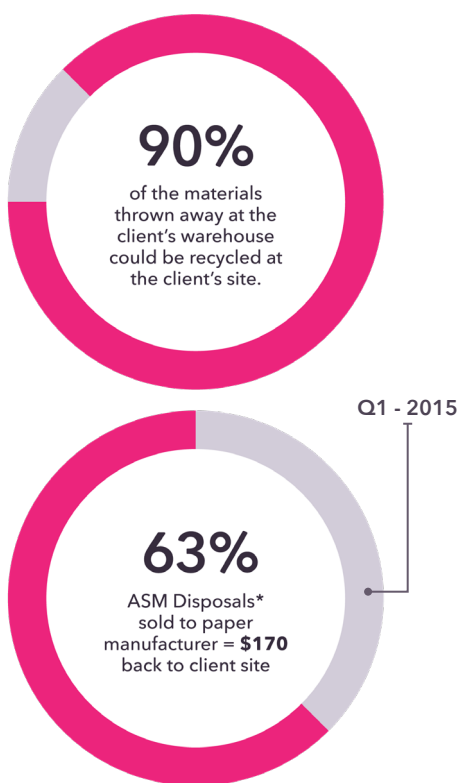




## Finding Solutions

PRA worked closely with the client to identify the staff supporting the on-site sustainability program. Once identified, they were willing to offer their expertise on the best way to manage the recycling of our ancillary supplies. Considering that this specific site was the client's premier site for sustainability, the team enthusiastically offered to share their best practices and lessons learned. The ASM management team was able to tour the on-site Sustainability Hub, through which we identified a wide variety of materials that could be recycled, including paper products, lab supplies, and equipment (refrigerators, computers, incubators, etc).

To mitigate the risk recycling posed to cost containment, PRA's embedded resources collaborated with the client's staff to arrange the recyclables pick up and delivery by the client's dedicated transportation staff. They placed the warehouse on a pre-existing route and collected the materials free of charge.



\*To date, approximately 23,000 pounds of material have avoided landfills, saving nearly \$1,100 in disposal costs.

## Getting Results

The ASM team discovered that roughly 90% of the materials thrown away at the client's warehouse could be recycled at the client's site. In doing so, this ensured traceability in disposal practices, mitigating the risk of confidential documents and equipment not being disposed of properly.

Furthermore, this sustainability initiative has proved to be not only environmentally beneficial, but it was also cost effective. PRA performed a test run in Q4 2014, in which we helped to recycle 580 pounds of material. In early 2015, the client sold 22,580 pounds of paper to a recycler. They processed the material and sold it to a paper manufacturer. In turn, they received a certificate from the recycler and a check from the paper manufacturer. In Q1 2015, ASM disposals comprised 63% of what was sold to the paper manufacturer. Their contribution to the program garnered \$170 back to the client site. To date, approximately 23,000 pounds of material have avoided landfills, saving nearly \$1,100 in disposal costs. Much larger numbers are anticipated in Q3 2015 when the client conducts the annual inventory rotation.

PRA brought ideas to the client that resulted in an examination of processes and identified areas for improvement. Together with the client, we collaborated to create a new, highly beneficial waste management stream where none had existed for PRA before.



Without the innovative awareness, we would not have been able to achieve the cost savings and environmental impact of these sustainability initiatives."

**CHARLENE MIRAGLIA**

Associate Director of Clinical Operations, PRA embedded employee

## Next Steps

This program is ongoing. Now that it has shown success, we are looking to expand it further.