

The Piazza Produce, Inc. Zero Waste Journey: 2005-2012

Our Seven-Year Journey of Discovery and Lessons Learned while Culminating in Achieving Zero Waste and more!



In 2005, we noticed that our monthly waste invoices were escalating at an alarming rate: \$8,000+; \$9000+; and \$10,000+.

When an invoice hit \$11,255.00, we decided that we had two options:

- 1. Accept this as 'The Cost of Doing Business', or...*
- 2. Challenge the Status Quo!*

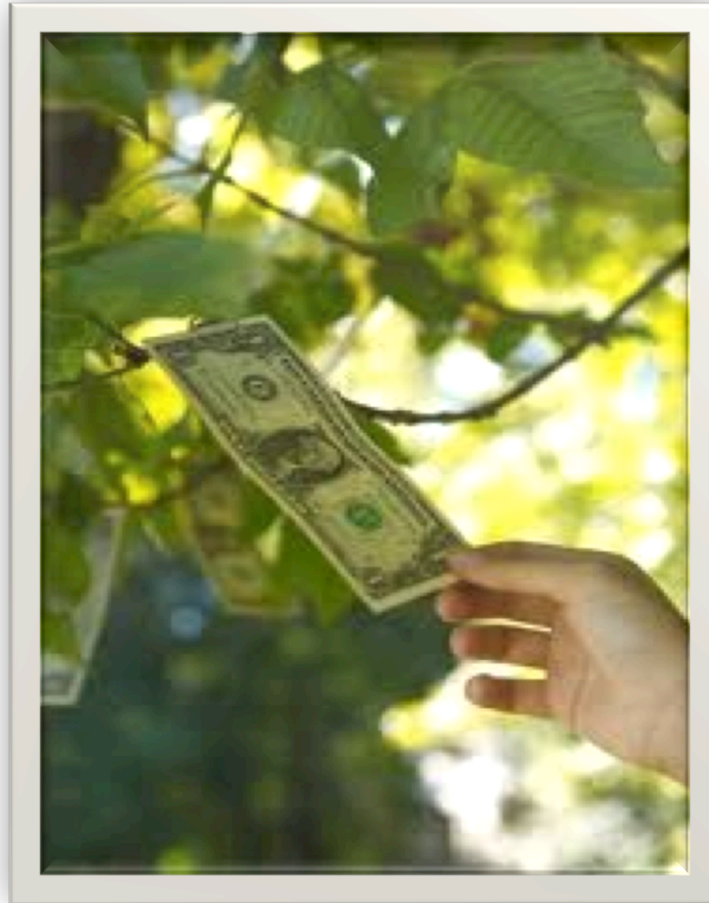
We contracted with an independent Waste Consultant. Step One was to perform a Waste Audit to identify the contents of the trash compactor and to identify the initial 'low-hanging fruit'.



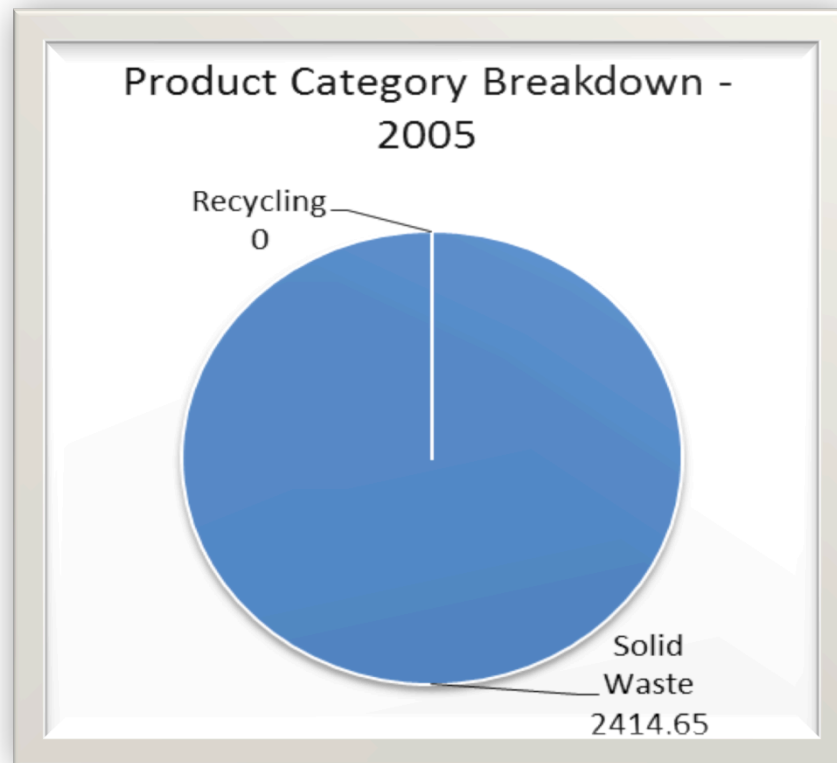
The initial 'low-hanging fruit' identified was OCC (old corrugated cardboard)...



We also learned something even more important: that this 'fruit' had value!



2005 was our 'Base-Year' where we spent \$100,000 to take about 2415 tons of waste to the local landfill.



By diverting OCC from the trash compactor and into the cardboard baler, we filled a semi-trailer in 2005.



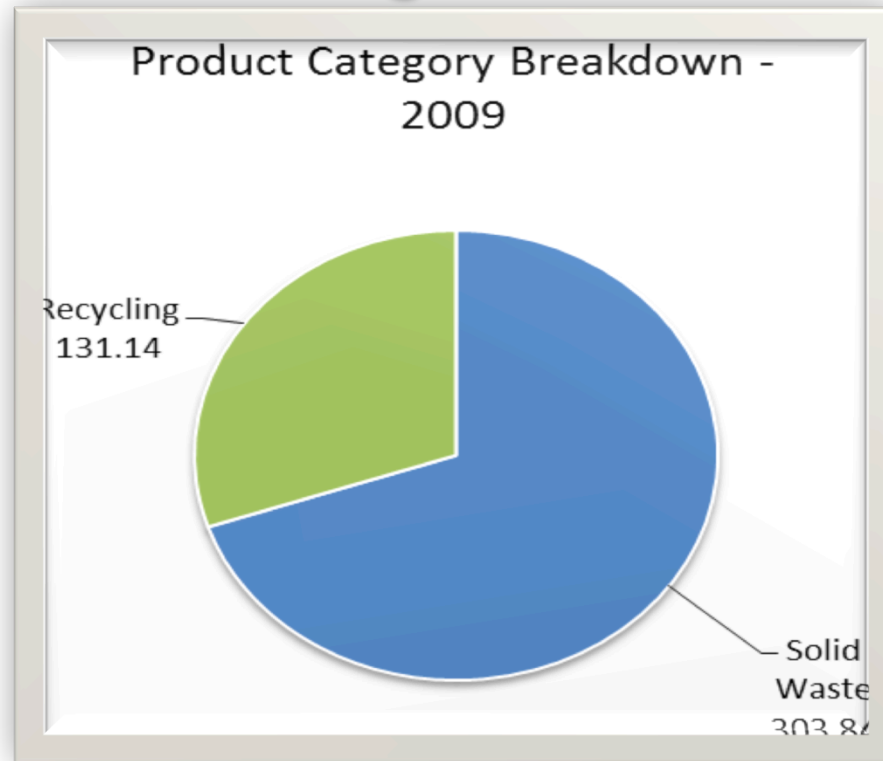
So how does one begin to change Culture, Procedures, Attitudes, and obtain Follow-through as well as intended results?

(Hint: What happens when ‘Please...’ just isn’t enough?)

Answer: Motivation & Rewards!



By 2009, progress in reducing waste, waste costs, and increasing recycling rates was realized. But it was also a time for a change in vendors.



...But it was also a time for a change in vendors who were willing to partner and cooperate with our desire to minimize waste and increase our recycling rates.



*A new waste hauler was selected.
A new OCC hauler was chosen.
New plastics recyclers were added.
New office paper and document
destruction/recycling program was
added.*

*progress continued while drilling further
into our remaining waste stream...*

Our Recycling Program was simplified in order for employees to increase their participation efforts.



Various plastics are recycled...



Scott Lutocka, Facilities Manager, sits atop a bale of clear shrink wrap destined for recycling & revenue!

- Photo courtesy of Holly Elmore, Ei.



Ag-Poly angle-boards, pallet slip sheets, all get recycled and generate \$\$\$!



Virtually nothing goes to waste! Pallets are recovered/re-used, broken pallets are chipped for mulch, brown paper goes to paper mill...



Maximum utilization of re-usable pallets is critical in landfill avoidance, and it pays handsomely, too!



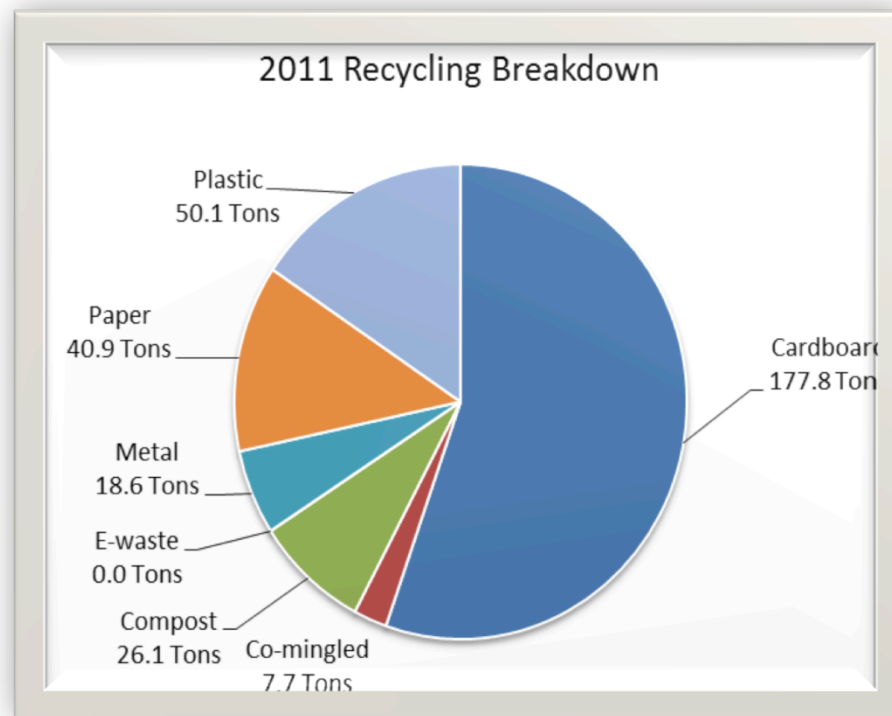
Green Team members make it happen every day! Engage your employees!



Even the little things matter and add up! Office paper Recycling, anyone?



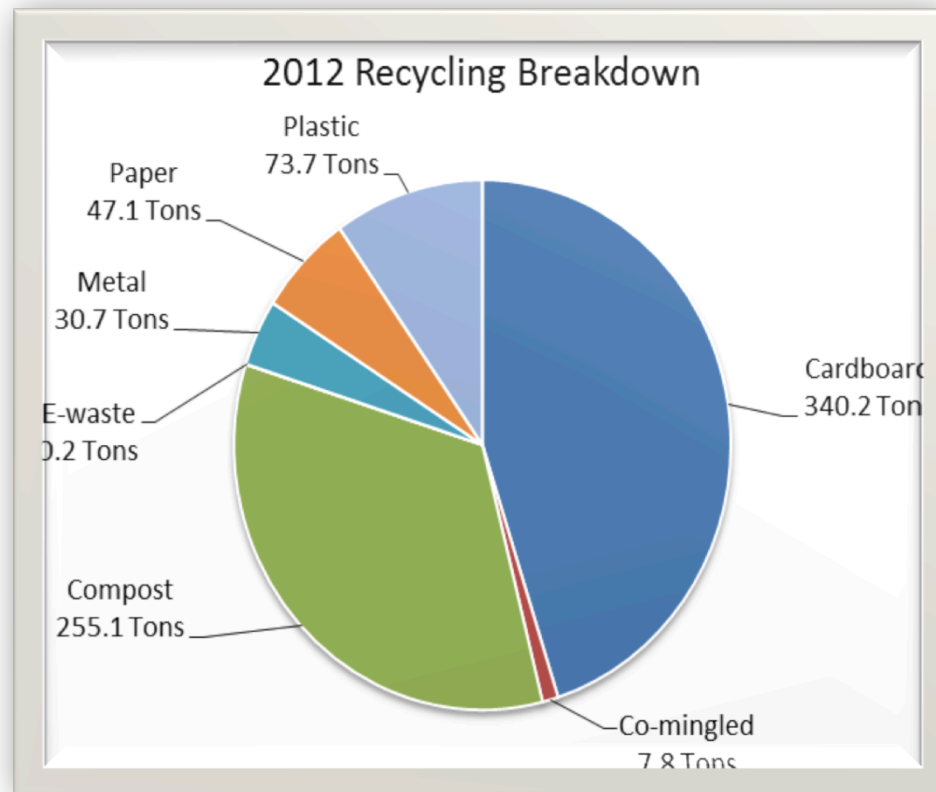
By 2011, we were at an 85% diversion rate. To get to Zero Waste, Commercial Composting had to be implemented.



A Commercial Compost Permit was obtained through IDEM and diversion gets underway...



Before the end of 2012, Zero Waste was achieved! Only 126 tons of waste went to landfill vs. 2,015 tons in 2005!



Zero Waste also supports Local Green Jobs in our community!



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Here are some of the intangible benefits that Piazza Produce, Inc. has enjoyed since achieving Zero Waste:

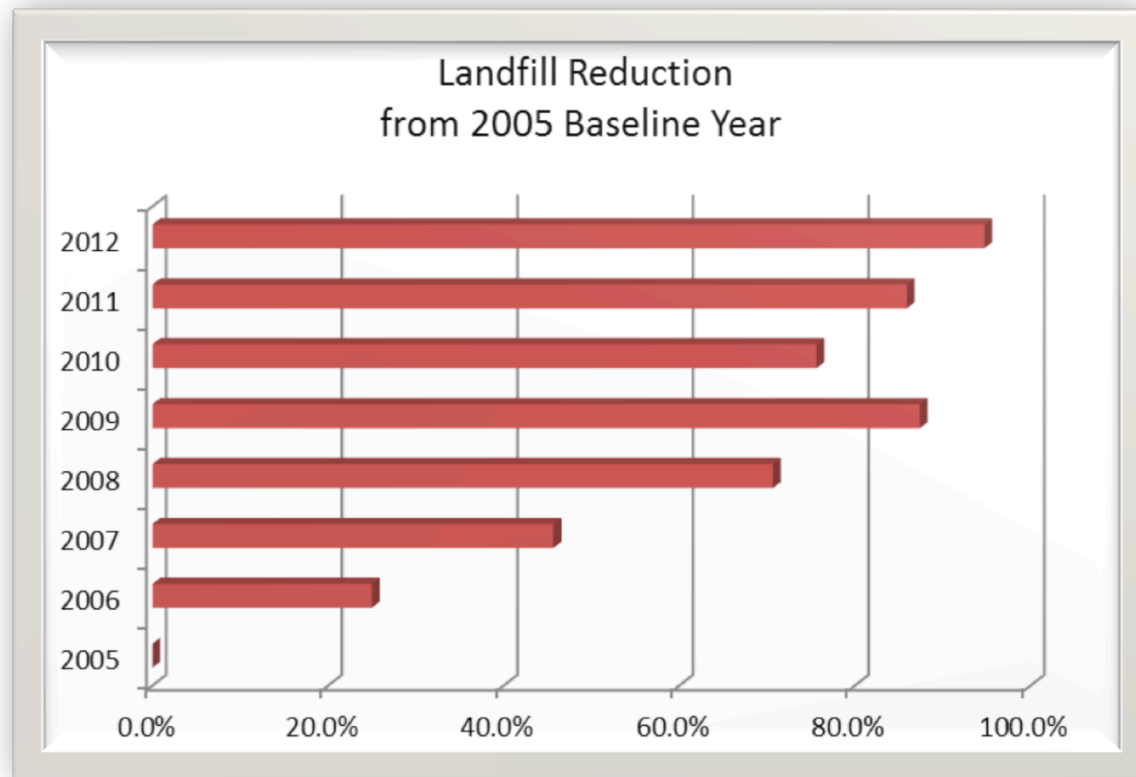
Recipient of Indy Mayor Ballard's 2012 Sustainability Award (for 3-R's Category).

Recipient of CHIP Grant in amount of \$191,000 (to IF&P Foods) for new energy efficient lighting.

Competitive Advantage over competitors.

Held in high esteem by our Customer Base by exceeding current Green Initiatives expectations.

As with any good story, Metrics provide proof and verification of our 2012 94.8% Waste-to-Landfill diversion rate!

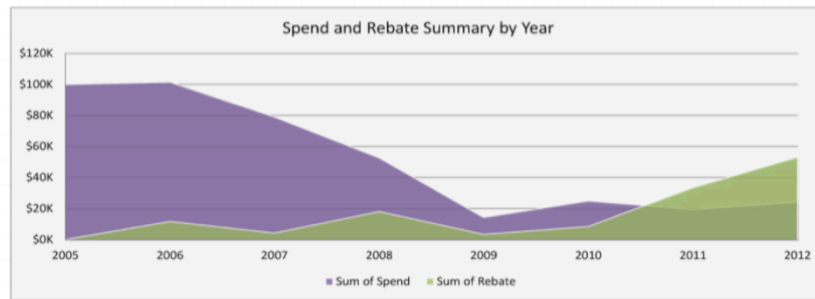
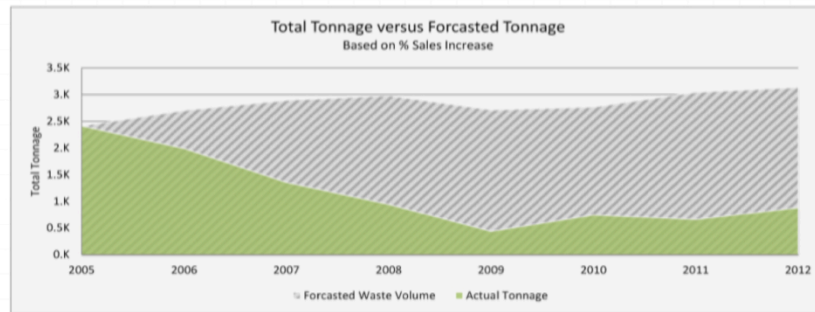
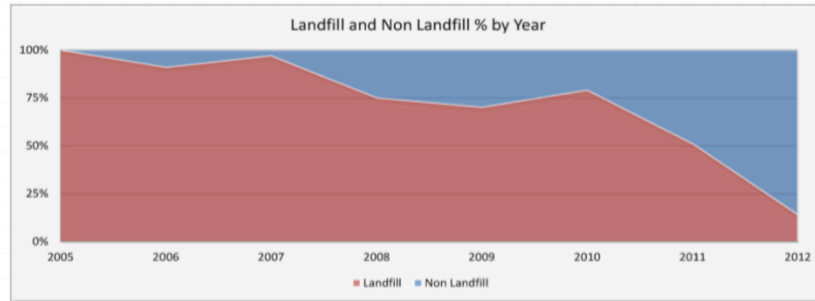


Mayor Ballard awarded us the 2012 Sustainability award in the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle category. Congrats to our team for achieving Zero Waste!



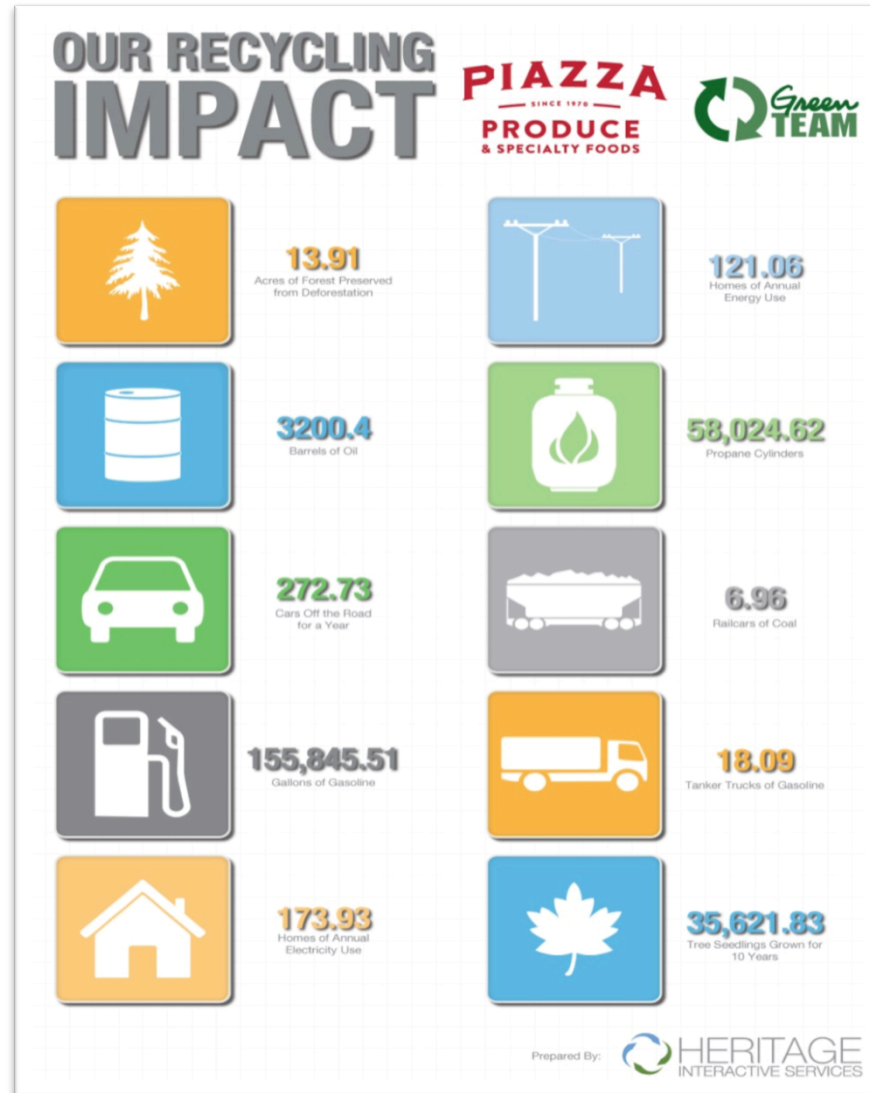
OUR RECYCLING IMPACT

PIAZZA
SINCE 1976
PRODUCE & SPECIALTY FOODS



Prepared By: HERITAGE INTERACTIVE SERVICES

Our 2012 EPA Warm Model Results:



The Green Team at Piazza Produce hopes that you'll join us in leaving the world a better place for tomorrow!

