



Sustainability, Inc.

## CASE STUDY - RECYCLING

### Overview

Gate Gourmet, the world's largest provider of contract food and beverage provisioning services for the Airline Industry engaged TurnKey Sustainability to improve onsite Recycling efforts.

A typical Gate Gourmet operation generates over 40,000 lbs. of packaging waste per week, generally in the form of cardboard. If not recycled this material creates a substantial disposal cost.

### Problem

The Cardboard was being baled by kitchen staff and then staged outdoors for pick up by a local recycler.



This created a series of negative effects including:

- ❶ Unsightliness – The staged material created a major eyesore
- ❷ Low Values – Material was exposed to the weather greatly reducing the price and rebates
- ❸ Vector – It became a habitat for vermin and insects
- ❹ FOD – Bales would break and become a source of Foreign Object & Debris
- ❺ Space – Bales took up a large area of valuable outdoor pad
- ❻ No Reporting – Client had no measure of landfill diversion or recycling efforts
- ❼ Poor Service – The incumbent was unreliable and would often only take the best bales

### Solution

TurnKey Sustainability assembled a local team of specialists in the recycling industry with expertise in collections, processing, and transportation logistics.

As a result of direct relationships with large Mill Buyers, Major Purchasing Power was leveraged for the benefit of Gate Gourmet to fund the project with no startup costs.



This new solution created several benefits including:

- ❶ Clean Up – TurnKey brought equipment and manpower to remove all material from the yard and totally police the area
- ❷ Better Service - New Transportation & Service Logistics include a 53' trailer sited at an open loading dock now being serviced on call
- ❸ Major Increase in Recycling Yields - Approximately 24 tons were recycled from the initial clean up and now the kitchen is consistently recycling between 17 and 20 tons per week
- ❹ Better Value – Protected material now achieves the highest price in the market
- ❺ Reporting – Client receives a quarterly report quantifying recycling and landfill diversion success and reconciling the cost offset and rebate

*“TurnKey Sustainability helped us create a new “Standard Operating Procedure” that pays for itself out of reduced cost and rebates, was easy for our staff to perform and is supportive of the environmental responsibility initiatives of our customers like Delta.”*

Tom Rizzo  
GM - Gate Gourmet