

Beginning the Journey to Zero-Waste at Taylorsville

Taylorsville has embarked on an ambitious mission to drastically reduce its operational waste sent to landfill. Driven by a strong commitment to sustainability, the team has effectively tackled various waste streams, reaching notable milestones throughout their efforts.

To kick off their waste reduction strategies, Taylorsville welcomed a visit from the Waste Reduction Partners (WRP), a state initiative by North Carolina. During their visit, WRP conducted a thorough audit of the facility's waste management practices. Their expertise provided valuable insights and suggestions, including recommending recyclers who could further assist the site in its zero-waste journey. By leveraging WRP's expertise, Taylorsville has been able to identify and implement additional strategies to minimize waste, ensuring a more sustainable and environmentally friendly operation.



A major waste stream addressed at the facility is the plastic purge patties, which were previously a significantly contributor to landfill waste during grade changeovers. To address the environmental impact, the team decided to repurpose this material.

Taylorsville collaborated with a recycler who now buys these plastic purge patties, grinds them down and converts them into new, usable products. This effort has notably reduced the facilities environmental footprint by diverting a large volume of plastic from

landfills and transforming a former waste cost into a valuable resource.

Taylorsville has also turned its attention to the waste generated in the lab. The plaques generated during quality testing, once a routine addition to the waste stream, are now being recycled. These samples, which are small amounts of batches taken for future quality testing, are often perfectly good product but were traditionally disposed of after the hold period. Now, instead of discarding these samples, Taylorsville sells them to a recycler who empties the small bags and repurposes the material. The plaques are consolidated before being ground and pelletized. This practice not only reduces waste but also maximizes the utility of the product, contributing to a more circular economy.



Taylorsville's efforts to reducing landfill waste highlights its dedication to sustainability. By implementing innovative recycling programs and forging strategic partnerships, Taylorsville has made notable progress toward achieving zero waste to landfill goal. These achievements not only contribute positively to the environment but

also serve as an inspiring model for other facilities. This year alone, Taylorsville has diverted more than **239,000 pounds** of additional waste streams. As Taylorsville continues to review and refine its waste. With ongoing evaluations and improvements in waste management practices, the future looks promising for a greener, more sustainable operation.