



**PEOPLE.
PRODUCTION.
PRODUCTS.**

OUR SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

2021

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Bedford Industries is a family-owned US manufacturing company founded by Bob Ludlow (center). Ludlow handed company leadership to his son-in-law Kim Milbrandt (left), who has since passed on the president's title to son, Jay Milbrandt (right). All three remain active in the company.

A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS OF BEDFORD



Jay Milbrandt
President
May 2021

Since my grandfather founded the company in 1966, Bedford Industries has been committed to reducing waste and reusing the materials we produce. To us, sustainability isn't a marketing buzzword. It's a long-term strategy ingrained in our DNA. It means doing the right thing for the people we serve, and it challenges us to be bold with our products and facilities.

We design and manufacture Bedford Twist Tie®, ElastiTag®, and Closelt® products with the future in mind. Each innovation requires research, testing, and time to ensure we aren't sacrificing quality, functionality, and safety in the name of sustainability.

Whenever we enhance our facilities or equipment, employee well-being and energy efficiency are top priorities. Our eco-conscious mindset led us to develop and invest in our own recycling program known as TagBack®. We also participate in third-party programs to prevent plastic from contaminating our land and water.

Our customers and employees enjoy working with us because we intentionally align our business priorities with their sustainability goals. This means listening, collaborating, and actively pursuing projects together that effectively meet customer needs in a timely fashion while keeping the environment in focus. We believe in forging relationships that outlast our products.

This report details some of our efforts to improve sustainability through our people, production, and products. We're proud of what we've accomplished so far and plan to continue building on this momentum in the future.

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

HAND IN HAND





TAGBACK INITIATIVE

“ This is an ambitious undertaking for our organization, and we’re just getting started. ”

Jay Milbrandt

Each year, billions of fresh produce items move from grower to retailer to consumer. While each member of the supply chain makes a conscious effort to improve sustainable practices, there is no uniform solution for reusing or recycling the small but essential produce tag or twist tie.

With this gap in mind, we launched the TagBack® initiative, which makes available our innovative in-house recycling system to produce growers, retailers, and consumers. Wanting to stretch our recycling initiative even further, we expanded to include all Bedford products utilized in the multiple markets we serve. This includes our ElastiTags commonly found in many retail markets and our reclosable Double Wire Tin-Ties particularly valued by the coffee industry.

We’re tracking the impact.

Nearly 70,000 pounds of ties and tags were diverted from the landfill and upcycled into usable products during the first 16 months of the program.

THE PROCESS



POSITIVELY IMPACTING **THE PACKAGING INDUSTRY**



CloseIt®

B I O - C L I P

Over the past five years, half of the growth in consumer packaged goods (CPGs)[1] has come from products marketed as sustainable. We know our customers want to meet the demand to reduce plastic with improved packaging solutions.

Our research and development team took on the challenge. In early 2021, we released our first compostable bag closure, CloseIt® Bio-Clip. Made from a blend of renewable resources, the clip was tested and certified commercially compostable by certifying bodies in the U.S. and Canada and Europe.

[1] NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business, Sustainable Share Index™: Research on IRI Purchasing Data (2013 -2018) Randi Kronthal -Sacco Tensie Whelan March 11, 2019



FEATURES

- USDA Certified Biobased Product
- Compatible with most existing automation equipment
- Printing capabilities



PLASTIC REDUCTION

IMPROVED PACKAGING SOLUTIONS

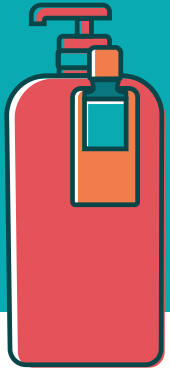
Developing functional packaging that makes a big impact in consumer's daily lives with a minimal environmental impact is the backbone of what we do.

To benchmark our work, we conducted weight-by-weight comparisons of select produce and other packaging items featuring Bedford tag products and traditional packaging products.

PLASTIC REDUCTION

87%
plastic
reduction

ElastiTag totes and bands reduce up to 87% of packaging when compared to products with cardboard shrink and plastic wrap.

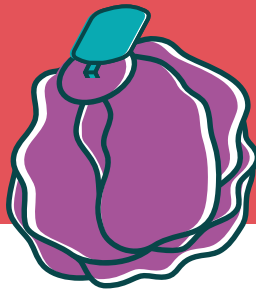


ElastiTag®

tote

76%
plastic
reduction

PushTag reduces plastic packaging by 76% on a head of cabbage, compared to the traditional cabbage overwrap.



PushTag®

70%
plastic
reduction

The ElastiTTag band reduces plastic by 70% compared to banana bags, often used for organic bananas.



ElastiTag®

band

68%
plastic
reduction

The ElastiTTag reduces plastic by 68% compared to vegetables wrapped in plastic.



ElastiTag®

hangtag



DESIGNING WITH **WASTE REDUCTION IN MIND**

PRODUCTS

REDUCE AND REUSE

Since the beginning, our company has created products that are either reusable or help reduce waste. For example, people have found countless creative ways to reuse the Bedford Twist Tie. From a home storage solution to keeping cords in order—people find that twist ties are another valuable tool in their home. The material may also be recycled into plastic lumber, which can be turned into fencing, landscaping, playgrounds, and more!

Our ElastiTags also help reduce plastic wrap and bulky container dependence. The durable and brandable tags safely attach directly to fresh produce and bottled products. We love challenging ourselves to develop products that stand the test of time without sacrificing quality and safety.

PRODUCTS

HOW WE REPURPOSE MATERIALS



- Inputting post-industrial recycled materials on our product lines.
- Capturing plastic from our product lines and upcycling it into other usable materials.
- Eliminating wire waste by splicing and respooling wire.
- Separating wire and selling recycled portions of twist ties to secondary manufacturers to divert from landfill.

This is far from an exhausted list of ways we're designing products with waste reduction in mind. We have a few new eco-friendly product options up our sleeves that we're excited to roll out in the future.



IMPROVING EFFICIENCY **REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

PRODUCTION

GROWING FACILITY

As our business grows, so do our facilities. With this growth comes increased responsibility to improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact. We do this in big and small ways, including powering our facility by 100% net-zero carbon power supply and purchasing more efficient machines.

In addition, we're proud to be a Blue level member of Operation Clean Sweep (OCS), a voluntary program that helps keep plastic pellets and flakes out of lakes, rivers, and marine environments. By committing to OSC Blue, we've taken steps to monitor progress through activities like employee trainings and company audits.

PRODUCTION

HOW WE REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



- Establishing a closed-loop manufacturing process to eliminate and reuse production waste.
- Utilizing a chilling system that retains heat in a closed loop to warm our plant.
- Using an ink filtration system to remove contaminants from wastewater.
- Reusing packaging and corrugated materials throughout our manufacturing process.
- Shipping products via our trucking fleet, which meets California emission requirements and aerodynamic standards.
- Replacing existing lights with LED bulbs.
- Insulating walls with high R-value spray foam.
- Providing recycling bins in employee break rooms and at marked exits.
- Recycling fluorescent bulbs, electronics, mercury devices, batteries, scrap metal, paper, and used oil.
- Employing bicycles for transportation in manufacturing areas.



SUPPORTING **WELL-BEING**

PEOPLE

OUR EMPLOYEES ARE A PRIORITY

Sustainability is important to us because it's critical to the people we serve. Our customers and employees are the foundation of our environmental efforts. They inspire everything we do, from product innovations and facility renovations to programs that improve well-being.

This approach to sustainability differentiates us from our competitors. Instead of setting our own goals, we work with customers to develop strategies that meet their objectives and timelines. Many view us as their partner in achieving success versus just a place to buy products. The same goes for our employees who join our company because they know that by investing in their well-being, Bedford is making the effort to retain them long term.

PEOPLE

HOW WE SUSTAIN EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

- Establishing a “Bedford family” culture that promotes work-life balance and offers exclusive after hours events to Bedford employees and their families.
- Furnishing ergonomic-friendly offices.
- Ensuring the production facility is filled with natural lighting and kept clean by regularly polishing floors.
- Encouraging advancement opportunities by offering performance-based promotions and higher education tuition reimbursements.
- Supplying fresh, healthy food options through micro markets.
- Providing company water bottles to encourage zero-waste hydration.
- Supporting an employee-driven philanthropic committee that hosts fundraising events to donate to regional beneficiaries.
- Encouraging social distancing, providing masks, promoting good hygiene, and offering generous paid sick leave.

Bedford Industries is a global leader in designing, developing, manufacturing, and distributing customizable, reclosable, and brandable tie and tag products for the produce, bakery, coffee, household, and medical markets.



Follow Bedford Industries
on Social Media



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