

Convened: 10:03 am
Adjourned: 1:05 pm
10/15/2019

Hannaford Bros. Company - Grocers:
Judy Knapp - Gov't Relations
George Parmenter - Manager sustainable retailing for Hannafords

Food waste recycling and diversion discussion today

Worked for Sustainable Retailing for the last 10 years - job solely on how we view our impacts on the community and the planted and how we work within our communities.

182 Supermarkets/full service - from grocery, fresh departments to pharmacy 25k associates

36 stores in S. New Hampshire

Food Waste has an environmental impact of greenhouse gas
218 billion dollars never makes it to being eaten(1/3 of all food is wasted)
Feels they own a part in addressing food hunger and waste

Follows EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy - we partner with USDA, feeding America and the NH Food bank is a strong partner. Food waste - Things that come in that we can not sell, but is safe, edible, and nutritious food by diverting it folks in need.

J. O'Connor - what about supplier relationships with vendors/overstock/buybacks etc.
Parmenter - that is actually the buyer's/management on that side of the business

Source Reduction -

- we achieve with automated systems for min-max monitoring systems to prevent overages and underages in stock/supply chain balances.
- Quality control management, temperature control etc

Feed Hungry People

- When we have safe, edible, products available we work strategically with food banks to get food to needy folks through a hierarchy of checks and balances. Feeding America - State of NH - Food Banks.
 - Fresh food rescuing - meat, dairy, produce, things that needs distributed quickly - therefore a fast responses and relationships with local pantries are vital to getting this food to those who need it.
 - 2nd Feed Animals in livestock communities that are part of the food systems, requires relationships with food or farmers to be able to help feed their livestock.
 - Stores manage their own relationships with the local food
 - Donated 4 Million pounds of food in 2018 - will exceed this in 2019

- 47 Local Farms receiving livestock feed donations in Southern New Hampshire though
- Food is our biggest single source into the waste stream
- Ebel asks if there are areas where there areas that may need supported and improved to help improve the system here in NH?

Feed Animals:

Industrial Uses - Composting and Bio-digestion - agricycle energy all the remaining food that isn't - Food waste & Manure = very good methane source of energy - this bio-digestion helps this dairy farm withstand market fluctuations. Hannafords really likes supporting that.

Recycling:

2018 - every store has cardboard and paper balers to deal with those on site - 95 million lbs - rfid tags to track bailed trash to track which what stores are sending what.

Changes in recycling have required us to shift to presort in our stores and we now pay for services whereas in the past where in the past it would be taken away for free. Our partner, Casella, charges us by weight and takes it to a sort it to a facility. Education even for our associates as to what is recycled is challenging and expensive. We as an organization couldn't unwind our recycling - we continue to try and make the process as efficient and least costly as possible.

Composting -
Landfill/Incineration -

Plastics:

Ebel asks if it is the kind that Hannafords generates itself? How are you sorting?

Paramenter: We are sorting and resorting our plastics to help save on costs.

Ebel asks about single use plastic bans how are affecting you at Hannafords. How many plastic bags are getting recycled in your stores? What are you doing to decrease single use plastics in your stores?

Paramenter: Ellen McCarther Foundation - circular plastics commitment our stores entered into - works to eliminate single use plastics including the things that come home with the customers. We are working on a baseline process. Consultant process is working with us to audit our operations - what's there, what's it made of and prioritize what's there, which is the most problematic, etc?

UNH grad student is there to catalog all of the items that our employees touched that contained plastics in every department in a few stores. Cataloged when we encountered plastics in our stores. It was impressive and a baseline data source to start thinking about plastics. We ended

up where we are for good reasons, but we recognize that there is a need to shift and we are working on a 2020-2025 aspirations for these things too.

Plastic bags in our industry is the poster child in our industry. We've talked for a long time JUST about plastic bags. When towns are individually going about their regs it becomes really difficult for us to track, and we're craving a universal approach, because tracking many spreadsheets - the simplification - makes it simpler for us. In states where it is banned, we will be stopping the use of plastic bags, and charging for a paper sack.

Ebel asks if in states where there isn't a ban on bags do you intend on stopping the use of plastic bags?

Parmenter - we haven't decided yet.

Judy Knapp (Gov't Relations) - in Maine - we worked with and supported the plastic bans - our reusable bags are affordable. Working on the education piece.

Senator Watters: ON plastics in particular - are you aware extended producer responsibility on source reduction? If you were tasked with how you were to determine how much plastic we use per year??

Knapp/Parmenter - in the Hannaford brand, yes, but not with the inclusion of other food manufacturers/suppliers.

Watters - could you ask them?

Parmenter - I suppose we could ask them, they may be able to supply them. It could be done I suppose, but we don't.

Watters: On your own brands, could you give your impression or data, what's your impression if the amount of plastics your brands are increasing or decreasing?

Parmenter: I think our merchants are thinking about packaging we have a full time packaging engineer and it is more clear and I think it has plateaued.

Watters: If you had a cap/trade like system for this sort of plastic. Is this something your industry has had conversations about?

Parmenter: I haven't heard about that it's interesting for sure. I think that we are fairly sophisticated in our model, we own our own distribution center. We are much more control than maybe some other businesses. So I don't really know enough of the details.

Knapp - we also need some times things to be driven at a higher level than the state level and that would require direction at the federal level too.

Parmenter - we are aligned with the end goal.

Ebel - would you get the sense that there is a significant issue/responsibility at the food producer level?

Parmenter - the brands that want to succeed are shifting. We belong to sustainable packaging coalition. SPC has a website where every major brand is there too to help present their ideas.

How to recycle.com is a resource to educate our shoppers

Ebel: It makes me feel better - to know that there is a use for things like plastic bags etc? Is there more effort/clarity to educate your consumers and employees on what goes in recycling redemption gaylords. Thanks Hannafords for the insight and sustainability initiatives?

Murray- states where you have bottle deposit/redemption programs how does that function for you?

NH Healthcare industry:

NH Hospital Association Paula Menehann - representing all of our hospitals in the state of NH.

Ms. Menehann. - Discusses NH Hospitals for a Healthy Environment

- See handout for detailed link of the areas of recycling and environmental concerns

Zac Conoway - Manager in Environmental Services

- NICU
- 9,000 employees
- 5,000 patients per day
- 38 Operating Rooms
- 22,565 procedures a day
 - 10 tons or more of waste a day
- We are continuously thinking about how to handle our waste and streams within our region
 - Environ, public health
 - Diminishing landfill locations brings a unique set of concerns regarding cost and carbon footprints.
 - Landfill diversion is imperative through innovative uses and practices

- 15 recycling streams - zero sort, sorted, corrugated, blue sterilization wrap 33% of our waste stream total that was recycled that would have otherwise been landfilled had not been recycled.
- Waste reduction - the less waste the better. Blue Sterilization recycling program 3.4 tons of material a year 70,000 dollars in reduced purchasing costs.
- Biohazard waste streams are highly regulated and therefore it is incinerated - we have also created methods that render the materials inert so that it can landfill.

Ebel - asks if satellite offices follow the same model as the Lebanon facility does?

Conoway - says we are working on the life, safety and healthcare things, first and we are networking together but we haven't consolidated and streamlined all of our things to help with economies of scale?

Ebel - your waste goes to the Lebanon landfill?

Conoway - correct. We are also a member of practice green health. Our costs are higher due to the nature of where we live regionally - we work to help drive markets for things that are recyclable.

Disposal costs can increase and potentially create more items going into the landfill, therefore waste reduction is paramount over needing to then find a recycling use for things. Simply not using it first might be preferable.

We audited our paper uses, it allowed us to get better costs out of a rebate.

Our medical glass vial recycling is landfilled it was not a cost effective measure.

60,000 dollars in revenue or 25% of our recycling costs were recaptured and those costs were being driven by commodity markets. Our partner is Casella and we work to help get the best rates possible.

Finding ways to keep a closed loop system, to help mitigate costs. We use Circular Blu to help mitigate costs.

Public Health concerns auditing about what goes where is paramount of concerns to be vigilant of the public health concerns etc. Our role is to provide consistent messaging to staff, patients and visitors to get the same information across the board.

We have worked to make our education efforts easy to follow via pictures and education etc so folks within DH system know what to do with items. One example is in the operating room where we have.

162 tons of a year of composting and is working on getting that compost back onto the property to use it in our ground maintenance. A lot of our food waste is pre-consumer waste in food-preparation etc.

Murray do you have a plan to recapture what is waste food waste?

Conoway - we are working on developing streamlined methods

Does have recommendations -

Ebel - Can you explain what type of incentives you are thinking about?

Conoway - coming up ways to reduce costs for example if we can meet targets or goal - if we meet a certain market goal for waste diversion.

Ebel - for example if you met a 50% waste diversion we might get a slightly lower landfill tipping rate or hauling rate

Conoway - Circular Blu focused on blue sterilization wrap. Looking for ways to take more recycled material. From a blue wrap perspective it is a cost +0

Ebel? Maybe businesses could develop more closed loop systems?

Conoway - secure shred takes our paper and makes it into other things like napkins, etc.

Ebel - Green Health - are a non profit out of Boston and have a global reach - member health care systems and facilities to start preparing for climate change and health related emergencies including waste reduction. Including environmental sustainability.

Murray - glass vials can we circle back? What is happening to those?

Conoway - we were only able to collect several hundred pounds a week and therefore it is going into landfills instead of autoclaving.

Ebel - 10 tons a day is total waste, how much is landfilled?

Conoway - 2/3rds of that is landfill waste.

Ebel - how are you doing compared to other hospitals?

Conoway - I think we are doing slightly better, and project green health helps us to see. We are doing well with recycling - we are also aware we are generating a larger amount of waste than their bench mark - which is 31 lbs of waste per day - and ours is about 50 lbs per day.

Ebel - thanks them for their presentation.