

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Ecology’s Technical Resources for Engineering Efficiency (TREE) team worked with Nature’s Path Foods, Inc in Blaine to find ways to improve their wastewater treatment, reduce solid waste generation, reduce water use, reduce wastewater loading, and improve air emissions. Nature’s Path Foods manufactures organic cereal. The TREE team made several site visits to the facility to observe the current process activities, gather data, and identify potential opportunities. This report presents the TREE team’s evaluation of Nature’s Path Foods’ best opportunities to reduce resource use and waste generation.

Nature’s Path Foods recently built a wastewater treatment system which they do not believe operates as effectively as expected. TREE looked at the treatment system, and also at process waste reduction and handling opportunities. Table 1 summarizes the savings from all quantified opportunities.

Between May of 2002 and 2003 Nature’s Path Foods used 2.18 million gallons of water, landfilled 163 tons of garbage, and recycled 200 tons of material. By implementing TREE’s suggestions they should reduce wastewater loading and volumes, reduce solid waste generation, and increase recycling.

TABLE 1: ANNUAL DOLLAR SAVINGS – ALL QUANTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunity	Total One Time Investment Costs	Total Annual Dollar Savings	Payback (Months)
Barline Mixer Waste	2,000	6,250	3.84
Composting		-640	
Compact & Bale Solid Waste	26,500	27,830	11.4
Compact Garbage (no volume reduction)	15,000	8,030	22.4
Pallet Tables	200	194	12.4
WW Loading		2,900	
Total	43,700	44,564	