

Ice Pack Reuse Inspires Corporate Introspection and Change

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Abbott Laboratories

SUMMARY

Abbott Identified a waste stream of reusable ice packs from the cross continental transport of their pharmaceutical products. Initially they searched for synergy opportunities outside of their own organization, but soon realized that they could reuse the product within other divisions of Abbott itself.

BACKGROUND

Large companies can often identify by product synergy opportunities within their own organization by enhancing communication and openness.



THE WTPN CONNECTION

Abbott has always had an emphasis on waste reduction, but usually that oversight is performed within individual divisions of the multi-national pharmaceutical company. Applying the Waste to Profit philosophy of innovation through collaboration, Abbott opened communication between divisions to seek for synergies within the company itself, Waste to Profit Team Members introduced the involved partners and facilitated the discussions surrounding ice packs by linking companies together in network functions and outside meetings.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Created internal synergy within global pharmaceutical company
- Reduced need for Abbot to buy ice packs for several division, thereby creating cost savings.
- CO2 savings from diverting mixed plastic product from landfill