



**PEOPLE.
PRODUCTION.
PRODUCTS.**

OUR SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

2023

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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
February 2023

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 TagBack[®], our program that reclaims our ties and tags and prepares them to be upcycled into new products. We also participate in independent sustainability programs.

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





* Limited Availability. Not Recyclable in California.

TAGBACK INITIATIVE

“ It is encouraging to witness the program’s tremendous growth and interest from numerous markets. ”

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 reclaiming 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 sorting system to customers, retailers, and consumers. Wanting to stretch the program 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.

More than 170,000 pounds (and counting!) of ties and tags have been diverted from the landfill and upcycled into usable products since the program began.



* Limited Availability. Not Recyclable in California.

THE PROCESS



TAG

On the back of your tag, we can print the TagBack.com logo or your own instructions to help consumers know how they can collect and return tags and ties.



COLLECT

Visual instructions on the box make it easy for consumers to return at your collection site. A member from Bedford's sustainability team will work with you periodically to help you easily send the collected tags and ties to us.



RETURN

Tags and ties can be mailed to Bedford in a small box or envelope by attaching a return label, which may be downloaded from our website. Contact us for additional shipping options.



UPCYCLE

Once the returns arrive to our facility, the wire and plastic will be separated and upcycled into other usable products.

POSITIVELY IMPACTING THE PACKAGING INDUSTRY



CloseIt®

BIO-CLIP

Over the past seven years, a third of the growth in consumer packaged goods (CPGs)[1] has come from products marketed as sustainable.

Our research and development team took on the challenge. In early 2021, we released our first compostable bag closure, CloseIt® Bio-Clip. Containing 100% USDA certified biobased content, Bio-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 Market Share Index™: Research on IRI Purchasing Data (2015 -2021) Randi Kronthal -Sacco, and Tensie Whelan April, 2022



*BPI logo must be printed on clip to claim certification

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.

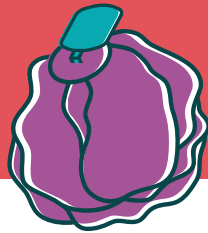
To benchmark our work, we conducted weight-by-weight comparisons of select produce and other packaging items featuring Bedford tag products and traditional packaging products.

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.



76%
plastic
reduction

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



70%
plastic
reduction

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



68%
plastic
reduction

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



91%
plastic
reduction

EcoTwist reduces plastic by 91% compared to a common plastic tab-style bag closure.

ElastiTag®

tote

PushTag®

ElastiTag®

band

ElastiTag®

hangtag

EcoTwist™

tie



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 upcycled 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 reusable 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. It was a top priority during our latest expansion, which saved enough electricity to power an estimated 21 homes a year.

With support from our energy supplier, we manufacture our products with 100% net-zero carbon power supply from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and water. Other energy-saving investments include insulating walls with R-value spray foam, installing LED light bulbs, and utilizing a chilling system that retains heat in a closed loop to warm our plant.

PRODUCTION

HOW WE REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



- Establishing a closed-loop manufacturing process to eliminate and reuse production waste.
- 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.
- 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.

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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