The Economic Side to Sustainability with a Reusable Packaging System

Presented by:

Tim Debus

President & CEO

Reusable Packaging Association







Classic Definition

Modern Definition





Sustainability



Corporate "Triple Bottom Line"











How Are We Doing?

SUSTAINABILITY

Harvard Busines Review

25 Years Ago I Coined the Phrase "Triple Bottom Line." Here's Why It's Time to Rethink It.

by John Elkington

June 25, 2018

🗐 Summary 🖽 Save 🖒 Share 💭 Comment 🛱 Print **\$8.95** Buy Copies



"It was supposed to offer a radical new way forward... but 25 years later, this radical goal has been largely forgotten, and 'triple bottom line' thinking has been reduced to a mere accounting tool."



Transformative Systems Change

Reductionist View



Systemic View

Source: Leyla Acaroglu, Disruptive Design



Transformative Systems Change



Transformative Systems Change



POWERED BY POSSIBILITIES.

We need fundamental change to whole systems if we are to make a genuine difference on the issues that matter for our business and the world. We call this transformational change.

Transformational change

We have set out to make a difference to those big issues that matter most to our business and to the world.

Our goal: transformational change at system level



Importance of Full System Design

BUSINESS

Los Angeles Times

U.S. will have more than 720,000 tons of blade material to dispose of over the next 20 years



Wind turbine blades can't be recycled. so they're piling up in landfills By CHRIS MARTIN | BLOOMBERG FEB. 6, 2020





Source: Science Friday

Importance of Full System Design

Overall 2017 plastic bottle recycling rate was 29.3% - a slight decrease from 29.7% in 2016.



"...lightweighting...causes more bottles to end up in the post-consumer paper stream, as they don't have the heft for machinery to properly handle them during the sortation process."

Sources: National Postconsumer Plastic Bottle Recycling Report from the Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) and the American Chemistry Council (ACC); WasteDive, Plastic bottle recycling rates slipped in 2017, Katie Pyzyk, 12/18/18



Reusable Packaging System





Reusable Packaging System





Economic Impacts from Reuse System

Profit-growing areas that can be tapped into with a reusable packaging system for a sustainable supply chain:

- 1. Regenerative Economics: Reuse Is an Inner Loop Activity in a Circular Economy
- 2. ESG Investing: Sustainability Is Now a Financial Benchmark
- 3. Capital Returns: Reuse Pays Back Repeatedly Over Time
- 4. Resource Stability: Reduce Reliance on Volatile Commodity Markets
- 5. Durability Over Disposability: Reuse Extends Value; Recycling Diminishes Value
- 6. Systems Thinking: Solve Interrelated Problems and Discover Better Methods
- 7. Operational Efficiencies: Improve Processes and Save Money



1. Regenerative Economics



Reuse Is an Inner Loop Activity in a Circular Economy

2. ESG Investing

Sustainability Is Now a Financial Benchmark

FIGURE 1: SNAPSHOT OF GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE INVESTING ASSETS, 2016–2018

Region	2016	2018
Europe	\$ 12,040	\$ 14,075
United States	\$ 8,723	\$ 11,995
Japan	\$ 474	\$ 2,180
Canada	\$ 1,086	\$ 1,699
Australia/New Zealand	\$ 516	\$ 734
TOTAL	\$ 22,838	\$ 30,683

Note: Asset values are expressed in billions of US dollars. All 2016 assets are converted to US dollars at the exchange rates as of year-end 2015. All 2018 assets are converted to US dollars at the exchange rates at the time of reporting.





3. Capital Returns

Reuse Pays Back Repeatedly Over Time

Example Model

	Reusable Container	Single-Use Box	Reuse vs Single Use 5-Year Costs
Shipments Per Year	1,000,000	1,000,000	\$5,000,000 \$4,000,000
# Uses/Unit/Year	6	1	\$3,000,000
# Units Needed/Year	166,667	1,000,000	\$2,000,000 \$1,000,000
# Replacements/Year (2%)	3,333	0	\$- After After After After After
Cost To Make 1 Unit	\$ 15.00	\$ 1.00	Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5
Starting Year 1 Capital	\$2.5M	\$1.0M	-Reusable Container -Single-Use Box



4. Resource Stability

Reduce Reliance on Volatile Commodity Markets

280 Index Jun 1987=100 , Index Dec 1986=100 240 200 160 120 80 40 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics fred.stlouisfed.org

Producer Price Index by Commodity for Pulp, Paper, and Allied Products: Corrugated and Solid Fiber Boxes
Producer Price Index by Industry: Material Recyclers: Corrugated Wastepaper



POWERED BY POSSIBILITIES.

FRED

5. Durability > Disposability

Reuse → Value Recycling ↓ Value

"Durable packaging outwins disposable containers in pricing."



"Recycling only starts at the throwing-away stage: this is a process that is not made to preserve or increase value nor to enhance materials."

- Alexandre Lemille African Circular Economy Network World Economic Forum



- Tom Szaky TerraCycle, LOOP GDI Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute

6. Systems Thinking



POWERED BY POSSIBILITIES.

Solve Interrelated Problems and Discover Better Methods

"94% of problems in business are systems driven and only 6% are people driven"

W. Edwards Deming



7. Operational Efficiencies

Improve Processes and Save Money









Sustainable Packaging Playbook

Sustainable Packaging Playbook A guidebook for suppliers to improve packaging sustainability 2016



When eggs were moved to reusable plastic containers (RPCs) from cardboard containers, damage rates decreased, preventing 37 million eggs from being thrown out in the first year through this easy drop in display solution which folds flat when not in use



Session Takeaways

- 1. Sustainable Supply Chains > Environmental Footprint
- 2. Think Transformative Systems Change
- 3. Reusable Packaging Offers That Systems Change
- 4. Economic Growth Opportunities Abound with Reuse





For more information:

Speaker email: tdebus@reusables.org Website: www.reusables.org

Visit MODEX Booth 6294

