Implementing a Sustainable Reusable Transport Packaging System
About Ghirardelli – Incorporated in 1852

• The Ghirardelli Chocolate Company is a manufacturer and marketer of premium chocolate products.

• As America's longest continuously operating chocolate manufacturer, Ghirardelli has established its position as America's premium chocolate company for more than 150 years.
Food Waste Prevention

- Partnered with Stopwaste (Alameda County Waste Management Authority)
- Located Recycle To Conserve (RTC)
- Implemented plastic re-usable tote based waste capturing system
- Reduced 70,000 cases
- 800 tons of food waste prevented per year
- Waste processed to make animal feed
- Many happy cows in California!!!
Re-usable Tote vs Corrugate Box

- Bulk storage of product before filled into bags, gifts and other finished goods items
- Payback was 1.1 years
Highlights and Learnings

• Partnered with Stopwaste and received a $75,000 award for the project
• Improved quality of our product by reducing crushing
• 660 tons of corrugate reduced at source per year
• Reduced over million cases and significant cost reduction
• We needed to store, transport and wash 150,000+ totes in circulation
• As volumes grow need to invest in more totes
• Lead us to the next application for totes
Highlights and Learnings

• Saved 65,000 corrugated cases
• Increased complexity in execution
  – Additional items to manage through supply chain
  – Need additional step/cost to re-pack as needed
• Need scale or reasonable volume
Awards!

Each year the StopWaste Partnership recognizes businesses that have made great efforts and strides in improving environmental performance.

In 2008, Ghirardelli Chocolate Company received the Award for Leadership and Achievement in Sustainability for our efforts to reduce waste, increase recycling, and implement other environmental initiatives.
Awards!

In February 2010 we were recognized for meeting the Bay Area Green Business Standard.
Summary

1. Re-usable alternatives are effective
2. We have successfully used throughout our supply chain – chocolate, squares, bags
3. Delivered significant cost savings
4. Improved our quality
5. Consumers, customers and communities are expecting sustainable practices from companies