"So you say you want to dumpster dive..."

Tim Hamel Champion, Thermo Fisher Scientific Green Team Asheville, North Carolina

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Proprietary & Confidential



Why Dive?

Almost every ZWTL site we benchmarked started with a Dive



"Seeing the waste" in one place is powerful

Year-over-year improvements are easy to see









How do we Dive?

A. Choose a Day

B. Choose your Divers









D. Plan your Attack





E. Expect Surprises



Spring or Fall days with light or no wind and ideally no rain

Start early to give plenty of time to finish and clean up

Earth Day is good, but could be hard to get external attendees













If you don't have a Green Team, now is a good time to start one with 5-10 motivated cross-functional associates

We used about 10-12 Divers to sort 1-2 tons in about 3 hours

Include Site Leaders on the Dive Team, even if they are not full-time Green Team members

Invite community resources and vendors to attend

Whether Diving or not, your Environmental Health and Safety Manager needs to play a significant role



We with

Consider these aspects when choosing a Support Team:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Tools needed (rakes and hoes work best for us) Setup Cleanup (water, hoses, etc.) Lunch for Dive Team Info Tables for Green Team and invited guests Giveaways to site associates who are viewing Dive during lunch Photography and Publicity



- 1. Engage your waste hauler to empty dumpster in chosen area setup for Dive, 2-5 days of site waste, in one large pile
- 2. Anticipate what you will have in terms of piles, such as cardboard, foam, food waste, plastics, etc.
- 3. Label or designate areas of the Dive to push the large pile to the smaller, sorted piles of similar materials
- 4. Estimate weights and/or volumes of each pile and the total
- 5. Plan how to reroute would-be landfill waste to recycling
- 6. Get a quote for cleanup after event it's worth it!

Our Day of the Dive 2013: Setup and Start



•3.5 days of facility waste dumped onto 100' x 20' 4mil sheet•Dive Team reviewed SAFTEY and planned how to sort piles



We Sorted Waste into Like Categories





E. Expect Surprises

- 1. This is an outdoor event. The weather may not cooperate.
- 2. You will see less of / more of some things than you expect
- 3. You'll be pleasantly surprised at how easy it will be to turn your waste into raw materials for someone else's process
- 4. Biggest surprise: Yesterday's trash does not smell too bad





Summary of Our 2013 Findings

Mass by waste stream (tons/month)



Volume by waste stream (yd³)





All Site Associates Invited to See Sorted Waste





3rd Parties discussed recycling impact to NC Jobs + Donuts and Coffee helped bring folks out Many remarked how much progress we've made!

