



Huron, Inc.

Aaron Duncan, Sr. Chemical Engineering Student
Wayne State University

Project Title: Standardization of Packaging Materials to Reduce Solid Waste

Mr. Aaron Duncan was assigned to Huron, Inc., located in Lexington, Michigan. The company is a metal fabricator that produces fasteners, tread bolt stocks, and other metal products. The company also coats and assembles products as requested by customers.

Aaron was very successful at reducing the solid waste streams at Huron, Inc. The approach that he suggested was the standardization or reuse of packaging materials for incoming parts for outgoing product to suppliers. This required some testing to make sure that the packaging materials were not compromised in the initial shipping of the parts and the repackaging of the coated parts in the original packaging. This will also lead to the reshipment of wooden pallets to their customers, resulting in a reduction of unwanted pallets on-site. So far, many of the tests are showing that the receiving and shipping stages are very compatible, and the company has already instituted some repackaging practices on-site. This program has a total potential savings of 37,057 cubic feet/year and 139,910 lbs./year; \$25,796/year for the reuse of wooden pallets and cardboard boxes, and a potential savings of \$9,313/year.