



Recycling

# CASE STORY

Operations Centre Migros Lucerne Cooperative, Dierikon (Switzerland)

## A well thought-out concept that convinces

The Migros Luzern cooperative has renewed the technology for returns disposal in Dierikon. The concept of Hunkeler Systeme AG was convincing due to its simple, compact design.

The operations centre of the Migros Lucerne cooperative is located in Dierikon. From here, the supermarket branches and restaurants of the retailer throughout central Switzerland are supplied with products every day. Conversely, all packaging recyclables that need to be disposed of arrive in Dierikon.

For the disposal of recyclable materials, a new compaction plant with a high-performance baler has been in operation since January 2021. The plant was planned and realised by Hunkeler Systeme AG. "The compact, simple design was convincing," says Roger Heer. He managed the project at Migros. Plant mechanic Franco Leo, who

is responsible for plant maintenance, adds: "The entire plant is easily accessible, which makes maintenance and cleaning work much easier for us."

### 20 grade changes in one day

The new baler processes cardboard, PET, plastic films, hollow bodies made of PE material as well as plastic collected in bags. Several cooperatives offer the plastic collection bags as part of a pilot project. The aim is to also return plastic waste to the recycling system across all Migros cooperatives in future, which has so far been disposed of with the rubbish.



Around 1,200 pallets with packaging recyclables that need to be disposed of arrive in Dierikon every day.



A robot empties the containers into a feed hopper, and the waste reaches the baler via an ascending belt.



In Dierikon, over 6000 tonnes of material (cardboard, PET, PE and plastic films) are compacted into bales every year on the press.

At 5000 tonnes per year, cardboard accounts for the largest share of the quantities to be compacted in Dierikon. The other recyclables add up to a total annual quantity of more than 1000 tonnes.

All recyclables are processed on a single line. The types are changed about 20 times in an eight-hour day, says Thomas Bossert, the plant manager. The changes are quick and easy. At the touch of a button on the operating terminal, the pressing force of the baler is adjusted fully automatically to the respective material.

### Good marks for the cooperation

The capacity utilisation of the compression plant in Dierikon is very uneven. The highest peak is reached in the early morning hours between six and eight o'clock. During these hours, the disposal hall is fully occupied with returns. "We depend on the technology to function reliably," says Roger Heer. This requirement applies all the more because the volume is processed via only one line. There is no back-up. After one year of production, Thomas Bossert draws a positive balance: "We can rely on the system, it works flawlessly."

Good marks are also given for the cooperation. With four weeks, the time window for the dismantling of the old system and the installation of the new one was very small, a demanding task for Hunkeler Systeme AG and

for the customer. "The specifications were adhered to, and all pending issues were dealt with swiftly. Everyone involved in the project did an excellent job," says Roger Heer with satisfaction.



They are satisfied with the technology, the service and the speedy work of Hunkeler Systeme AG. From left: Thomas Bossert, Operations Manager; Franco Leo, Maintenance; Roger Heer, Project Manager.



The supermarket branches and restaurants of the retailer throughout central Switzerland are supplied with products every day from the distribution centre in Dierikon.