



# CASE STORY

## Recycling

**HALBA – Division of Coop Genossenschaft** Pratteln (Switzerland)

### The task perceived as an opportunity: New board press creates space for productive work

**Because HALBA wanted to expand chocolate production at the Pratteln site, goods flow had to be reorganized. In this context, the company invested in a new stationary press from Hunkeler Systeme AG for compacting empty cartons.**

Under the HALBA brand, Coop has merged two production plants, Chocolats Halba and Sunray, at the Pratteln site. In the new building, which went into operation in October 2017, chocolate is produced and raw products are refined and packaged.

Beat Stadlin is responsible for the Snacks + Baking & Cooking Ingredients production in Pratteln as Division Manager. Because HALBA wanted to expand chocolate production, additional space was required. As a result, he had to reduce the space where the raw products are prepared and empty cartons are disposed of by half. Beat Stadlin took the task as an opportunity and streamlined the material logistics.

**Logistics significantly improved**  
An eye-catching feature of the reorganized work environment is the press used to compact the empty cartons.



Beat Stadlin is responsible for the production of snacks + baking & cooking ingredients at HALBA in Pratteln. Thanks to a new press, he has been able to significantly improve logistics in the disposal of empty cartons.





The quantity of cardboard that has to be compacted and disposed of reach up to two tons daily.

The material is dropped into a shaft that connects the production room on the upper floor with the press outside the building. Previously, the press was located inside the building and could only be reached through a long corridor. By moving the new press outside, HALBA freed up a lot of space internally for productive work. „Thanks to the conversion and the new press, we have been able to improve our logistics considerably,” says Beat Stadlin.

### Cost savings are significant

The concept of a stationary press was chosen in Pratteln for compacting the empty carton. A screw compactor feeds the material to a mobile container. Sensors monitor the fill level and trigger a message to a local transport company as

soon as the compacted cardboard has reached a certain level and the full container is to be exchanged for an empty one. Thanks to a high compaction ratio of 1:20, HALBA keeps the transport costs for disposing of the cardboard low. With almost two tons of material produced each day, the savings achieved are significant.

The low operating costs of the press are further aided by highly efficient electro-hydraulics. The energy input is controlled according to demand by a frequency converter. For Beat Stadlin, this is a quality that counts not only from an economic point of view. In view of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions target that Coop has set itself throughout the Group (see box), resource consumption is also to be reduced to a minimum.

### Under the sign of active environmental protection

In October 2017, Coop moved into a new building in Pratteln. The new building complex offers 108,000 square meters of floor space, and around 600 employees there. In addition to the former Chocolats Halba and Sunray production plants, which Coop has now combined under the HALBA brand, the building also houses the Cave winery, logistics and what is currently Switzerland's most modern private food laboratory.

The building concept is in line with Coop's goal of achieving net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across the Group by 2023. Rail transport, a woodchip heating system, a photovoltaic system or the feeding of energy back into the grid should enable a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 1,600 tons per year in Pratteln.

