

Recycling CASE STORY

Coop, Spreitenbach (Switzerland)

40 percent cost savings

With two new baling presses, Coop in Spreitenbach has streamlined cardboard disposal and reduced costs by 40 percent.

At the distribution center in Spreitenbach, Coop has increased its capacity for disposing of cardboard packaging and commissioned two new baling presses from Hunkeler Systeme AG. Previously, containers filled with cardboard had to be moved across several floors to the basement, where they were compressed using an existing press. The two goods elevators were chronically overloaded with transport tasks, and staff were unnecessarily tied up.



With two new baling presses from Hunkeler Systeme AG, Coop has achieved several goals: costs were reduced by 40 percent; the bale weight of 600 kilograms exceeds that of the old press by a factor of 2.4; truck transport capacities are better utilized, which in turn leads to comparatively low CO₂ emissions.



"We worked very well with Hunkeler Systeme AG. Already during the first meeting, we felt that we were being advised and supported by absolute professionals with extensive experience in disposal logistics. From the start of the project through planning and installation to the commissioning of the presses, everything went to our complete satisfaction. The fact that we can rely not only on proven technology but also on strong service gives us additional security in our demanding daily operations."

*Uwe Psotka,
Group Leader Technical Service, Coop Spreitenbach*

Amortized in two years

Thanks to the two new presses installed on floors two and three, Coop has significantly streamlined the material flow. With a cost reduction of 40 percent, the operation saves tens of thousands of Swiss francs annually, according to Uwe Psotka, Group Leader of Technical Services. He points to the direct economic benefit: "We will have amortized the investment in the presses within two years."

In addition, working conditions for staff have improved significantly. Uwe Psotka says he was impressed by how quietly the new baling presses run, which is very pleasant for employees. "Since the presses were commissioned, our team has been much more relaxed, especially as we have been able to reduce the number of lift trips and the associated waiting times."

Contribution to lower CO₂ emissions

The old existing press compresses cardboard into bales weighing 250 kilograms. In contrast, the bales from the two new presses weigh 600 kilograms – that's a factor of 2.4. This increased weight results in better utilization of truck capacities, which in turn leads to fewer transport kilometers and correspondingly lower CO₂ emissions. Compacting cardboard is also attractive to Coop from a financial perspective. "Although the price per tonne varies greatly, it makes a significant contribution to costs in any case," says Uwe Psotka.

Advantage of circular economy

All cardboard is sent to Model AG in Weinfelden, where the material flows into the production of corrugated board. The cycle is closed.



The Coop distribution center in Spreitenbach covers an area of 18,000 square meters. Around 300 employees work in three shifts, six days a week, to process approximately 4,000 orders received daily via the online portal coop.ch for delivery.