

MN WASTE WISE SUCCESS STORY

SILGAN CONTAINERS



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
WASTE WISE

Silgan Containers is a metal food packaging manufacturer with its Minnesota operations based in Savage and produces vegetable, fruit, soup, and other food cans found in grocery stores across the United States.

While already recycling much of its residual metal scrap, Silgan connected with Waste Wise in early 2019 with the goal of optimizing its recycling program further. With Waste Wise's assistance, Silgan applied for a Scott County Business Recycling Grant to purchase a hydraulic compactor to crush 55 gallon drums used to hold coatings necessary for final products. Before purchasing the compactor, drums were being hauled away whole at the cost of \$5 per drum, representing a noticeable operating cost. After installing the compactor, the crushed drums can be now recycled with the rest of their metal scrap, saving space and money.

In all, Silgan estimates that the compactor will save them \$5,700 annually. In addition, Waste Wise assisted the local manufacturer in finding an outlet for leftover plastic banding, helping Silgan recycle 8,333 pounds of specialty plastic each year.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **\$5,700** saved in annual recycling costs
- **8,333** pounds of specialty plastic recycled each year