checksammy
A SUSTAINABILITY COMPANY™

Innovations in Sustainability

Compendium of CheckSammy's Sustainability Case Studies

checksammy
A SUSTAINABILITY COMPANY™

Your Sustainability A-Team

In the ever-evolving landscape of corporate responsibility, we unveil the story of CheckSammy's pioneering role in reshaping waste management practices across industries. This guide showcases CheckSammy's strategic and impactful initiatives throughout 2023.

From the dynamic fashion industry to the intricacies of office closures in the remote work era, each case study reflects CheckSammy's commitment to delivering sustainable solutions while meeting the unique needs of diverse sectors.

Environmentally conscious business practices are no longer "nice to have." They are essential to longevity throughout industries. This round-up covers the diversity of needs in modern sustainability—from dormitories managing waste during move-out weeks to the nuanced handling of pandemic-related waste.

Each case study demonstrates CheckSammy's adaptability and agility in crafting custom, eco-friendly solutions. Whether "The Zero-Waste-to-Landfill Project" or "The Denim Project," each project showcases corporate responsibility aligned with tangible results.

We invite you as leaders and decision-makers to explore the possibilities that sustainability presents. This book is not just a documentation of success stories; it's a guide for corporations aspiring to merge profitability with purpose, showcasing how CheckSammy has met and exceeded corporate expectations in pursuing a sustainable future.

The Mannequin Project: Tackling Fast Fashion

Industry:
Fashion

Materials:
Mannequins

Data:

1 year's worth
of electricity for 8 homes

55,243 mannequins
collected and recycled

164 tons
of CO2 emissions reduced

54 tons of metal
recycled

170 tons of plastic
diverted from landfills

Situation:

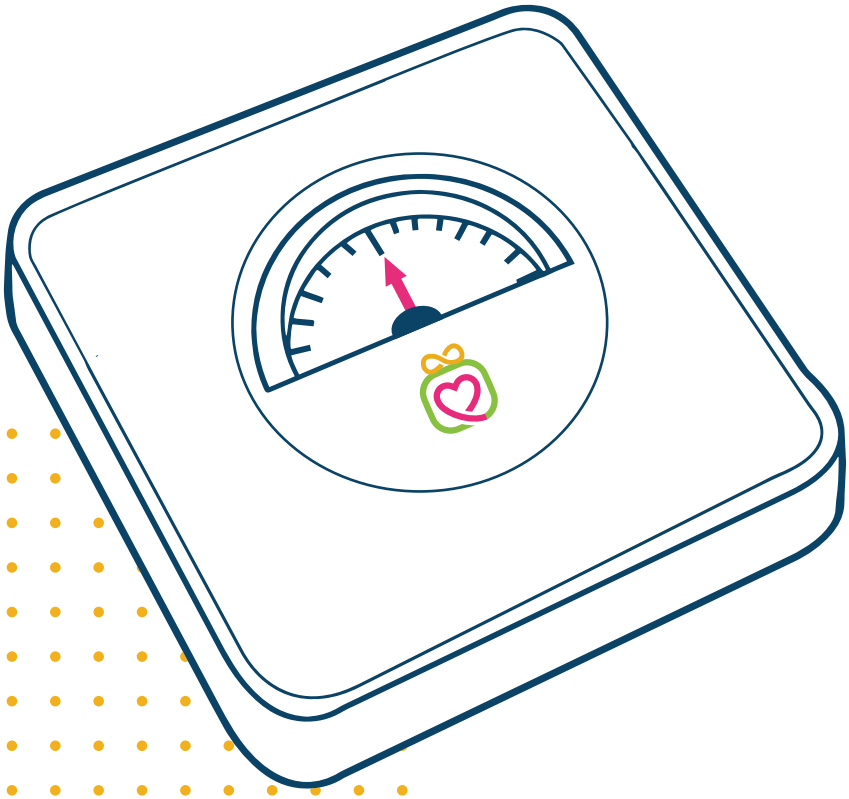
From excess clothes to mannequins, constantly changing trends cause the retail environment to produce significant amounts of waste. Responding to customer demand for body diversity, a retail client had to replace all 55,243 mannequins from their stores across North America.

Need:

Mannequin replacement at this large scale caused a logistics challenge that, if done wrong, could lead to enormous waste, negatively impacting the environment and the brand reputation. The client faced the challenge of responsibly disposing of the old mannequins from thousands of stores while maintaining their commitment to sustainability.

Solution:

CheckSammy employed an extensive logistics network to collect the mannequins from 669 unique locations and transport them to 121 staging facilities. From there, those facilities used shredding, source separating, and Waste-to-Energy (WTE) recycling to dispose of the mannequins effectively and sustainably.



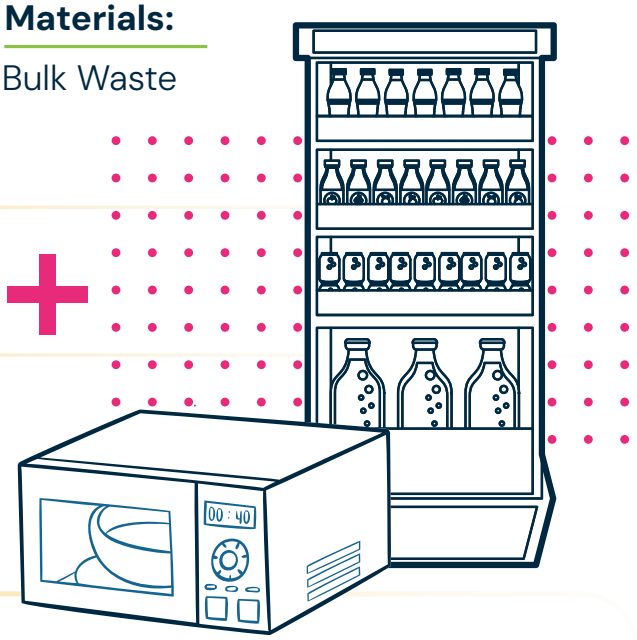
Bulk Waste Convenience Store Project

Industry:

Chain Convenience Store, Gas Station Industry

Materials:

Bulk Waste



Data:

1 hour
response time

Situation:

CheckSammy caters to the needs of a chain convenience store/gas station client with over 15,000 locations across the United States. The client faced challenges such as illegal dumping, site closings, and power washing, putting their bottom line and reputation at risk. They needed immediate bulk trash removal services.

Need:

CheckSammy needed to provide a quick turnaround on bulk trash removal while also adhering to legal standards. The outcome of this project would have consequences for the chain's public perception and impact all 15,000 locations.

Solution:

CheckSammy swiftly coordinated and dispatched a team to the site, arriving on-site and ready to address the problem within an hour. The 81% of consumers say a positive customer service experience increases their chances of making repeat purchases. Ensuring clean locations is one-way gas stations and convenience stores provide a positive customer experience.

The Candle Project

Industry:

Beauty Supply

Materials:

Broken and Returned Candles

Data:

- **776 pounds** of paper recycled
- **12,918 pounds** of glass recycled
- **9,316 pounds** of metal recycled
- **20,555 pounds** of soy candles melted
- **33,226 pounds** of paraffin candles melted

Situation:

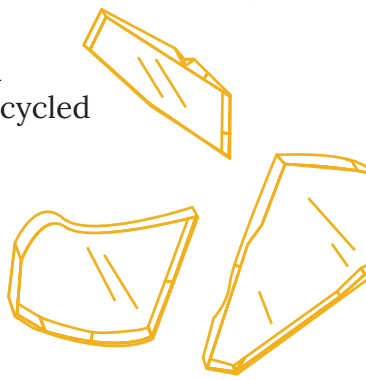
A beauty brand client served CheckSammy with a complex challenge: thousands of unusable, broken, or returned candles. The client wanted to avoid reselling these items to protect the brand, and landfill options were undesirable due to brand and environmental considerations.

Need:

The brand was protective of its image, leading to the decision to prevent the resale of its candles in secondary markets. However, they were also committed to sustainability and wanted to avoid the unusable candles ending up in landfills. To maximize recyclability, CheckSammy would have to separate and recycle every component (jar, wax, wick, and tin lid) separately.

Solution:

Going above and beyond, CheckSammy drew from its extensive network of over 25,000 reverse logistics and recycling facilities and selected a partner who could recycle or reuse every component of the candles. They carefully removed and recycled labels from each jar and broke down the glass jars in a controlled environment. Heating belts around 55-gallon drums full of candles melted the wax into a single form. The tin lids were sold to a company producing firestarters, thus extending their usage lifecycle and adding value. CheckSammy successfully recycled thousands of candles for the client, protecting the brand image while sustainably diverting waste from landfills.



Converting Pandemic Waste into an Environmental Success

Industry:

Financial News and Information

Materials:

Acrylic Dividers

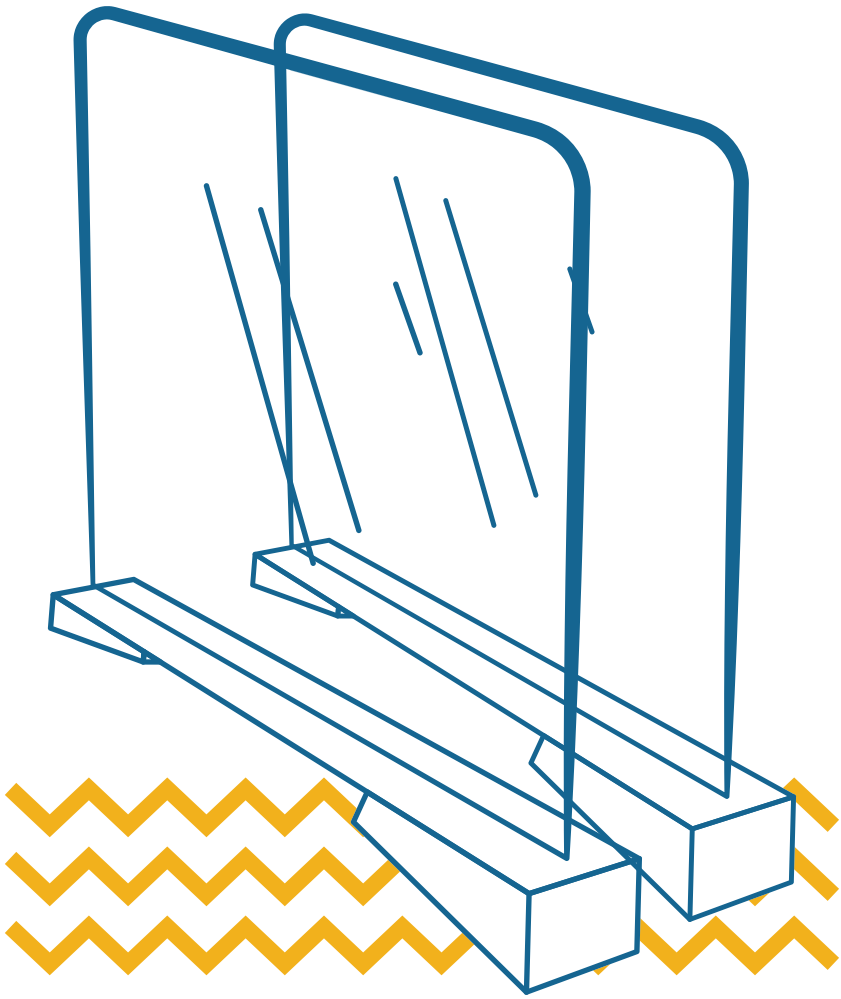
Data:

645,576 pounds
(322.79 tons)
of acrylic dividers recycled

806.97 tons of CO2
emissions saved

Situation:

A global financial news and information provider partnered with CheckSammy to manage an unusual waste problem. The client had over 600,000 pounds of acrylic dividers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal was to recycle these dividers without adding to landfills, ultimately turning them into new plastic products.

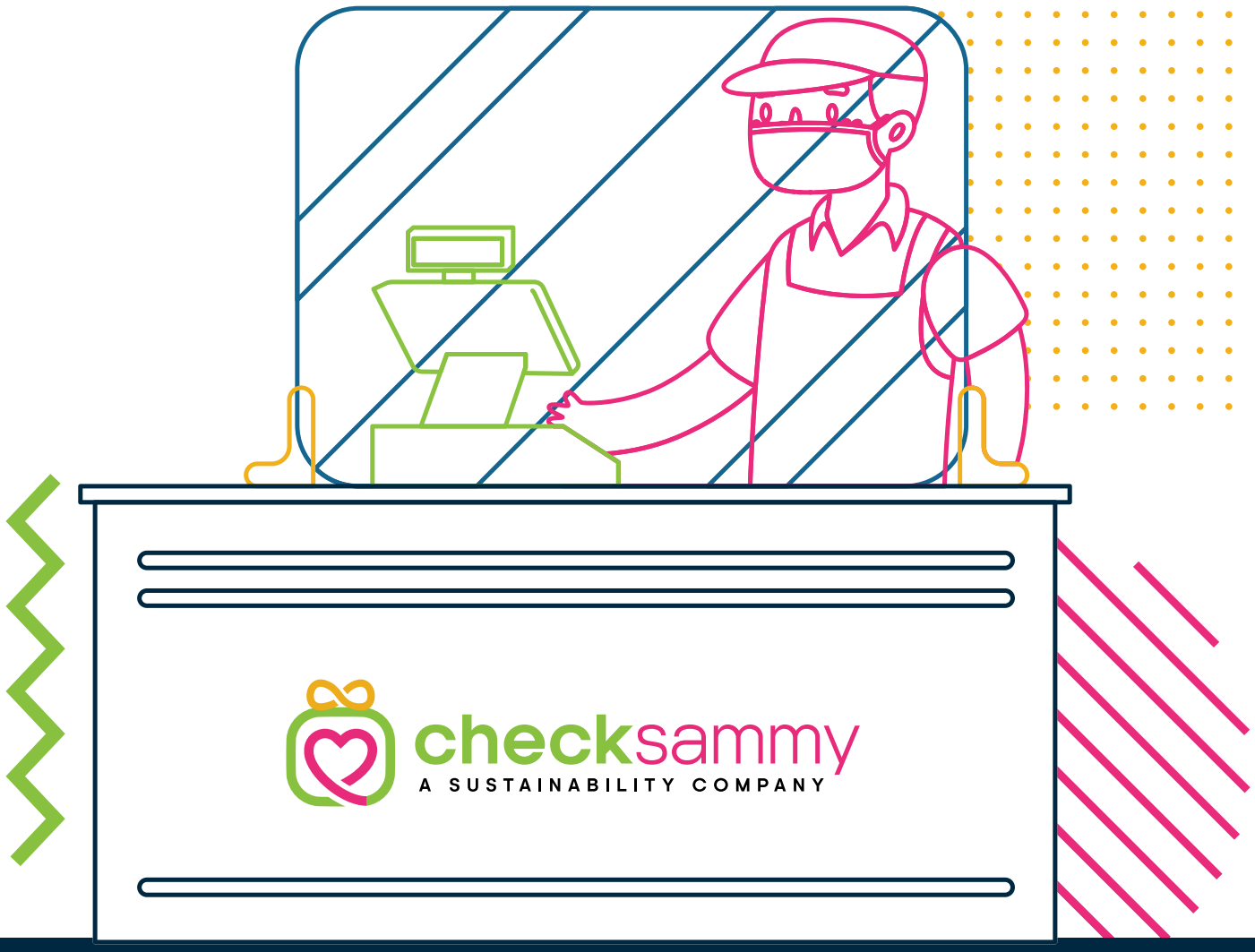


Need:

The client wanted to divert this waste from landfills entirely and ensure sustainable processing of these surplus dividers. This task required complex logistical coordination since the client was storing the dividers across three different offices. Gathering all these dividers and transporting them to a suitable recycling facility without overwhelming it was a key challenge.

Solution:

CheckSammy adopted a logistics-focused approach to tackle this issue. They collected 566 pallets of dividers from all locations and transported them to a conveniently located warehouse for seamless pickup and recycling. To prevent overwhelming the recycling partner, they carried out phased deliveries. This solution solved the logistics issue and reflected the client's commitment to protecting the environment from potential repercussions tied to an excess of dividers.



Dorm Diversion: An Initiative Towards Mattress Top Sustainability

Industry:
Higher Education

Materials:
Mattress Topper

Data:

9,217 pounds
of waste removed

6,837 pounds
of waste diverted

74.2%
total project diversion rate

Situation:

College campuses across the country face massive waste at the end of every year, especially due to discarded mattress toppers. The joy of finals ending and the upcoming holiday break overshadow the significant waste and environmental issues. Leaders at one college campus wanted to solve these problems and improve their diversion rates with the unsightly and often hard-to-haul end-of-year mattress toppers.

Thousands of students use mattress toppers for added comfort during late-night study sessions. However, these toppers usually lose shape by the year's end and get discarded as students move out. Instead of recycling or repurposing, these mattress toppers typically end up in local landfills.

Solution:

With a simple yet thought-through approach and utilization of their network of haulers, aggregation, and recycling facilities, CheckSammy developed a diversion plan for the mattress toppers. The team arrived on campus during the move-out week and separated the mattress toppers from other trash for aggregation and recycling. This commitment resulted in a significant diversion of waste from the landfill by breaking away from traditional paper or plastic recycling.

Sustainable Office Cleanouts

Industry:

Commercial Real Estate, Office Space

Materials:

Office Furniture

Data:

- **20% increase** in office furniture donations in the past year
- **30% decrease** in office furniture waste due to donations
- **25% increase** in revenue for used office furniture stores

Situation:

The shift towards remote work has led many companies to close their office spaces and cut costs. There has been a 50% increase in office closures over the past year, heralding a rise in office cleanouts. This situation presents a crucial opportunity to prioritize recycling or donating office furniture to reduce environmental impact and support communities.

Need:

Over 9 million tons of office furniture end up in landfills annually. If not managed responsibly, office cleanouts can significantly contribute to this issue, accelerating the waste problem and the need for sustainable office furniture management.

Solution:

CheckSammy offers a proactive strategy to manage office cleanouts sustainably through recycling or donating furniture. The company partners with organizations like the Salvation Army and uses office furniture stores to extend the life of the furniture, giving back to the community. Donations from office cleanouts led to a 30% decrease in furniture waste.

The Organic Milk Run Project

Industry:

Waste Management & Sustainability

Materials:

Organic Waste

Data:

70,000+ pounds
of organic waste are diverted from landfills every month

Situation:

CheckSammy, a leader in technology-driven sustainability, aimed to transform the handling of organic waste across large retailer locations, minimizing travel miles and achieving cost-effective sustainability.

Need:

The challenge was finding an efficient and sustainable way to manage organic waste while minimizing miles traveled. CheckSammy evaluated several innovative strategy options, including composting and anaerobic digestion.

Solution:

Ultimately, CheckSammy used a combination of composting, anaerobic digestion, and Waste-to-Energy methods to handle organic materials. The use of “Milk Run” logistics—an approach involving the collection of mixed loads from multiple locations—enriched the efficiency of these processes. CheckSammy successfully enabled large-scale organic recycling across the client’s locations cost-effectively and sustainably. They improved the client’s landfill diversion metrics while minimizing transportation distances.

The PPE Project

Industry:

Municipality and Companies

Materials:

PPE Kits, Sanitizer Wipes, Masks, Gloves, and Hand Sanitizer

Data:

- **5,950 pounds** of hand sanitizer diverted from landfills
- **10,000 pounds** of PPE-related material, including bags and plastic components, diverted from landfills

Situation:

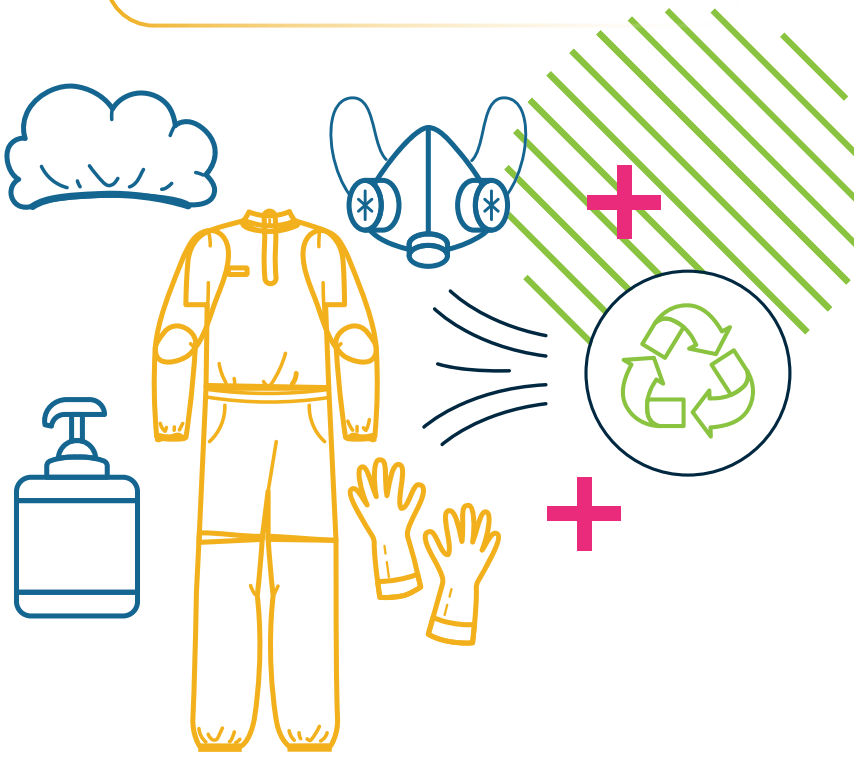
During the COVID-19 pandemic, municipalities and companies stocked up on large quantities of PPE kits and sanitizers. However, with relaxing measures and materials approaching expiration, they faced the challenge of disposing of thousands of pounds of unused and expired PPE kits in an environmentally friendly way.

Need:

The client needed a sustainable solution to divert the unusable PPE kits and hand sanitizers from landfills to stop paying significant storage fees or disposal costs.

Solution:

CheckSammy collected the client's 15 pallets (5,625 pounds) of COVID-19 PPE Kits and 7 pallets (5,950 pounds) of hand sanitizer. CheckSammy's network of local recyclers researched the recyclability, process, and pricing options for various materials. Plastic materials were baled and sent for recycling or repurposing. In contrast, paper materials were baled and sent to a paper mill for recycling.



The Peanut Butter Project

Industry:

Food

Materials:

Organic Food Waste (Peanut Butter)

Data:

130,000 pounds
of peanut butter discarded by the client, collected and diverted from landfills

25 tons of CO2
emissions saved

8 days
of municipal power provided

Situation:

A Fortune 500 company faced the challenge of disposing of a large amount of recalled peanut butter in an environmentally friendly way without resorting to landfill disposal.

Need:

The client wanted to find an alternative solution for disposing of the contaminated peanut butter, minimizing the environmental impact and contributing to reducing food waste.

Solution:

CheckSammy collected 130,000 pounds of peanut butter in six hours and sent it to a local anaerobic digestion facility. The facility broke down the organic waste into biogas, which the municipality used to power homes sustainably. Meanwhile, labels and plastic jar lids that didn't come into contact with peanut butter were further recycled.

The Zero-Waste-to-Landfill Project

Industry:

Precision Medical Instruments Manufacturing

Materials:

Plastic pipettes, PPE waste, Mixed plastics, Cardboard, Plastic bags, Pallets

Data:

$20,000 monthly
in landfill fees

7,000–10,000 pounds
of mixed plastics collected weekly

500–600 pallets and 40–50 bales
of cardboard and plastic bags collected monthly

Situation:

The client manufactures massive quantities of plastic pipettes, primarily for the medical research industry, and they do significant work with governments, most recently on projects related to combatting COVID-19. Our client faced significant challenges in managing its waste streams. Their landfill fees were substantial, exceeding $20,000 per month. CheckSammy knew we could reduce their overall landfill expenses while helping them achieve their goal of sending zero waste to landfills by 2025. We were so confident that we set a target of 2024 and ultimately exceeded that aggressive goal.

Need:

Our primary challenge was to help our client achieve Zero Waste to Landfill by the publicly stated goal of 2025. Along the path to that milestone lay the need to streamline and holistically manage their multiple waste streams. Reducing landfill disposal costs was just the icing on the cake.

Solution:

CheckSammy utilized our expansive network of recyclers and logistics partners to provide zero-waste solutions to our clients. CheckSammy successfully consolidated five waste streams into a single waste management solution, achieving the client's Zero Waste to Landfill goal within just four months. CheckSammy handles sustainability jobs domestically and avoids shipping overseas because the carbon output associated with moving materials such vast distances counteracts the effort to achieve sustainable outcomes that minimize the carbon footprint. Ultimately, CheckSammy moved up that timeframe drastically and helped our client achieve that milestone in Q2 2023, well ahead of the original 2025 goal.

The Denim Project: Upcycling Excess Textiles

Industry:

Textile

Materials:

Denim Jeans

Data:

- **15,000+ pounds** of discarded jeans diverted from landfills
- **25,000 recycling** and reverse logistics facilities
- **8 million pounds** of water saved

Situation:

Overwhelming generation of textile wastes globally, with limited utilization via recycling and repurposing initiatives.

Need:

New styles, trends, and sizes led to over 15,000 pounds of discarded denim bound for landfills. Huge textile waste contributes to environmental pollution due to the generation of greenhouse methane gas and the leaching of toxic chemicals and dyes into the groundwater and soil.

Solution:

CheckSammy teamed up with The Upcycled Denim Project and their collaborators, InJEANious Designs, to repurpose 15,000 pounds of discarded denim jeans into handmade products. Saved over 8 million pounds of water initially used for denim manufacturing, boosted the economy of a startup NGO, and facilitated sustainable resource usage.

checksammy
A SUSTAINABILITY COMPANY™

Learn more about how CheckSammy can handle even the most unique sustainability waste issues at CheckSammy.com