



# COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAMS

NOTE: This document, which was submitted to the Community Benefits Agreement Steering Committee on January 25, 2022, provides an overview of programs Graphic Packaging is working on or has completed that have had a positive impact on its Kalamazoo operations and the community.



# GENERAL PROGRAMS

Program	Description	Community Impact
<p><b>Air Quality - emissions</b></p>	<p>Graphic Packaging is and has been compliant with our air permit as issued by EGLE.</p>	<p>From the U.S. EPA - “Federal regulations require each major source of air pollutant emissions to obtain an “operating permit” that consolidates all of the air pollution control requirements into a single, comprehensive document covering all aspects of the source’s air pollution activities. Air pollution permits are also required for businesses that build new pollution sources or make significant changes to existing pollution sources.”</p> <p>EGLE’s Air Permit Section works with subject matter experts at EGLE and considers community input and the best interests of the local area to determine appropriate air emission levels and issues a permit.</p> <p>Graphic Packaging takes our responsibility for air permit compliance seriously and our team monitors to ensure compliance.</p>
<p><b>Noise Suppression</b></p>	<p>Graphic Packaging has voluntarily invested in noise suppression systems as part of our expansion project; including (mufflers) on our exhaust systems and steam relief safety valves to help minimize its total noise output.</p>	<p>Improved quality of life for nearby residents by managing noise levels.</p>

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Program	Description	Community Impact
<p><b>Trees Into Cartons Cartons into Trees (TICCIT)</b></p>	<p>Through the TICCIT program, Graphic Packaging provides outreach and an educational program for school aged children that highlights the renewability and sustainability of paper and paperboard packaging. Students learn about the many uses for trees and importance of recycling through a hands-on educational experience.</p> <p>Each student receives a tree sapling to take home and plant.</p>	<p>While this program was suspended due to concerns related to COVID-19, Graphic Packaging intends to restart TICCIT when the time is right. Graphic Packaging’s work to offer this innovative program at local Kalamazoo schools is just another way Graphic Packaging gives back to its community.</p> <p>Thousands of students in the Kalamazoo area have participated since the beginning of the program in 2010.</p>
<p><b>Workforce development – Michigan Works partnership – Job Fairs – local recruitment days</b></p>	<p>Graphic Packaging has partnered with the community to recruit more residents for critical jobs. Graphic Packaging participates annually in the job fair conducted at KZ Expo Center and also sponsors other local job fairs and works with MI Works on recruitment events and opportunities.</p>	<p>These programs are key for local candidate attraction to job opportunities at Graphic Packaging. The job fairs also provide prospective candidates with an understanding of the education, skill set and work experience that Graphic Packaging is looking for in potential candidates.</p>
<p><b>Workforce Development – Ex-offender</b></p>	<p>Graphic Packaging has agreed to follow the City’s “Ex Offender Purchasing” policy.</p>	<p>The program offers a second chance for individuals and was a special request from former Mayor Hopewell.</p>
<p><b>Workforce development – Going Pro</b></p>	<p>Going Pro provides training for some of Michigan’s most in-demand Professional Trades careers. Graphic Packaging has specific training modules for paper mill careers.</p>	<p>Training funding opportunity with support from Graphic Packaging and other local companies.</p>
<p><b>Workforce development WMU</b></p>	<p>Cooperative education and staff time to the school. WMU partnership, student tours, sponsorships. Graphic Packaging has also donated equipment to the school, i.e. a pulper.</p>	<p>Through a collaborative relationship between Graphic Packaging and WMU the school is able to enhance their paper technology curriculum.</p> <p>An example of how Graphic Packaging engages with local opportunities, volunteerism and education.</p> <p>The pulper has also provided WMU with an opportunity for revenue, WMU is the leader in conducting fiber pulpability testing.</p>

# SAFETY

Program	Description	Community Impact
<p><b>Safety - Blight Area Cleanup</b></p>	<p>Graphic has purchased 2 Checker Cab properties, 2 City owned Properties (formerly General Chemical &amp; Sun Chemical), 1 County owned property, and 5 additional distressed/blighted parcels in the surrounding area.</p> <p>Graphic Packaging demolished several dilapidated buildings and removed more than 100,000 tons of debris (including more than 17,000 tons of hazardous material).</p> <p>The property purchases and remediation started in 2015.</p>	<p>Graphic Packaging's massive cleanup efforts resulted in dramatic environmental and aesthetic improvements. The blighted properties were a safety hazard for houseless people. They also presented a surface and ground water contamination concern.</p> <p>Some of the properties were owned by the City, County and Township and were previously funded by the taxpayers of the community until Graphic Packaging assumed financial responsibility for the properties.</p>
<p><b>Safety - HWY 131 Interchange</b></p>	<p>Graphic Packaging is working to facilitate the creation of an on and off ramp for traffic at the HWY 131 interchange.</p> <p>Graphic Packaging has met with the Governor, state legislators, city representative and worked with Congressman Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, to request federal funding. The city has committed \$4M. Congressman Upton included an earmark in the Infrastructure Bill that was unfortunately removed, along with all earmarks. We continue to explore ways to secure \$14M in federal funding.</p>	<p>This will help eliminate truck traffic and improve traffic flow and enhance safety of downtown streets.</p>

# ODOR MITIGATION

Program	Description	Community Impact
<p><b>Kalamazoo wastewater treatment facility sewer / Junction Box</b></p>	<p>The Kalamazoo wastewater treatment junction box that is located under Graphic Packaging property has been identified as a significant source of H<sub>2</sub>S.</p> <p>In 2010, Graphic Packaging paid for installation of a cover on the junction box to prevent outgassing of H<sub>2</sub>S from that box because Kalamazoo wastewater treatment did not have the funds to address this need.</p>	<p>This eliminated an H<sub>2</sub>S leakage source from the sewer system to the surrounding area.</p>
<p><b>Odor mitigation - collaboration with the city on odor monitoring</b></p>	<p>Graphic Packaging joined the City's Odor Task Force in its inception in 2019 to work with the city wastewater treatment facility to evaluate sources of odors and mitigation measures to be undertaken by both the City and Graphic Packaging.</p> <p>The Kalamazoo wastewater treatment facility has established an odor hotline to provide odor investigation and counter measures. This program will attempt to address odor concerns in real time.</p>	<p>Graphic Packaging's participation is further evidence of its commitment to hear what key constituents in the community are saying and partner with the City to address any articulated needs. Graphic Packaging's participation is part of a comprehensive plan to minimize the potential for nuisance odors.</p>
<p><b>Odor mitigation - chemical treatments</b></p>	<p>Starting in 2017, Graphic Packaging added an odor treatment product called Redoxx to the wastewater in the clarifier to reduce the potential for odors.</p>	<p>One of several actions taken by Graphic Packaging to reduce the potential for nuisance odors and address community feedback.</p>
<p><b>Odor mitigation - air monitoring</b></p>	<p>In 2020 and 2021, Graphic Packaging installed 16 Envirosuite monitoring units at its mill complex to collect data to assist in identifying potential odor source areas. These monitoring units complement the city wastewater treatment sensors and allow for more effective analysis of odors.</p>	<p>These sensors are part of a comprehensive plan to help better understand the source of odors and therefore minimize the potential for nuisance odors.</p>

# ODOR MITIGATION - CONTINUED

Program	Description	Community Impact
<p><b>Odor mitigation - investigation and study to generate baseline information for odor mitigation efforts</b></p>	<p>After input and approval from EGLE, a third party retained by Graphic Packaging in June 2020 conducted an odor study to evaluate odors in the community and potential sources at the Graphic Packaging facility.</p> <p>The conclusion of this study, reached in November 2020, was that although the mill generates typical mill odors, the mill did not generate odors rising to the level of “nuisance odors.” This investigation has been informative in Graphic Packaging and EGLE discussions for further odor mitigation initiatives.</p>	<p>This odor mitigation study has established baseline metrics which will further inform future odor reduction measures.</p>
<p><b>Odor mitigation - Mill odor mitigation expert engagement</b></p>	<p>In 2021, Graphic Packaging hired a company that is well known in industrial wastewater engineering. They suggested that Graphic Packaging begin adding oxygen and hydrogen peroxide to its wastewater and process water to minimize the potential for odors. Graphic Packaging has been following these recommendations for more than a year. Accordingly, Graphic Packaging continues to add oxygen and hydrogen peroxide and will install a permanent oxygenation system.</p> <p>Covering the Clarifier - This consultant indicated that the most effective way to mitigate H<sub>2</sub>S is to create an environment with the use of chemical additives in the wastewater system that significantly reduces the creation of H<sub>2</sub>S. EGLE supports the continued usage of chemical treatment strategies outlined above.</p> <p>Covering the clarifier would not reduce the amount of H<sub>2</sub>S. Instead, a cover would only trap the H<sub>2</sub>S and require additional mitigation technologies, like scrubbers, to address the source of odors. A cover would also create safety concerns.</p>	<p>Graphic Packaging’s work to address potential odors by focusing on its wastewater processes has reduced its potential odor output and has helped to minimize the potential for nuisance odors.</p>