

# Show-Me RECYCLING



Expanding Our Economy,  
Strengthening Our Communities,  
Protecting our Environment

## MISSOURI'S STORY

*"Strong recycling programs at the state, regional and local levels are critical to Missouri's recycling industry."*

# Creative Candles: Companywide Recycling



## Multiple Commodities

### Project Summary

Creative Candles is a small manufacturer that has been in operation since 1961. In 2005, Ken Weiner purchased the company, and his wife, Pam Fleischer, sold her yard waste hauling company, Nature's Rubbish, to join him in running the business.

One of the first things they did was hire Bridging The Gap, a local environmental agency, to help them set up a company recycling program. Bridging The Gap studied their operation, surveyed the employees; and helped prepare for recycling when the company moved to a new plant in 2006.

The survey showed that employees responded positively in favor of recycling, and after the move Creative Candles started recycling plastic, aluminum, glass, cardboard, paperboard and wax as well as paper. Additionally, the company recycled 3.5 tons of old packaging, saving \$1,575 in hauling costs, diverting it from the landfill, and saving themselves the trouble of moving it to the new plant.

Annually, the company recycles 5.6 tons or 62.5% of the waste they generate. They also save and store the leftover wax at the end of each color run for reuse, an unusual practice in the industry. Pam, herself, takes discarded glass to a recycling drop off area. These efforts have reduced their trash collection from once a week to every other week with projected savings of \$2,650 a year.

Employees and owners work as a team to recycle and their efforts bring them several lunches a year, paid for by the recycling program.



**Location:** Jackson County

**Date Implemented:** 2005; expanded 2006

**Employees:** No additional staff required

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### Benefits

- Win-win situation for owners, employees, and the community
- Projected annual savings of \$2,650
- Diverts 62.5% (5.6 tons) of waste from landfills
- Reuse of materials instead of disposal