



## ACME Testing

### Green Tier Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2020 (September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020)

**Submitted by:**  
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November 10, 2020

#### Executive Summary

ACME Testing achieved Tier 1 Green Tier status on July 17, 2018. This report provides environmental performance information for the period of April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020 (FY2020).

ACME Testing is a manufacturer of widgets and is in Laketown, WI, a small community in central Wisconsin, on the banks of Willow Lake, a 1345-acre spring-fed lake which hosts a mix of sport and recreation. ACME has 1200 feet of lake frontage property on Willow Lake. ACME is a member of the Willow Lake Association which helps maintain the health of the lake by managing invasive species, water quality, runoff, wildlife habitat, shoreline restoration, outreach and education.

ACME completed an expansion of their facility and operations in December 2019. We added 50,000 square feet to our facility to house an additional production line for widgets.

ACME has a functionally equivalent Environmental Management System (EMS). Internal EMS audits were completed in October 2019 and an external audit in January of 2020. Further information on our EMS audit can be found in Appendix 2. Our environmental policy is in Appendix 4 and can be found on our website and on posters throughout the facility.

As part of ACME's EMS, the company establishes annual objectives and targets. While some objective were fully achieved in FY2020, others will require additional time to complete. ACME achieved its goals of: 100% zero-waste to landfill, reinvesting 75% of cost savings from environmental and process improvement projects into the operating account of the Environmental Coordinator for future sustainability projects, and being a leader within the Willow Lake Association. ACME needs more time to achieve its goal on reducing electrical usage by 5% per 1000 widgets produced by the end of the fiscal year and further reducing runoff into Willow Lake.

## Environmental Performance

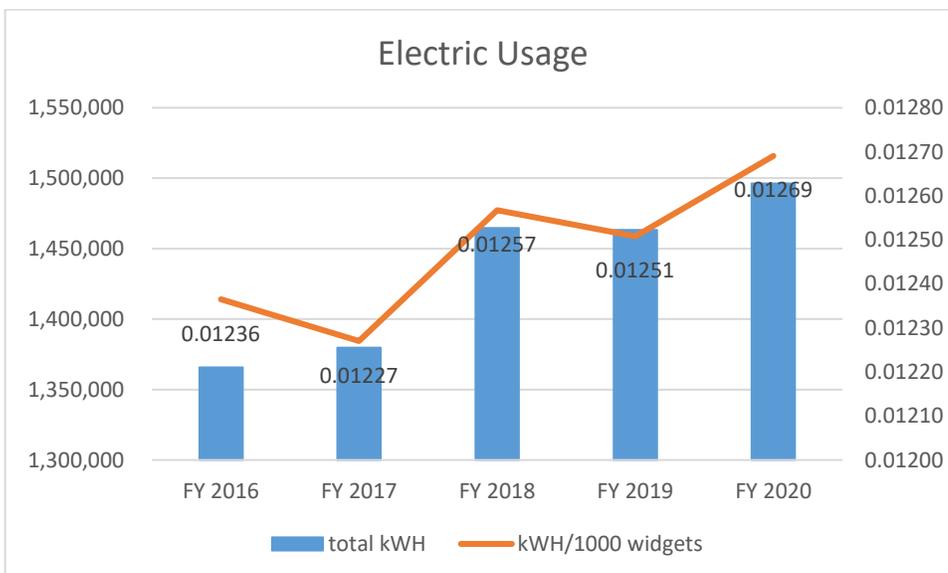
Since achieving Green Tier status in 2018 and implementing our functionally equivalent EMS, ACME has realized efficiencies and cost savings from several projects. This includes converting over to LED lighting throughout the whole facility, working toward and achieving our zero-waste to landfill goal, and machine cleaning schedule adjustments to take advantage of off-peak electrical usage when possible. Our EMS creation and reviews help us look at our greatest environmental impacts and guides us to making decisions on our next projects. The cost savings we have reached with these past projects are an incentive to continue making improvements into the future. Our goal of reinvesting 75% of the savings realized from these projects helps us fund these future endeavors.

## Progress on Goals & Objectives

### Goal 1:

*Reduce electrical usage by 5% per 1000 widgets produced (0.00063 kWh per 1000 widgets) by the end of fiscal year 2020.*

Due to the expansion of the facility we saw a slight increase in electrical usage for the year, +1.5% per 1000 widgets. This can be explained by the testing of the new equipment where it was running while not creating any production. Once the equipment was online in December, we were able to produce product and bring our electrical usage per 1000 widgets more inline with the previous year. We expect to realize the 5% reduction in the upcoming year, when we do not have the “empty” running time on the machines to account for.



Reducing our electrical usage ties to superior environmental performance #7, conserving energy or nonrenewable resources. We will continue this effort into the next year to achieve the reductions we are striving for.

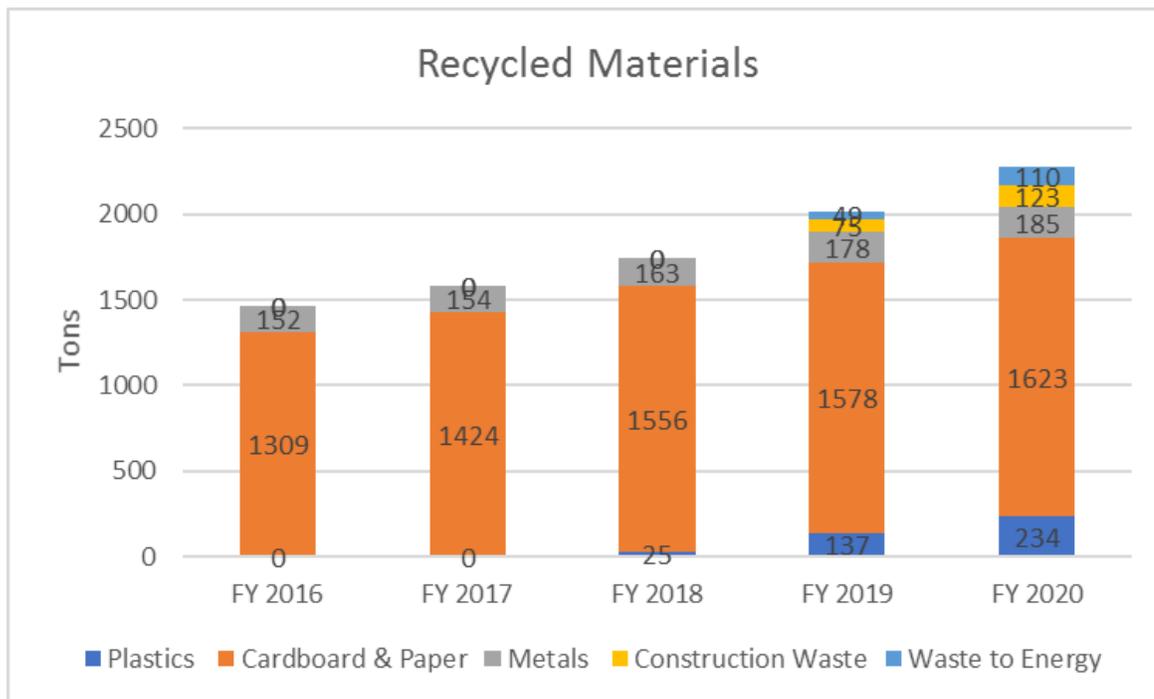
**Goal 2:**

*Achieve 100% zero-waste to landfill by the end of FY 2020.*

We worked closely with our local waste and recycling management company to create a custom waste plan to find recycling and reuse options for all our waste streams.

As of June 1, 2020, ACME was landfill free.

In FY2020 we recycled the following materials:



ACME did have .74 tons of waste landfilled in April and May 2020 as we finalized the details and contracts with our recycling partners.

Achieving 100% zero-waste to landfill helps ACME accomplish superior environmental performance outcomes #2, minimizing negative effects on land from products and services produced, and #6, reducing waste in the production of materials.

**Metrics Narrative**

The attached environmental metrics indicate increased natural resource use. This can be attributed to a 5.47% increase in sales, increasing the workforce and the addition of 50,000 square feet of manufacturing area.

We will be resetting our baseline data after the first full-year of production in our expanded facility to better assess efficiencies moving forward.

Our electricity usage is an example showing how overall usage going up can still have some efficiencies when normalized to production. Total electricity usage went up 2.26% over the year, but ACME was able to achieve some efficiencies with the expansion's increased production, showing a lower 1.5% increase when normalized to production.

### **Additional Accomplishments**

Beyond our Tier 1 Green Tier participation, ACME also received 2020 Environmental recognition from the National Widget Association for excellence in implementing an environmental management system and for our performance against our environmental goals.

ACME participates in the CDP Supplier Chain survey at the request of several of our customers. The results of the survey help our customers evaluate our performance against their other suppliers as well as let us gauge our performance against other like companies.

Our environmental and marketing teams are working together on a project to create a sustainability report for the next fiscal year (FY 2021). We will be reporting based on the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines.

### **Stakeholder Relationships**

ACME has annual training for employees on their responsibilities to the EMS including the potential environmental impacts from their job duties. We also provide training to contractors working on-site, so they know how their roles can affect our environmental outcomes.

We survey our supply chain partners to be sure we are using the most environmentally friendly inputs in comparison to their costs. We've created a ratio to analyze the impact to cost variables.

ACME is a member of the Willow Lake Association with a goal to help maintain the health of the lake by managing invasive species, water quality, runoff, wildlife habitat, shoreline restoration, outreach and education. ACME is involved in the community and offers opportunities for employees to engage in their adopt-a-shoreline program.

ACME has a good relationship with the DNR. We worked closely with our SPOC, and the DNR contacts he provided, to ensure compliance with regulations for our current facility expansion as well as to complete past projects.

### **Future Goals**

ACME's goals for FY 2021 include some carryover from 2020 and new goals determined by our management team to focus on key areas and significant impacts.

1. Create a sustainability report on FY 2021 data based on the GRI guidelines. This should be available for distribution in Q2 of FY 2022.
2. Reduce electrical usage from FY 2018 by 5% per 1000 widgets produced by August 31, 2021, the end of fiscal year 2021.

3. Reduce runoff to Willow Lake by 20% by end of FY 2021 against FY 2018, by creating a rain garden system that will serve as a natural filter. This will help maintain a natural wetland shoreline on our property. Use native plants and include habitat areas for local species in the rain garden system.
4. Reduce water consumption by 3% against FY 2020 by end of FY 2021.
5. Assess new baseline data from FY 2021 data to be used into the future.

## Appendix 1: Environmental Metrics

### Appendix 1: Environmental Metrics

ACME Testing Company, 9/1/19 – 10/31/20

Respond with the units requested here. If you don't collect this information, please mark N/A.

Data will be used to calculate the cumulative environmental impacts of Green Tier participants on Wisconsin's natural resources and economy.

General Information	Quantity	What we are looking for:	Why we ask:
Baseline year	2018	The baseline year provided in your Green Tier application or the year used to track progress	Used to contextualize improvement against a baseline for each metric and goal
Employees	316	Number of employees at end of period	Collected to evaluate size and eligibility for Small Business Assistance programs
Sales or Production	+5.47%	% change on previous reporting period (+/-%)	Used to understand scale and efficiencies in % change on normalized data
Local Purchases	42%	% of purchases made within 100 miles	Used to assess <a href="#">Life-cycle decision making</a>
In-State Purchases	63%	% of purchases from other WI businesses	Used to show economic contributions to WI
Green Tier Purchases	7%	% of purchases from other participants	Used to show Green Tier interactions

METRIC	Quantity	Units	Baseline Value	% change		
<b>WASTE</b>	Include all waste generated at facilities covered by your EMS					
Solid Waste Generated	.74	tons/year	97	-99%		
Waste Recycled or Reused*	2,275 tons	*units vary by waste type	2056	+10.7%		
<a href="#">Universal Waste</a> Generated	1,023	pounds/year	1156	-11.5%		
<a href="#">Hazardous Waste</a> Generated	n/a	pounds/year				
Manufacturing with recycled/reused content	36%	% of total materials	27%			
<b>WATER</b>	Include all water used at facilities covered by your EMS.					
Municipal water	2,161,000	Gallons/year	1,965,000	+10%		
Well water	n/a	Gallons/year				
Water recycled/reused	24,538	Gallons/year	18,482	+32.8%		
Wastewater Discharged	1,823,158	Gallons/year	1,798,523	+1.4%		
<b>ENERGY</b>	Include all energy from traditional and renewable resources used at facilities covered by your EMS					
Electricity Provider	Alliant Energy	We will calculate carbon emissions from energy inputs of the utility				
Electricity	1,496,325	kWh/year	1,463,214	+2.26%		
Natural Gas	111,563	Therms/year	87,265	+27.8%		
Coal	n/a	Tons/year				
Propane (LP)	n/a	Gallons/year				
Diesel (Emergency Generator)	75	Gallons/year	75	0%		
Fuel Oil (#5)	n/a	Gallons/year				
Renewable Energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wind	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydro	<input type="checkbox"/> Solar PV	<input type="checkbox"/> Solar Thermal	<input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal	<input type="checkbox"/> Biomass
% of total energy	25%					
<a href="#">RECS/Offsets</a> (% of total renewable item)	100%					
<b>AIR</b>	Include totals from your processes (provide fractions if available for PM 2.5 & 10)					
<a href="#">Total Particulate Matter (PM)</a>	7,354	Lbs/year				
<a href="#">Volatile Organic Compounds</a>	984	Lbs/year				
<a href="#">Ozone-depleting Substances</a>	n/a	Lbs/year				
<a href="#">Greenhouse Gas Emissions</a>	2,365,934	Lbs/year				
<b>TRANSPORTATION - FLEET</b>	Include totals for vehicles you own or lease					
Hybrid Vehicles	0	# of vehicles				
Gasoline Used	3,120	Gallons/year				
Diesel Used	0	Gallons/year				
Alternative Fuels Used	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric	<input type="checkbox"/> CNG	<input type="checkbox"/> Propane	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiesel	<input type="checkbox"/> RNG/biogas	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Consumption (show units)						
<b>TRANSPORTATION - OTHER</b>	Information on other transportation modes					
Air Travel	15,654	Miles		Offset miles		
Commuter Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Carpool Incentives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bike Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Shower Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Incentives for active commuters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commuter Challenge or Behavior Change Programs	

## **Appendix 2: EMS Audit Information**

ACME has a functionally equivalent EMS based on the requirements of Green Tier law. We completed our first external audit of our EMS in January 2020.

Auditor: John Smith, Lead Auditor, DNR-approved auditor

Company: ABC Environmental Systems

Audit Date: December 3, 2019, conformance complete January 20, 2020

Audit Findings: There were 3 opportunities for improvement identified and 1 minor nonconformance.

The minor nonconformance pertained to Green Tier Functional Equivalence item #8, “a plan for taking actions to prevent environmental problems and for taking emergency response and corrective actions when environmental problems occur.” Our auditor noted ACME needs to “establish, implement and maintain a procedure for taking corrective action when nonconformities occur. The procedure should define 1) how to investigate nonconformities to determine their cause(s), 2) taking actions to avoid recurrence, 3) recording the results of the corrective actions and preventive actions taken, including any changes made to the EMS, and 4) the results of the management review of these corrective action plans.”

In response to this request by the auditor, ACME’s management team revised our EMS to include a corrective action process that uses the 5 whys root cause analysis process. Our auditor accepted these updates to our EMS on January 20, 2021.

## **Management Engagement**

As part of quarterly business update meetings for employees of ACME, our President / CEO reviews the status of our environmental performance and opportunities for continued improvement. Employees are encouraged to participate on our Environmental Improvement Team.

Our environmental objectives are established and monitored by our Management Team’s Environmental Committee, which is comprised of key environmental, operations, purchasing, and marketing personnel. The objectives are tracked on a monthly basis. Our FY 2021 objectives were finalized in July 2020 to plan strategies and tracking processes before the period begins.

ACME performs routine management reviews and at least once per year, the management team does a comprehensive review of the EMS and progress on objectives. In FY 2020 our EMS review occurred in January.

## **Appendix 3: Compliance Reporting**

ACME is a Tier 1 Green Tier company and not required to complete a compliance audit. We had an inspection of our air emissions in FY 2020. We did not receive any notice of noncompliance for this inspection.

## **ACME TESTING**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

ACME Testing and its employees are committed to:

- Compliance with all environmental regulations
- Waste reduction from our processes and in our product design
- Continual improvement of our environmental impact
- Continued involvement with the Willow Lake Association to maintain the health of this local natural resource
- Employee involvement and action

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Will E. Kveohtee

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Date