

# Loparex

CASE  
SUMMARY

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## LOPAREX, INC.

Iowa City, Iowa  
Johnson County

Intern: Christovorus Nicolaus  
Major: Master of Business Administration  
School: Drake University



### The Company

Loparex, Inc. is part of UPM-Kymmene group, which has approximately 100 production facilities with 36,000 employees worldwide, operating in 17 different countries around the globe. It is the world's largest commercial supplier of siliconized release papers and films. The Iowa City facility produces three types of release papers and films: Polyslik, Film, and Direct Coated.

### Project Background

Loparex's main project consisted of exploring a solvent recovery system to reduce the amount of waste solvent. Currently Loparex generates 400,000 lbs. of waste solvent annually, which hails from the coating process, and spends \$55,700 annually for solvents disposal. In addition, two other projects were also analyzed, pallet and paper recycling programs.

### Incentives to Change

Environmental protection and management are an integral part of UPM-Kymmene's activities. The group takes responsibility for conserving the environment and for observing the principles of sustainable development. Along with this value, there are several things the Iowa City Loparex facility would like to accomplish through this project.

- ◆ Support the corporate value to be environmentally friendly
- ◆ Create a safer working environment for the workers
- ◆ Reduce disposal cost for both wastes (solvent and solid)
- ◆ Be a good corporate citizen



### Results

After several assessments, the first and main project, solvent recovery system, needs to be explored further by the experts in Loparex's R&D department. Some limitations that were encountered during the assessments are the following:

- ◆ Too many chemicals involved (more than 80 chemicals)
- ◆ Too many formulas involved (more than 70 formulas)
- ◆ The boiling points of the chemicals are close in range
- ◆ The solvents cannot be replaced by some aqueous based solvents due to their characteristics (evaporate too slowly)

Although the boiling points of the chemical are close, there is still a chance they could be reclaimed. Therefore, two samples had been sent to Engov Limited, an on-site solvent reclaiming service. If the solvents were reclaimable, it will save 56,100 gallons of virgin solvent annually with an estimated savings of \$89,000 annually.

On the other hand, paper and pallet recycling programs could feasibly be implemented by Loparex at the current time. By implementing both programs Loparex will not only divert wastes from the landfill, but will also receive a cost savings.

Waste	Waste diverted annually	Annual cost savings	Status
Solid waste (paper and others)	2,200 tons	\$14,900	Recommended
Pallets	132 tons	\$7,400	Implemented
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,322 tons</b>	<b>\$22,300</b>	

Furthermore, an initial step toward implementing the program has been completed by stacking the pallets outside the open-top waste containers. All Star Pallets and Pallet Professionals have started hauling the pallets. In addition, V.I.M. Recycling has sent a proposal detailing their paper recycling program, upon recommendation of the intern.