



## Dow Chemical's 2025 Sustainability Goals:



**Goal 1– Leading the Blueprint.** Dow leads in developing a societal blueprint that integrates public policy solutions, science, and technology and value chain innovation to facilitate the transition to a sustainable planet and society.



**Goal 2– Delivering Breakthrough Innovations.** Dow delivers breakthrough sustainable chemistry innovations that advance the well-being of humanity.



**Goal 3– Advancing A Circular Economy.** Dow advances a circular economy by delivering solutions to close the resource loops in key markets.



**Goal 4– Valuing Nature.** Dow applies a business decision process that better accounts for the value of nature's services, which will deliver business value and natural capital value through projects that are good for the company and for ecosystems.



**Goal 5– Increasing Confidence in Chemical Technology.** Dow increases confidence in the safe use of chemical technology through transparency, dialogue, unprecedented collaboration, research and our actions.



**Goal 6– Engaging Employees for Impact.** Dow people worldwide directly apply their passion and expertise to advance the well-being of people and the planet.



**Goal 7– World-Leading Operations Performance.** Dow maintains world-leading operations performance in natural resource efficiency, environment, health and safety.

# Simply Green

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## Dow Chemical– Showing Leadership in Recycling and Environmental Sustainability

The Dow Chemical Company, located at 10 S. Electric Street in West Alexandria Ohio is an adhesives and resin manufacturer. The plant was formerly known as Rohm & Haas which was bought by Dow in 2009. The company produces essential components necessary to support the manufacturing of food packaging materials, automotive parts, and items such as sails for boats. Dow is globally known as a corporation that deeply cares about recycling and environmental sustainability issues. Dow has a long history of considering the well being of humans on a world-wide scale when it comes to preserving and protecting the planet.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Dow in order to learn more about just how committed Dow is to achieving its ambitious 2025 environmental sustainability goals (See sidebar). Says Kathy Schulz, the plant's Site Leader, "Dow has committed to building sustainability in its products from the cradle to the grave. Dow truly cares about the environment and the community in which we live. I am most proud of the fact that the philosophy of recycling and environmental sustainability permeates the whole organization. Seventy-five percent of Dow's workforce lives in Preble County so we want to take care of the community that we live and work in by being good to the environment which benefits everyone."

Dow recycles all of the traditionally recycled materials: paper, plastic, glass, metal, and cardboard. They recycle 2 large roll-offs per year of met-

als as bigger projects are completed. They have recently contracted with Rumpke to recycle cardboard and they have a weekly dumpster pickup of that material resulting in between 1,600 to 2,000 pounds of cardboard being recycled per month. Dow buys materials packed in shipping boxes from Pratt Industries in Lewisburg. Their paper recycling amounts to 1,000 pounds per month and they work with L&M Products in Eaton to do much of that recycling. L&M employees help with product labeling as well, giving those individuals jobs. Dow has a staff that is highly committed to recycling, actively using recycling containers in the employee break rooms. Donna Mellon, Environmental Specialist for Dow, personally takes 2 bags of recyclables per week to a park where she lives in Butler County to the mixed waste recycle bins, which are picked up by Rumpke and taken to their recycling center. The dollars earned from the recycling program are then used for park upgrades. She also takes plastic grocery and retail bags the employees periodically collect to a food pantry where the bags are used to distribute food to citizens or cut into

\*Sources– Kathy Schulz: Site Leader, Donna Mellon: Environmental Specialist, Chris Kelly: Logistics Coordinator

strips to make crocheted sleeping mats for the homeless. Metal and plastic drums are sent for re-conditioning and reuse upon their return to Dow's vendors. Used oil (20 drums per month) and batteries are also recycled through a company that Dow works with to pick up and recycle those materials. Wooden pallets are recycled locally by Anderson Pallet in Lewisburg, which reuses those pallets or recycles them into wood mulch.

But beyond the traditionally recycled materials that Dow focuses on, they are also trying innovative ways to recycle harder to reuse/recover items such as plastic supersack bags and shrink wrap. They have recently sent out samples to another company which is attempting to discover ways of recycling those materials. Dow also wants to obtain a cardboard baler to ease the movement of cardboard waste to their compactor. Pratt Industries in Lewisburg may be cooperating with Dow in the future to help bring about this purchase of the baler. The fact that Dow cooperates locally with companies like Pratt, Anderson Pallet, and L&M means that Dow is willing to reach out to the local community and nearby industries to make recycling an important priority for all of the community's people.



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Dow recycles their cardboard.

“Historically if Dow sets a goal (like the 2025 Sustainability Goals) we will meet it.”—Kathy Schulz

## Dow Chemical– Showing Leadership in Recycling and Environmental Sustainability (continued)

Dow fosters innovation in the idea of recycling and resource conservation. For example, the company produces a byproduct of polyester ethylene glycol from their manufacturing processes. This material is not a traditionally recycled material but Dow has partnered with another company in Cincinnati who is using that material as part of their manufacturing process. Says Kathy Schulz, “Dow employees are constantly looking for new ways to recycle. Even when issues such as the lack of storage

space are involved. Where there’s a will there’s a way!”

What stands out as the most impressive fact about Dow is the very fact that the company does not move forward with development of new products unless they are proven to be environmentally sustainable. The proposed product’s end of life and it’s ultimate ability to be reused or recycled is one of the most important determinants of whether the project is launched at all. Other businesses and corporations would do well to follow

Dow’s example by not producing so many products that are difficult to recycle or reuse. Maybe then not as many consumer products, once they have reached the limit of their usefulness, would be making their way into the local landfill. In fact, Preble County residents make about 8 pounds of trash per day and at least 70 percent of that trash could have been potentially recycled if citizens were aware of what can be recycled and what cannot.

Preble County businesses,

corporations, and individuals who would like to learn more about recycling and environmental sustainability ideas should visit the Preble County Solid Waste District’s website: [www.preblecountyrecycles.org](http://www.preblecountyrecycles.org) for helpful recycling tips and information about how to dispose of your waste responsibly and safely. You may also call the Solid Waste District with specific recycling or disposal inquiries.

\*Article written by Beth Wright, Assistant Director of Preble County Solid Waste District.

## Ways to “Green” Your Next Holiday Gathering

- Provide recycling containers for cans, bottles, or other recyclables that may be produced at your party.
- Put out containers for food waste recycling. Compost any food waste from your party in your backyard compost bin. If you do not have a bin, consider asking a friend or neighbor with a bin if they would be willing to compost food waste from your party. If you think you might have leftover food, contact local shelters or food kitchens to learn about food donation opportunities.
- Provide reusable plates, cups, silverware and linens. If you do not have enough reusable items, consider asking to borrow some from a friend or renting items.
- Provide information on bike and transit routes to your home, or encourage your guests to carpool when possible. Consider offering to shuttle guests from transit stops to your home.
- Consider distributing invitations electronically to reduce paper waste. If you prefer paper invitations, purchase invitations made from a minimum of 30% post-consumer content recycled paper.
- If you are making your own food, consider using local food, such as from a farmer’s market or stored from your own backyard garden. Many local farmers can provide local food items in the wintertime. If food for your event is being catered, talk to your catering company about how they can incorporate local food into the menu.
- Provide condiments in bulk instead of individually wrapped servings. For example, provide a sugar bowl instead of individually wrapped packets.
- Use decorations that can be reused in future years or consider borrowing decorations from a friend that has thrown a similar party. Consider using alternatives to balloons, such as fresh cut flowers from your garden, or look for biodegradable balloons.
- If you are providing party favors, consider providing environmentally sustainable favors, such as a potted plant or gifts made from recycled or reused materials. If gift giving is involved, encourage attendees to give an “experience”, such as concert tickets instead of “stuff”.
- Encourage reuse by setting up a “collection corner” at your party for unwanted items to be swapped or donated. Tie it into the theme of your party (e.g. for a movie night, collect unwanted DVDs).

\*Source website: [www.rethinkrecycling.com](http://www.rethinkrecycling.com).