

5 Ways to Improve Your Supply Chain Sustainability While Cutting Costs

A recent study [link to:

http://www.ul.com/global/digitalassets/hcpages/tpm/downloads/TPM_2013_Top10Gaps.pdf]

released by global safety science company Underwriters Laboratories (UL) found that 68% of consumers (increased from 45% in 2012) were willing to pay more for eco-friendly products in 2013. However, 40% of consumers say that manufacturers are not doing enough in terms of environmentally-friendly manufacturing products.

Choosing to green your supply chain has the obvious benefit of reducing the carbon footprint of your end-product. But, many manufacturers do not realize that choosing more sustainable ingredients can also significantly cut operating costs.

We have put together a list of 6 lesser-known ways to cut costs, while also making your end-product more environmentally-friendly.

1. Look for ingredients faster drying ingredients.

Ingredients that are available in powder-form tend to dry faster. Decreasing your drying time means a lower utility bill at the end of the month and a reduced carbon footprint.

2. Look for ingredients that ship as a powder.

Powder is often lighter to ship and rarely requires special cargo conditions like heating and cooling. This reduces fossil-fuel consumption and can significantly reduce supply chain costs. Powder also takes up much less cargo space allowing for larger and less frequent shipments.

3. Choose ingredients that are shelf-stable and can easily be stored for long periods of time.

Unlike liquid ingredients, powder can easily be stored for an extended period of time without affecting product quality. A more shelf-stable ingredient also requires less warehouse heating and cooling, so you'll reduce your utility bill and green your supply chain.

4. Choose bio-based ingredients to improve recyclability.

Paper mills and other plants often produce at least 10% waste that gets fed back into the system. While fossil-fuel-based plastics need to be treated with strong and

expensive chemicals to facilitate recyclability, bio-based ingredients do not require any special treatment and can be reused immediately in the production chain.

5. Reduce your reliance on fluctuating fossil-fuel prices.

In contrast to ingredients that rely on finite oil resources, those based on renewable feedstock or other bio-based resources can significantly improve the price stability of your supply chain. Choosing a supplier with multiple production facilities can also further ensure that a draught or environmental change does not threaten global product supply.

Find out more about how Ecosynthetix can help you take advantage of these savings, while reducing your carbon footprint:

- Looking for more details on managing the transition to a new ingredient? Find out which questions you should ask your supplier before switching ingredients [link TBD to: [Managing the transition to a new ingredient](#)].
- Find out how Ecosynthetix can support your transition to a powder ingredient and contact a sales rep [link to: [contact a sales rep page](#)].
- Learn more about Ecosphere applications and properties [Link to [new Ecosphere product page](#)]