

## Sonoco's Menasha, Wis. Paper Plant Receives Bronze Sustainability Star Award

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., April 1, 2015 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Sonoco (NYSE:SON), one of the largest diversified packaging companies, has recognized U.S. Paper Mills Corp.'s facility in Menasha, Wis., with a Bronze Sustainability Star Award for the plant's successful efforts to achieve a 26 percent waste reduction.

The plant achieved this significant waste reduction by recovering fiber from the waste streams in the pulping process and reducing moisture content in its waste stream by optimizing equipment. The fiber recovery component alone reduced waste by 50-60 tons per month.

"Our primary goal was to recover fiber from the waste streams in the pulping process, and it has paid off," said Troy Huebner, plant manager. "Overall, 58 percent of the plant's waste reduction is a direct result of material that is reconsumed back into processes, reducing the waste stream significantly. Our waste reduction strategy has streamlined operations, reduced waste and cut costs."

Administered by Sonoco Recycling, the Company's recycling business, the Sonoco Sustainability Star Awards program is comprised of three tiers:

- Gold recognizes facilities that have achieved 99% landfill diversion.
- Silver is awarded to facilities achieving 95% landfill diversion, and
- Bronze recognizes facilities that have made significant waste reduction achievements, such as drastically reducing their waste streams or implementing a new composting system.

A recycling leader with locations and expertise worldwide, Sonoco Recycling annually collects more than 3 million tons of old corrugated containers, various grades of paper, metals and plastics. In addition, the Company has experts who provide secure, reliable and innovative recycling solutions to residential and commercial customers. Currently, Sonoco Recycling operates five material recovery facilities (MRFs) serving more than 125 communities in which curbside-collected residential and commercial materials are processed. The Company also operates recycling programs which identify waste reduction opportunities that reduce operating expenses for many of the largest consumer product companies in the United States.

### About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a global provider of a variety of consumer packaging, industrial products, protective packaging, and display and packaging services. With annualized net sales of approximately \$5.0 billion, the Company has 20,800 employees working in more 330 facilities in 34 countries, serving many of the world's best known brands in some 85 nations. Sonoco is a proud member of the 2014/2015 Dow Jones Sustainability World Index. For more information on the Company, visit our website at [www.sonoco.com](http://www.sonoco.com).

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