

The Peanut Butter Project:

Diverting Organic Waste from the Landfill

Food waste is a big problem. The United States alone produces nearly 130 billion pounds of food waste annually, and the cost of disposing of it is enormous. On top of that, food waste is an environmental issue that worsens with population growth and climate change.

But what if there was a way to help companies reduce the food waste they produce? What if we could help them divert that excess food waste into something more sustainable?

Project Snapshot

When a Fortune 500 company recalled a vast amount of peanut butter, they faced a sticky problem: what to do with hundreds of thousands of pounds of contaminated peanut butter.

Our client asked us to remove the tainted peanut butter - quickly and sustainably. We believe that disposal is always the last resort and try to find ways to create value from sustainable diversion. We devised a plan to transport the peanut butter to an anaerobic digestion facility for conversion to biofuel.

Client Snapshot

A Fortune 500 food firm had tons of recalled peanut butter that needed to be disposed of, but they were unwilling to send it all to a landfill and add to food waste. CheckSammy was able to help!

The Problem

Our client needed to remove the peanut butter so that business could flow smoothly again. They were looking for an alternative to sending the contaminated organic material to landfill. Food waste is a major issue globally - both for the environment and for companies that have to deal with it.


They needed a solution that would reduce the volume of organic waste going to landfill, cost-effectively. CheckSammy knows that sustainability programs need to be both environmentally and fiscally responsible to operate at scale, and that's what we achieved.



The Solution

CheckSammy removed 208 pallets (130,000 pounds) of peanut butter over 6 hours using six 53-foot semi-trucks. In total, 130,000 pounds were collected for diversion and sent to a local anaerobic digestion facility to be converted into biogas, which in turn was used by the municipality to power homes.



25 tons of  is equivalent to emission from

Organics Diversion

The peanut butter was placed in a Digester, where it was broken down into Biogas, a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide. Biogas is a usable energy that, in this case, converted the landfill-bound peanut butter into fuel that provided the townspeople with sustainable energy. In addition, the labels and plastic jar lids that never touched peanut butter were recycled.

We have a lot to learn about the environmental consequences of food waste. But with enough education and awareness - and diversion - we can make a significant difference. Most importantly, this effort saved almost 25 tons of CO₂ from being discharged into the environment. And that's just one example—there are plenty of other ways your organization can reduce its carbon impact!

