

CASE STUDY

**ACME CORRUGATED
BOX EXPANDS
ITS SCRAP
HANDLING SYSTEM**

Hatboro, PA



INTRODUCTION

Acme Corrugated Box Company is a corrugated box manufacturer located in Hatboro, Pennsylvania. Acme has been transforming carton manufacturing with its products and industry-leading design and development capabilities since 1918. Today, the company produces a large array of customizable products, including corrugated boxes, die-cut boxes, and displays.

THE CHALLENGES

Acme has expanded its facilities multiple times over the years, but in 2021, it became clear that additional capacity was needed at its Hatboro plant to meet increased demand for corrugated packaging. The plan was to add 80,000 square feet and a new high-speed corrugator, which would require an upgraded scrap handling system.



Overloaded Scrap Collection System

With the existing scrap collection system handling more than it should, it was not possible to add additional production equipment to it.

Under-Roof System

For the new expansion, Acme wanted to utilize an under-roof solution to improve plant aesthetics and minimize environmental and neighborhood impacts.

Equipment Integration Required

Acme planned to continue using its existing equipment alongside new production equipment, meaning the upgraded scrap collection system had to integrate with both.

Limited Floor Space

With the majority of the floor space dedicated to production equipment, careful planning would be required to fit the scrap system within the limited footprint.

Scrap System Inefficiencies

When their old system was offline, corrugator scrap was diverted to a temporary holding area. Once operational, personnel hand-loaded this scrap into the baler, a labor-intensive and costly process.

AES SOLUTIONS

To assist with the manufacturing capacity upgrade for Acme Corrugated Box, AES outfitted the facility with an upgraded scrap handling system. As part of the updated system, a 64,000 CFM AirShark™ Separator was mounted under the roof. We also installed a new auto-tie baler, material handling fans, ducting, hogger, and dedicated core shredder to ease the load and demand of corrugated cores fed through the hogger, improving its lifespan and reducing maintenance costs.

AES designed the new system with built-in redundancies, adding a second baler and a corrugator divert system to ensure the uninterrupted flow of scrap while eliminating the manual labor component required by their previous system.

Complete Scrap Handling System Upgrade

The new scrap handling system, along with material handling fans and ducting, enabled the company to handle its increased scrap capacity more efficiently while allowing for future expansion.

AES AirShark™ Separator Installed Under Roof

Due to the flexibility, small footprint, and high air handling capacity of the AirShark™, efficiency increased, maintenance decreased, and facility aesthetics improved.

High-Efficiency Baler Integration

A heavy-duty auto-tie baler was a critical component of the system to keep pace with production demands. The dense bales are sized to efficiently fill a sea container, resulting in increased scrap revenues.



THE RESULTS

With the scrap handling system completely upgraded, Acme Corrugated Box was able to advance its byproduct handling process for increased efficiency and cleanliness, enhanced scrap handling capacity, reduced downtime, and improved aesthetics. AES also designed the system to accommodate further expansion, enabling Acme to continue growing while easily being able to add more equipment to its lineup as needed.



About AES

AES is a leading full-service provider of integrated conveyance systems specializing in scrap, trim, and dust that designs, builds, and maintains economical solutions for more efficient byproduct handling. As a single source for conveyance needs, AES engineers custom scrap systems and works as a partner in process improvement to help businesses achieve greater profitability, productivity, and sustainability in their manufacturing operations.



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