

Corporate Social Responsibility Internship

Olivia Severyn, *Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability*

BACKGROUND

Company: Standard Textile

Standard Textile designs, manufactures, and distributes textiles for healthcare, hospitality, interiors, and consumer markets worldwide, including products such as bedding, surgical gowns, towels, blankets, and window treatments. It has more than 80 patents and has been a privately held family company since its founding in 1940.

Location: Cincinnati, Ohio

The internship was partially remote and partially in-person at the corporate headquarters in Cincinnati, OH.



How did I find the job?

I found and applied for the internship online, on Handshake. I had not heard of Standard Textile prior to applying and searched for "sustainability internships".

ON THE JOB: RESPONSIBILITIES

Sustainability Certification Research

- Evaluated the requirements, costs and benefits for various sustainability-related textile product and manufacturing certifications



Chemical Compliance: Proposition 65

- Contacted suppliers to update health and safety records for products requiring consumer health warnings



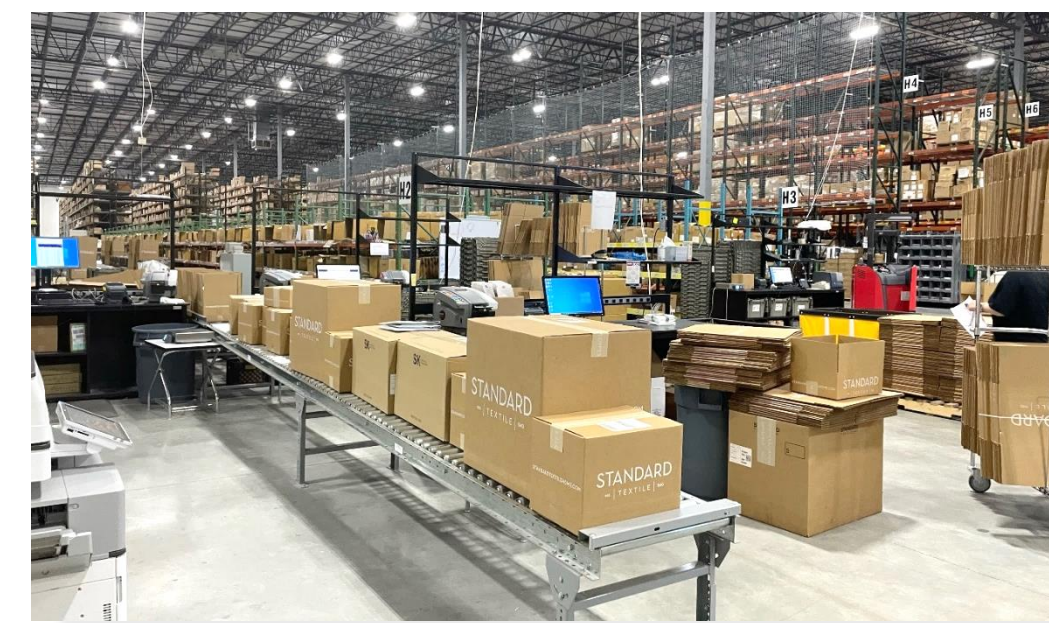
Drafted the Internal Supply Chain Newsletter



Organized a Volunteering Event

- Created plans for all interns to volunteer at a local food bank

Toured the Distribution Center



Associate Safety - Trainings and Tracking

- Created content for safety trainings designed for both the corporate and manufacturing settings
- Tracked data from employee suggestions for safety improvements

Researched Supplier Diversity

- Evaluated over 2000 businesses that Standard Textile interacts with and supports, identifying minority, woman, or veteran-owned businesses



Workplace Sustainability Challenge

- Developed communications and programming in order to launch company-wide sustainability challenge



Meat Free Day:

Reducing consumption of meat in general or eliminating meat from your diet one day a week can have a huge impact on your health and the health of our planet!

For Your Health:

- Eating more vegetables, beans, and nuts can improve heart health and reduce the risk of heart disease.
- Skipping even a half serving of meat every day and replacing it with beans or tofu can decrease your risk of getting type 2 diabetes.
- Soybeans, quinoa, chickpeas, and pumpkin seeds are complete proteins, containing all 9 of the essential amino acids your body needs, therefore, a great alternative to meat.

For the Planet:

- Producing ONE quarter-pound beef burger uses 425 gallons of water - enough water to fill 10 bathtubs.
- Producing ONE quarter-pound beef burger uses up enough energy to power an iPhone for 6 months.
- Skipping one serving of beef a week for a year saves the equivalent emissions to driving 348 miles in a car.

Find inspiration for hearty and delicious vegetarian dishes: VegetarianTimes.com



REFLECTION

I really enjoyed working as an intern at Standard Textile this past summer! This internship solidified my interest in my Business and Sustainability specialization. In the future, I will focus my future job search on sustainability and environmental positions at businesses, especially ones with opportunities for tangible sustainability improvements. For anyone looking for an internship, my advice would be to apply to any job postings from businesses that interest you. You never know what will materialize!

Major Takeaways:

- Allowed me to learn how sustainability can be integrated into business operations
- Experience in a corporate office setting as well as with remote work