

Corporate Responsibility Internship at ALDI

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BACKGROUND

Company: ALDI US

ALDI US is a grocery retailer with over 2100 stores across the US. ALDI operates on a global scale with over 10,000 stores in 20 countries, but the US division is headquartered in Batavia, Illinois. I am a part of the Corporate Responsibility team, which works on topics such as packaging, waste management, supplier diversity, ethical labor certifications, carbon emissions, and community impact. ALDI has been named one of the most sustainable grocery stores by Brightly Eco and Greenpeace. My internship was completely remote, but the office and my coworkers are based out of Batavia, IL.



How did I find the job?

After hearing about internships at ALDI at a career fair, I found and applied for this internship searching directly on the career page on ALDI's website.

ON THE JOB: RESPONSIBILITIES

Textile Recycling Research

- Researched opportunities to recycle the fabric from retired store employee uniforms
- Provided recommendations on methods to shred cloth and use it as insulation/stuffing, to spin it into new material or upcycle it



Food Waste and Organic Recycling Research



- Researched organic recycling opportunities for large quantities of unsellable food, including options to process food into animal feed
- Compiled list of food banks where the corporate office could donate leftover food

Capstone Presentation

- Conducted independent research project on innovate sustainable products and programs for grocery stores



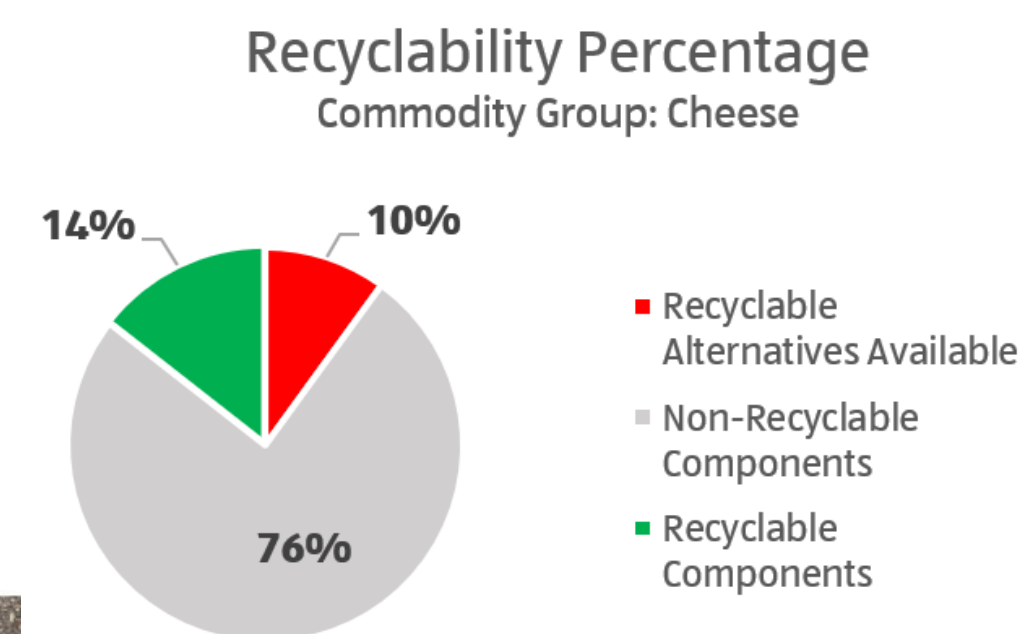
Packaging and Waste Legislation Research

- Assisted with continuous review of legislative changes related to packaging and waste topics
- Compiled list of laws and bills pertaining to single use plastic bans, bottle collection schemes, extended producer responsibility, recycling mandates, etc.



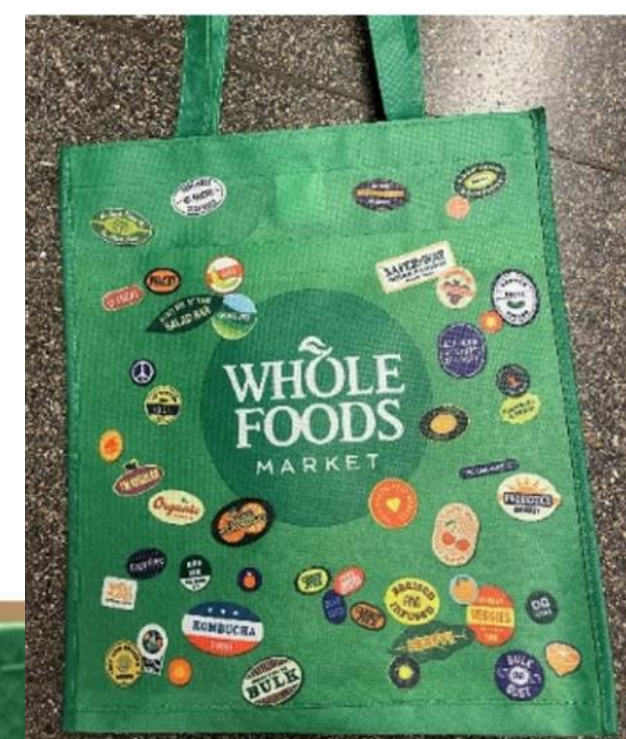
Product Packaging Data

- Created graphs showing which product types have the highest and lowest percentages of recyclable packaging
- Highlighting key action areas where packaging improvements are available



Plastic Bag and Reusable Bag Research

- Explored industry group recommendations, alternatives and improvements for packaging needs
- Visited competitor stores to assess their reusable bag selection



Competitor ESG / Sustainability Progress Update

- Compiled update of competitors' goals, actions and progress related to sustainability topics

REFLECTION

I really enjoyed working as an intern at ALDI this past summer and I was thrilled to be invited to extend my internship by working part-time throughout the school year. I am grateful to have had opportunities to work on a wide variety of sustainability-related projects that are currently running or will be implemented. This internship has further solidified my interest in the field of business and sustainability.

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

