How Grimmway Farms found a fresh way to cut costs and carbon
A collaboration and sustainability success story

Grimmway Farms, the world’s largest carrot producer, traces its roots back to the early 1960s, when brothers Rod and Bob Grimm opened a produce stand in Anaheim, California. Since those early days, Grimmway Farms has been committed to offering customers unsurpassed quality while setting a standard for environmental stewardship.

“The land is our livelihood and we have to take care of it, not only for this generation, but for generations to come,” says Kevin Pascoe, Agricultural Advisor for Grimmway Farms.

As part of Grimmway Farms’ extensive sustainability programs and practices, the fresh produce leader partnered with CHEP to move from white wood pallets to pooled (shared) pallets. Since the collaboration began, CHEP’s circular supply chain model has delivered extensive economic and environmental benefits, enabling Grimmway Farms to quantifiably reduce its carbon footprint and cut costs, while improving operations.

“CHEP understands the fresh produce industry, and the need to keep our supply chain moving efficiently so we can meet customer expectations while also cutting costs and carbon.”

— Jason Higbee
Director of Materials Management
Grimmway Farms

Naturally, ongoing leadership requires ongoing innovation. “Grimmway Farms is always looking for sustainable options that improve operations,” says Jason Higbee, Director of Materials Management, Grimmway Farms.

Grimmway Farms recently brought CHEP into its Cal-Organic Farms facilities to take an in-depth look at operations, and suggest process improvements for reducing white wood pallet damage, cutting costs and further improving sustainability.
Since 2009, Grimmway Farms has realized impressive sustainability savings by shifting 2.9 million pallets to CHEP’s circular model, including:

+ Elimination of more than 1.63 million pounds of solid waste.
+ Reduction of more than 1.23 million pounds of CO₂ equivalent, the equivalent of eliminating 1.4 million miles driven by an average passenger vehicle!
+ Increased resource efficiencies, with 99% of all timber certified.

The suggested changes for Cal-Organic Farms, identified by the CHEP Supply Chain Solutions team and tested at the CHEP Innovation Center, include adjustments in white wood pallet handling and sorting. Reducing pallet damage and properly sorting pallets creates several expected sustainability benefits, including:

+ Reduction of natural resources (timber) needed in the first place.
+ Less wood waste going to the landfill, reducing costs and carbon.
+ Fewer returned pallets, reducing the frequency of trips and related costs and carbon.

These benefits – and those achieved through the switch from white wood to pooled pallets – directly support Grimmway Farms’ passion for making environmental stewardship an integral part of operations at all its farms and facilities, and a pillar of the company’s success.

To learn how CHEP’s Environmental Sustainability Solutions can help you meet your profitability and sustainability goals, please contact us at:

www.chep.com    1-800-243-7255    goblue@chep.com

This is the Supply Change™

Benefits customers have received from CHEP’s Environmental Sustainability Solutions:

A major beverage company filled 850,000 empty miles, reduced its CO₂ emissions by 3.2 million pounds and generated $1.6 million in additional revenue.

Testing at CHEP’s Innovation Center helped a tissue manufacturer save $320,000 by switching their secondary packaging to recycled corrugate.

A paper company reduced its product damage by 75% during handling inside their facilities resulting in a savings of $500,000.