

On Corporate Environmental Responsibility: An Interview with Jabil

Bonn. April 29, 2021. Last week marked the 51st Earth Day, reminding the world of the imminent need to take climate action. In that vein, we are continuing with our Interview series on corporate environmental responsibility. For this second installment, we talked to manufacturing solutions provider Jabil about their commitments to a sustainable and green business practice.

JF4S / IBESA: Jabil is part of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastics Economy Global Commitment and has several other environmental commitments. Why is it important for you to make a commitment in the "Green Economy"?

Jabil: *Approximately 80% of Jabil's emissions are from energy used in manufacturing operations and we are committed to continue reducing the environmental footprint of our operations. We feel it is imperative that we do our part to innovate and reimagine new approaches to manufacturing, packaging and recycling that will continue the transition from a linear to a circular economy. Commitment to the green economy is important for the health of the environment, for saving on costs by reducing waste, for ensuring stakeholder satisfaction, and for growing a resilient, thriving, sustainable business.*

JF4S / IBESA: What are the main goals of the engagement and why did you choose this engagement in particular?

Jabil: *As a signatory of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation Global Commitment, Jabil packaging solutions is committed to changing how it produces, uses and reuses plastic by eliminating unneeded material, innovating plastic for safe reuse/recycling/composting, and circulating plastic we use to keep it in the economy and out of the environment. By 2025, Jabil Packaging Solutions has pledged to eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging in customers' packaging, move from single-use toward reuse models, increase use of post-consumer recycled content in customer packaging and make 100% of customers' plastic packaging reusable, recyclable or compostable.*

As a custom packaging solutions provider through our Packaging group, we are in a unique position to help the world's biggest brands reimagine and rejuvenate their packaging portfolios with the ultimate goal of diverting them from the waste stream.

JF4S / IBESA: What are some of your company's other corporate level initiatives and goals?

Jabil: *Our most important environmental priorities include carbon emissions, water use, hazardous waste and supply chain compliance and transparency. We aim to reduce our GHG operations 25% by 2025 compared to 2019 levels. By 2030, we aim to reduce by 45% the GHG emission of its global operations.*

We contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- *SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being*
- *SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation*
- *SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy*
- *SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth*
- *SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production*
- *SDG 13: Climate Action*

JF4S / IBESA: How are you ensuring that your sustainability efforts are being represented in your supplier and customer relationships?

Jabil: *We believe that our sustainability efforts should go beyond our direct actions to reduce our footprint at our own factories and should extend to how we engage with suppliers and customers. Within our supplier network, we make it a point to work with suppliers and partners that operate in adherence to our sustainability initiatives and goals. With our customers, we are always looking for ways to help optimize manufacturing and logistics not only to maximize operational efficiencies but also to help our customers reach their own sustainability goals.*

Some customer examples:

- **Akamai Technologies** – *In two months, Jabil reduced the size of Akamai's packaging and integrated recycled content, allowing trucks to be more efficiently packed and reduced the number of pallets needed by 40%. The packaging redesign used approximately 14 metric tons of new recycled content per year, was less expensive and reduced Akamai's carbon emissions by 836 metric tons annually.*
- **Toshiba** – *Similar to the Akamai example, Jabil helped Toshiba improve their packaging design resulting in 25% improved container utilization and 13% lower distribution cost per unit. Through a lowest landed cost analysis, Jabil also helped optimize logistics and distribution for Toshiba, eliminating 21 local distribution centers and enabling a 50% increase in freight cost recovery.*
- **Electronics return and recovery model** – *Our Jabil Environmental Technologies group (JET) works with customers to disassemble racks and servers and other electronics to harvest components for resale or precious metals extraction.*

JF4S / IBESA: What challenges have you experienced in achieving the goals?

Jabil: *Research is needed to ensure that packaging can contain and protect products as intended. COVID-19 has slowed progress towards some goals, but the commitment level remains steadfast.*

JF4S / IBESA: Since you started the transformation, what have you achieved so far?

Jabil: *We have reduced our greenhouse (GHG) emissions 34% since 2015. Our global landfilled waste decreased 31% against our 2015 baseline. In the renewable energy sector, our ability to scale our production to match growing demand allows our customers, SolarEdge for example, to bring new technologies to market faster and with unprecedented innovation. Leveraging decades of electronics engineering expertise, we are partnering with some of the world's leading renewable energy companies to rapidly deploy new solutions for the energy grid and help to enable the rapid adoption of renewable energy.*

We have recently acquired the capability to manufacture paper bottles from waste cardboard and newspaper. This design weighs less, results in less CO2 emissions, requires almost half the energy and generates more than 50% less solid waste than HDPE.

JF4S / IBESA: How has the commitment affected or affected your company and workforce?

Jabil: *We want Jabil to be a company that our employees are proud to be a part of. By continually committing ourselves and working towards the goals we have set for our various sustainability initiatives, we hold ourselves accountable and are communicating to our workforce that we take our social and environmental responsibility seriously. As a result, both internal and external stakeholders demand circular economy, GHG reduction and more ecofriendly ways of doing business.*

JF4S / IBESA: What have you learned along the way and what are your next steps participating in the protection of the environment?

Jabil: *We are launching a Climate Action Plan, setting GHG reduction goals in line with the Science Based Target methodology, targeting 1.5 degrees Celsius. We are focusing on expanding our use of clean energy in our operations and continuing to increase energy efficiency.*

JF4S / IBESA: While the pandemic has largely had a negative effect on the discussion around corporate responsibility, the renewable energy industry further increased commitments. These were the findings of fortune magazine and Bloomberg last year. Did COVID-19 affect your progress toward the commitments, either positively or negatively?

Jabil: *The pandemic creates risks for the business but also opportunities to increase production and support the fight against the virus, such as by ramping up production of Personal Protective Equipment. COVID-19 has slowed progress toward some goals, but the commitment level to the environment remains steadfast. We are working towards the achievement of the robust goal of 45% reduction of GHG by 2030.*

About Jabil

Jabil is a manufacturing solutions provider with over 260,000 employees across 100 locations in 30 countries. The world's leading brands rely on Jabil's unmatched breadth and depth of end-market experience, technical and design capabilities, manufacturing know-how, supply chain insights and global product management expertise. Driven by a common purpose, Jabil and its people are committed to making a positive impact on their local community and the environment.

Learn more about Jabil: <https://www.jabil.com/about-us.html>

About JF4S | IBESA

Joint Forces for Solar (JF4S) and the International Battery and Energy Storage Alliance (IBESA) are the leading global B2B networking platforms for the solar and energy storage industry. Multinational corporations and local companies alike can connect and share knowledge. The goal of both platforms is fostering a community for a vibrant renewable energy industry.