

Automotive Pallet Reuse, Repair & Remanufacturing Program

Team: Suppliers Partnership for the Environment (SP) Pallet Team

Objective: To advance circular economy approaches within the US automotive supply chain by addressing inefficiencies in wood pallet design and management to promote reuse, repair, and remanufacturing of pallets, before recycling.



Challenge

- Wood pallets are widely used for transporting goods between tiered suppliers and customers within the automotive industry as back-up packaging and in service parts production.
- Yet, the opportunity to optimize wood pallet management at scale has not yet been realized due to inconsistencies in pallet specifications within the industry which have restricted synergy for pallet reuse and remanufacturing through the supply chain.

Opportunity

- Through SP, a team of automakers, tiered suppliers, packaging suppliers, and service providers has come together to evaluate opportunities to address this challenge.
- Our project focuses on the analysis, development, testing, and communication / education of industry-accepted design guidelines and circular management practices for automotive wood pallets, promoting innovative new approaches to allow for more efficient recovery, repair, remanufacture and reuse of pallets through the US automotive supply chain.